

May, 2009



USW LOCAL 1137

*Representing the Maintenance, Storeroom,
Transportation and Fire Control employees of
International Paper's Courtland, AL mill*

OFFICERS:

*Johnny Phillips, President
James Messer, Vice President
Edwin Smith, Recording Sec.
Ray Boston, Financial Sec./Treas.
Keith Hensley, Junior Holden, Kevin
Messer, Trustees
Billy Leone, Guard*

2009-2012 Officers

I would like to thank everyone who attended our April meeting and who participated in our nomination process. In the days following the meeting, Bryan Turbyfill and Billy Leone turned in notes withdrawing their names from consideration which left us with no contested offices and no need for holding an election. The following will serve as officers of Local 1137 for the ensuing term, beginning May 11 —

Johnny Phillips, President; James Messer, Vice-President; Edwin Smith, Recording Secretary; Ray (Cuz) Boston, Financial Secretary; Bill Flippo, Treasurer; Keith Hensley, Junior Holden and Kevin Messer, Trustees; David Dutton, Guard; David Garrison and Robert Poellnitz, Guards.

Johnny Phillips, James Messer, Edwin Smith, Bill Flippo and George Johnson will serve as the Grievance Committee.



Upcoming Meetings:

Monday May 11
Monday June 8
Monday July 13
3:45 PM



Lest We Forget
MEMORIAL
DAY
May 25, 2009



Spring Outage

We have completed another major outage at the mill and a lot of work was done by a lot of folks over the course of two weeks. Many essential repairs were done as well as a lot of PM work which should save us more work in the future. Most importantly, we accomplished this without any serious injuries and with only a couple of minor first-aids.

This outage was different than others we have had in the past in a couple of ways. We worked 10-hour days instead of 12s. I know some would have liked to have had more overtime but I think most of agree that the 10s were better for us. We weren't as worn out and we were able to spend some time with our families and do things we couldn't do when we were working 12s. Also, we had many people from operations working on this outage, some with maintenance and some with contractors as fire watches and as confined space entry attendants. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for a letter from Ben Sneed, President of USW Local 1161.



www.usw1137.org

“Every advance of this half-century—Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another—came with the support and leadership of American Labor.” *Jimmy Carter*

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today



April 30, 2009

President Johnny Phillips:

I want to thank you, your executive board and your membership for allowing our members to work with all of you during the April outage.

The training, guidance, patience and especially the safety aspect that each of your members provided to us will pay off, not only now, but in the future.

The solidarity that was displayed by the locals is truly why the Courtland Mill is the best in the world. This is another reason I am proud to be Union.

Thanks again,

Ben Sneed
President
USW Local 1161

On May 21, Johnny and Chief participated in a conference call with USW leadership and Local Officials from other IP locations. Here are some notes from that call—

- *The general economics of the paper industry have been of top concern since last August
- *Since late 2005 we've lost over 100 local unions in paper industry
- *P has shut 15 box plants since Aug 08
- *SSCC has shut 52 facilities in past 2 years and are in bankruptcy. AbitibiBowater also in bankruptcy
- *There's some good news paper wide in USW: because of the work we've done our members have found that we've built a firewall around them with master agreements, etc; even on top of the current economic misery we have continued to gain positive outcomes from our bargaining.
- *For those of you who may not know, Stan Johnson is the new International Secretary/Treasurer
- *Have council meeting scheduled 8/4-5 in Pittsburgh, PA – 1st day council and 2nd day joint session

There was also discussion about the Black Liquor Tax Credit, which is vital to the paper industry and is set to expire at the end of this year. There is some movement in Congress to try to end it earlier. We will probably hear more about this soon, as the Company and the USW work together to make sure it lasts through the year.
There was also talk about the lack of order downtime being taken at various mills as well as some safety discipline issues from the box plants.



Everyone, especially our stewards, should check out our website at www.usw1137.org fairly often. We try to keep it updated with the latest information for our members. If you have anything you would like to see posted there, let us know and we will try to do it. We have links there to several interesting websites for union members.



Suggestions and ideas for the newsletter can be turned in to any of the officers. We want this to be interesting and useful for the members of Local 1137 so let us know what you want and need to see in the newsletter and on the website!



Reminder: There is no general wage increase this year. Courtland employees will receive a lump sum payment of \$1,000 on June 18.



Tim Agee was the winner of the USW jacket at our April meeting.



**Stewards Meeting
Friday May 8
7:30 am
Training Center
Room 108**

Say something GOOD about your Union today