**Union Update** 4/17/20

**The company notified us yesterday at 3pm there intentions to use 15 furlough days starting May-22 as the first one followed by the scheduled day as follows.**

* Friday, May 22 (Memorial Day holiday)

        Tuesday, May 26 (Memorial Day holiday)

        Friday, June 12 (No holiday – summer Friday)

        Friday, June 26 (No holiday – summer Friday)

        Thursday, July 2 (Independence Day holiday)

        Monday, July 6 (Independence Day holiday)

        Friday, July 24 (No holiday – summer Friday)

        Friday, August 14 (No holiday – summer Friday)

        Friday, August 28 (No holiday – summer Friday)

        Friday, September 4 (Labor Day holiday)

        Tuesday, September 8 (Labor Day holiday)

        Friday, September 25 (No holiday – Fall Friday)

        Friday, October 9 (No holiday – Fall Friday)

        Wednesday, November 25 (Thanksgiving holiday)

        Wednesday, December 23 (Winter holiday)

**We thought the company would take part in negotiating resolutions to the use of week-long furloughs/ layoffs for unemployment benefits or other options including using vacation and waiving your short work week benefit like they did in the past. We offered several ideas and options in order to ease the pain on both sides, but that is not what took place. What happened was the company drew a hard line in the sand and offered zero negotiations at all and invoked 5.7 of the contract language.**

**We offered cheaper options for them to consider and the answer to everything we proposed was a solid NO..!!**

The company is excluding all military groups I.E. SLS, plant-1, Oilers, and some facility areas.

Our Contract covers all employees that are eligible under the S.U.B. Fund requirements to receive automatic short work week benefits (80% of pay) during these mandatory layoff days. Anyone with at least 1 year will receive S.U.B. pay for each day until their credits run out or the S.U.B fund is depleted. S.U.B. credits are earned each week up to a maximum 52. Anyone with less than 1 year at the time of each furlough day will not receive any S.U.B benefits.

There are Unemployment options available for Illinois due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such as unemployment for child care due to school closures along with benefits for furloughs and reduced work hours. To see if you qualify go on to their website - <https://www2.illinois.gov> . We recommend everyone take advantage of all of the benefits that our offered, because we sure know the Company is not going to tell us what is available and look out for our best interest. In fact you all put your lives and your families’ lives in jeopardy every single day just to help keep the Company running and what do we get from them in return? Absolutely nothing! In fact they are constantly violating the contract and now they want to take more away. We are in a constant battle with them on everything. I was very happy to see the company offer parents with school aged children paid time off, but then all cooperation after that expired while the personal threat to your life increases every single day you show up for them.

God bless you, and try and stay safe during this crises.

Solidarity forever..!!