

Vice Presidents Report
February 2010

2010 brings with it Contract Negotiations for two of our Bargaining Units, MV Transportation and Washington State Jobs with Justice. The MV Transportation Contract covers approximately 300 to 350 of our members and will hold many challenges for us this year.

MV Transportation is in the process of bidding on the Microsoft Contract and as of today, we do not know for certain if they will be awarded the contract for the coming years. The second issue is the economy, with all of the cut backs and take backs that company's have been doing, obtaining a progressive agreement will be challenging. The largest obstacle will be education of our brothers and sisters. The membership at MV Transportation is a diverse and relatively young in regards to collective bargaining.

Knowing and understanding the roadblocks, puts you one step ahead. We recognized that this is going to be a challenge so we have already started to work on the education piece. We have put together a "Guide to Collective Bargaining" that we will be sending out to our brothers and sisters to serve as a helpful refresher from those that have been through it before and as a quick start summary for those members who are unfamiliar with the bargaining process.

We continue to meet with the MV Transportation Bargaining Unit on a monthly basis and will utilize this time to continue that education and solicit involvement from the membership in the process.

In February Michael and I will meet with the bargaining unit and go over the basics of bargaining and what the members can expect. We will also educate them on the different ways that they can participate and be involved in the process. We will begin to ask for volunteers for join both the Mobilization Committee and the Strike Preparation Committee.

In March Michael, Stan, Susie McCallister and I will meet with the bargaining unit and continue with the education piece and introduce Susie to the bargaining unit. In addition we will accept nominations from the membership for two (2) members to join Susie and Michael on the bargaining team. One (1) member will be elected from each of the two work groups (Connector and Shuttle). We will also continue to ask for volunteers to join both the Mobilization Committee and the Strike Preparation Committee.

In April Michael, Stan and I will continue with the education of bargaining. At this meeting the members will vote for the two members who will join the bargaining team. Connector will elect one representative and Shuttle will elect the other, this will provide for equal representation at the table for both work groups. We will continue to ask for volunteers to join both the Mobilization Committee and the Strike Preparation Committee. Bargaining Proposal forms will be mailed out in the April News Letter to the members of MV Transportation.

In May Michael, Stan, the bargaining team and I will once again meet with the bargaining unit to continue with the education and go over the bargaining proposals and rank them in order of importance to the membership.

In June we will continue with our monthly bargaining unit meetings, keeping the membership as up to date on the bargaining process as possible. We will also do some sort of Kick Off for bargaining (this will be planned by the mobilization committee).

We have a very busy 5 months ahead of us and surely will be looking to members of the executive board to stand up and volunteer to help out where needed. We have all been through bargaining before and understand the time and commitment that is required by everyone to reach a fair and equitable contract with this employer.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Dameron
Vice President
CWA Local 7800