



WORDBACK

No 20 / 2019

5 JUNE 2019

A B C D Day Retained

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

A meeting of the Shop Stewards was held on Friday 31 May 2019 at the Union Office. The primary purpose of the meeting was to continue the work necessary to be properly prepared for our forthcoming EB negotiations. Critical to this is the development of a Log of Claims. Members need to be aware that the process being adopted during this EB will be significantly different from our last.

The UFU negotiating team will be Secretary Max Adlam, President Chas Thomas, Vice Presidents Chris Barry and Michael Riggs, State Councillors Gideon Douglas and Matt Watherston and Industrial Officer Jaspreet Kaur.

The negotiating team undertook an intensive three-day training course in negotiation and all other aspects of pursuing and achieving a successful EB claim. Having participated in the training, which was conducted by an accredited and excellent ACTU trainer, I can say that it was an extremely useful exercise and your team has been equipped with the skills, knowledge, and tools necessary for their role.



While many matters were discussed at our Shop Stewards meeting the bulk of the time focussed on Enterprise Bargaining. It is fact that certain processes should always be in place for all EB's. This time around, your Secretary and State Council, along with Shop Stewards, have determined that if we are to taste success, our Membership must be involved in the development and progression of our claim every step of the way. It has been further agreed and understood that our Members own this process, and that it must be transparent and underpinned by the full engagement of the Members. After all, the Union is its Members.

By now, Members at most stations and other worksites should have been approached by their Shop Steward to gather information on matters and issues which might be included in our Log of Claims. To those Shop Stewards who have already forwarded material, thank you and keep doing it. For those who have yet to do so, please get to work on this critical aspect of developing our Claim.

I do understand that this can be seen by some as a difficult and sometimes tedious process. But I also understand that it is you who know the Service and that you understand what is important and felt deeply across our Membership. It is this that makes your input vital.

Work is currently being done to collate the information that has been forwarded, and once the additional information is provided and collated, this information will be provided to Shop Stewards for further comment and input from our Members.

On a final matter, it is clear that given our existing political landscape, coupled with assertions from the government regarding state finances, there is little doubt that the successful prosecution of our Claim will be tough. Success will depend on staying strong, our absolute commitment and our unity.

INTERIM AGREEMENT

The Union has entered into what will likely be a series of meetings regarding securing your mid-year pay increase. The next meeting will be held on 17 June 2019 and we expect the Secretary will be back on deck and in attendance.

In the meantime, the Union is putting together a document detailing the steps members have taken to ensure the ongoing efficiency of the MFS. If you have thoughts regarding this, please feel free to contribute them at info@ufusa.com.au

WET WEATHER GEAR

Winter is coming? No, it's here! Unfortunately, it appears that appropriate wet weather gear will not be rolled out this winter.

At the most recent SA MFS WHS meeting, we were informed that wet weather gear has been approved and the request has now entered the government procurement process. A verbal statement was made to the effect that appropriate Wet Weather Gear would be provided before next Winter (please note we have assumed they meant winter 2020). Trialling of jackets will occur in the near future and this is being coordinated by the PPE&C Committee. We must acknowledge and thank the PPE&C Committee for their continued hard work on this issue. Whilst it is disappointing that it has taken so long for us to reach this point, it is heartening to see the SA MFS come on board with the issue and get the ball rolling. We look forward to the rainy winter's day (or night) where all our members are appropriately protected from the elements.

PFAS UPDATE

Members would be aware that unfortunately Commander Mick Tisbury was unable to attend the PFAS briefing advertised in the last Wordback. We hope to reschedule at the earliest opportunity as we understand members are keen to hear from the prevailing expert. Nevertheless, thank you to the many members who attended, we will continue to keep you apprised of any issue in the area as they arise.

The Union met with the Chief on Thursday 6 June 2019 to discuss ongoing PFAS arrangements.

PFAS Reminder

A reminder that we continue to urge all UFU Members and retired Members to participate in the PFAS Testing Program. You can get the referral documents for the PFAS blood test from the MFS through Clara Cipriani 0436 406 905 or by emailing Clara.Cipriani@sa.gov.au or Steve Pavlich on 0419 806 295 or by email steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au

Members in country areas are advised that you can have blood taken for testing at several regional locations, rather than have to come to Adelaide – please email steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au to make the necessary arrangements and obtain the written referral.

Once you have your test results it would be appreciated if you would complete the UFU survey (see the foreword to this email) so that we can continue to look for any other clusters of high results and take appropriate action. All information will be kept confidential.

RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS



The recent Retained staff upon completion of their recruit course. Congratulations! I understand three of you have already attended your first structure fire and performed admirably!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retained Shop Stewards Phone Hook Up – 1.00pm, Friday 7 June 2019

Please RSVP to info@ufusa.com.au by Thursday 6 June

Retirees Lunch – 12.30pm, Tuesday 11 June 2019 at the Seaton Hotel

Please RSVP to info@ufusa.com.au by Thursday 6 June

Shop Stewards Training Level 1 – 20-22 August 2019

We are required to give the MFS at least 4 weeks' notice to request deployment so please let the Union Office know by no later than 15 July if you would like to attend.

We have been spending some time in the Union office collating memorabilia and setting up a display area.

If you have any firefighting memorabilia, photos, or posters that you would like to donate or lend to the Union we would be more than happy to put them on display. Please let us know at the Union office info@ufusa.com.au or 8352 7211.



In solidarity

Paul Caica
GAD'd SECRETARY