

Cleveland, Ohio

Nine Seventy-Niner News

President Visits ArcelorMittal Cleveland: Stresses Importance of American Manufacturing

After thanking Lakshmi Mittal for investing in the United States in general and Cleveland in particular, President Obama shared his observation from talking to steelworkers during his brief visit to the HDGL. He commented on the pride workers feel to have been making steel here for a century.

Obama added that the steel made in Cleveland is some of the strongest made anywhere in the world. He said it's one of the most productive plants in the world thanks to the quality of the workers.

After describing the way the mill restarted following the 2009 recession, Obama said, "The story of this plant is the story of America over the last four years." He said the country needs to rebuild a foundation to protect ourselves from future crises.

During the 4 months before his speech, 7.8 million American jobs were added. Many of these were in manufacturing. Obama explained that now companies that previously shipped jobs overseas are bringing jobs back to the United States.

Emphasizing we don't need



CEO ArcelorMittal USA Mike Rippey, District 1 Director Dave McCall, President Barack Obama, ArcelorMittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal, Local Union 979 President Mark Granakis, and ArcelorMittal Cleveland General Manager Eric Hauge meet in Cleveland plant.

to choose between the environment and the economy, but can have both, Obama said that not only does the U.S. produce more renewable energy than ever, but we now produce more oil domestically than we buy from other countries.

He added not only are we producing more energy, but we're wasting less.

Contrary to the picture presented by the right wing media of a President who is spending away our great grandchildren's

President's Visit Continued on Page 5

What Do I Get for My Union Dues?

Base wages between \$19.95 per hour and \$26.85 per hour and additional hourly earnings provided by a production bonus.

Report from President Mark Granakis

Business Conditions

The plant is doing well. Cleveland was the only plant in the company that made its December shipping goals.

As of this writing, although we are scheduled to be busy for the rest of this quarter, we are experiencing a pellet shortage. There were four boatloads of pellets Cleveland Cliffs was supposed to send us before the close of the shipping season. These boats did not make it through before the freeze – not of Lake Erie – but of Lake Superior where temperatures outside the mines were at -40*.

Since these boats did not make it, the company bought approximately 35,000 tons of pellets from the old Warren facility. This is not nearly enough iron to keep us full for the first quarter. On January 8th, the company scaled our blast furnaces back by 1000 tons of iron per day until they are able to resolve the pellet problem.

Blast Furnace

The Blast Furnace outage went extremely well. Most work was done in a timely manner – and most important – to my knowledge there was only one injury – that to a contractor.

All the Blast Furnace employees should be commended not only for a job well done, but a job done well safely.

Global Award

Congratulations to all the employees of both steel shops as well as those who worked supplemental overtime or volunteered to help get #2 Steel Making back up and running in an unbelievably safe and quick manner.

The Cleveland plant received a global ArcelorMittal award for this achievement. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time a U.S. plant received an award of this nature.

President

As if this wasn't enough, we also had the honor of hosting the President of the United States and the head of ArcelorMittal. After touring parts of the plant, President Obama and Mr. Mittal met with approximately 500 employees. During their remarks, they commended the Cleveland plant for having one of the most efficient and dedicated work forces in the world.

Considering that the President of the United States could have picked any steel mill – or any plant – this was an unbelievable honor and,

*President's Report
Continued on Page 3*



Director Dave McCall and President Mark Granakis welcome President Barack Obama to ArcelorMittal Cleveland.

President's Report from Page 2

without question, the biggest day in the 100 year history of this plant.

On January 27th, the company will hire 5 more stationary engineers.

Although the company needs to hire more people because of attrition throughout the mill, I'm not sure when this other hiring will take place.

As of this writing, the company hasn't decided when they'll eliminate the current list and put an ad in the paper to develop a new list. Since it is very unusual for any company to keep a hiring list for such an extended period of time, I wouldn't be surprised if they start a new list in the near future. Most companies get rid of employment applications as soon as their employment needs have been filled.

Holiday Generosity

I want to thank all the people -- including Sam Moyer, Ralph Myers, Tom Scott, Bob Svagerko, and Ron Svagerko -- who devoted their time and energy to make sure we had another successful Toys for Tots drive. They did a great job organizing lunches and collections throughout the plant.

Thanks also to the

many members who donated toys, purchased lunches, and gave to the collections. Also thanks to the membership for voting a \$1000 donation from the Local Union Treasury and to Plant Manager Eric Hauge for agreeing to a matching \$1000 company contribution.

On Friday, December 20, two Marine Sergeants stopped by the Hall and gratefully accepted these gifts. I'm sure the many children who enjoyed Christmas because of our help were also very appreciative.

Continuing the holiday spirit, our membership voted donations to the Ohio steelworkers of LU 5724 at Ormet and LU 8565 at Rotek for their holiday funds. Ormet is shut down because AEP refuses to negotiate a reasonable electric rate. The workers at Rotek are locked out.

As in the past, the Local Union voted to send gift cards to the Local Union 979 members who were off on long term illness or injury over the holidays. The many thank you notes received at the Union Hall show how much this gesture means to these brothers and sisters.

I'll conclude by wishing everyone a happy New Year as we look forward to what appears to be a prosperous year for our plant. Hopefully, we will successfully complete the advanced high

strength steel trials -- a market that will grow greatly in 2015.

Have a safe New Year.

Grievance Chair's Report from Page 4

Arbitration

We are still in the process of working with the International to resolve the 3 cases Local Union 979 has slated for arbitration. One is a case on benefits. The other 2 are discharges. I hope we will secure arbitration dates in early February so they can be resolved.

I want to personally thank the Committeemen who filled in for me during my recent vacation.

Scholarships Available

The District 1 Sub-District 1 Scholarship Fund will award eight \$2600 scholarships to children of Steelworkers in participating Local Unions who are graduating high school between January 1 and July 1 of 2014.

All applications must be postmarked by April 30. For complete rules and applications, contact your Grievance Committeeman, Unit Chair, or Recording Secretary Shirley Pasholk (216-789-6087).

Report from Grievance Chair Russ Sheffler

Welcome to the new hires who started working on our railroad since my last report. Hopefully, you all received the proper training. If you have any issues or questions, please call your Committeeman, Joe Venere (216-407-4605) or call my office (216-441-2714).

The company is in the process of hiring 5 stationary engineers for the powerhouse. They will start in late January.

Training

Congratulations to all the MTMs and MTEs who graduated from the company training program in the 4th quarter of 2013. Again, we had a 100% graduation rate. A new group has started this training program.

On the production side, I recently became aware of vacancies up to and including SOTs in some lines of progression within different divisions. Under the contract, the company has a responsibility to provide training for advancement and earnings opportunity for all production workers.

While some members feel a little intimidated to raise the issue, please let us know if you are being denied the necessary training to increase your earning opportunities. Unfortunately some supervisors always have an

excuse for skirting or ignoring the training rules.

I am currently working with the Committeemen to take care of the problem. We will be diligent in making sure everyone receives the proper training opportunities. If I find the company is lacking in offering proper training, grievances will be filed.

The new contract requires all production workers to receive sufficient training within their job block. The Training Committee will give its yearly report to Director McCall shortly. Any deficiencies revealed in this report will be addressed.

Union Representation

Another issue that's come to me is that some company supervisors have told our members – especially newer members – that it's not necessary to come to the Union with any issues they have. These supervisors say they can take care of any problems.

Remember, by law the company is not allowed to bargain directly with employees. It is the Union's responsibility to be the bargaining agent for every hourly employee. Safety issues need to be brought to your Safety Advocate or Committeeman's attention immediately. Don't do any job before you're sure it can be done safely.

Your Union representatives are here to answer your questions and assist you with any job, safety, or benefit related issue.

Bids

All successful bidders for the bids posted in the 4th quarter have been contacted. Although some successful bidders were released to their new departments; others still have not been. Remember, if you accept a bid and the company cannot transfer you for training or manpower reasons, after 2 weeks the company must pay you any money lost. After 60 days, the penalty for continuing to hold you is time and a half.

Although this penalty has been applied in some instances, in other cases it appears the company "forgot" to turn the affected employee in for proper payment. And, whether because the member didn't know about this contract provision or because the member was afraid to press it, the member didn't complain. Don't let the company deny you money you're entitled to. If you aren't paid properly, be sure to let your Committeeman know immediately. If you're unable to reach your Committeeman, please call my office and leave a voice message.

*Grievance Chair's Report
Continued on Page 3*

President's Visit from Page 1

future, Obama said he's cut deficits in half.

Obama stressed he's made the tough decisions about reversing forces that have hurt the middle class. He said the U.S. should be a country where if you work hard, you have a chance to buy a home, send your kids to school, take a little vacation once in a while, and retire.

Adding "I didn't run for President to go back to where we were," Obama said, "I want to move forward. We have to solve problems. We have to make sure kids can get an education without going broke or into debt."

In order to move forward, Obama said we need to do everything we can to revitalize American manufacturing. Since these jobs typically pay a



President Obama speaks to Cleveland steelworkers.

little better than other sectors of the economy and provide a ticket to the middle class, Obama said, "When manufacturing is strong our economy is strong."

Obama added manufacturing jobs are about more than a paycheck. He said they also provide a sense of accomplishment since manufacturing workers know they're making something that helps build the country.

Citing the example of

the Cleveland plant, Obama said we want to be at the cutting edge. Since we need to provide the best steel and the best cars, we should do everything we can to make sure the next revolution in manufacturing starts in the U.S.

Although it still obviously needs further improvements, Obama said he's taken on a broken health care system. He said we're lucky to have good health coverage because we work for a company with a strong Union.

He said everything possible needs to be done to make sure every American has access to quality, affordable health care. Despite problems with the initial rollout, he pledged, "I am going to see this through. We're not going back to the old system because the old system was broken. We're not going to walk away from the 40 million



ArcelorMittal employees gather in anticipation of President's remarks.

*President's Visit
Continued on Page 7*

Retiree Owns Pennsylvania Bar



Republic Steel hired John DiMatteo on January 8, 1968 and assigned him to the Steel Plant. After floating back and forth between the slab yard, coke plant, and mason department, DiMatteo was sent to the '98" cold mill.

After working in the '98" cold mill, DiMatteo followed a foreman's advice and signed a labor bid into that department. Once he was awarded the bid, he bid into the inspection unit, working on the tension leveler, temper mill, and #1 reinspect line.

DiMatteo was an active member of Local Union 2265. He served as '98" Cold Mill Production Committeeman.

When LTV shut down, DiMatteo retired. Although he received 3 calls asking him to come back to work for ISG, he

decided to stay retired. He said he didn't work 34 years for Republic Steel and LTV to come back to work after he'd retired.

Once he retired, DiMatteo decided to move back to Pennsylvania. He now lives in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and owns a bar – Johnny D's.

DiMatteo said his house is in the mountains. He still enjoys messing with cars and going to Corvette shows. He said he has two yellow Corvettes and a yellow motorcycle.

Looking back at his time in the mill, DiMatteo said, "Everything I have, I owe to that place. It was a good job. I might not have liked the coke plant or the holes I had to climb in when I was in the mason department, but once I got hired by Republic, I never had to look for a job."

DiMatteo added he had a lot of good memories. He said he met a lot of nice people in the mill. He said there were always a few bad people, "but basically we had fun and enjoyed ourselves."

As he mingled with friends he hadn't seen for years at the Republic Steel Reunion at the Hall August 10th, DiMatteo said, "I never thought I'd miss Ohio, but I do. Even though I enjoy living

in the mountains, there's a lot more to do in Cleveland."

Congratulations

Congratulations to the winners at the August 10 Republic Steel Reunion Raffle: retiree Ken Newsome (43" flat screen television); retiree Sal Salupo (\$200); and Hot Mill employee Kevin Knight (\$100).

Congratulations to Local Union 979 members Rick Jajola, Fritz Polosky, Bob Ulee, and Tom Zidek and retirees Bennie Crosby, Tom Grivna, Richard Klimczuk, and Robert Stibley for winning the October Women of Steel calendar raffle. Money raised from this raffle helps fund the Women of Steel scholarship fund, which annually awards two academic and two technical school scholarships.

The Local Union 979 Activities Committee announced the winners of the last Texas Hold 'Em tournament were Nick Apple (son of Ron in the BOF); Jim Basham (husband of Brenda in Finishing); and Greg Gipson (Railroad).

The team captained by Jim Whoolery won the Spring Swing LU 979 Golf Outing at Manakiki. Ron Jankowski (hole #5), Ron Kohut (hole #7) and Carl Harris (hole #11) were the winners of the closest to the pin contests on par 3 holes.

*President's Visit from
Page 5*

Americans without health coverage.”

Obama concluded, “We have to focus on what’s good for people – how to get the economy to grow; put more people back to work; make sure kids get a good education. We didn’t become the greatest nation on earth by accident. All of you know what we can do when we put our mind to it. When we work at it, we can get to a better place.”

Social Security from Page 9

Security benefits electronically can do so from 5 a.m. – 1 a.m. Monday – Friday or 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., they can call 800-772-1213 to speak with a live person who works for Social Security. There are 28 Social Security offices in Northern Ohio. This includes 8 offices in Cuyahoga County, 4 of which are in Cleveland.

Smith said approximately 10,000 applications are received daily. People generally start the application process about 3 months before they plan to start receiving benefits.



President Obama Visits Hot Dip Galvanizing Line.

Currently you can’t apply for survivor benefits online. To begin collecting surviving spouse benefits, the surviving spouse must be 60 years old, 50 years old if disabled, or any age if caring for children under 18 or children of any age if disabled before they turned 22. As long as over 60, it’s possible to be remarried and still collect surviving spouse benefits.

To be eligible for spousal benefits, you must have been married at least 1 year; 10 years if divorced; 9 months if ends because of death. A same sex spouse must have been married in a state that recognizes same sex marriage and must live in a state that recognizes sane sex marriage.

Smith said to get that month’s Social Security check, the recipient has to live

the entire month. Social Security will pay a \$255 lump sum death benefit to a surviving spouse or minor children – but not to the estate.

Social Security Disability allows spouses and children to be paid same as retirement Social Security. The amount is basically the same as if the recipient had retired at full Social Security age.

Although you will be deluged with mailings urging you to sign up for various Medicare plans when you turn 65, if you are still working – and therefore covered by your employer paid medical insurance – or if you are covered by a spouse’s employee health insurance, you do not need to file for Medicare. A couple months before you leave your job, you need to file a special Medicare enrollment form.

Cleveland Important to Company's Success

Speaking to Cleveland ArcelorMittal employees who had gathered to hear President Obama, ArcelorMittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal described Cleveland as a core facility in the global company that employs people in 60 countries.

Commenting on the death of a contractor at Indiana Harbor the previous day, Mittal called on all employees to rededicate ourselves to working safely.

After mentioning the celebration of 100 years of steelmaking in Cleveland, Mittal said our high productivity, low cost, delivery performance, and innovation resulted in the investment of \$70 million in Cleveland in 2013. He added this has resulted in 150 new jobs.



Mr. Mittal Welcomes President Obama to ArcelorMittal.

Mittal said the high strength steel that will be run in Cleveland is very important to our success. He said this can bring more jobs back to the United States. He said ArcelorMittal is committed to

manufacturing in the United States and here in Cleveland.

While emphasizing the need for strong trade policies, Mittal said the President's visit confirms the importance of the manufacturing sector. He concluded we take pride in what we do every day.



Company CEO Addresses Cleveland Employees.

Members Donate Blood

The American Red Cross collected 30 pints of blood from Cleveland ArcelorMittal employees during the 5 hour July 18 blood drive. Thanks to all those who helped save lives in Northeast Ohio.

Social Security Questions Answered

As he addressed a benefits class sponsored by USW District 1, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist Brandon Smith said his job is to provide information, not offer advice. He added his intention isn't to scare anyone into doing something.

Smith said to be eligible for Social Security retirement a person must have worked at least 10 years on at least a part time basis earning at least approximately \$4500 per year. He said the most someone can earn per year from wages or self-employment income is 4 credits. He explained these credits can't be purchased or carried over to another year.

Smith said the concept of retirement is different from benefits. While a person may retire at any age, the first time this person can receive Social Security retirement benefits is aged 62. For every month after the age of 62 someone waits to begin collecting these benefits, the amount of the individual's monthly benefits will go up. However, for every month someone waits, that person is one month closer to death.

Depending on the retiree's year of birth, full retirement age ranges from 65 – 67 years old. Once a person reaches this full retirement age, there is no limit on the amount of earnings.

Delaying the start of benefit collection beyond age 70 will not increase a person's monthly checks. Those who delay the start of benefits until age 70 receive 132% of full retirement benefits.

Smith said people should consider their health, likely life expectancy, and financial needs when deciding when they should start receiving their monthly benefit check.

Without reducing your benefit, your Social Security account can also provide spousal benefits and benefits for unmarried children under age 18 – or under 19 if still in high school – or any age if the child is unmarried and disabled before age 22. This also includes adopted children and step children if the retiree provides at least 50% of their support. The retiree does not have to have physical custody for the children to be covered. To begin collecting spousal benefits, the spouse must be at least 62 years old or caring for a child under aged 16 or a disabled child of any age.

Neither child nor spousal benefits can be paid on your record until you apply. The most a spouse can receive is 50%. If the benefit a person is entitled to under his or her own record exceeds what the spousal benefit would pay, the

person should take his or her own benefit instead.

Without reducing your benefits, an ex-spouse who is at least 62 years old and single is also potentially eligible for spousal benefits. Although one person can't receive benefits from multiple ex-spouses, one record can support multiple ex-spouses.

Smith said your Social Security benefit is based on the highest 35 years of Social Security covered wages. These totals are added up and divided by 420. Those with less than 35 years of Social Security earnings will have zeroes entered for the missing years.

SOCIALSECURITY.GOV/ESTIMATOR provides an estimate of your future Social Security Benefits. Since the familiar written listing of your Social Security contributions over the years will no longer be mailed annually, Smith urged people to go to the Social Security website and create an account so you can get this information electronically. He said everyone needs to review this information to make sure the information is correct. He added the sooner a mistake is caught, the easier it will be to correct.

Those filing for Social

Social Security Continued on Page 7

A Message from Our Workers Comp Committee

1. If you are injured at work, you must report the injury to your supervisor.

2. Tell the supervisor what happened and what parts of the body were injured.

3. Go to the dispensary and report “all” of the body parts affected by the injury.

a. You do not have to be treated by the dispensary; **the choice of who treats you is your own.**

b. If you elect

not to be treated by the dispensary; tell them you are going to see your own doctor for treatment.

c. If you are asked to sign any paperwork, bring it to one of the Workers’ Compensation representatives for review before signing.

4. Make sure you get all the paperwork or copies of the paperwork from the dispensary and anything related to this injury. Then keep all of the documentation together and organized.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the Workers’ Compensation representatives: Bill Pfeil (440-915-2871), Mike Belluardo (216-469-0069), Mike Matovich (440-582-2888), Mary Jo Vitale (440-781-9472).

On many occasions, allowing the dispensary to treat an injured worker, made it more difficult to have the claim allowed. Please read the following letter concerning a current worker at our own mill here in Cleveland:

The patient had relief initially after icing and then when he was off, he had relief of pain and clearly stated that he was getting better. He came in after kneeling at church and said his knee was materially worse.

The significant thing about the episode at church was that he went to a kneeling church where he kneeled multiple times by his own admission. I am also aware of what happens in kneeling churches and that it is exactly the type of activity that you do. It is well known and accepted by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons that kneeling, especially kneeling and flexing the knee past 90, squeezes the posterior horn of the meniscus and can cause tearing of the posterior horn. It is no coincidence that the patient’s pain heightened after he knelt multiple times and then he could not curtail the pain through any means.*

The reason that the patient, I believe, tore his posterior horn was not because of the event that happened on September 28, but because the patient had a degenerative mass of meniscal remnant from an original surgery that was done years ago. Degenerative menisci that have been compromised by prior surgery can be easily torn by kneeling especially repetitive kneeling during a short period of time. In this case, the patient had a minor physical stressor (the minimal twist) that was improving after the twist and worsened after kneeling indicates that kneeling was the major event.

www.usw979.com — Come check us out.

Calendar

Monday, January 27, Deadline for Rapid Response Raffle Entries

Monday, February 3, ICD Winter Classes start

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., Local Union Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 11:30 a.m., SOAR Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 1 p.m., Grievance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Local Union Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 11:30 a.m., SOAR Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 1 p.m., Grievance Committee Meeting

Letters

To Local 979 Members:

Thank you for covering our picket line so that our members could attend our solidarity picnic. It is a real morale booster for our members knowing that our brothers and sisters are standing with us. Thanks again.

In Solidarity,

Bill Hyslop
President Local Union 8565

Dear USW Local 979,

On behalf of USW Local 5724 we would like to thank you for your donation.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. It will be a big help as we put together food and toys for the Ormet families for this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Byers
President, L.U. 5724

Dear United Steelworkers,

On behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, I would like to thank you for your generous gift.. Your commitment to helping the Marine Corps provide the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to our nation's less fortunate children is sincerely appreciated.

Each year, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation redoubles its effort to accomplish our mission, and frankly, this would not be possible without donors such as you.

Again, please accept my sincere appreciation for your generosity and support. You are truly making a difference in the lives of America's less fortunate children.

Sincerely,

H.P. Osman
Lieutenant General, USMC
(Ret)
President and CEO

Dear President Granakis,

Thank you for your sponsorship of the 2013 North Shore Labor Day Festival on Saturday, August 31, 2013 at Euclid Memorial Park. This year marked a transformation from a parade to a festival format, and your generous financial support ensured a smooth transition for our union affiliates, members and families, and festival attendees.

The United Steelworkers Local 979 show of generosity and solidarity helped make all aspects of the festival a great success. I am honored that we had this opportunity to work together in support of celebrating organized labor in our community.

Sincerely and
fraternally yours,

Leonard DiCosimo

2013 Labor Day Festival
Committee Chairman

Ask 979er News

Q: Can I bring recyclables from home to the recyclable dumpster in the Union parking lot?

A: The City of Cleveland provides this recycling dumpster. Since there is no charge for emptying the dumpster, you're welcome to use it for your recyclables. However, we don't receive any income from these recyclables. So, if a charity you support collects cans, paper, etc., it would be a good idea to donate your recyclables to them.

Q: What about the used oil after I change the oil in my car?

A: The oil storage container next to the dumpster was purchased by ICD for use by its auto, motorcycle, and small engine classes. ICD actually receives a small check when this is emptied. So, those who change their own oil can use this container to avoid dumping it somewhere it could contaminate the water table or paying the disposal fees many places charge.

United Steelworkers Local 979

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