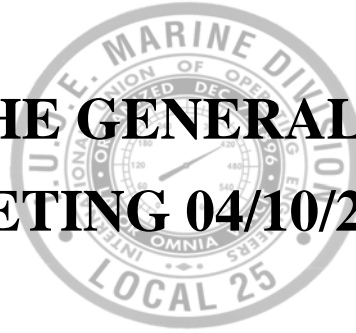


# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 04/10/2007



## 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 East Windsor New Jersey in 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 Frank Malta and seconded by David Oldham.

### Membership Death Announcements

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

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	MEMBER SINCE
Rodney Callais	03/07/07	12/26/1990
Michael Angelo Greco	03/20/07	10/22/1962
Dan Ball	04/05/07	11/26/1990

### Pension Announcements

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

NAME	DATE RETIRED	INITIAL CHECK	MONTHLY CHECK
Edward Singleton	03/01/07	\$1,605.50	\$1,605.50
Don Hawes	11/01/06	\$1,158.85	\$230.99
James Vetricchio	10/01/06	\$872.21	\$144.86
Louis Benjamin	12/01/06	\$3,700.14	\$922.12
Curley Knott	01/01/07	\$2,442.22	\$811.79

## **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 February 2007:

Per Capita Tax:       \$11,137.50

Initiation Fee Tax:   \$2,000.00

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

- Jerry Abell, Vice President and Financial Secretary gave a report on employment opportunities in the Southern District.
- Scott Winter, Recording Corresponding Secretary gave a update on the upcoming Welder Certification Course.
- George Sullivan gave a report on employment opportunities in the Northern District.
- Scott Reeves gave a report on employment opportunities in the Northern District.

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

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATING PETITIONS**

- Mr. Whelan explained to the Executive Board that nominating petitions for the upcoming election have been distributed to the incumbent Executive Board.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL WORKING DUES**

- Mr. Whelan provided information to the Executive Board on the financial impact the modification to the Supplemental Working Dues had on the general treasury of the union since its inception on January 1, 2007.

### **UPDATE ON 401K PARTICIPATION**

- Mr. Whelan stated that since the inception of the 401K Member Deferral, which began on January 1, 2007, about 35% of the 900 eligible participants have contributed approximately \$173,000 dollars. Member Deferral contributions range from of 3% to 20% per member, which averages approximately a 6.5% gross pay deferral contribution per member. Ernie stated that this is a clear message from the membership that they are concerned with retirement income.

### **HORIZON OFFSHORE PIPELINE PROJECT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that Horizon Offshore will be commencing another Pipeline Project. We have a Project Labor Agreement signed on April 04, 2007 with Cashman Dredging for the assignment of work that will cover our membership employed on the project. Ernie stated that additional labor needs of the lay-barge and supporting equipment will be crewed through Cashman Dredging exclusively with Local 25 members.
- Ernie stated that there will be a 5-day orientation and safety training session before the members are dispatched aboard the vessel.
- Ernie stated that all fees and benefits will be paid directly to Local 25. Those fees and benefits include the following:
  - \$1.00 per hour check-off dues.

- \$.60 per hour employer contribution to the Training Fund.
- \$5.40 per hour Medical.
- \$3.00 per hour Annuity.
- \$5.40 per hour CPF.
- Local 25 normal vacation contributions.
- Ernie stated that the wages range from a low of \$21.00 - \$35.00 per hour.

#### **BENEFIT PLANS TRUSTEES MEETING**

- Mr. Whelan stated that the Trustees Meetings for both the Benefit Plans accepted recommendations for Plan enhancements, which will take effect on July 1, 2007, which will include the following”:
  - Maintaining Medical Eligibility required employment hours of work will decrease from 400 hours worked in the last 4-months to only 325 hours worked in the last 4-months.
  - Preventative Care benefit will increase for eligible participants from \$300 per calendar year to \$500 per calendar year.
  - Optical Benefit will now include all eligible participants (not just the member) from \$100 to \$150 for examination and signal vision lenses and from \$125 to \$175 for examination and bifocal lenses.
  - Increased hearing aid benefit to \$1,000 per hearing aid for lifetime benefit increased from \$500.
  - Death Benefit (effective January 1, 2007) will change to a Life Insurance Plan providing a tax-free benefit, whereas before it was taxable as a death benefit. The Life Insurance Plan will change the death benefits to the surviving beneficiary from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for active member medical participants and from \$12,000 to \$20,000 for active member medical participants for an accidental death benefit. An increase from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for active medical retirees.
- Mr. Whelan stated that the Medical Plan financial position is in excellent condition and now has approximately 10-months reserve.

#### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN CAPE CANAVERAL FLORIDA**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we have conducted a General Membership meeting, HAZMAT Refresher Course, Prudential Financial Educational Seminar and Plan Trustees Meeting in Cape Canaveral Florida in March.
- After the meeting, Ernie stated that himself and Jerry spent 6-days on the road in the Southern District visiting several jobsites.

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

- Mr. Whelan stated that we have met with a local architect and builder in North Carolina for designing and building a small office building with a large classroom and anticipates breaking ground before the summer of 2007.

#### **MAINTENANCE YARD AGREEMENT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we had several negotiation meetings Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company and we are close to bringing a proposed contract to the yard members for approval.

## **DRILLBOAT NEGOTIATIONS**

- Mr. Whelan stated only Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company will be continuing negotiations for an Agreement and the result of those negotiations will yield retro-active monies for the Bean Excavation member/employees who were employed on the project since the contracts expiration date. The new proposed agreement will be for all new moneys for future work.

## **WELDER CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY COURSE**

- Mr. Whelan stated that a welder certification will be scheduled sometime in the near future. This certification course is for incumbent welders seeking to meet the certification requirements outlined in the Master Agreement for incentive pay. Along with the certification training, a welder 10-hour OSHA Course and Welder Safety Course would be part of the overall training.

## **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.

## **WEEKS MARINE BALTIMORE PRE-JOB CONFERENCE**

- Mr. Whelan stated that on April 14 a pre-job conference will be held to discuss concerns relating to scheduling, crew change and hours of work.

## **PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL**

- Mr. Whelan stated that he attended the Client Advisory Board Meeting March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC for Prudential Financial. Ernie explained that the IBEW is preparing to launch a national campaign to their over 700,000 thousand membership base to promote their new voluntary 401(k) membership deferral retirement option.

## **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 announced that the next Casino Night Fundraiser will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in New Jersey. Ernie stated that due to the generosity of the membership the Scholarship Fund is in excellent financial condition. Ernie stated that this Fundraiser will raise money for the building of a Training Center/Satellite Office Building in North Carolina.

## **CABLE-LAYING PROJECT**

- Mr. Whelan stated that we have been discussing the probability of signing a Project Labor Agreement with Durocher Marine for an upcoming cable-laying job crossing the Long Island Sound from Connecticut to New York. This cable-laying project would encompass 7-cables to be recovered from the bottom of the L.I. Sound and 7-new cables to be laid as its replacement for a total of 84-miles of cable in all. This job is scheduled to commence sometime in August or September 2007 and should bring employment opportunities to approximately 20-members. Local 25 has full assignment of work on the cable laying barge.

Ernie stressed the importance of diversifying work to show past practice in these types of operations.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Whelan called for any new business from the floor, Brother Mike Curry was recognized and he announced his intentions to run for President/Business Manager in the next election. Brother Curry addressed Brother Alan Walker, Election Committee Chairman, and questioned the legitimacy of fair elections and posed that Local 25 could utilize an outside election company to handle the election so that the membership would not question the legitimacy of the electoral process.
- Brother Walker stated that hiring an outside company is not up to him, but has no opposition to it.
- President and Business Manager Ernie Whelan addressed Brother Curry's comments and stated that any eligible member has the right to run for elective office, however no member is a legitimate candidate until that member has not less than 2% of the eligible membership sign a nominating petition, is nominated by the membership at the June 2007 general meeting and all required documentation presented to and is deemed acceptable by the Election Committee Chairman. Mr. Whelan stated that hiring a third party election company can be costly venture and such action has to be investigated as to its feasibility.
- Brother Curry requested that President and Business Manager Ernie Whelan approve the hiring of an outside company to handle the elections.
- Mr. Whelan stated that he would allow a motion from the floor after a member is deemed a viable candidate at the June general membership meeting to allocate funding for such action. If funding is approved by the membership present, then he will investigate the feasibility of said action.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor New Jersey on May 8, 2007.

### **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