

**APRIL 21, 2010 MINUTES OF THE OMAHA WORKS RETIREE GROUP  
AT THE IBEW UNION HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dan Kovar called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** We all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were Dan Kovar, Pauline Lieth, Andy Barges, Jim Filipiak, John Barnes, Bill Love, John Pinkerton, Mary Jo Pinkerton, Edie Riester, Ray Sempek and Cheryl Todd. Absent were Lyle Nicholson and Howard Clark.

**DECEASED RETIREES:** A long list of deaths was announced since the October 21, 2009 quarterly meeting. The attendees were asked if they had any additional names of deaths to report. We all stood for a moment of silence.

**MINUTES:** The secretary read a summary of the October 21<sup>st</sup>'s minutes. All the minutes are open for the retirees to see at any time and they will be posted on our web site [omaluvcs.org](http://omaluvcs.org). A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Sue Dillinger, seconded by Lela Stewart, all ayes, and motion was carried.

**BUCKETS FOR DONATIONS:** John Barnes and Bill Love passed the buckets around.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Beginning Balance for April 1 <sup>st</sup> was	\$2412.41
Deposits from April meeting	+\$465.80
April Expenses -	\$384.72
Ending April Balance	\$2493.49

Motion was made Cheryl Todd to accept the treasurer's report, seconded, all ayes and motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** Nothing reported on old business.

**NEW BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIR:** Dan Kovar reported that we have flyer's on the back table consisting of the Meeting Schedule/Contact Information, a smaller version of contact information for CSMI retirees, a smaller version of contact information for Lucent retirees, Steve Brockway, IBEW Joint Healthcare Coordinator, put out information on the recently passed Healthcare Reform measures with a smaller version of contact information for Avaya, and a revised addition of our By-Laws. We will have the "Planning For the Unexpected" document up here by our secretary for you to pick up a copy for you or for your children, they are \$1.00 each after the meeting.

**JRHC:** Ray Sempek reported on the Joint Retiree Healthcare Committee. The JRHC is meeting right now to see what the projections will be for 2011. They are to be finished discussing these issues by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. When we get the final results Bryan Flickinger will be giving you the details at our October quarterly meeting.

**CSMI REPORT:** Edie Riester brought to our attention that Dan Buel, Local 1974's Union president, will be giving a report about CSMI and taking questions afterward so she asked that the Lucent and Avaya retirees give their respect to the CSMI retirees at this time about the information on what is going on up there on the hill.

Dan Buel addressed the CSMI retirees by starting out that the announcement of the closing of the Connectivity Solutions facility of manufacturing here in Omaha on March 30, 2010. They spent the last several weeks on bargaining and are continuing on bargaining with the effects of that and what will take place. The last day for Connectivity facility is expected to be on or before December 31, 2011. Manufacturing will be going to North America, and Mexico is included in North America, which the paper reported North America. 80% will be going to Reynosa, Mexico. Our average hourly wage is around \$30 dollars an hour and down in Mexico it is \$5.00 an hour. We are losing out to that and we cannot compete with it. It will have a savings of 25%, electricity and keeping the doors open.

When a company makes a decision such as this the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation immediately freezes that with retirement companies as of the date of that announcement to make sure that the company is in full compliance. The company also has to put up an insurance bond to make sure that the PBPCG can check and see if there are any discrepancies with that bond. The company has to have the ability to pay existing retirees as well as future retirees as of the date of that announcement that are on roll.

I am happy to announce to you that the J.P. Morgan Associates who is the administrator of the Connectivity Solutions Manufacturing Industry has done a very good job of making sure that this bond is in compliance despite all the downturns that has happened. At 73% is a very good number for the Taft Hartley and 83% for the total finance is a very good number. What this is telling us that your pension will be there in full. What about healthcare? As you all know retirees healthcare are not bargained. Your healthcare will continue when you walk out the door for the last time until November 1, 2012. That is when the contract ends with CSMI. They cannot eliminate it but they can decrease your monthly payments, that all goes through the monthly enrollment, etc. The company would not continue negotiations for retirees about the healthcare for them. The company can alter their plan between now and when a person reaches the age of 65 or Medicare eligible. Because of the economic upheaval does he anticipate a change from the company and his answer was 'probably not'. It all depends on what comes out of the Healthcare Reform Act that legislation passed last month, what the market does in the next couple of years on whether or not we see an increase in healthcare benefits.

In answer to a question from the floor; can the company keep paying for their healthcare? It all depends on the monies that go to pay for your insurance and how well it is funded. They can alter but they cannot completely eliminate the benefits without certain events Taking place: No. 1 they have to complete their end of the benefit and by doing so they have to show the PBPCG that they have enough money to pay everyone what is owed them and the other way is that they could do bankruptcy preparations: They would have to show that they cannot continue in business. They are not in position to do that! The company is self insured! They are a multi million dollar corporation at this point so they should always be in business. They will continue to pay your healthcare! They can change things like raise the price of healthcare and out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, those kinds of things but they do that through the open enrollment.

This is as long as the contract exists and the company signed the contract! Comscope still has to fund that pension because of the economics of it even if Connectivity ceases to exist; the board of directors governs Connectivity Solutions. It limits their liability to any lawsuits or anything else. The pension stays the same no matter what, they cannot change that.

The union did lose the unfair labor practice lawsuit.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:** The next quarterly meeting will be July 21, 2010 here at the union hall.

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED:**