Multi-State Protective League Meeting Set For September in Hershey, PA

GMP International President Bruce Smith is encouraging members of the five regional Protective Leagues, as well as officers of union locals from throughout the country, to attend the September 23-25, 2015 Multi-State Protective League at the Hershey Lodge in Pennsylvania.

Invitation and Welcome Video from Bruce Smith, President, GMP-IU, to the 2015, Multi-State Protective League Meeting.

The annual gathering will feature speakers from the International Union and the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), as well as its member companies’ corporate leadership. John Riordan, President and CEO of Ardagh Group and O-I’s Shaun McMackin, Vice President of Operations and Engineering, North America, are confirmed to speak at the meeting. They will address opportunities and challenges facing the industry and its workforce.

GMP International PresidentSpeaks at GPI Spring Meeting

President Bruce Smith addressed GPI members and other guests at its Spring Meeting held on April 28-30, 2015 in Washington, DC. Smith praised the partnership that has developed between the Leagues and glass manufacturing companies in their ongoing efforts to protect skilled jobs and to promote the glass container industry.

“I think it’s important for our membership to participate in the Protective Leagues. It gives them an opportunity to network with other locals throughout the country as well as develop better
relationships with our employee partners and the Glass Packaging Institute,” he said in an interview with GPI.

**Workforce Efforts Recognized at Spring Meetings**

Recent gatherings of the West Coast, Central States, and Southeast Protective Leagues offered an opportunity to showcase the award-winning efforts of the men and women who make glass containers, as well as compliment specific members of the industry’s hourly workforce.

- At the West Coast Protective League meeting, GPI President Lynn Bragg presented GMP International Union President Bruce Smith with an award recognizing union members at eight U.S. plants for production of 2014 Clear Choice Award winners.
- Ardgagh Glass-North America as well as Owens-Illinois’ leadership shared their appreciation for those in attendance at the Central States and Southeast Leagues’ meetings in letters to the membership.
- At the Indiana meeting, Central States President Scott Brownfield and GMP Local president Rick Wayman were praised for their outreach on behalf of the industry to members of the state’s General Assembly during a hearing on recycling policies and practices.
- In Wilson, NC, Lawrence Floyd, who retired after 47 years of service at the Henderson plant, was recognized, as was League Secretary-Treasurer Pam Hairston, who has worked at the Danville, VA plant for 37 years.
- New Southeast League officers, Blaine Hurrelbrink and Joseph Sharpe, were offered congratulations.
- John Riordan, President and CEO of Ardagh Group and O-I’s Shaun McMackin, Vice President of Operations and Engineering, North America, expressed their thanks to the Southeast and Central States League’s membership. “Be assured that your hard work and dedication to your craft will continue to be an important component of the ongoing outreach on behalf of The People Who Make Glass Containers,” they noted in separate letters presented at the May gatherings. Both John and Shaun will make remarks on the glass container industry at the Multi-State Meeting.

**Glass Container Industry Opportunities and Challenges**

Attendees at the League sessions were briefed on national glass container challenges, especially in the area of single-stream (one-bin) recycling, and industry initiatives to respond. Mixing all recyclables in one bin at curbside and poor handling of recycled glass bottles during processing is hampering the ability of plants across the country to incorporate recycled glass into the manufacturing process.
In response, GPI member companies are building partnerships and investigating new ways to improve glass recycling at single stream materials recovery facilities so companies may have more quality glass available for purchase.

GPI and its members are also working with manufacturing-based industries across the country to address an EPA proposal that may limit energy supply choices for the glass plants and interrupt container production. Learn more about these and other industry-critical issues.

We look forward to seeing you at the Multi-State meeting in Hershey, PA. See you there!