

Tuesday, August 5, 2026

UPDATE:

Morning, everyone-

Just an fyi for everyone, I posted a video on our Facebook member group this morning with some updates. I wanted to make sure everyone heard what I had to say rather than reading it by email or text. I realize that everyone isn't on Facebook, so I'll lay out what I posted.

Next week, we have some corporate people and VP Boyer coming to the plant. I was informed of this visit by management, not by the VP or his staff. Management wants to take another tour of the facility to see what's been getting done and what else could be done. VP Boyer, I assume wants to see this as well, but he also wants to be present when a banner is hung from the front of the plant. The banner is going to say "Belvidere's next chapter Starts Here". This is a surprising move being that the Local has been given no information on retool timeline.

I was recently provided an email that was sent to Boyer from the corporation that stated the timeline for Belvidere to be the 4th quarter of 2028. This information was never given to me or this Local at any time. We've contacted them several times about the delays that we continuously kept hearing about. We were told they hadn't heard anything, that they must be rumors.

When the local news stations reached out to corporate, corporate's answer was they were still on track with their timeline. Remember, the timeline corporate was referring to was the timeline that Boyer was notified of, not the one we were notified with in the 2023 contract. The company wasn't lying when they put that information out.

The VP was in Toledo a few months ago, talking to members that are trying to transfer back to Belvidere. He told them we'd have trades and TLs back in the plant by May. We've increased our trades minimally in the plant, but not TLs. All this did was get the hopes up for so many individuals that are trying to get back to Belvidere. Made them think things were moving, when in fact, they weren't and he knew it! Just to explain, when you have the VP out there making these comments and more and more members hear about these comments. Who do you think they get ahold of?? Me, not you. Asking for the timeline, knowing there must be one if the VP is saying people are coming back to work. I've had members telling me their leases are up, asking if they should sign a one-year lease or pay month to month. Letting me know that a month-to-month lease is more expensive but they are willing to do it because they are coming back soon because the VP said it.

Now, with it being election time, he wants to come hang a banner at the plant as a publicity stunt without providing dates/timelines and other necessary information. I don't agree with putting our members through another rally that produces no information and many questions.

All we want is transparency and communication from our VP, but it's not happening. With that being said, I can't imagine that the information they could give us would be good news and if it's not good news, they aren't going to put it out before we vote.

As leaders, we have to be very careful about what we say. If we're putting something out there and we don't have an agreement done yet, we shouldn't be talking to our membership like it's a done deal. There's been too many times this VP has done just that, then the Local is left trying to answer the questions. This membership, including all of the members that are from here that are scattered all over the country, are tired of having smoke blown up our asses. Just be honest and transparent.

Let me be very clear here; I am pissed that we've been delayed and that falls on the company. But they did the right thing by notifying the Union. It just didn't make it to the Local level. The membership we have here and scattered all over the country want to get back to work in Belvidere. When we do get back to work, we will show you that we will be the best facility in the corporation!

I apologize if this came across as the ramblings of a crazy person. I'm just fed up and wanted you to have the information.

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