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BRENT THOMPSON
President

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From the President's Desk

Sisters, Brothers and Siblings

I am both honoured and humbled to be serving as your President for another 3 years. The past term has been marked by triumphs and trials and I know the next three will be much the same and we will also celebrate and support each other through these as well. The newly Elected Local 636 Executive is proudly reflected by 15 members that encompass a range of units and sectors. We are proud to have representation for the first time by an AWOC Member at Large and a Youth Member at Large. The swearing in took place this past Thursday Evening by Sister Kelly-Anne Orr Assistant to the National Officers and member of Local 636. As part of our goal as an executive to be continually growing and mobilizing our membership it was decided that each member of the Local Executive would have an assigned committee that they will liaison for and be a direct conduit of information from the committees to the executive board to assist with any projects they wish to pursue that reflect the principles of Unifor and its local 636. Elections for the committees will take place in September, so watch for the posting.

At that time we will also be having elections for the Retirees Executive for a three year balance of term. Our retirees are a dynamic group that tirelessly supports our working membership both locally and nationally when called upon and we are so very fortunate to have such an amazing chapter. One of the events that our retirees attend is the Annual Retirees Council in Port Elgin every year that is highlighted by the Labour Day Parade taking place on September 4th of this year. I am proud to say that Local 636 is offering a Bus Trip to Port Elgin on that day, but you must register by August 1, 2023. All members are welcome Retired, working and their families. This event will be emphasized by the 10th Anniversary of Unifor.

Labour Day is a Celebration of the Fights and Successes of the Labour Movement that brought us such things as O.T., 5 day work weeks, vacation pay, statutory Holidays just to name a few. So no matter if you decide to attend the parade in Port Elgin or you spend it with family and friends remember it is your day to celebrate our achievements.

One of our most innovative accomplishments for this year was to create a web page that anyone with internet can access on your phone, tablet or computer. The page Unifor636.ca has many aspects to explore from historical recounts right through to upcoming events and current achievements. This by no means is meant to substitute for postings on your workplace bulletin boards, regular unit meetings or membership meetings here at the local. Membership meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday of every month resuming in September after the summer break. These meetings allow for the members to hear directly from the Executive board in regards to financial matters, arbitrations, bargaining, and initiatives from the National to name a few items. Information sharing is always of the utmost importance within our local and our union. In saying that, we regularly host educational opportunities here at the local such as Grievance Handling, Human Rights and Collective bargaining. Watch the website and your in-unit Communication Boards for updates and upcoming courses.

One of many projects the National is still fighting for is the Right to fair bargaining and wage increases for Healthcare members at our Local Hospital. Bill 124 has locked these members into a 1% pay increase for the last few years. Though it was overturned by the courts, the Provincial Government has filed an appeal and those arguments are currently being heard, including our legal department.

I would also like to announce and welcome our newest unit to join Local 636 and Unifor, People Care in Tavistock. We are currently in bargaining for their first contract and look forward to many years of solidarity. In regards to bargaining there is always collective bargaining happening with 26 units to ensure the best gains for our membership and protect their rights.

In closing I would like to touch on a source of pride and dedication for our Union and new for our Local to Host the Bob White Charity Golf Classic. There was an email recently sent to all units asking members that are interested to email the local to be entered into a draw for a place on a team. The Charity Classic will take place at Craigowen Golf Club on August 28, 2023. It is \$600 to enter a team plus \$25 day of. If you would like to participate but do not wish to golf, you can purchase a book of tickets for \$20. All money raised goes to Daso, Anova and Ingamo Homes. Over the past 15 years we have raised over 1.5 million dollars for these very worthy and needful charities and without the help of members like you it would not be possible.

May your summer be filled with memories made, laughter and good times.

In solidarity,

Brent Thompson

President Unifor Local 636

The true power of a leader is shown in expressions of time and energy.

