



ITPENews

AFFILIATED AS LOCAL 4873 WITH OPEIU-AFL-CIO

President John F. Conley ■ Secretary-Treasurer Dennis R. Arrington ■ Vice President Paul Harvey

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Report of the PRESIDENT

by J. F. Conley

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am proud to report your Union (ITPE) continues to maintain its status. In these times that is remarkable for any Labor Organization to report. Many of our Unions have lost a substantial number of members as a result of members' job losses. The status of (ITPE) must be credited from members support, the work of our representatives, the office's staff and recent successful organizing campaigns. My sincere gratitude to all.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for our country. It is a very sad time for me to feel compelled to write this article, being a proud American. I was born in this country, volunteered my service in the U.S. Navy during a time of war, paid taxes all my adult life, lived and worked long enough to enjoy the American Dream. That I am proud of. It is what I see happening to this country and its citizens now that scares me. Will my children and grandchildren have the same opportunity? If we continue the same policies our children and grandchildren will never realize the American Dream. We ask how did this happen? Simple answers, all because our government's failure to protect its citizens.

Our elected officials like many greedy corporations have likewise become greedy by their only interest in getting reelected. By their actions they have memory loss immediately after taking the Oath of Office. They continue to vote themselves pay increases. They enjoy great health care. A pension for serving one (1) term of office, and many other benefits all provided by the taxpayers like you and I. All while their constituents struggle to survive. You never hear them say we will take pay cuts, Health care and Pensions, etc.

They approve subsidies (taxpayer's money) to corporations at a time when those corporations are posting Billions in profits. They approve trade agreements only favorable to foreign imports, which allow corporations like Wal-Mart to import cheap products from China. They place a higher fuel cost to you and I by importing oil from foreign countries that hate Americans and American policies. All of this when the U.S. has the largest oil reserve in the World. They are allowing our education system to become inferior to that of many foreign countries. This encourages Companies to

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employ higher skilled foreign employees, when our graduates cannot find a decent job. They approve the building of more jails to house our brothers and sisters rather than schools to educate them. They allow special tax breaks for the wealthiest that need it the least. All on the premise they will reinvest in this Country. That is not happening. Give you and I a tax break and we will reinvest in America. They have allowed our once great country to become a debtor nation to countries like China, Japan and many others. This type of governing by our elected Officials to the detriment of the citizens of our country must be stopped. We must hold our elected Officials responsible for their actions. The question is - What are you going to do about it?

You could sit back and do nothing, or you could and should do your part and get involved by working to turn this country around. If we all do that it may be, just may be, our children and grandchildren will live to see the American Dream.

You may ask how or what can I do? I am only one. Well brothers and sisters your one to my one adds to two. By continuing to add the numbers the louder the voice. Politicians get elected by numbers. The

higher the number the louder the voice. Let that voice be heard in all branches of government.

To do this you must become involved. Start by attending Union meetings; attend city and county council meetings. Attend political rallies in support of your family and neighbors. Attend any town hall meetings in your area. Ask Questions? Look at all political candidates voting record. See how she or he voted on issues that affect you, your family, and your community. If you find a candidate that commits to support working Americans and the best interest of our country then show your support for that candidate, spend time working for his or her election. We can no longer sit back and see the further demise of our country. This is your country, protect it like you would your family or home. I encourage you to read more on this issue in AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka's remarks on Page 6 and Page 16 of this issue.

God Bless You, the ITPEU, and the United States

John F. Conley

John F. Conley,
ITPE President

Proud members of ITPE at Shriever AFB, Colorado Springs, CO. These members feed our prominent Freedom Fighters from the United States Air Force Comment Post.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ITPE 2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

VALARIE FIELDS

Wife of Robert Fields who is employed at FLETC GLYNCO received a three year doctoral scholarship to **GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY OR WALDEN UNIVERSITY.**

ZACHARY GRAY

Who is employed at RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY received a four year scholarship to **PIERCE COLLEGE.**

MIRHAD EFENDIC

Son of Zurijeta Efendic who is employed at GSA TAMPA received a four year scholarship to the **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.**

GENESIS FAUMUINA

Son of Selaiga Faumuina who is employed at FT .LEWIS received a four year scholarship to **SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.**

CHANEL WASHINGTON

Daughter of Andrea Washington who is employed at MCCHORD AFB COMMISSARY received a four year scholarship to an undecided school.

JAMES YOUNG

Who is employed at MCCHORD AFB COMMISARY received a three year scholarship for a masters program to **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.**

WILLIAM WILLIS

Who is employed at FLETC GLYNCO received a four year scholarship to the **AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY.**

KENECIA OWENS

Daughter of Penelope Owens who is employed at FT. JACKSON received a four year scholarship to **BETHUNE-COOKMAN.**

LAUREN LEGGETT

Daughter of Michael Leggett who is employed at FLETC GLYNCO received a four year scholarship to **LEE UNIVERSITY.**

CAMILLE TATE

Daughter of Kipp Tate who is employed at FLETC GLYNCO received a four year scholarship to **SPELMAN COLLEGE.**



From the office of the Vice President **PAUL HARVEY**

I am working on the website for the Union. I hope to make it informative and easy to use for our members. There is still much work to be done on it however, so keep an eye in the future months to see when it is up and running.

Some of the coming attractions include easy-to-find information on our benefits and resources for discounts. You will be able to update your address for the Union online. You will still need to fill out cards for Health & Welfare and Pension though, if your site has those benefits.

I also plan on having sections specifically for our shop stewards and another one for our representatives. Both of these sections will have resources and information that will help educate and make available resources, information, and forms that these leaders need to be able to help our members the most efficiently.

In other news, we still do not know what the full impact that President Obama's Health Care Initiative will have on our medical, but as one of the trustees of our medical plan as a representative for the Union, I have been pushing many of our companies into contributing more for the medical. I am working hard to keep your benefits strong and there for you when you need them.!

GREAT NEWS!

ITPE "WINS" FOR YCS SENIOR DRIVERS WITH 15 PLUS YEARS



ITPE filed a grievance and charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against Yellow/Checker/Star (YCS) Cab company on behalf of drivers with 15-plus years of safe driving records for the company's failure to pay the full \$750 Safety Bonus due them in accordance with the Union contract. The company paid only \$500 of the Safety Bonus in December 2010 and the Union complained the drivers were shortchanged.

We are pleased to announce that the company has agreed to the Union's complaint and settled the grievance on June 1, 2011.

Therefore, drivers qualified for the 15-year plus Safety Bonus for 2010 will be paid \$250 each on the June 8, 2011 payday, in addition to the \$500 previously paid to each of them.

Drivers who qualify for the 2011 and 2012 15-year Safety Bonus will be paid \$750 under terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement in December of those years.

The company will provide the names of all eligible employees to the Union.

The company will also pay \$250, in addition to the \$500 previously paid to each of them, to all eligible employees for the year 2010 who are no longer with the company and provide said names to the Union.

The Union will post notices of agreement.

As a result of the settlement, the Union has agreed to withdraw its grievance and NLRB charges.

We congratulate everyone involved in the processing of this grievance and thank all of you for your support.

Raptor Café Flies High

Raptor Café food service employees display their certificate of recognition, earned for achieving the facility's fifth consecutive "Excellent" public health rating Feb. 17 at Langley Air Force Base. The award marks the first time the current company earned the honor. Each employee received a \$50 gift card for their accomplishments.



Left to right Front Row: Jasminka Bekic, Carolyn Bean, Yong Andrews
 Back Row: Diana Sadler, Antonella Vidakovic, Elenita Dragoo, Anna Roberts, Rosalita Suber, Sachin Klug, Alvin Moore, Tanisha Davis
 Not Pictured: Louvinnia Sotomayor, Fergo Ferguson



Remarks from AFL-CIO President Richard L. Trumka House Democratic Caucus

April 5, 2011



Thank you, Congressman John Larson, for that introduction and for the invitation to address the Caucus this morning.

And a special thanks to you, John, and to Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer and Jim Clyburn for the leadership you provide—not just to Democrats on Capitol Hill, but to progressives and pro working family Democrats across the country.

This invitation couldn't have come at a more critical time—for working people, for the labor movement or for Democrats.

All of you know about the history that's being made at this very moment in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and other states.

I want to say two things about these remarkable developments. First, we need to be honest about what's going on here. This is about power—plain and simple. It is about a few of the most privileged people in our society—people who are so awash in financial largesse they can influence politics, who are driven by ideological extremism doing everything they can to strangle the middle class and the labor movement because they think this will help them accumulate more power and more wealth.

For a hundred years, the labor movement has been a check against unfettered corporate power and economic inequality. Collective bargaining fueled the growth of the American middle class—especially after the Second World War, when the inequality of the Gilded Age and the Great Depression gave way to shared prosperity.

For over a hundred years, the labor movement has helped make us a better society. Collective bargaining made it possible to win the passage of civil rights legislation, to establish Social Security, to protect workers' safety and health on the job and to provide the basics of decent wages, overtime pay and time off on the weekend.

The future of the labor movement hangs in the balance today, as it most certainly does, so does the future of the middle class. And at stake is the ability of America to offer equal opportunity to all of its citizens.

Put all in this together. If the coordinated attack by politicians beholden to CEOs and right-wing ideologues succeeds in crippling the labor movement, the progressive movement and the Democratic Party as we know it will be mortally wounded. The right-wing extremists and self-interested CEOs certainly understand this. The Koch brothers understand this. Grover Norquist understands this.

Wisconsin Senate Republican leader said weakening the labor movement would make it nearly impossible for Barack Obama to win the state in 2012. Those of you who lack a strong labor presence in your districts, or who are not in solidly blue districts, must be thinking how you will survive if the political debate keeps shifting further and further to the right.

Second point I want to make is that we have some very good reasons to be hopeful about the future, but we have to make the most of it. In Madison, Wisconsin, in Columbus Ohio, in Lansing, Michigan and in cities across America, multitudes of workers, students and Americans from every walk of life have taken time out from their busy lives to fight back against the Republican assault on working people and their unions.

It's a spontaneous, bottom-up, grass roots movement, and it is truly a wonder. Anybody who has been to any of these states can tell you that the energy of the protestors is infectious and their solidarity and commitment are inspiring. This has all the makings of a powerful, grassroots political movement.

Reason here for all of us is that a spark has been ignited in this country. You see, for decades the middle class has been pushed to the margins. Wages have been stagnating for the past 30 years, while virtually all income gains have gone to the top 10 percent. Most of the gains have gone to the top 1 percent. The middle class certainly understands that something is wrong with this picture. They understand that if we stay on our present course, the middle class is headed for extinction.

I firmly believe that if Democrats are to take back the House in 2012, it will be because they succeed in riding this wave, keeping that spark alive and closing the enthusiasm gap.

The middle class is eager to join our cause, but there has to be a cause for them to join. They want to see some solutions to the jobs crisis. They want some confidence that they will be able to retire with dignity. They want to make sure their children don't have fewer opportunities in life than they had. They want to see some way forward for the middle class.

Unfortunately, this is not what people see coming out of Washington today. 'The only story that is getting through the media filter is that deficits are the most important problem facing America, and that the middle class should have to sacrifice. That the reason our economy is in such a mess is because Social Security benefits are too generous. Medicare benefits are too generous. Private and public pension benefits are too generous. Private health care benefits are too generous. And American workers get paid too much to compete with exploited workers overseas. It's all the fault of middle class American workers, so they have to downsize their futures.

I don't think Democrats will close the enthusiasm gap in 2012 by validating these talking points. I don't think people will respect Democrats for giving in to bullies who threaten to do harm to our economy. And on the merits, I don't think this is how we ensure broadly shared prosperity over the long term.

Some people say making the middle class pay to reduce the deficit is popular, but I don't see the evidence for that. Cutting Medicare benefits? Last year Republicans were scoring political points by falsely claiming that the Affordable Care Act cut Medicare benefits. Social Security benefits? Most people adamantly oppose benefit cuts, and they hate proposals to raise the retirement age. If something has to be done to shore up Social Security's finances, they say we should "scrap the cap." And let me just say for the record that the AFL-CIO will oppose any cuts to Social Security or Medicare benefits—no matter who proposes them.

How about discretionary spending cuts? They're popular, right? Every poll for the past three years has screamed in big bold letters that the number one issue voters care about most is jobs. Yet the discretionary spending cuts proposed by House Republicans this year will cost as many as 700,000 jobs. Republicans claim with a straight face that budget cuts will create jobs, but do you think they really believe that? Or do you think what they really care about is sinking the top of the Democratic ticket in 2012?

Do you know what the most popular way to reduce the deficit is? A tax on millionaires. 81 percent are for that. And taxing Wall Street is right up there.

We have to offer clear alternatives and tell a different story. The good news is that a different narrative is resonating in the states. It goes like this: Workers are being scapegoated for problems they did not create. The people responsible for the economic crisis have gotten off scot free and have not been held accountable. And sacrifice should start at the top, not with the middle class.

What we do and say here in Washington will make a difference in whether this grass roots movement in the states flourishes or fails. Democrats in Washington can ride this wave by offering clear alternatives that aim to rebuild the middle class and that start shared sacrifice at the top.

What Democrats must not do is validate the other side's talking points that claim middle-class workers got us into this mess and should have to downsize their dreams so Wall Street and the wealthy can be spared from any shared sacrifice.

And what message do we send by passing free trade agreements that cost U.S. jobs, as the Korea FTA will? Or by rewarding a country like Colombia—where trade unionists are murdered with impunity—by handing it a free trade agreement? The new government in Colombia says it intends to make progress towards ending the decades-old war against trade unionists, but words are not enough. Until we see progress on the ground in Colombia—progress that can be measured against the kind of benchmarks recently proposed by six of your colleagues—the Obama administration should not submit the Colombia free trade agreement to Congress.

We must offer a better and more inspiring vision for the future. Democrats can lead the way toward broadly shared prosperity by investing to lift America up, not cutting to tear America down. That means investing in good jobs, in infrastructure and in restoring our manufacturing base so once again we can Make It in America.

This should not be a close call. None of us can afford to lose this fight. There is too much at stake—for everyone in this room, for every working person, for the American middle class and for our economic future.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ITPE SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT MEMBERS AT THE FLETC ARTESIA NM SITE

Jacob Richardson

Site Project Manager • FLETC, Artesia, NM

During the period of January 27 to January 30, 2011, southeastern New Mexico was bombarded with the coldest weather it had experienced in some 50 years. The average nightly lows caused the mercury to dip to a bone chilling -3 degrees with a wind chill of -10 degrees. Old Man Winter attacked the CSOS Guard Force with all of its might; only to be repelled by each individual's personal tenacity and dedication to our mission of protecting and safeguarding the FLETC, Artesia, NM and the people that we serve.

CSPS personnel's never wavering dedication in the face of the elements, ensured that timely coordination was in effect between CSPS, the client, and other contractors in order to sustain the quality of life for FLETC Staff and students. During this period CSPS, personnel identified some fifteen different cold weather related incidents that ranged from fire alarm activations to burst water supply lines. The Guard Force refused to merely retreat to the safety and warmth of the Guard Houses and patrol vehicles, and continued their foot patrols to check the pipe chases, out buildings with water supplies, and other areas they knew to be threatened by the wrath of Old Man Winter. Officers responded to fire alarm activations and took the obligatory measures of investigating the primary cause of the alarms, only to find that burst pipes had set off the alarms. Necessary coordination with Dispatchers was made quickly to summon maintenance personnel to the scene. As a result the problems were quickly addressed before the situation escalated into major issue that would have required students' routines and training to be disrupted. Dispatchers continuously monitored the issues, and were able to provide accurate updates to client representatives and FLETC Management. Not only did the Guard Forces' actions prevent the client from incurring additional cost associated with a disruption in training, but the Guard Force reinforced in the mind of the client that our services will always be above and beyond those words and phrases found within the contract.

Numerous accolades from the client have been passed through me to our Guard Force for their unselfish sacrifice of personal comfort and unwillingness to merely take the path of least resistance in confronting the fury of winter; resulting in minimal impact on FLETC's mission. FLETC Artesia Management has expressed their intent to recognize each of the CSPS personnel for their contributions, by means of a Letter of Commendation to: SGO Cody Allen, SGO Jerome Brizeno, SGO Mark Davis, SGO Marti Haider, SGO Daniela Rios, SGO Charles Russell, SGO Samuel Santana, SGO Omar Sepulveda, Dispatcher Jennifer Chavarria, Dispatcher Crystal Olivas, and LT. Scott Davis. It gives me great pleasure and pride to be able to say that I get to work with such a professional group of CSPS personnel. Without a doubt, they are the best of the best that CSPS has to offer.



From left to right: Dispatcher Crystal Olivas, Dispatcher Jennifer Chavarria, SGO Sam Santana, SGO Omar Sepulveda, SGO Charles Russell, CSPS President Paul Raggio, SGO Daniela Rios, SGO Marti Haider, SGO Mark Davis, SGO Jerome Brizeno, SGO Cody Allen

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR BC/BS CARD?



If not could it be in this group? These are just some of the BC/BS cards returned due to incorrect addresses. Each of the Benefit Plans and the Union receive 100's of returned mail. Why? Maybe you have not provided a current address. This returned mail is very costly. Let's all save that expense and provide us your current address.



USCG YORKTOWN, MARYLAND WATSON SERVICES

Front Row: Wenyll Blow, Serna Stevens, Julie Lu, Pam Jones, Elvira Torres, and Cynthina Colman (Shop Steward)

Back Row: Demetria Kertley and Shana Tabb

Do We Have Your Current Address? If not, please see your Shop Steward or Union Representative and fill out a change of address. Or you may cut out this one and give it to your Union Representative or Shop Steward.

**INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION
(OPEIU Local 4873)**

MEMBERS ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

Name _____ Social Sec # _____ (optional)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Company _____ Contract Site _____

Phone # _____ Hire Date _____

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

GREETINGS FROM T. RUTHIE JONES - LAS VEGAS AND THE WEST

ONCE AGAIN THE TAXI DRIVER COMMUNITY HAS BEEN STUNNED BY THE TRAGIC, COLD BLOODED KILLING OF ONE OF OUR DRIVERS



Tesfaye Arze, an ANLV cab driver, represented by our brothers and sisters at the USW, was brutally murdered on

Friday, March 4, 2011, between 3 and 4 a.m. He was shot twice in the head. He was outside of his cab when the shooting occurred. He was almost at the end of his shift. He was shot for no apparent reason. He had no weapon. He could not harm anyone. Why shoot him? Why take him from his family and friends? He had been driving for just three months. I am told Tesfaye was the breadwinner of the family, supporting his elderly parents and siblings. He had no family here and worked to send money home to his family to make their lives better. He was only 30 years old.

We all are so thankful for the teamwork between the T.A. and Metro that lead to the apprehension of the suspect in this violent crime. T. A. Investigators, Rico Costantio, Scott Henneforth and Natalie Infurno were the team that worked closely with Metro in the murder of cab driver, Tesfaye. Investigator Costantio, was also at the crime scene assisting Metro. The suspect in this senseless murder is a 21 year old female, Autumn Dawn Murry, who was booked into the Clark County Detention Center on Friday, March 11, 2011. She is charged with murder with the use of a deadly weapon and also two counts of armed robbery with a deadly weapon, both in connection with the slaying of Mr. Arze. It was reported that the murder took place in the 6300 block of High Sierra Ave. near

Mount Hood Street and Cary Ave. Murry is also accused of robbing a Mini Mart at 4563 E. Russell Rd. shortly before 2:30 a.m. on March 4th about an hour before Tesfaye was shot.

According to the report, two witnesses of the shooting were in the area of High Sierra Avenue and Virgo Drive trying to steal copper wire when they saw a taxi that was stopped. They told police they saw two people standing near the taxi; they heard three gunshots and saw one person fall to the ground.

The police report further stated a surveillance video from a residence across the street from the scene also showed a suspect leaning over the body of Tesfaye possibly going through his pockets.

The authorities stated that the key piece of evidence in the case was a security video obtained March 10th, that shows Tesfaye's cab leaving Sam's Town casino at 3:12 a.m. on March 4th after Murry and another person entered the cab.

UPDATE IN THE TEFAYE CASE

Autumn Dawn Murry, the accused murderer of Tesfaye Arze, is scheduled for a jury trial April 2, 2012, in Clark County District Court, on counts of burglary while in possession of a deadly weapon, carrying a concealed weapon, murder with the use of a deadly weapon and two counts of robbery with the use of a deadly weapon.

The authorities have also arrested Felicia Mosely, a second suspect in the March shooting death of cabdriver Tesfaye Arze. Mosley was arrested April 4th, 2011 in Orlando, Florida on a charge of conspiracy to commit robbery and murder.

We are so **thankful** that these individuals are off the streets and behind bars where they belong so they can't harm anyone else.

ANOTHER TRAGIC LOSS

Gerald Johnson, our Checker Cab Shop Steward and dear friend, lost his wife, Paquita Reed-Johnson, on March 15, 2011, due to a thromboembolism due to a deep vein thrombosis. He has just recently gotten married, January 11, 2011. We are always here for you my brother.

LUCKY'S ELECTION

There was an NLRB Election held at Lucky Cab between ITPE Union and the Company. Many of the drivers again fought for Union representation and again the Company used dirty tactics. The count was: 93 for the Union and 105 for the Company. This result was much closer than the vote just a couple of years ago. The Company committed many violations during this election, including wrongful terminations of committee members. We already assisted two of the committee members in getting their unemployment and expect the others will be getting theirs very soon. The ITPE has already filed charges with the E.E.O.C. and Objections and Charges with the NLRB.

Obviously, Unions protect employees and their contracts and do a great deal of good for taxi drivers and other workers. Why else would Companies like Lucky fight so hard to keep Unions out? They don't want anyone around who will actually fight for workers' jobs.

After the election, a Lucky driver called the Union for assistance because he got fired. He said, "We regret voting 'no' for the Union." Under the circumstances for which he was fired, the ITPE Union would have been able to assist. Unfortunately, his "no" vote **HUNG HIM**.

Hopefully, the next time, the majority of the Lucky drivers will vote "YES" and protect themselves.



From
DENNIS R. ARRINGTON
ITPE Secretary Treasurer

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

In the Spring, 2010 Issue of the ITPEU Newsletter, I reported that as your newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, I was given the responsibility to oversee the organizing of new bargaining units. I am very pleased to report that together with your ITPEU Representatives and OPEIU Director for Field Operations, Mr. Kevin Kistler, we have been successful in organizing the following units:

Austin IRS, VA (LB & B, Inc.) - Janitorial; Andres AFT, MD (Right 2 Work, Inc) - Shelf Stockers, Custodians; Kendall, FL (FedConsulting, Inc.) - Clerical; Patrick AFB, FL (Gino Morena Enterprises) Barbers; Ft. Rucker, AL (Draughton LLC) - Grounds Maintenance; Ft. Riley, KS (Sodexo) - Food Service and Ft. Riley, KS (Hospital Klean) - Housekeeping.

As we are all aware, our nation is still experiencing difficulties with job losses, cut-backs and an uncertain future. As President Conley commented in his report, we all need to do our part. Let your voice be heard to ensure a brighter future for all working families of America.

In Solidarity,

Dennis R. Arrington

Dennis R. Arrington
Secretary/Treasurer

THANK YOU ITPE ANNUAL BENEFITS FUND



MIRHAD EFENDIC

Four year scholarship Recipient to the
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

I am so appreciative for the scholarship that ITPE has provided me with . Ever since I was a little kid growing up in Bosnia and in the United States, I wanted to have a career in the medical field. My dream was to go to a bit University such as the University of South Florida and get my degree in biomedical sciences, where then afterwards I can go to a Physician Assistant program and become a Physician Assistant. With the money that ITPE has provided me with I will be able to pay for my college and get my biomedical sciences degree and become a PA. The scholarship will help me and my family a lot because now I know that I can pay for my college and get an education. Once again from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank the ITPE Annual Benefits Fund for awarding me the ITPE scholarship.

WHAT THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FIRE MEANS FOR WORKERS NOW

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis remembers the tragedy that took the lives of 146 workers 100 years ago



A century ago this week, in Lower Manhattan, a young social worker named Frances Perkins was having tea at the Greenwich Village townhouse of her friend, the socialite Margaret Morgan Norrie. They were interrupted by clanging fire truck bells. Then they heard the anguished screams: "Don't jump!"

They raced out of the townhouse and ran toward the commotion: a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, just off Washington Square. Flames and black smoke shot from the top floors, and as they watched in shock, young girls and women, some alone, some clutching hands, inched up to the windows' ledges — and jumped to their deaths.

Perkins would describe the scene in lectures later: "They couldn't hold on any longer. There was no place to go. The fire was between them and any means of exit. It's that awful choice people talk of — what kind of choice to make?" She added: "I shall never forget the frozen horror that came across as we stood with our hands on our throats watching that horrible sight, knowing that there was no help."

The sewing factory employed more than 500 people, who worked long hours for low wages, in wretched and unsanitary conditions. They turned out "shirtwaists" — blouses with puffed sleeves and tight bodices popularized by the "Gibson Girl." The factory owners had locked the fire-escape doors. The seamstresses were trapped when fire raced through the sweatshop just before closing on March 25, 1911.

In less than 20 minutes, 146 people, mostly Italian and Jewish immigrant women and girls, were dead. The last six victims were officially identified just a few weeks ago. Triangle outraged the public and offered a grisly example of how powerless workers were without collective bargaining, because unionized garment workers received better pay and had safer conditions. And it galvanized Frances Perkins.

Twenty-two years later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her secretary of labor, the first woman to serve as a Cabinet secretary. During her 12-year tenure, she directed the formulation and implementation of the Social Security Act, one of the most important pieces of social legislation in our history. Among other extraordinary accomplishments, she helped create unemployment insurance, the minimum wage, and the legislation that guarantees the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. She also established the department's Labor Standards Bureau, a precursor to what is now the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Perkins clearly had the Triangle victims in mind as she weaved the nation's social safety net.

Now I have the same job she once held, with the responsibility of repairing and strengthening that net. And although our passion for workers' rights came from different paths (she was the daughter of privilege; I am the daughter of immigrant union members), I understand the impact that moment had on her work.

I had my own moment involving a sweatshop. Although it was not as horrifying as that afternoon was for Perkins, it fueled my beliefs. In 1995, 75 Thai immigrants were freed from a so-called factory in the city of El Monte, Calif., part of the district I represented in the state Senate. They had been forced to eat, sleep and work in a place they called home.

Their employer confiscated their passports and kept them like slaves. Threatened with violence to themselves or their families, the workers hunched over sewing machines in dimly lit garages bound by barbed wire, sewing brand-name clothing for less than \$2 an hour. Most of them were women.

I met them shortly after they were freed and heard their stories. And at that moment, the unthinkable became real for me. I had assumed that sweatshops were a thing of the past. But they had just spread — from Perkins's New York City to my Los Angeles, from the Italian and Eastern European immigrants victimized in her day to the Asian and Latino immigrants victimized in mine.

Combating garment sweatshops is, sadly, still on the labor secretary's agenda. In the past fiscal year, the department's Wage and Hour division conducted 374 investigations and collected \$2.1 million for 2,215 workers, primarily in the major U.S. garment centers of Southern California and New York. In these cases, vulnerable immigrant workers have been deprived of minimum-wage pay, overtime pay and safe working conditions — all the haunting echoes of Triangle.

We have had many improvements in the past century. Today, we have more tools to pursue violators who deny workers their pay, including issuing subpoenas and preventing companies from shipping goods produced in violation of the law.

In 1911, more than 100 workers were estimated to have died on the job each day. In 2010, 4,340 workers were killed on the job — and more than 3.3 million were seriously injured. Last April 5, in a fiery explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia, 29 miners died in one day.

I was at the mine the next day, while rescue efforts still were underway.

In times of crisis, one often becomes two people. In one sense, I was simply Hilda, the person I've always been, there just to be by the family members' sides as they kept vigil. In another sense, I was Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, trying to convey to them the depth of their government's commitment. In either case, no words can adequately express your emotion and sympathy. A grief that great can be endured only if it is shared — and then acted upon in good time.

Both Triangle and Upper Big Branch became calls to action. New York quickly implemented groundbreaking workplace safety laws and regulations, including fire exits. But nearly one year after Upper Big Branch, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, part of the Labor Department, still needs additional tools that only Congress can provide. And OSHA needs better tools, such as stricter penalties against employers who put their workers' lives at risk, and stronger protections for whistle-blowers.

In both cases, if these workers had a voice — a union — and the ability to speak up about conditions, these events probably could have been prevented, because unions play an important role in making workplaces safer. In both cases, they had tried to organize and faced virulent opposition.

Today, workers and their allies are being met with that same kind of opposition. In states nationwide, working people are protesting the actions to strip them of collective bargaining. The Triangle fire and the Upper Big Branch explosion a century later make clear to me that workers want and need that voice — about wages and benefits, yes, but about more, too. Collective bargaining still means a seat at the table to discuss issues such as working conditions, workplace safety and workplace innovation, empowering individuals to do the best job they can. And it means dignity and a chance for Americans to earn a better life, whether they work in sewing factories or mines, build tall buildings or care for our neighbors, teach our children, or run into burning buildings when others run out of them.

I'll be thinking about all of this as I make my way to New York on Friday for the 100th anniversary of the Triangle factory tragedy. The building is still there; it now houses offices for New York University. Thousands are expected to mark the occasion with a march, speeches, the reading of the victims' names and the laying of flowers in their honor at the site by schoolchildren. It will be a powerful reminder of what we've lived through, and what we still have to do.

History is an extraordinary thing. You can choose to learn from it, or you can choose to repeat it.

For me, the choice is clear, as it was for Frances Perkins. We must always be a nation that catches workers before they fall.



History of the Needlecraft Industry, by Ernest Flinn [Detail] 1938

WESTERN LIGHTS

FROM THE DESK OF TRINA CAMPBELL, REPRESENTATIVE

Washington • Oregon • Montana • Hawaii • Alaska

As I have traveled through Washington, Oregon, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii, I enjoy getting to see all of our members and meet with the Shop Stewards in each area. I would like to take the opportunity to name each one so that you as the member will know who your shop steward is.

Alaska:

Linday Cardenas - Eielson AFB
 Kelly Pressley - Kodiak USCG
 Susan Robinson - Bassett Army Hospital
 Debbie Smith - Fort Wainwright
 Carol Begley - Ketchikan USG

Montana

Jeff Goodrich - Malmstrom AFB Supplies

Hawaii

Kevin Witsell - Kaneohe USMC
 Mary Jean Layugan - Kunia Tunnel HI
 Merlina Impelido - Pearl Harbor HI
 Remedios Lamasao - Pearl Harbor HI
 Marilou Moriguez - Schofield Barracks HI

Washington

Anneliesa Cooper - McChord AFB
 Commissary
 Chuck Engels - McChord AFB Custodial
 Michelle McGhee - McChord AFB
 Custodial

Scott Lessard - McChord AFB F.M.O.

Young Bell - Fort Lewis Food Serv.

Deborah Scheslinger - Fort Lewis Food Serv.

Harry Smith - Fort Lewis Food Serv.

RayeAnn Danelson - Fairchild AFB Food Serv.

Julio Herrera - Fairchild AFB Food Serv.

Oregon

Jordan Willaims - Portland Mailrooms
 Sharon Albers - Corvallis and Newport OR

I want to thank each and every one of you for the job you are doing and say keep up the good work. You are my eyes and ears on site and without your input my job would be a lot harder.

Contract Changes:

We would like to welcome our new contractors to our area. Mr. Gary Murphy of Golf Coast Enterprises, has taken the bid for our Food Service contract at Fort Lewis. Ms. Cheryl Bidleman of Goodwill has taken over the contract at McChord AFB.



Cy Nomura, Tersita Madamba, Kevin Witsell, Shop Steward



(Lucy) Gohr Leoncia, MGSgt Thomas, and Nilyris Witsell



William Whiney, Nilyris Witsell, Delfin REyes & Wife at MGSgt Thomas's retirement party at Anderson Hall (MCBH)



AFL-CIO PRESIDENT RICHARD TRUMKA FIRES BACK AT THOSE IN "WONDERLAND"

Here in Washington, we live in an Alice-in-Wonderland political climate. Politicians of both parties tell us that we can — and should — do nothing to address our jobs crisis. The new Republican leaders in the House — who campaigned on the promise of jobs — are squandering their first days of legislative business on a vote to take away health care gains from 30 million Americans.

Yet the attacks on working families are even worse in many states. Too many governors are launching attacks on workers — fueled by the enthusiasm and the financial support of people like Lloyd Blankfein, the CEO of Goldman Sachs, and Rupert Murdoch, the billionaire publisher behind Fox News.

When I say an attack on workers' rights, I am not talking about demands for concessions in tough times by employers. I am talking about the campaigns in state after state, funded by shadowy front groups, aimed at depriving all workers — public and private sector — of the basic human right to form strong unions and bargain collectively to lift their lives. These attacks on workers ultimately are attacks on our children — and their ability to have the kind of life we wish for them. Make no mistake: attacking workers is a choice — a choice to tear down our whole country, rather than building us up.

It's inexcusable that many of our leaders still don't realize our country rises and falls as one nation, and that a good wage growth path is essential to our survival. That's why I gave a speech to the National Press Club that laid out our vision for moving forward.

After three years, our jobs crisis still is raging. Families are more squeezed than ever. Our poorest communities are totally devastated. And young adults are struggling to find their footing more than at any time in our history since the Great Depression.

Yet many of our newest governors are willing to make things worse. In Cincinnati, Ella Hopkins and a group of her co-workers went out on a frigid night to stand in front of City Hall. Ella is a child care worker. She cares for children when parents are at work. At the end of the week, the state of Ohio pays her about \$350 after taxes. She stood out in the cold to ask her new governor, John Kasich, to respect her freedom to form a union to improve her life and those of her co-workers. Kasich had said state workers like her are "toast".

In the same week Gov. Kasich made cracking down on home care and child care workers his first priority, he increased the salaries of his senior staff by more than 30 percent. Outrageous.

In some state capitals, things have gotten so bad we see not just an attack on the middle class, but an attack on economic rationality itself. Govs. Mitch Daniels of Indiana and Scott Walker of Wisconsin both rejected high-speed rail through in their states. They turned their backs on jobs and their own state's future. They're betting on misery and anger, rather than hope and progress and common sense.

Newly elected governors and state legislatures need to stop doing the exact opposite of what works. They need to stop destroying our public institutions, stop depriving our children of quality schooling and care, and stop crushing working people's rights and living standards. Instead, they need to invest in building a strong future and a solid middle class.

Tell our state leaders: "I reject the politics of misery and anger. We need to build a future that lives up to our children's expectations."

The fact is, we are a nation that still has choices — and we don't need to settle for stagnation and ever-spiraling inequality. We don't need to hunker down, dial back our expectations and surrender our children's hope for a great education, our parents' right to a comfortable retirement, or our own health and economic security. We don't need to sacrifice our nation's aspiration to make things again — or our human right to advance our situation by forming a union if we want one. All these things are within the reach of the great country in which we live. But building a better nation starts at the bottom up — with us and with our state leaders.

Reject the politics of misery and anger. We need to build a future that lives up to our children's expectations.

In Tucson, President Obama called upon us to build a future that "lives up to our children's expectations." We cannot build such a future as isolated individuals — either morally or economically. Working people know we can build that future, but only if we come together and agree to invest in it.

We can and should be building up the American middle class — not tearing it down. We need to educate our children, build a clean energy future and invest in 21st century American infrastructure that makes us competitive in the world. It's time to act like the wealthy, compassionate, imaginative country we are — not turn ourselves into a third-rate impoverished "has-been".

The labor movement hasn't given up on America — and we don't expect our leaders to, either.

Tell our state leaders: "I reject the politics of misery and anger. We need to build a future that lives up to our children's expectations."

CAMP PENDLETON USMC BASE

The Union's Bulletin Board at Area 53



Great job, Katie Jimenez, for the bang up job you did with the Union board at Area 53 in Camp Pendleton! Many of our stewards are taking pride in how the Union is presented to the members by the Union board and we appreciate their efforts.



Paul Harvey with Domingo Baez, Area 24 shop steward

NEWS FROM THE SAN ANTONIO & EL PASO, TEXAS BRANCHES

Representatives for San Antonio: Lena Bailey & Patty Foley
 Representative for El Paso: Joe Serrano
 Secretary: Melissa Foley

UNIONS ARE UNDER ATTACK!!!!

We would like to thank all of our brothers and sisters who attended the peace rally in Austin, Texas on April 19, 2011 in giving their support to show the republicans that we are not just going to lie down and take it. Many before us have fought for our rights and it is our duty to stand up and fight for each other now and for the future of our families. THANK YOU!!!!

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest and sincere condolences for their loss go out to the family and friends of Mr. Eugene Breaud, President of the company formerly known as Breaud Services, Inc. at the Fort Polk, LA Food Service contract. He will be sadly missed.

BASE CLOSURE

Our office was informed by TRDI, Inc. about the expected closure of Brooks AFB in October of 2011. This closure took place

much sooner than they had anticipated and we are saddened to say that our final two brothers were let go at the beginning of this year. We would like to thank them for their continued dedication to the ITPE Union and wish them well in all their endeavors.

CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS

Crystal City is known as the Spinach Capital of the World. This group may be small but they pack a powerful punch, just like their mascot Popeye.

**Crystal City is known as the Spinach Capital of the World.
 ITPE represents a majority of the employees that work for Silgan Containers,
 Crystal City, Texas**



Left to Right: Claudio Bonilla, Jr., Seniority of 31 years; Leopoldo Diaz, Jr., Seniority of 28 years and Shop Steward; Alma Estrada, Seniority of 28 years; Lena Bailey, "Representative"; Juan Mata, Seniority 31 years



Front Row (L-R): Yvonne Gardner, Barbara Hollis, Castella Simmons, Yvonne Fisher
Back Row (L-R): Denola Grovenor, Tezra (Tezzie) Williams, Gina Gilkey (Shop Steward-
ess), Kelly Gardner, Tonya Anderson, John F. Conley, Edith Walker, Margie Brown, Roy
Boyd, Dennis Arrington



SPRING



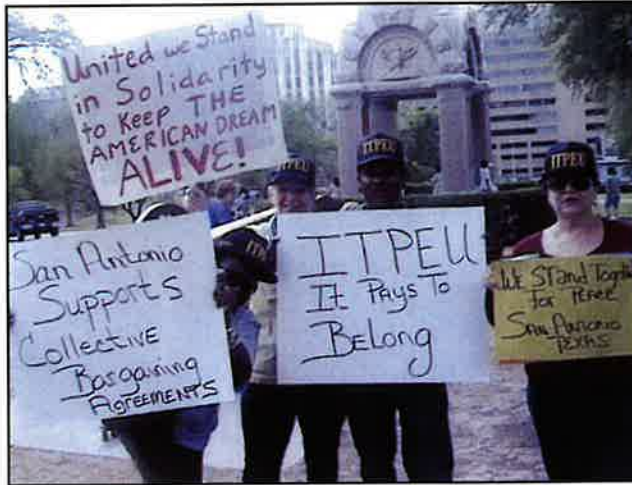
Shop Steward Dustin Pieh and
ITPE Representative Anthony
Wilson at Camp Pendleton, CA



ITPE MEMBERS ATTEND A RALLY IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

All of Labor is under attack. Are you one that is going to sit back and do nothing?

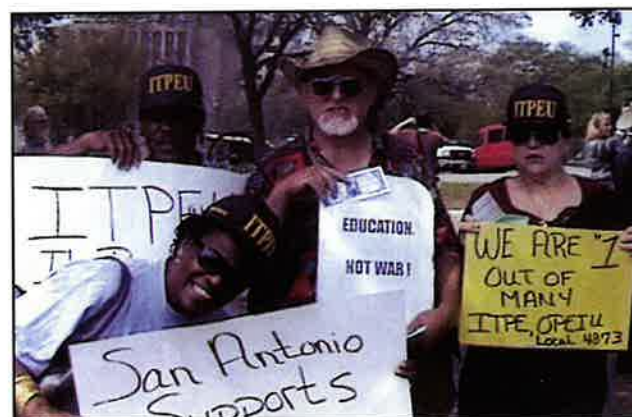
Union members are the only ones that can join with their Brothers and Sisters in stopping the attack on the poor and middle class Americans. Enough is Enough. Get involved, let those republicans know we are fed up with their agenda of giving to the rich by taking from the poor. It's the future of you and your children that are going to struggle to survive unless we put a stop to it now. Our forefathers had to stand up for their rights. Many of America's workers fought and many died to form Unions in order to better their lives. Let's not let them down. It is now time for this generation to stand up once again. With you, me and our brothers and sisters we can do it. We must do it. Our future and that of our children depends on us.



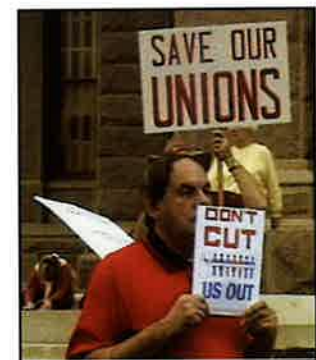
Left to Right: Jennifer Kester, Lena Bailey, Jerry Williams, Emma Teddlie



Left to Right: Jennifer Kester, Jerry Williams, Reta Rarnum



Left to Right Front: Jennifer Kester, Joseph Morales and Emma Teddlie.
Back: Jerry Williams



ITPE HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AND STILL A LEADER IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Dear ITPE Health and Welfare Fund participants. It has been quite a while since I have written to you via your ITPE newsletter. July 1, 2011 is the 40th anniversary of your Health and Welfare Fund. The record of success of your plan is so tremendous that I feel I should report to you some of the outstanding successes of your plan during the forty years of operation! I am proud to tell you that some of the original members are still with us. These members can recall what it was like when only six or seven cents per hour was paid to service contract workers to purchase Health and Welfare plans. The ITPE Union remained steadfast in its commitment to improve the economic lives and social welfare of the members. Wage rates and Health and Welfare rates were continuously negotiated so the membership could enjoy more of the American Dream. By June of 1983, the ITPE Health and Welfare Fund had \$1,248,842.00 in net assets. The hourly contribution rate was approximately 35.6 cents per hour. The average number of hours worked by each participant was 118 hours per month. During these twelve years, we were insured by the Georgia International Insurance Company.

On July 1, 1983, the Board of Trustees of the ITPE Health and Welfare Fund became a self funded (self insured) plan. ITPEU has continued to have

success in negotiating wages and benefits for its participants, expanding the coverage and concepts of coverage until this date, where we are still self-funded, in the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield National Preferred Provider Program (PPO) with Services provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. As you are aware, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield has been successfully administering our medical plan.

This now brings us to July 1, 2011. Federal health care legislation characterized as Health Care Reform (HCR) and often called "Obama Care" requires changes in health plans. Many changes which health plans are required to include are things we already provide in our plan provisions. For example, we have never had a pre-existing condition clause in our health plan. The single most dangerous requirement for our plan is raising the annual maximum limit of medical benefits per each covered person to \$750,000.00. This will be done effective July 1, 2011. This annual maximum benefit will increase by \$500,000.00 to \$1,250,000.00 as of July 1, 2012 and again by \$2,000,000.00 July 1, 2013. As you know, there is much controversy concerning Health Care Reform and may be more changes to come in the future.

All trustees of the ITPE Health and Welfare Fund are determined

to keep the ITPE Health and Welfare plan up to standards required by law. The ITPE Health and Welfare Fund have net assets of \$64,035,171.00 as of 12/31/2010, with this figure representing approximately 12 months of claims and expenses. The cost of claims and expenses has increased to the extent that for the last year we have dropped our reserves by 1.6 months of coverage. This means our income is rising less than our claims and expenses. The average contribution is \$3.45 per hour and now we foresee the need for an increase to \$4.00 per hour to stop claim losses and losing reserve months of coverage. Our Trustees have been diligent in keeping the ITPE Health and Welfare fund in a sound financial state and are taking necessary steps to see that the plans' financial state is continued for the health care needs of our participants.

After 40 years, I congratulate you, your employer, you Union and your Fund Trustees for having one of the best health plans in our great nation!

Sincerely,

Roy J. Boyd

Roy J. Boyd
ITPE Health and Welfare Fund
Representative

The Mural That Set Maine Aflame: Reactions to the Nation's Most Boneheaded Art Controversy

In March, Maine's Republican governor, Paul LePage, had a 36-foot mural removed from the state's labor department after claiming that it was "one-sided." The mural depicted imagery from labor history such as Rosie the Riveter at the Bath Iron Works, child laborers, and a 1937 shoe mill strike.

The offending work, which was created by artist Judy Taylor, has been whisked away to an undisclosed location. Taylor produced the mural in 2008 at the behest of the Maine Art Commission, and the project was federally funded — which means that its removal may actually be illegal.

This controversial decision has lit up the media and the blogosphere, and ARTINFO has rounded up the most interesting reactions — from the artist's objections to accusations of brainwashing to a call for a good old-fashioned tarring and feathering of the Tea Party governor.

That's Comrade Rosie the Riveter: Although the governor's office claimed to have received several complaints about the mural from the business community, it has cited only one source: an anonymous fax, which it showed to the Portland Press Herald, whose sender complained that the mural was propaganda, writing that "I felt for a moment that I was in communist North Korea where

they use these murals to brainwash the masses."

Judy Taylor Speaks Out: In an op-ed for the Bangor Daily News yesterday, Taylor writes that her first painting as a child was of her grandfather on his farm in Nebraska. In the mural, which she researched and painted over the course of a year, she represented her mother as a little girl in one panel and based the figure of the young army officer on her father, who fought in the Korean War. She adds that "it was so heartbreaking to learn that this controversy may have started with an anonymous letter comparing this mural to a North Korean propaganda poster. Perhaps we should hang my father's Bronze Star for his service in Korea in the now empty reception area of the Maine Department of Labor until the mural is returned, as a symbol of the importance of remembering our history, and not shuttering it away."

Artist Solidarity: In protest against the mural's removal, Finnish-born Maine-based artist Vaino Kola has asked that five of his artworks that hang in Maine's state house be removed, the Bangor Daily News reports.

Former Labor Secretary Weighs In: In his Christian Science Monitor blog, the former secretary of labor Robert Reich disagrees with the removal of the mural

and the additional decision to rename several conference rooms that honor labor leaders, including Frances Perkins, a former secretary of labor and the first female cabinet member. Quoting the governor's spokesperson that the mural and the room names are "not in keeping with the department's pro-business goals," Reich simply asks, "Are we still in America?" He adds that the U.S. department of labor building is named after Frances Perkins and contains portraits and murals of labor leaders. Reich concludes with the following line: "Governor, you might be able to erase some of Maine's memory, but you'll have a hard time erasing the nation's memory — even if it's not in keeping with your pro-business goals."

Going Colonial on Paul LePage: Wonkette's Ken Layne writes that "Paul LePage needs to be yanked out of his office by a bunch of pissed-off grim-faced yankees, tarred and feathered (this hurts!), and sealed inside one of those display canoes at the back of the L.L. Bean."

And Going Even Further Back in History: In an editorial on Monday, the New York Times said that governor LePage had "stooped to behavior worthy of the pharaohs' chiseling historic truths from Egyptian monuments." It also points out that the governor's daughter, fresh out

of college and hired at an entry-level assistant's job at the governors office, is making \$10,000 more than Mainers who pass the police and teacher exams.

Open Call for Pro-Business Art: In collaboration with The Portland Phoenix, the New England Journal of Aesthetic Research has issued a call for pro-business art to replace the "degenerate, 'one-sided' mural at the Maine department of labor." If you need any ideas, consider this: "submissions are encouraged to honor Maine's grand business history, from logging to ship building, from the brave executives who put down the 1937 women's strike to steadfast pro-

ponents of child labor, from the paper mill bosses who purified our waters with dioxins to those who intrepidly called in the National Guard to restore order in the face of wrong-thinking mobs and crybabies, and surplus and salvage company CEOs who selflessly offer damaged goods for retail sale before giving it all up for public service."

Republican Blogger Defends Labor Mural, Mocks Maine: On SodaHead News, Republican blogger Jack Thomas asks Governor LePage, "Do you really think some large corporation is going to pass up on moving to your state because of your artwork? 'Sure, moving to Maine

would have saved Widgetsoft millions, but damn it, that mural pissed me off, so we aren't going to do it.' The real reason people aren't moving their businesses to Maine is that — it's Maine. It's cold and if you don't ski, rock climb or enjoy making your own maple syrup there's nothing to do there."

And on the Fake News: Referring to the governor's complaint that the mural is "one-sided," Jon Stewart quipped, "Do you understand how murals work?" He suggested that a new mural could include panels such as "Daddy Warbucks Gets a Shoeshine" and "Donald Trump Classes Up the Moon."



Three sections of Judy Taylor's mural that formerly hung in the department of labor in Augusta, Maine

NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA & WEST VIRGINIA

Representative: Cindy L. Diehm

Written by: Cheryl Lowe, Assistant Representative

WINTER WOES GONE

North Carolina got slammed this winter with snow, sleet, ice and all around lousy weather. Now we know what West Virginia goes through every winter. Hey West Virginia members we feel your frostbite. We can all thaw out now and enjoy some heat for awhile.

TORNADOS ATTACK

North Carolina saw a record number of Tornados rip through the state that left behind massive damage. Several of our members experienced damages to their homes but fortunately no casualties. Our prayers are with you.

WEST VIRGINIA

Cindy was in West Virginia the first part of March. As most of us know Cindy don't "do snow" however she managed the three inches that fell while she was there. Never the less she forged on and held meetings for our members there. We never have much news from West Virginia so if any of our members have something they would like to go in the newsletter please contact Cheryl Lowe at the Union office. 910-497-1661. We would love to have you contribute.

SAYING GOODBYE

We want to say goodbye to all out gate guards at Ft. Bragg. Their contract held by WSI was taken back to government positions but fortunately many of the guards were retained and given GS positions. We hope for each and every one of you lots of prosperity and bid you a fond goodbye.

CONTRACTOR CHANGE

Sodexo has retained the contract at Camp Lejeune. Son Quality, a subcontractor of Sodexo, has left and a new contractor has taken their place. American Services Technology Inc. will be the new subcontractor on that site.

CONDOLENCES

We mourn the loss of a shop steward. Ricky Sanders, who was the shop steward for Basic Contracting Service, guard unit, at Research Triangle Park passed away. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and co-workers. We will miss him terribly.

Rosa McKinney, a member who worked for North Carolina Food Service passed away while on a trip home to Panama. Rosa had worked on this contract since

1990, we send condolences to her family, friends and co-workers. She will be missed by all.

We send condolences to our members Frieda Gillis and Antwyon Armes. Their mother Lula Jones passed away. Lula worked on the food service contract for many years. She was a Union member for a lot of those years until she went into management. I don't think there is a person on that contract who did not know her. She will be missed by many friends and co-workers. Frieda and Antwyon our prayers are with you.

We hope each and every member of the ITPE a wonderful summer.



CAMP SPRINGS, MARYLAND

I am writing to let you know of an outstanding commissary employee at Walter Reed Commissary, Md. I recently placed two very large orders in preparation for an overseas move to Ethiopia. Zella Carver, store associate, had my order rung up and ready to when I arrived. She was incredibly helpful and provided service with a smile. I placed another order two weeks later. She called to let me know a couple of items had not arrived, but that she was working to fill the order. She was true to her word. She called to say the order was complete. I hope the commissary management realizes what a gem of an employee they have in Ms. Carver. She made my bulk order a very pleasant experience.

*Lee Malone, spouse of Capt. Joseph Malone,
U.S. Navy, retired*



RIGHT 2 WORK CORPORATION

The Camp Springs Office has recently organized the Right 2 Work Corporation at the Andrews Air Force Base Commissary. The Right 2 Work Corporation currently has over forty (40) employees, covering shelf stockers, custodians and warehouse staff. The Company's headquarters is located in Jacksonville, Florida. We are in the process of negotiating a contract, wish us well. The employees are very excited and so are we to establish a relation with our new members.

Hi! My name is Kori Jonathan Davis. I was born on February 14, 2011 at 10:53 pm. I weighed 7.5 lbs. and was 21 inches long. My parents are Courtney and Kimberly. My proud grandmother is your representative in the Camp Springs, Maryland office, Denise Moore.

TAMPA FEDERAL BUILDING



Left to right, top to bottom

Row 1 - Anna Gibas, custodian; Dubravka Hadziselimovic, shift leader; Doretha Morris, custodian; Dika Korajkic, custodian; Nisveta Kahvedzic, custodian; Darrell Ball, custodian (back); Robert Glethen, custodian; Curtis Hall, custodian; Chip Lalone, project manager. (Man in back is not a member of the group).

Row 2 - Nevenka Basara, custodian; Zurijeta Efendic, custodian; Juanita Norris (& husband), custodian - retired.

The Strong Tradition of Mourning the Dead and Fighting for the Living Continues to Grow In PA



Eric Hunter, USMC and IUPAT Local 479 member strikes steel girder each time a fallen workers name is read in Market Square, Pittsburgh, on Workers' Memorial Day

Thousands of workers gathered together at Workers' Memorial Day events throughout Pennsylvania remembering fallen workers and demanding improvements in job safety and health protections. The fight for safer jobs runs deep and the tradition of renewing our commitment to improving job safety and health continues to grow. This year, there were observances and ceremonies held in 13 locations, carried out by our Area Labor Federations and Central Labor Councils with the support and participation of local unions and allies. Both, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder, express their thanks and gratitude to all of the organizers and the participants for making this year's observance one of the most successful since the designation of Workers' Memorial Day, over 20 years ago. "Every worker in Pennsylvania should make it a point to attend these events. It leaves a lasting impression on the need for all of us to continue our concentration and our efforts to make safer jobs a priority in our workplaces and for our elected officials," Bloomingdale said. "No one should die trying to make a living. Thanks to the labor movement, OSHA has saved hundreds of thousands of lives, but the fact that we come back here every year and read the names of hundreds of dead workers tells you we have much more work to do," Snyder added.

POCONO MEDICAL CENTER:

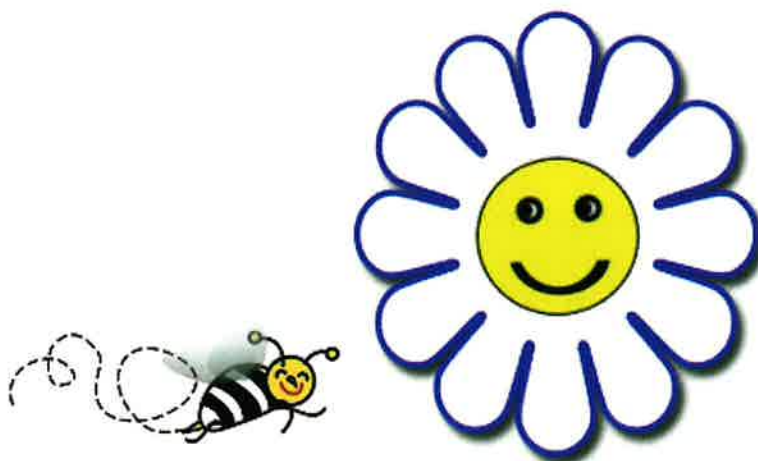
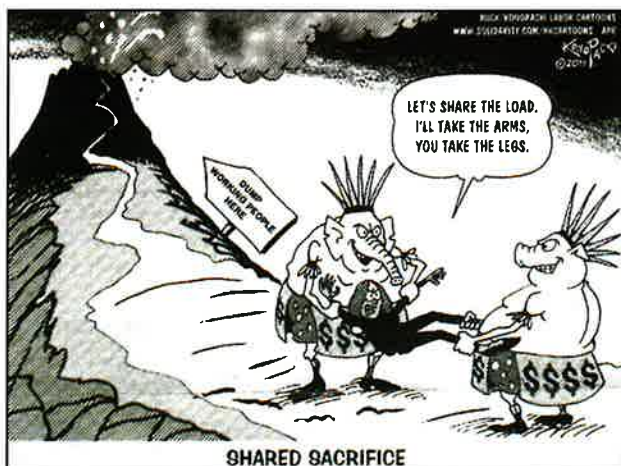
RALLY FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS BRINGS OUT OVER 5,000 SUPPORTERS

Wearing an SEIU union tee-shirt, Danny Glover urged workers to continue fighting back and defending their rights and their union. He was one of many pro-labor speakers at a massive rally of over 5,000 workers in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on the weekend of May 14, in support of Pocono Medical Center workers. PMC workers are fighting to keep their union shop protections. The Medical Center's management is ignoring a labor board certified vote held months ago, in which the workers voted overwhelmingly to maintain their union shop protections. Management is ignoring the vote in an attempt to bust the union.

Joining Glover were SEIU President Mary Kay Henry and Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale. Workers from area unions and Central Labor Councils marched through the streets of the town in a public display of support for the workers, members of SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania. Workers from as far away as Colorado and New York were there to show their support.



Photo Courtesy of SEIU



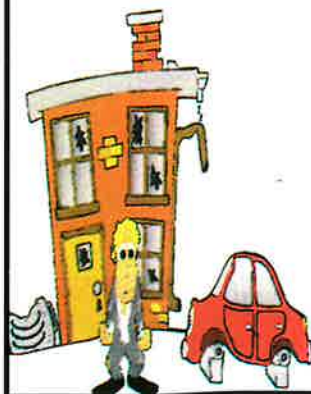
Unemployment Insurance: Kicking Workers When They're Down

The House passed its first bill of the Session. Unfortunately it was the disastrous legislation that gives big business another tax break by taking lifeline benefits away from the unemployed. With record unemployment in the state of Florida, it is sad that the legislature feels they must punish the victims of the economic crisis. Even though there aren't enough jobs in the state for workers, and unemployment insurance is the best economic stimulator we have, the legislature again put ideology ahead of common sense and fairness.

The bill:

- Makes it easier to lay off or terminate workers without providing unemployment benefits.
- Places additional hurdles in front of workers trying to get benefits.
- Reduces the possible weeks of unemployment benefits from 26 to 20 weeks, with the maximum being as low as 12 weeks in times of low unemployment.
- Reduces the "Experience Rating" tax rate calculation for businesses by 10%.

200 unemployed workers from around Florida converged on the Capitol in protest of the bill but the majority pushed it through, after changing the rules and placing serious restrictions on debate. The measure passed with a party-line vote. The Senate version is much better than the House. It still places additional burdens on the unemployed but does not reduce benefits.



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