NEW ZEALAND MEAT WORKERS & RELATED TRADES UNION
NEWSLETTER ***March – April 2024***

UNION ACTIVE



Welcome to 2024!

This year will perhaps be challenging for workers with the changes planned by the new Coalition Government. So far, the Government has scrapped the Fair Pay Agreement legislation, re-introduced the 90 day trial period for new employees, scrapped the NZ Smokefree laws to fund tax cuts, is abolishing the **Māori Health Authority**, and also quietly disestablished the **Regional Skills Leadership Groups** and the Work Development Councils (transition to new work through displacement**)** . It will be interesting to see how the year progresses, especially with the new ACT Minister of Labour and Immigration who has announced reviews on the Holidays Act, the Employment Relations Act, Health & Safety legislation and now wanting to 'review' the free school lunches program for schools. Interestingly, she also does not believe in Pay Equity legislation and admits it's not on her list of priorities.

COLLECTIVE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS – UPDATE



- **Alliance Group** – New CEA ratified in December 2023, like all negotiations we didn't get everything we were after however we made significant gains on the application of overtime and wage increases higher than inflation in what was one of the Alliance Groups biggest yearly annual losses to date. There are still a few problems to be resolved to ensure the CEA is updated correctly. These increases across the majority of the industry sets the precedent that others have had to go close to meeting, and is higher than the settlements reached by the teachers Union.
- **Ovation, Gisborne, Feilding and Progressive Meats (Hastings)** settlements are the highest for those workers that we are aware of for many decades.
- **This year** we have AFFCO, Silver Fern Farms, Taylor Preston and we are initiating for South Pacific Meats, Awarua.

MEANWHILE, IN OTHER NEWS:



NEW Silver Fern Farms CEO - Dan Boulton has been appointed chief executive officer of Silver Fern Farms, moving up from chief supply chain officer. He takes over the role from Simon Limmer in early February. He has extensive experience in the primary sector, with previous roles in the seafood, horticulture, and forestry industries. (source: *Farmers Weekly*)

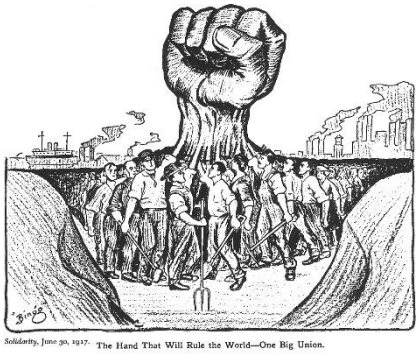


ZOMBIE DEER DISEASE spreading Chronic wasting disease, the 'Zombie' deer disease' could spread to humans, scientists have warned as cases surge across the US. Chronic wasting disease, which causes infected animals to become listless and jittery, often drooling and grinding their teeth with a zombie-like blank stare, has spread to 32 US states and four Canadian provinces, according to the US Geological Survey. The deadly disease has cropped up in Kansas, Wisconsin and Nebraska, where more than 40 counties have reported cases, and has also been found in 800 samples of deer, elk and moose throughout Wyoming. (source: Stuff)

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Just a reminder of the information available regarding Covid19 and what testing positive means for you and your whanau. **You can find that info here** , or go to https://covid19.govt.nz/testing-and-isolation/if-you-have-covid-19/ Important to note that YOU DO NOT need a medical certificate for your employer. Make sure you report your positive test to the health authorities and they will send a confirmation text which you use for proof for your employer. **Remember – Covid19 can have serious, sometimes fatal, consequences particularly for vulnerable people**.

DELEGATE EDUCATION – the Union has re-started delegate education sessions. Sessions have been held so far in Smithfield, Hastings and Palmerston North with more scheduled in coming months. The Union tries to arrange courses for when plants are not in full swing to make it easier to enable delegates to be freed up to attend. We also anticipate having some courses available online so that delegates can complete at their leisure – more on this later this year.


Solidarity, June 30, 1917. The Hand That Will Rule the World—One Big Union.

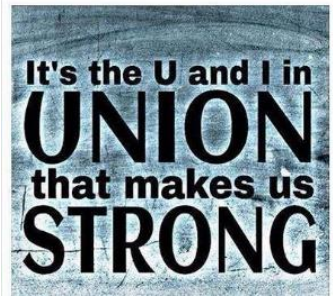


ACC – remember that if a member has their ACC claim declined, there is a strict timeframe for having that decision challenged at Review. **MEMBERS NEED TO BE AWARE** that if they get a declined letter, they should bring it to the attention of their on-site official/Union Secretary ASAP to ensure they can get prompt and accurate advice around the next steps.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Conference delegates were given a presentation about the history of the Treaty of Waitangi, along with several interactive sessions to test knowledge. Delegates reported they found this session very interesting and gave the Union and its leaders some useful information and food for thought. The presentation was from Gemma Stewart, Programme Manager Auaha, Tātai Aho Rau Core Education Ltd, Christchurch.



28 April – Workers Memorial Day – look for activities in your region!



Union Meeting dates

- **National Executive**— 8 April 2024
- **Regional meetings**
  - Northern Regional 2024 dates to be confirmed
  - Southern Regional 2024 dates to be confirmed
- Annual Conference 2024 – 9-11 April 2024, Chch
- **Conference November – 5-7 Nov 2024, Rotorua**