



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

The Good and the Bad

Upgrades- Many members accepted upgrade opportunities recently. Offers were made to members with Aug '78 seniority for R20 Inspection, July '05 seniority for R23 Special Machinist, Sept '03 seniority for R22 Machinist A, Oct '05 seniority for R20 Machine & Assemble, Dec '72 seniority for IR19 Jig Mill, and Mar '73 seniority for IR19 VTL.

Grievances- Area managers failed to release many of these successful upgrade candidates within the proper time period, and are holding them on their old jobs. Currently there are 18 grievances on the Aircraft agenda filed by members seeking release to their new jobs.

New hires- 56 members hired in off the street so far in 2006. These additions brought much-needed skills and youth to the plant. A slow pace of hiring will continue for the rest of the year.

Attrition- 91 members retired so far in 2006. At this rate, nearly 2 members retire for every one hired. As a result, managers with heavy volume are refusing to release successful upgrade candidates until their replacements have arrived.

Green light- Mid-way thru the 3rd quarter, most areas experienced a sudden upsurge in material, overtime and urgency. This was most noticeable in T700 areas.

Imbalance- During the first seven months of 2006, most stewards reported their areas were starved for inventory, slow on work, and stingy with overtime. Now, the pressure to recover from delinquencies is causing some desperate behavior by management. Four grievances concerning management doing bargaining unit work in Bldgs 74 and 40 were filed in the past month.

Renovation- The new exterior of Bldg 40 will prevent water leaking thru the old brick, and preserve the building for future generations of work. GE's success in selling new large commercial engines means the jet engine business is growing, and needs productive space.

Consolidation- Structurally, Bldg 74 is strong, but its' exterior is crumbling. The Company is unwilling to pay the cost to fix it. 3-74 offices will be relocated soon. There are plans to relocate 2-74 in the next 2 years. The Company has not decided 1-74's fate. Bldg 74 is the Riverworks' largest production building employing the most people. As a whole, the production facilities in 1-74 will not fit in any of the existing vacant production areas of the Riverworks or West Lynn.

Alert- The contract survey results prove that Local 201's membership is on guard against GE's plans to cut the existing benefit package of our retirees and future new-hires. In those buildings where our stewards and canvassers were aggressive and organized, the participation from our members, young and old, was excellent. Your input will provide important direction to our negotiators.

Asleep- Those members who didn't participate because they believe the Union's efforts won't matter, are making a choice. That choice this contract means accepting GE's concession plan without a fight.

Secure- Because GE has \$49 billion in our Pension Plan, the fund has weathered all market downturns in the past 95 years. Last year GE again paid the pension checks for all 207,000 retirees and beneficiaries (including Jack Welch) without touching the principal of the fund, so it continues to grow, and is \$9 billion overfunded.

Cheap- After 30-35 years of work, our best pension formulas only deliver retirement income from GE that equals 35-40% of your average pay as an active employee. Social Security is designed to provide another 30%. At least Social Security provides cost of living adjustments. The most popular write-in demand on our contract survey was, "PENSION COLA".

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