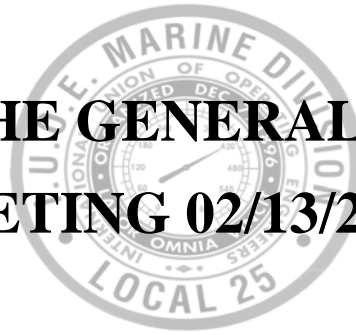


# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 02/13/2007



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP I.U.O.E. LOCAL 25, MARINE DIVISION

After all Membership Cards were inspected and qualified Members admitted, the General Membership Meeting was opened by President/Business Manager Ernie Whelan at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in West Windsor New Jersey accordance with opening ritual.

### Minutes

Reading of Minutes of the Previous Meeting was read by Scott Winter, Recording Secretary, a motion from the floor to except the minutes as read was made by Alan Walker and seconded by Tony Gonsiewski Jr..

### Membership Death Announcements

President and Business Manager Ernie Whelan sadly announced that the following members pasted away:

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	MEMBER SINCE
Glenn W Smith Jr	01/11/2007	12/15/2005
William Gerow Jr	01/25/2007	07/25/1988
Randy Richard	08/01/2006	11/18/1963
Robert Smith	12/31/2006	08/06/1956

### Pension Announcements

President and Business Manager Ernie Whelan announced that the following members applied for pension benefit:

NAME	DATE RETIRED	INITIAL CHECK	MONTHLY CHECK
Cecil Jackson	01/01/2007	\$1,869.46	\$1,869.46
Thomas Zupanic	01/01/2007	\$1,403.62	\$1,403.62
Raymond Nornes	09/01/2007	\$6,203.65	\$1,237.06
Srecko Saric	01/01/2007	\$1,239.02	\$1,239.02

## **THE PER CAPITA & INITIATION TAX**

President and Business Manger Ernie Whelan reported the following Per Capita and Initiation Fee Tax was paid to the International Union of Operating Engineers for October 2006:

Per Capita Tax:       \$11,409.75

Initiation Fee Tax:   \$2,125.00

## **BUSINESS AGENTS, TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORTS**

- Jerry Abell, Scott Winter, George Sullivan, Cecil Jackson and Scott Reeves all gave their reports.

## **PRESIDENT AND BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT:**

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE HANDOUTS**

- Mr. Whelan stated that the General Membership Meeting Schedule was placed on the tables in front of each member. He requested that the membership passed the word around and posted said schedule on the equipment they work on.

### **DRILLBOAT NEGOTIATIONS**

- Mr. Whelan stated that a proposed Drillboat Agreement has been drafted and forwarded to Bean Excavation and Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company and since that time two rounds of negotiations were completed. Due to whether conditions that inhibited air travel, the subsequent scheduled round of negotiation were cancelled and will be rescheduled to coincide with the Maintenance Yard Agreement in the near future.
- Ernie stated that only Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company will be negotiating for an Agreement and those negotiations will yield only retro-active monies for the Bean Excavation member/employees who were employed on the project since the contracts expiration date.

### **BEAN EXCAVATION**

- Mr. Whelan stated that Bean Excavation has announced that they are no longer going to be in the Backhoe Excavating Business. They will be transporting their backhoe dredges to Holland. Ernie stated that he regrets the decision of Company to opt out of the business and stated that the loss of Bean Excavation narrows the field of players in the Dredging Industry.

### **MAINTENANCE YARD AGREEMENT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that a proposed Maintenance Agreement has been drafted and forwarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company for members employed its yard facilities. One round of negotiations has been completed and the remaining rounds will coincide with the Drillboat Agreement negotiations in the near future.

### **BENEFIT PLANS AND TRAINING TRUSTEES MEETING**

- Mr. Whelan stated that the Trustees Meetings for both the Benefit Plans and Training Fund have been cancelled due to the inclement whether and will be rescheduled for March 14, 2007 in Cape Canaveral Florida.
- Ernie stated that the subcommittee has met twice and will provide detailed recommendations for Plan enhancements to the Joint Board of Trustees at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **AMBOY AGGREGATES**

- Mr. Whelan stated that negotiations for a successor agreement with Amboy Aggregates have been ongoing. Ernie stated that this agreement is jointly negotiated between Local 25 & 825. The amount of work the company is experiencing will put us in a better terms to negotiate, however the company has to vacate their currently location, which will have an impact on the local members who are employed with the company. Ernie stated that we are trying to negotiate an incentive pay concept into the Agreement. Ernie stated that he expects to have an Agreement ready for membership ratification elections by early March.

## **HAZMAT REFRESHER TRAINING**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we had a scheduled refresher course in New Jersey in December of 2006 for those members who were due for their yearly update. He stated that we have scheduled the next refresher course to be held in Cape Canaveral Florida on March 13, 2007, to correspond to a dredging project in that area and General Membership Meeting. He stated that notification letters for those members who are up for renewal are mailed out to all members in advance of any scheduled training. He urged the members to inform the union of any credentials they may be in possession of in order to keep our Member Qualifications Database up to date.

## **WELDER CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY COURSE**

- Mr. Whelan stated that he has directed Scott Winter to seek out a third party company that can certify welders on site to meet the requirements for receiving incentive pay outlined in our Master Agreement. Along with the certification training, a welder 10-hour OSHA Course and Welder Safety Course would be part of the overall training. Mr. Whelan stressed that this is all contingent on approval from the Joint Union/Employer Training Fund Trustees allocating funding for the course. This concept would be presented to the Joint Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **FUTURE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS**

- Mr. Whelan stated that due to the Iraq War effort the Federal Budget has encountered shortfalls which equates to less funding allocations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for dredging projects. This reduction to the budget reduces the likelihood of a great deal of future dredging projects for this year.

## **HORIZON OFFSHORE PIPELINE PROJECT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that it appears that Horizon Offshore will be commencing another Pipeline Project to install this year. He stated that he has solicited the company for employment opportunities for our membership. Ernie stated that he has procured a meeting to discuss a possible Project Labor Agreement.
- Providing that we are able to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement, Ernie stated that we are drafting an Information/Sign-Up Sheet to be mailed out with the Dredgeman Newsletter for all those members that are interested in signing up for the project.

## **CABLE CROSSING PROJECT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we are in contact with a company that has been awarded the cable project running from the shore of Connecticut to the North Shore of Long Island. Ernie stated that we have sent the company our contract and have scheduled a meeting to discuss the possibility of procuring a Project Labor Agreement.

## **DREDGEMAN NEWSLETTER**

- Mr. Whelan stated that the Dredgeman newsletter should be ready for print the first week of March and will be sent out to all active members. Ernie stated that the Dredgeman will contain significant information relating to Elections, Installations of Officers and the 2007 General Membership Meeting Notice.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we have already mailed out many Scholarship Applications for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephan J. Leslie Scholarship Fund. He encourages anyone who wishes to apply to do so as soon as possible, because the deadline date is April 15, 2007 to return them to Headquarters.

## **CASINO NIGHT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that due to the generosity of the membership the Scholarship Fund is in excellent financial condition. Ernie stated that he discussed with the Executive Board the possibility of holding the next Casino Night to raise money for the building of a Training Center. Ernie stated that we held a Solidarity Day/Crab Feast in Maryland in 2006 and was able to raise approximately \$8,000 dollars towards the building of the training center.

## **NORTH CAROLINA TRAINING CENTER BRANCH OFFICE**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we have received a verbal offer on our property in North Carolina that could yield a considerable profit for the Union. Ernie stated that the Executive Board is considering this option in order to provide a unique opportunity to provide an increased funding vehicle to purchase other property in the area in which to build a training center/branch office.
- Mr. Whelan cautioned that this is a verbal offer and no written offer is yet made.

## **PENSIONER APPRECIATION DAY**

- Mr. Whelan discussed the options that would best suit the retired membership as to what time of the day to hold the event. Ernie stated that is discussed this in length with the Executive Board and is considering holding the event to coincide with the Casino Night, however the issue was tabled in order to receive feedback from the retirees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- From the floor, Brother Papalski questioned the future employment prospects of the Hudson River PCB HAZMAT Dredging Project. Mr. Whelan provided an update on the current status the project, which included information that the dredging portion of the project has been pushed back yet another year to the spring of 2009. Ernie stressed his regret that the dredging portion of this project was bid on by any of Local 25's signatory contractors. In the near future we will be informed as to which company received the dredging portion of the project. Ernie stated that Local 25 intends to solicit whatever company has been awarded the project in order to seek out any employment opportunities for our membership.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being nothing further to come before the General Membership, and without objection, the Meeting was adjourned by Ernie at 8:40 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Scott A Winter  
Recording Corresponding Secretary