



District 4 RMC Newsletter – July 1, 2010 - Volume11

Retiree Benefit Victory

In a big victory for CWA retirees from the Akron Beacon-Journal, a federal court ordered the newspaper and owner, Canadian medical mogul David Holmes Black, to restore their prescriptions-drug plan and pay them the full cost of their wrongfully denied benefits.

“This is a tremendous victory because the court recognized the enforceability of benefits conferred because of the union’s collective bargaining efforts,” said District 4 Vice President Seth Rosen.

In 2006, the newspaper increased prescription co-pays for the retirees as much as 700%, violating a health care benefit the Beacon-Journal had guaranteed workers in exchange for retiring early. The newspaper claimed that the benefits were not vested but “gratuitous” and therefore could be changed.

U.S. District Court Judge David Dowd Jr. rejected the newspaper’s argument, citing promises the newspaper made not only in the contract but agreements made individually in workers’ buy out packages.

Another Big Benefit Victory

The US Court of Appeals found that the Company illegally terminated retiree health and life insurance benefits for IUE-CWA Retirees who worked at Visteon Corporation in Indiana.

The court reversed the Delaware Bankruptcy Court that permitted the auto parts supplier to terminate the benefits as part of its bankruptcy filing.

The Appeals court order Visteon to restore benefits immediately and to bargain over any future changes with the union.