



Sudbury Mine Mill & Smelter Worker's Union Local 598/Unifor

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NEWSLETTER

Members that work at MANSOUR MINING

April 2015

Dear Brothers of Mansour,

Coming quickly is the Union's tri-annual elections. This is the time for those who have 6+ months of service within the union membership to step up and nominate them self for a position in the union. Union representatives, Health & Safety representatives are positions that are carried out within the work place for the most part, but there are also other positions such as Executive Board Members.

For those of you who want to run for any of the positions (which are also posted on our union board) you will need to fill out your nomination forms and have them sent in via mail, by hand, fax, or by email to the union office in care of Natalie. (the contact information is on the nomination form).

Your Unit Chair will have the nomination forms and if you can't get a hold of him, talk to a union rep and they will get you one. As well, you can print off a copy from the union website, www.minemill598.com.

I am encouraging anyone who is thinking about running for any position - show your unionized spirit, your will and want to help your union brothers and attempt to take up the mantel.

For those of you who wish not to run, I hope and trust you will think about and vote for the person you believe will represent you best and may the best person win.

Together We Stand, divided we fall.

Health and Safety

As you may all have noticed with the spring thaw, it has brought a lot of water into the shop. Your Health and Safety reps are working with the company to try and fix this problem now and also hopefully for the future as well. So, in the mean time, please be careful around the water. Avoid it where possible and if you cannot avoid it, be careful going through it.

As for forklifts, some of you may not know this, but the indoor lifts don't have the best traction once the tires become wet and they can slide great distances. Keep your attention on these and do not walk in front of the forklifts as they cannot stop on a dime. Be safe.

As a reminder, your union negotiated a boot allowance for our unit. What this means is that when you need new work boots, you buy them, keep the receipt and bring it or a copy of it into work. Fill out the boot allowance form and attach the receipt to the form and submit it to the company. They will reimburse you up to \$75.00. So, those of you who need new work boots who are past your probation, please protect yourself and get those new work boots and bring in your receipts for reimbursement.

For your protection, those of you who are brought into the office, it is highly recommended that you always have a union representative brought in with you. Of course the company will tell you that you don't need a representative, but do you really think they are bringing you in there for coffee and donuts? I highly doubt it. Always ask for your union representative and protect your rights.

But, for those of you who insist on not bringing one with you, keep in mind that as soon as the boss starts to raise his voice, you feel threatened in any way - put up your hands and say you are starting to feel harassed and excuse yourself explaining that you are going to get your union representative. You have rights and no matter what anyone says, they cannot be taken away for any excuse.

Mental Health issues are on the rise. It is becoming more and more common with the work places and being it is really beginning to be noticed as a problem. People are going off on stress leave because of the work place. So know that you're not alone and there is help out there. Keep your union informed. They will give you directions on how to get help or how to stop the issue that's causing the stress.

Union Activity

I have (more than once) heard members say to me that they, the members at Mansour, are paying the union representatives wages when off doing union business. I will be addressing this concern at our next monthly meeting and look forward to answering any other concerns that you may have.

In Solidarity,

James Hihnala

James Hihnala, Unit Chair