

Dear SAPTU Members

Once again it is the end of the year, time to unwind with our families, relax and hope that we have been good girls and boys for Santa.

We have had a productive year in as much as all disciplinaries conducted have been won with written warnings attached to all. No dismissals. I think that says a lot for the abilities of the SAPTU representatives. One disciplinary faced was for a member who has medical problems, that member will now be hospitalised until her condition stabilises. We, the shop stewards, would like to bring to your attention that if you are notified of any problems, eg. grievances and DC's, please bring it to our attention immediately and work with us. We cannot help you if you are not willing to help yourself.

The Tool of Trade is up for arbitration on 3 December, just around the corner. If anyone has any questions or input regarding this case, please contact Advocate Ben van der Walt or Anton Prinsloo, they are your representatives at the CCMA. Ben wrote a letter to HR requesting that until the hearing on 3 December, no adjustments or implementation was done. The reply to this request was that implementation was immediate and employees options had to be submitted by end October. Please believe we will do all in our power to have this implementation reversed and all monies re-imbursed to employees. We are not working on this alone and do have the support from NEHAWU and Solidarity.

Wednesday is the last MRJCF meeting for the year. On the agenda is the long service awards. We fought to get something more than just a certificate now that we see the disbursements of amounts, we have to question where did these come from and who authorised them? They seem to be unfair. R1000-00 for 40 years service?

We will also be taking Vincent from Procurement on again. In September we were told that by 1 October everything would be in place and no orders would be outstanding. In October Vincent was invited to join the meeting. I personally gave him order numbers outstanding. Nothing. Again Procurement is in the line of fire.

2008 is going to be a very busy year for us. We have to discuss all CSP documents that were amended without being seen by the unions, negotiate with management to see if they are amicable to another 3 year contract for salary negotiations, training for all new shop stewards, etc. If any of the members has any knowledge of bookkeeping and is willing to help us on a secondary basis to balance the books in readiness for the auditors, that help would not only be welcomed but highly appreciated.

I will be on leave from 18 December to 14 January but can be contacted on 084 508 3452, Ithie will be on leave from 18 December to 6 January and can be contacted on 079 425 1189. If you have any problems or queries please do not hesitate to contact us, we will do our utmost to help from whatever hours we are visiting. Ithie and I will be visiting the regions within the first two months of the new year.

On this note, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, a fantastic New Year and PLEASE if you are driving, do not drink. We will see you all again in the New Year, ready and willing to help you all.

Regards

Sharon
Chairperson

Ithie
Vice Chairperson