

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTAM ~ July 2011

STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY

Greetings members and Happy Fourth of July!

We have waited and we have watched. The economic downturn followed by the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster last April clearly combined to create significant questions and challenges for our industry and the complex recoveries have extended a general uncertainty. Nonetheless, our widespread expectation is that a domestic pursuit of energy will ultimately regain strength. Some among us will be pleased to point out increasing indications of an appreciable return coming more into focus lately.

Meanwhile, our Negotiating Team continues meeting with the Company. We should remember that these individuals have given an extraordinary amount of personal time and energy to the collective cause of an improved CBA for us all. In unquestionably trying times, your representatives have held firm to their mandate since talks began back in October of last year. Looking ahead, we all certainly hope that as we see the workload continue to normalize we will concurrently witness a return of the more positive spirit of cooperative bargaining that prevailed in early discussions.

Another item of significant focus right now for the Union is the upcoming *Executive Board* elections. We have already heard some current Board members express that they will not seek re-election and there will clearly be room for new voices at the table. Many of us have arrived here to find a strong Union already in place, with many problems of the past long since resolved. We are left to overhear an occasional tale of sharing bedrooms, holes in trailer floors or being relegated to flying the least desirable contracts at the whim of a curmudgeonly base manager.

It should be made clear, however, that the issues confronting this Local are not completely solidified. There are continually items that require thoughtful attention as new and unforeseen circumstances present themselves. While our CBA is quite mature, it cannot practically cover all eventualities. As such, we will continue to need a delegation of pensive, considerate representatives to administer that document and collaborate with the Company as unanticipated developments arise. This Union has accomplished great things but still faces dynamic and ever-changing conditions.

Participating on the *Executive Board* requires thoughtfulness and patience. We listen to the other Board members, we may have to bite our tongues, but we also have to contemplatively voice our thoughts and opinions in a respectful manner. We need to communicate openly and inquisitively with each other to ensure thorough understanding of a given item, and then we need to deliberate on an outcome that most benefits our membership. This becomes necessary on and off hitch, at and in between meetings, sometimes conveniently and sometimes less so. Nonetheless, there is great reward in knowing that the Union commands respect as a group and as a bargaining unit when we stand together in solidarity.

A Special NOTAM with '*Job Descriptions*' is forthcoming and nominations will follow in September.

Questions & comments to the Executive Board should be submitted via email to boardlocal107@gmail.com