



GSU News

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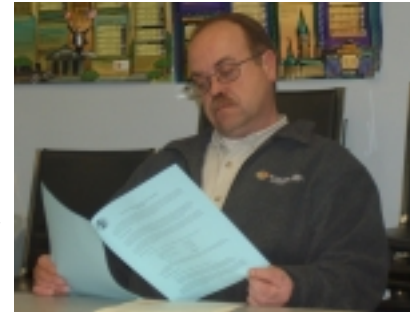
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Members tend to business at GSU Local meetings

Fourteen GSU local meetings were held throughout Saskatchewan from March 7 to 16 as union members took time out of their hectic schedules to tend to their business.

Right: John Borgen examines the General Secretary's report at the Weyburn meeting.



Each meeting included updates on union finances, union administration and bargaining unit reports.

Each meeting also focused on pension issues affecting members working for Sask. Wheat Pool, the Western Producer and Heartland Livestock. According to General Secretary Hugh Wagner, there doesn't seem to be any inclination by GSU members to buy into the pension plan proposals being advocated by Sask. Wheat Pool management.

"While many members are concerned about the complexity of pension issues and potential remedies to the challenges facing the SWP/GSU Pension Plan, no one is signing up to make the concessions being asked for by Pool management on February 15," Wagner said. "People understand well enough that the management prescription places all of the burden on the backs of Plan members. And, union members believe they've

sacrificed more than enough for this company."

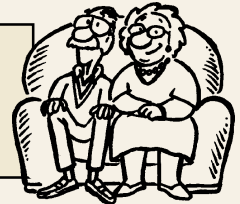
The next round of Local meetings will take place in June.

Thank you to everyone who attended a GSU annual meeting.

Member input helps to identify the priorities of union members and keeps the union strong.

Tentative pension settlement for Unit 1.2

The details and documents are being finalized in relation to settlement of pension issues between members of GSU's bargaining unit at the Western Producer and the employer GVIC.



The settlement, which is subject to ratification by the union's members, will result in the establishment of a defined contribution pension plan to replace the defined benefit plan (SWP/GSU) which covered employees of the Producer when the newspaper was owned by Sask. Wheat Pool.

A significant feature of the new pension arrangement requires the employer to pay an additional 3.75 percent of payroll per year into employees' pension accounts over the next four years. It is anticipated members will vote on the terms of the pension settlement by the end of March or early April.

Congratulations to GSU's Unit 8.8 (AgPro AB/MB) bargaining committee!

Your committee reached a tentative settlement with the company and signed a letter of understanding on March 8. Ratification meetings are being held April 4 to April 12. Details are available on the GSU web



(L-r) Brendon Sayers, GSU Staff Rep Dale Markling, and Frank Schlageter.

page at www.gsu.ca or by phoning Dale Markling at 306.384.7314.



www.gsu.ca

GSU 2005 scholarship application form inside! Page 3

Calendar of events

Write this down!

- ✓ **GSU Joint Executive Council meeting - April 2005, Regina.**
- ✓ **April 28 National Day of Mourning ceremonies Regina:**
City Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Saskatoon:
Frances Morrison (main) Library, 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ **9th Annual Prairie School for Union Women - June 12-16, 2005, University of Regina.**
- ✓ **SFL Summer Camp for Kids - August 7-13, 2005, Fort Qu'Appelle.**
Register early as this popular camp fills up very quickly.




April 28

See related story, this page.

GSU News

- **Our Email Address**
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- GSU News is** 
union-made!
Sent to press March 21, 2005

Labour's world



Day of Mourning began in Canada

In 1984, the Canadian Labour Congress declared a National Day of Mourning for workers killed and injured on the job. April 28 commemorated the enactment of Canada's first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act in Ontario in 1914. Observances of the Day of Mourning are widespread in Canada. They are led by unions and labour councils and often with the participation of municipalities, social action groups and other non-government organizations. In 1987, a national monument to workers killed or injured on the job was placed in Vincent Massey Park, in Ottawa.

Over the years, union organizations in other countries have followed Canada's lead. Today, working people around the world take time on April 28 to remember lost co-workers, friends and family, while renewing their commitment to safer workplaces under the slogan "fight for the living, mourn for the dead." The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) estimates 1.2 million workers a year are killed on the job, about a third from injury, a third from disease and another third of undetermined causes.

Some infamous dates include:

- June 1, 1974, Nypro Chemical plant in Flixborough, England, exploded, killing 28 workers
- May 9, 1992, Westray mine disaster in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, killed 26 miners
- May 10, 1993, Kader toy factory fire in Thailand killed 189 workers and injured 469 more.
- November 19, 1993, Zhili toy factory fire in Shenzhen, China, killed 87 and injured 47.
- In 1988 in Bhopal, India, a leak of isocyanates at a pesticide plant that killed at least 2,500 workers and their families and condemned thousands more to painful, permanent disabilities.

The ICFTU holds an annual Day of Mourning

at the United Nations building in New York and continues to campaign to make corporations and their executives criminally liable for deaths in the workplaces for which they are responsible. *CLC/CALM*

Air Force One workers go union

U.S. President George W. Bush isn't known as a strong supporter of labour. So you might imagine he won't be too thrilled when he finds out the fuelers who service his two luxury "Air Force One" jets are the newest members of the International Association of Machinists.

In January, 86 fuelers at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C., voted overwhelming for representation in IAM and began negotiations immediately for a first contract. *UCS/CALM*



A moment of mindless Trivia

Who was Fred Flintstone's boss?

If you think you know the answer to this trivia question, get your answer, name, and contact information to GSU by May 13, 2005.

A winner will be drawn randomly from all correct responses and announced in the next GSU News.

Last issue's answer: 1975 was the year Pong and the Pet rock were the biggest Christmas sellers. Unfortunately there were no correct answers received for last month's Trivia Question. Better luck this time!



GSU 2005 Scholarship Application Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION OF APPLICANT

Name _____
Address _____
_____ Postal Code _____
Telephone _____ Birthdate _____

I am applying for:

- Henry Lamontagne Scholarship Barry Melz Memorial Scholarship
 Bill Gilbey Memorial Scholarship

INFORMATION ON MEMBER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Name of Member or Parent or Guardian (who is a GSU member)

Place of Employment _____
Union Local _____
Job Title _____
Years of Service _____
Number of Dependents _____

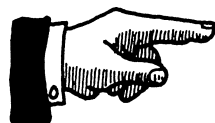
ACADEMIC DATA

School(s) attended _____
Extra-curricular and community activities _____

What university, college, technical institute, trade school or other public training institution are you registered to attend? _____

What course do you plan to take? _____
Length of course _____

Don't forget to include these **two** things:



- 1.) a letter of reference from a non-family member describing how your participation in school, extra-curricular, and/or community activities make you a strong candidate for a GSU Scholarship; and,
- 2.) your essay on ONE of the following topics:
 - Your suggestions on how to make unions relevant to young people.
 - If you were Premier, what laws would you introduce to help young working people?

(Details on reverse).

Return this form to the Grain Services Union no later than July 1, by mail to 2334 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2S2 or by fax to 306.565.3430.

Grain Services Union is offering three \$1,000 scholarships in 2005.

Who qualifies?

The scholarship competition is open to GSU members and their dependent children who have not previously won. Dependent applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and studying at any public educational institution in Canada. For example, attending a technical institute, trade school, community college or university would qualify.

How are they awarded?

Applicants must complete the form on the reverse of this page. Scholarships are awarded based on merit - specifically defined as scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activity, and, most importantly, community involvement/volunteerism.

- All applications must include a letter of reference from an educator, employer, or community leader.
- Applicants must submit a one- to two-page essay on ONE of the following topics:
 - Your suggestions on how to make unions relevant to young people.
 - If you were Premier, what laws would you introduce to help young working people?

Scholarship winners will have excerpts of their essays reproduced in the *GSU News*. The winning scholarship applicants will be asked to submit a photograph and a short, written biography which will be published in the *GSU News*.

The scholarship categories are:

Henry Lamontagne Scholarship: Open to Sub-Locals 1A and 1B (SWP) members and their dependents only;

Bill Gilbey Memorial Scholarship: Open to Union members and their dependents in all locals based on financial need. Applications will be accepted on the honour system;

Barry Melz Memorial Scholarship: Open to Union members and their dependents in Units other than Sub-Locals other than 1A and 1B (SWP).

When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for receipt of applications is July 1, 2005.

Who are the scholarships named after?

Henry Lamontagne was the president of Local 1000 (SWP) from 1987 to 1989. Henry is a fearless, straight-talking unionist who led Local 1000 in many major disputes, including battles over hours of work.

Bill Gilbey was the GSU's second secretary-manager (the equivalent of today's general secretary). He led the Union from 1968 to 1977. As one of the thousands of young unemployed Canadians in the 1930s, Bill helped organize unions in the relief camps to better the appalling living and working conditions. His commitment to improving workers' lives was unrelenting, as his lifelong dedication to the trade union movement illustrated.

Barry Melz was president of Local 4000 (AgPro Saskatoon) from 1986 until his untimely death in 1997. Barry was a natural leader and devoted his time and energy to building his local and the Union.

The GSU 2005 Scholarship Application Form is printed on the back of this page.

This form is also available on GSU's web page - www.gsu.ca