

Friday October 21, 2011

The single biggest reason I can think of to vote NO

We understand the narcissistic views that 80% of the country feels toward most of us in this industry right now. We also understand many people with degrees and paying off college loans resent us for making close to the same wages, even though we work two to three times as many hours in order to do so and are away from our families that much longer. This is not about getting more, however. It is about keeping the same traditional work schedules we have always maintained. It's about avoiding rotating shifts and being able to hold down a specific shift that you need to be on in order to be there for your kids when they need you. It's about having the ability to be there for your family to get the kids off to school because your spouse works a different shift, or god forbid because you are a single parent.

The alternative work schedule within this contract is the single biggest reason I can think of to vote NO and there are a few others tied to it as well. Many of my co-workers would likely take a few dollars an hour in pay cuts in order to prevent this from happening if they actually knew about everything in this contract. If it was all about money everyone including the new tier two people would vote NO also though, because what they are offering them doesn't even come close to the money that they will lose in over-time if this does happen. Instead of three alternating crews as shown as an example in the contract what's to stop them from utilizing 4 or more. The workers won't even get a forty hour work week in if use more than 4. The fact that there is a provision in there for temporary workers for Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays tells us that they have every expectation of using four at least. That will successfully eliminate overtime right there. Do the math. Arbitration is the way to go on this considering the union wouldn't even address the concerns we had and concocted this mess instead. At least with arbitration we might get a fair shake on the work schedules.

Our union is another issue all together. The fact that they are no longer concerned with listening to the membership they are supposed to be representing we should be taking over Solidarity House. The fact they purposely hid this from their own membership by not discussing it and intentionally leaving it out of the contract highlights leads many of us now to believe they should be brought up on fraud charges for not offering full disclosure to their membership. This AWS (Alternating Work Schedule) is the same mess that the workers at the GEMA Engine Plant in Dundee and new Trenton Engine Plant agreed to on their local agreements in order to get the work they received. They made a deal with the Devil.

Chuck

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