

Pulp truth

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Please copy Pulp Truth front and back and distribute it during non-work time using your Communications and Action Teams, steward system or Rapid Response network. Be sure to leave copies in lunchrooms, break rooms, etc. We want to hear what's happening in your workplace. Send your news to lbaker@usw.org

Together We've Secured Thousands of Paperworker Jobs During Last 7 Years Through USW Paper Bargaining Program

Since the 2005 merger between PACE and the USWA thousands of paperworkers have had our jobs and union contracts protected because many USW Paperworker Locals had the vision to work together to secure innovative USWA-developed contract protection language. This language protects our jobs, our contracts and our standard of living in the event our companies are sold, merged or acquired.

Usually when a company is sold, merged with another enterprise or acquired by a private equity firm the union contract and employees don't carry over to the new organization. Everyone, including people with years and years of seniority, has to re-apply for their old jobs. The old union contract is voided. Only if the new company hires over half of our members can we bargain a new contract with the new employer.

With USW contract protection language our jobs,

wages, benefits and contract are secure. We go to work one day working for one employer and another day working for a different employer with no change.

Before the 2005 merger local union contracts were just beginning to contain this contract and job protection language. Now this language is standard in contracts with almost all of the major paper companies and over 70 percent of the industry.

Over half of our industry has been bought and sold in the last seven years. Without this innovative language obtained through the merger, over half of our industry would be without contracts and this would have negatively affected our bargaining power. However, through our hard work at bargaining tables across the sector we have maintained our standard of living in one of the worst economic environments since the Depression and in one of the most mature industries in the U.S.

Paperworker Mitch Becker Named Labor Person of the Year

The Blair & Bedford County Central Labor Council in Altoona, Pa., named Local 10-422 President Mitch Becker the 2011 Labor Person of the Year.

Becker has been a union member at Appleton Papers in Roaring Spring, Pa., since 1996 and during that time has assisted workers in obtaining a better standard of living for themselves and their families. He helped establish a

union safety advocate group to protect mill workers from getting injured or killed on the job.

He constantly works to improve labor relations at the mill and has helped in organizing campaigns. He also has actively supported candidates who uphold the interests of working men and women.

Canadians Ratify Contract Offer at Domtar's Espanola, Ontario Mill

Members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) of Canada ratified on July 14 a five-year contract with Domtar's Espanola pulp and paper mill in Ontario.

The contract, which is retroactive to May 1, 2009, includes no pay raises for the first three years, a 1% wage increase the fourth year and a 1.5% raise the fifth year.

This deal is similar to CEP's contract with AbitibiBowater Inc., which was ratified earlier this year, and is in line with the union's Eastern Canadian Pulp

and Paper caucus.

Connect with USW Paper Sector

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Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/unitedsteelworkers

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