

Local Lodge 1746

insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 – Telephone: 860-568-3000

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Put Those Trumpets Away For Now!

Pratt & Whitney seems to be ready to pull out the trumpets and welcome “VPP,” OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program to the East Hartford Facility by creating a wonderful photo op, and grandioso fan fare! And why not, they have pulled out the trumpets and shot the pictures in other locations so it seems to be time for East Hartford, or does it!

There seem to be a few issues at Pratt’s East Hartford facility that must not be occurring elsewhere. No doubt at the direction of Walter “the fishy guy” Eells and his band of gypsy’s in the Human Resources department.

Lets see how safety is done Eells’ style!

In one area a union member cut his finger, management decided to bypass the ITA procedure and gives the member a warning.

A union safety representative asks a salary employee to work with his PPE and the safety representative is issued a warning and the salary employee continues to work without PPE. If a union member doesn’t utilize the proper PPE they receive discipline.

Then there is the issue of two factories under one roof, with OEM under the direction of Mr. Moore and After-market, under the direction of Mr. Hutton! Now it seems that Mr. Hutton doesn’t want his organization to play in the same sandbox as Mr. Moore’s organization when comes to safety. Mr. Hutton’s side of the business does what they like without regard for site procedure. They prefer to use “Global” practices, which include the harassment of workers with the intent to provoke and discipline, and in case you didn’t get it, “Global” practices don’t include union involvement!

See it is not about working together for a safer workplace with VPP it is about utilizing “ACE pilots” to dilute any safety committees, hanging the VPP flag out

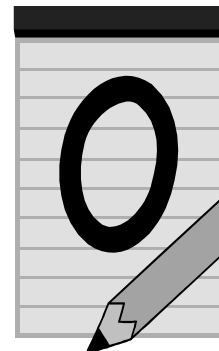
front, and Pratt & Whitney being able to say, “Look How Wonderful We Are!” “Aren’t We Swell?”

Oh, yeah we almost forgot the company’s “OPPI” their new “Safety Manifesto” that is designed to improve morale by giving written warnings to people who get hurt! Now there’s a swell idea that must have Wally and the boys’ finger prints on it!”

Okay, brothers and sisters this is how Wally and his band of Gypsy’s see it. If those lowly union members on the floor are afraid they will be disciplined when they get hurt, then they will not report injuries, our numbers will look good, we can bamboozle the union local into agreeing to every-

thing we say, get our VPP and become the most swell group of goons since Al Capone and his thugs were bootlegging in Chicago!

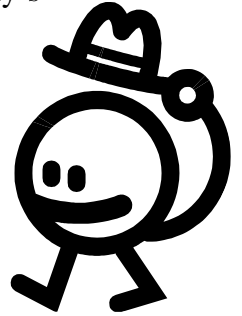
They have ZERO RESPECT for our membership, they have ZERO RESPECT for your union and they provide lip service only when it comes to truly creating a safe work environment.



So here is our message to East Hartford management and their insatiable desire to be a VPP site.

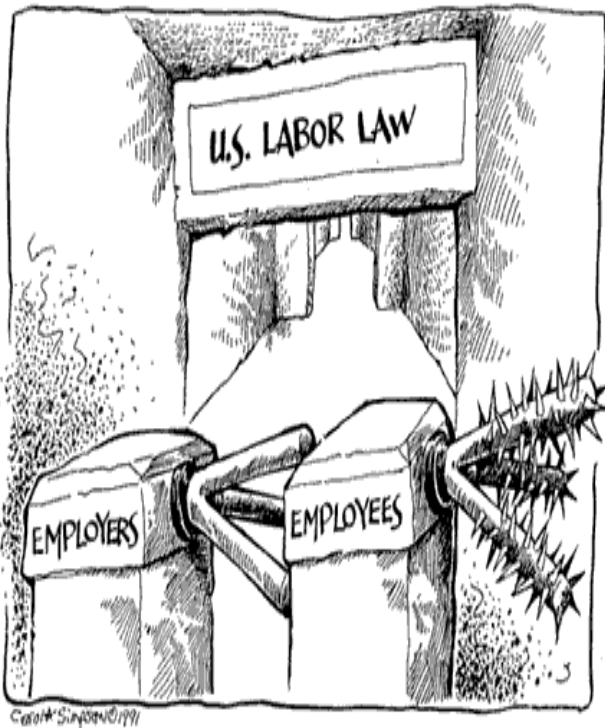
There is a new president in East Hartford! A president that won’t be grabbing his ankles and letting Wally, the gypsy, or any other company thugs do as they please! If Pratt & Whitney wants the union in East Hartford to participate in VPP they better clean up their management team with a scrubbing that rivals the scrubbing authorities utilize in areas infected with “Swine Flu.”

So don’t expect any fanfare or photo op’s in the near future, the negative slime that permeates management’s safety culture in East Hartford is pretty thick!



What Do You Think They Are Up To?

Of course, we would love to think management has the best interest of the workforce in mind by implementing some of their new procedures however, we doubt that is actually the case. Let's take a look at some of these policies and analyze them so we can try to figure out what they are up to.



Ok, it seems that if an employee has restrictions the company wants them to go to the medical department to have the restrictions evaluated. If that happened to you wouldn't that make you wonder what they are up to? I mean after all isn't it the medical department the ones who put the restrictions on the employee in the first place? This is very curious to say the least.

Now as if that is bad enough if employees change jobs within a module center the company is sending employees down for a medical evaluation. Is that so they can see if the employee has restrictions that limit them from doing the new job? Since the medical department puts the restrictions on employees, wouldn't they already know what the employee's restrictions are? Or are they just looking for new ones? Maybe they're just lonely and asked supervision

to send more people to medical to keep them company.

Ok, let's try this one on for size and see how it fits. Supervisors now accompany employees to medical. Do you think that they think employees will get lost? Do they like watch? Oh, please I hope it's not that! But what if it is? It just might be and you might agree after you read this!

Recently an employee was taken to the emergency room and had to stay there for 6 hours. Their supervisor went with them. Now why do you suppose that is, don't they trust the doctors to do their jobs correctly? Do they think the employee is going to sneak away when they are not looking? Supervision has even gone right into the private observation room that an employee was in at the emergency room. Maybe they do like to watch. It sure appears that way! Doesn't that violate HIPPA? It must violate something! Maybe it violates common decency and reasonable behavior from adults! I think it does! What do you think?

Management in East Hartford is getting a little out of hand wouldn't you say? Would you want your supervisor coming into an examining room with you if you were hurt on the job? Of course you wouldn't, why would you? Maybe this is their new way to get information regarding workers compensation claims? I guess it's possible.

Thankfully, Juan Gelabert is determined to get to the bottom of this and correct these intrusions by management. If your supervisor follows you into the examining room by all means call a steward if you like but if it happens to me, I think I'll be calling a lawyer!

I wonder what he would do?



***The heat is on. Take our challenge!
 It is sure to be an inspiring event! This week, we're
 aiming for a last-minute fundraising push.
 Can you raise an additional \$50?***

Here are some ideas for untapped opportunities for donations.

- Follow up with friends and family who haven't donated yet. You can even check your fundraiser dashboard and see who hasn't yet opened your e-mail. Give these people a call or send follow up e-mail. Remind them that every dollar makes a difference. Just \$10 will get you 20% to your \$50 goal for the weekend!
- You can make your own donation with some spare change. Do you have a change jar? Empty it out, count out \$50 and make your donation.
- Check out this new document on our Web site:

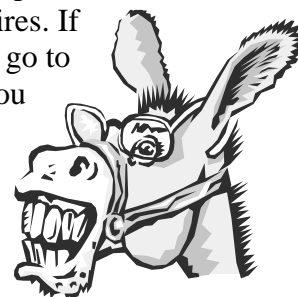
[Fundraising Inspiration & Ideas from A-Z](#). There are 10 pages of easy and creative ways to bring in some fundraising dollars.



Mr. Eells Playing Games With Article 7



Apparently, Wally the slippery one that sits in at Step 2 for the company is not content to honor past dispositions given during the grievance procedure. Assurances that salary workers would not run machines no longer apply; at least that's what Wally says. You see brothers and sisters there is an understanding between the company and the union that if there is a need for a salary employee to do anything on a machine that an hourly employee will be there with that person and there is no circumstance where a salary employee should ever be removing metal from a part. Any way, issues of salary doing bargaining unit work in machining areas have been grieved over the years and resolutions agreed to between the company and the union. Now Walter is taking the position that grievances are machine specific! This idiot wasn't even in the grievance meetings and now he is disrupting what was agreed to between the parties. Well listen to this Walter and listen good! **IF YOU DON'T GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE AND HONOR THOSE DISPOSITIONS THEN LOCAL LODGE 1746 WILL TAKE YOU ON IN EVERY AREA AT OUR DISPOSAL!** You have been a huge problem everywhere this company put you and we are not putting up with your garbage! **The union had to bring specific proposals to the last round of negotiations because of your crap in Cheshire and we will take you on again at the table,** if you don't fix the problems that that are your creation! You are a pathetic man who takes the work of other professionals in your department and twists the meaning to suit your desires. If we have to arbitrate we will, go to the board no problem or if you are looking for job security we can bring you a grievance for every piece of equipment a salary person touches in the plant! Is that what you want?



What's it going to be Wally? We await your answer at Step 2!

Why do we need the *Occupational Health Clinics and the Occupational Disease Surveillance Program?*



"OK, everybody get to work. She just lost her health insurance."

Governor Rell has proposed eliminating the funding for the occupational health clinics and the occupational disease surveillance program. In Connecticut, about 4000 cases of occupational disease are reported each year, and we know that most, including carpal tunnel syndrome, occupational asthma, silicosis and dermatitis are still not reported. The clinics/surveillance program improves the detection of these diseases and targets prevention services for these debilitating and costly conditions.

The occupational health clinics/occupational disease surveillance program covers:

- (1) Funding of occupational health clinics (such as at UCONN and Yale). The funding **gives core support for prevention services** that result from the detection of occupational illnesses—this helps return formerly sick workers to safe workplaces and prevents similar diseases in co-workers.
- (2) Funding of auxiliary occupational health clinics. The funding helps these clinics **report new cases** of occupational disease to state agencies.
- (3) Funding of cooperating state agencies (Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Labor, and the Workers' Compensation Commission). These agencies use the funding to **track and intervene on occupational disease clusters**.

A few notes in relation to the program:

- The program is **funded by a small tax on workers' compensation premiums, not by the general fund**. Since Connecticut workers' compensation

premiums average close to \$1 billion per year, the \$700,000 to fund this program is a very small assessment.

- The program **focuses on prevention**. It is highly likely that the program generates savings in workers' compensation costs that exceed the overall appropriation.
- **Preventive outreach services** (such as chemical assessments or ergonomic assessments) may be offered by the occupational health clinics after a patient is diagnosed with an occupational illness. Many smaller employers can not afford these services and welcome the program, and these costs typically aren't covered by insurance.
- The program does **not duplicate the OSHA/Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data** collection efforts (as the governor's budget text suggests). Although acute injuries are reasonably well tracked by the BLS, occupational illnesses are not. The clinics/surveillance program responds to this lack of crucial information. **Studies based on Connecticut's data have been central to national efforts to try to improve the BLS data.**

This network of clinics and state agencies is **part of the core public health infrastructure** that has provided the basis for the investigation and intervention on a number of occupational disease outbreaks, and is a model for other states.

Contact your state legislator and ask them to preserve funding for the occupational health clinics program. For more information contact ConnectiCOSH (the Connecticut Council for Occupational Safety and Health) at 860-953-2674 or Deb Belancik IAMAW District 26 LL 1746 EH&S Coordinator at 860-565-4766



"A brain and a heart? Sorry guys. That's not covered by your medical plan."

***Not many people get a picture
of this proud bird
snuggled up next to them.***

"Freedom" and Jeff



Freedom and I have been together 10 years this summer. She came in as a baby in 1998, with two broken wings. Her left wing doesn't open all the way, even after surgery; it was broken in 4 places. She's my baby.

When Freedom came in, she could not stand and both wings were broken. She was emaciated and covered in lice. We made the decision to give her a chance at life, so I took her to the vet's office. From then on, I was always around her. We had her in a huge dog carrier with the top off, and it was loaded up with shredded newspaper for her to lay in. I used to sit and talk to her, urging her to live, to fight. She would lay there looking at me with those big brown eyes. We also had to tube feed her for weeks.

This went on for 4-6 weeks, and by then she still couldn't stand. It got to the point where a decision was made to euthanize her if she couldn't stand in a week. You know you don't want to cross that line between torture and rehab, and it looked like death was winning. She was going to be put down that Friday, and I was supposed to come in on the Thursday afternoon. I didn't want to go to the center that Thursday because I couldn't bear the thought of her being euthanized - but I went anyway. When I walked in everyone was grinning from ear to ear. I went immediately back to her cage, and there she was, standing on her own, a big beautiful eagle. She was ready to live. I was nearly in tears by then; that was a very good day. We knew she would never fly, so the director asked me to glove train her. I got her used to the glove, and

then to jesses, and we began doing education programs for schools in western Washington. We wound up in the newspapers, radio, and some TV. Miracle Pets even did a show about us.

In the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I had stage 3, which is not good (one major organ plus everywhere), so I wound up doing 8 months of chemo. Lost the hair - the whole bit. I missed a lot of work. When I felt strong enough, I would go to survey and take Freedom out for walks. Freedom would also come to me in my dreams and help me fight the cancer. This happened time and time again.

Fast forward to November 2000, the day after Thanksgiving, I went in for my last checkup. I was told that if the cancer was not all gone after 8 rounds of chemo, my last option was a stem cell transplant. They did the tests, and I had to come back Monday for the results. I went in Monday, and I was told that all the cancer was gone.

The first thing I did was get up to Survey and take the big girl out for a walk; it was misty and cold. I went to her flight, jessed her up, and we went out front to the top of the hill. I hadn't said a word to Freedom, but somehow she knew. She looked at me and wrapped both wings around me to where I could feel them pressing in on my back - I was engulfed in eagle wings, and she touched my nose with her beak and stared into my eyes. We just stood there like that for I don't know how long. That was a magic moment, as we'd been soul mates ever since she came in. This is a very special bird.

On a side note, I have had people who were sick come up to us when we are out, and Freedom has some kind of hold on them. I once had a guy who was terminal come up to us and I let him hold her. His knees just about buckled, and he swore he could feel her power coarse through his body. I have so many stories like that.

I never forget the honor I have of being so close to such a magnificent spirit as Freedom.

***In solidarity,
I Hope you enjoy this.
Jeff***





*The Next Monthly Meeting is
May 17th @11:00 am
" Be there for the nominations
for Vice President"*



Walk Against Hunger and a "Big Thanks" to you!

Local Lodge 1746 wants to thank all of you who donated money to our team "IAM Local Lodge 1746" for the Walk Against Hunger on Sunday May 3rd. I also want to thank all of the volunteers and their friend and family members who joined us.

Not even the rain could keep our team from participating. Foodshare is still counting the money but a rough guesstimate of our team's results is that we collected over \$4,000.00! Thanks also to the local for their very generous donation.

It was so inspiring to see our members there along side with their friends and family members in the rain ready to give back to the community to those in need

to make this a better world.

The final collected amount will be announced in the June Insight flyer after Food share has the official totals.

There is still time left to donate and you can do this by either contacting the union hall @568-3000 or Howard Haberern @ 836-5337

*Howard A.
Haberern*

Chairperson Local
Lodge 1746
Community Services
Committee
Mobile 860-836-5337



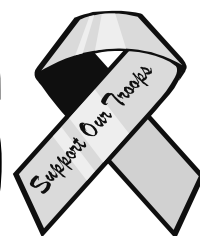
WEBSITES:

www.iamLL1746.org
www.iamdistrict26.org
www.goiam.org
www.shopunionmade.org



Please email your announcements & messages.
Items for the next issue must emailed by
June 1st, 2009. localodge1746@snet.net

Don't Forget to Wear RED on Fridays



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