

RED TALES

Issue # 28 July 15 2009

(612-726-2230) Newsletter of the MSP ESSC Shop Committee (612-201-0383)

FOD Walk – The Safety Committees and Shop Committees of DTW and MSP had been getting reports of FOD problems on the tarmac. The DTW Shop Committee suggested that we follow the lead of workers in ATL. Several hundred in ATL had recently participated in a FOD Walk there.

On Friday, July 10 trash bags were handed out and during a short break between flight banks hundreds of ESEs in both hubs poured onto the ramp. A large amount of FOD and trash was collected. One MSP ramper commented, “I have never seen the ramp this clean.”

FOD is responsible for millions of dollars lost to aircraft and engine damage. Ramp personnel can also be injured by FOD. Never compromise safety.

Just Plain Wrong – A Local 1833 member recently returned from a trip to STL to see a friend who is a Chrysler worker there. Soon that friend will be out of a job. The Dodge Ram Pickup assembly line in STL will be shutting down. Dodge is opening up an assembly line in Mexico to build the Ram Pickup. Chrysler was recently given billions in taxpayer money as part of a package to rebuild the U.S. auto industry.

We firmly believe that Mexican workers should have a decent standard of living and good jobs. But this money was given for the express purpose of keeping U.S. auto companies from liquidating and to keep autoworkers working, or so we thought. A key part of pulling the country out of the economic crisis is creating career jobs, the kind of job that families can be raised on. This money was not given so that U.S. auto workers could be laid off or to line the pockets of auto executives. By the way, one of those executives is former Northwest CEO, Doug Steenland. He now sits on the Board of Directors for Chrysler. Good luck Chrysler workers.

Organizing Work – We are looking for volunteers over the next several weeks to do a variety of simple clerical tasks connected to the organizing drive. If you can volunteer to come to the Local 1833 office for a few hours before or after work or on a day off, please contact us at 612-726-2230.

Unity Party – Local 141 in DTW will be hosting a Unity Party on Saturday, August 1. You are invited. For details, go to local141.com.

Go to redtalesonline.com for a printable version of Red Tales, new every Thursday.