

Graphic Communicator



July-Aug.-Sept. 2014

Volume 32, Number 3

The Newspaper of the Graphic Communications Conference / IBT

www.gciu.org

ELECTION 2014

PAGE 3

At a NANC meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., officials urged immediate political action to block a conservative surge this fall.

'Shameful' Decision

PAGE 5

As though Citizens United wasn't bad enough, the latest Supreme Court campaign finance ruling gives the super-rich an extra edge.

PAGE 10

UNION your rights at work worth fighting for

YES ✓

Internal Organizing

Union officials strive to expand the membership base and counter decertification moves.

PAGE 8

Vanished Workers

LostLabor.com website honors the men and women who built America in the 20th Century.



ALSO INSIDE :

- Gearing up for Midterms..... 3
- Warm Welcome at GPO..... 4
- Meyerson: 'Downward Mobility' 6
- Mackell: Age of Fractured Dreams..... 14

Fall Elections a Wakeup Call for Labor

It's crunch time. The 2014 midterm elections are just a few months away and there could be trouble ahead.

Many political forecasters say Republicans will hold the House of Representatives and take the Senate, too. For union members, the chance of a disastrous GOP takeover should be a four-alarm wakeup call.

At the North American Newspaper Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. last month, I took every opportunity to make sure GCC/IBT delegates understood the gravity of the situation.

I told them to start volunteering now for labor-friendly candidates and reach into their wallets to help build campaign war chests. Pay attention to the news, I urged. Make sure you are informed and able to hold up your end of any political debate. Information is power. Keep it in mind.

And let's be honest. As the GOP lurches further to the right, it increasingly loses touch with working people – people like us.

When Republicans had in their ranks moderates like Dwight Eisenhower and Nelson Rockefeller and Sen. Jacob Javits of New York, to name just a few, it was conceivable that union people might have voted GOP in one race or another.

No more. Now the Grand Old Party is a society of zealots so isolated from the mainstream that, frankly, a union person would have to be completely clueless to vote Republican.

This is the party that opposes an increase in the minimum wage but wants to expand tax benefits for the rich. The GOP trashed Employee Free Choice Act legislation but protected Wall Street after the disastrous recession of 2008-09. Republicans want to limit collective bargaining but pass right-to-work legislation.

The party has been kidnapped by Tea Party darlings like Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

Even the party's establishment figures – House Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan – tirelessly bash government programs aimed at helping the middle class and take every opportunity to badmouth unions. The AFL-CIO rates Ryan a mere 7 percent on union issues. Seven percent!

IBT General President Jim Hoffa often tells union members to stay focused – to vote in the best interests of their families, the labor movement, and the country. He sometimes says that unions have done such a good job of guaranteeing a decent middle-class life that members are turning into Republicans.

Hoffa is right and we should admit it. With a bit of comfort and economic

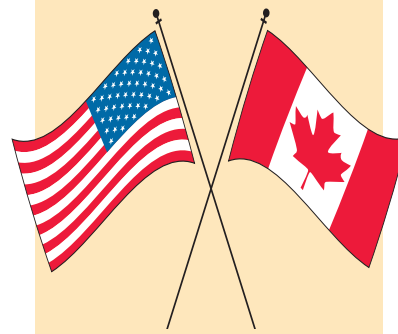
security comes a feeling of self-satisfaction and ease with the status quo. We've all heard talk from friends that makes it clear they've been listening to the wrong political message. Some find the phony rhetoric that comes from right wing personalities – and radio hosts like Rush Limbaugh – enticing. They may even hint they're going to vote GOP.

Bad business – for union members and all working families.

With control of the House and Senate, we can kiss goodbye any pro-labor legislation. We can expect more sniping at the National Labor Relations Board. We can forget about stopping fast track trade agreements. For sure, an emboldened GOP majority on Capitol Hill will take every opportunity to undercut decent wages and working conditions.

All elections are important. We should have learned that lesson long ago, and particularly in 2010 when Republicans rallied because traditional Democratic constituencies – union people, included – failed to get politically involved and vote.

That was a terrible mistake and we can't let it happen again. Don't kid yourselves. Republicans don't care about us. On Election Day, let's show them the feeling is mutual.



7

Point of Pride

A New York artist tells why he honors the heritage of blue collar workers.

11

Uplifting Effort

Labor helps pass a Seattle law to boost minimum wage.

14

Executive Action

Gannett shareholders back IBT proposal to reform management pension benefits.

16

'Cash for Class'

Teamsters announce latest James R. Hoffa Scholarship essay contest

FEATURES

As I See It/
George Tedeschi. 2

Outlook/
James Hoffa 2

Managing Editor's
Note. 2

Editorial. 6

Point of View/
Harold Meyerson. 6

Cartoon/Matt Wuerker. 6

Bottom Line/
Jerry Morgan 7

Guest Spot/
Raymon Elozua 7

All the Best 7

Local Stops 11

Francaise/Espanol 12

In Memoriam. 13

Funny Business. 16

MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE

A series of vintage photos in our centerfold shows 20th Century print industry workers on the job. The shots are from a website collection called "Lost Labor" honoring the men and women who helped build the American economy. Many of their jobs have disappeared in the digital age – a worry evident at the North American Newspaper Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. As our NANC story indicates, GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi told delegates they must take an active part in crucial midterm elections and counter the enormous influence of wealthy contributors. That disparity is made evident in a Communicator piece on a recent Supreme Court decision to further liberalize campaign spending. Though the privileged always have an edge, the resolve of union people cannot be underestimated. Another story reports on a successful Teamster attempt to limit executive compensation at Gannett Co. – a small victory but evidence that our union is alert, resourceful and committed. – Fred Bruning

Outlook

BY JAMES HOFFA, IBT GENERAL PRESIDENT

New Setbacks for Koch & Co.

The annual state legislative folly that spurs pro-corporate lawmakers to introduce legislation to hack away at workplace rights and wages for millions of middle-class families is well under way. And it is failing—again.

Despite the best efforts of the Koch brothers and their friends at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), right-to-work measures have already gone down in flames in Kentucky, New Hampshire and Oregon. And the path to victory for big business is far from assured in Maine, Missouri, Ohio or Pennsylvania, either.

It seems the public is becoming wise to their arguments. People see how the corporate class is putting a reduction in business tax rates first and investment in the future of our communities last. It's just another attempt by rich CEOs to tip the economic scales even more in their favor at the expense of hard-working Americans.

In Missouri, for example, approximately 1,000 right-to-work opponents showed up at the capitol in Jefferson City to call on law-

makers to defeat a measure current before the House. Many lawmakers there realize the measure is an attempted power grab by the same corporate cronies who have outsourced middle-class jobs overseas and offshore their profits to avoid paying taxes. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, has promised to veto any such bill that makes it to his desk.

Right-to-work is a ruse. These laws depress wages, resulting in workers making about \$1,500 less than those living elsewhere. They are also more likely not to receive health insurance and more likely to work in a dangerous workplace. In addition, it is proven not to be a deciding factor in where businesses locate.

Lawmakers must resist the cheap corporate rhetoric pushed by ALEC and others that makes right-to-work seem like a solution. It isn't. All it seems to help create is less pay, less freedom in the workplace and maybe most important of all, a smaller middle class. If that's seen by some as progress, government should be taking a pass on it.





PRINTED IN U.S.A.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATOR
(ISSN 0746-3626)

is published quarterly in
January-February-March,
April-May-June, July-August-
September, October-
November-December for a total
of four issues a year for
\$12 per year in the United
States and Canada and
\$15 for all other countries by
the Graphic Communications
Conference/International
Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25
Louisiana Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001.
Periodical postage paid at
Washington, D.C. and
additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATOR,
25 Louisiana Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001.

Publications Mail Agreement
No. 41461512. Return
Undeliverable Canadian
Addresses to
2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON
Canada N8T 3B7.



NANC Reps Told: 'Be Prepared' for Midterms

By Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

Straight-talking GCC/IBT officials said it, and so did delegates and guests in the hallways: Labor has plenty on the line in the November mid-term elections and union members better get busy if they hope to make a difference.

"If you think you can sit back and do nothing, you're wrong," union president George Tedeschi said at the 57th North American Newspaper Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tedeschi warned that a push by conservative Republicans and well-heeled supporters like Las Vegas casino baron Sheldon Adelson and the right-wing billionaire Koch Brothers is aimed at solidifying the Republican majority in the House and stealing the Senate from Democrats.

"If they control the House and the Senate, they can push through any law they want," Tedeschi said. With Congress in its pocket, Tedeschi said, the GOP – eager to accommodate Tea Party zealots – may advance an anti-labor agenda including right-to-work legislation (known in union circles as "right-to-work-for-less"), regulations to hamper organizing efforts and attacks on the National Labor Relations Board.

"Start volunteering for labor-friendly candidates," Tedeschi told an enthusiastic audience at the Chaparral Suites Hotel. "Be informed and prepared to debate the issues. Contribute money – every little bit helps."

GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president Robert Lacey also left little doubt that mid-term contests were crucial at national and state levels.

"We and all union members need to understand that we are under attack by right-wing Republicans," Lacey said. "We must educate our members that they have to get out and vote."

Usually a reliable voting bloc, union members – like other traditionally Democratic supporters – failed to rally sufficiently in 2010 and a

weak Election Day turnout allowed Republicans to regain the House majority they had lost four years earlier.

It soon became clear that the GOP victory – Republicans picked up 63 seats – spelled trouble for President Barack Obama who saw every significant legislative initiative blocked by Capitol Hill opponents. Democrats complained that obstructing the White House had become more a priority than doing the nation's business but the GOP was unyielding.

Meanwhile, at the state level, Republicans also made gains – winning gubernatorial races and taking over state legislatures. Even in previously labor-friendly states like Wisconsin and Michigan, union workers saw bargaining rights compromised and pension benefits under fire.

The Republican Party has gone so far right, said Frank Rak, former NANC recording secretary, "even Richard Nixon couldn't get nominated."

GCC/IBT international representative Phil Roberts noted that in his home state of Tennessee, GOP elected officials recently thwarted a United Auto Workers organizing drive at a Volkswagen assembly plant even though management did not oppose the UAW effort.

"The Tennessee Senate and House have been taken over by Tea Party nut cases," Roberts said in an interview. Union members must counter the conservative push, he said, and not stay on the sidelines. "No race is unimportant when it comes to protecting workers' rights," Roberts said.

Surrendering to a defeatist attitude is unacceptable, officials said.

John Agenbroad, secretary treasurer of District Council 3, is a prime example of how a motivated candidate with enthusiastic backing can beat the odds.

A Democrat, Agenbroad soon will complete his fifth term as mayor of Springboro, Ohio, located in a solidly Republican part of the state. "We have to get a seat at the table if we're going to make a difference," Agenbroad said. Regrettably, he said, too many union people have

Continues on Page 16

LOCALS PRIMED TO BOOST LABOR-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES

By Zachary Dowdy
Special to the Communicator

At the local level, GCC/IBT leaders are gearing up for an aggressive campaign to boost union-friendly candidates in November midterm elections – contests that will determine control of the U.S. House and Senate and could significantly impact organized labor.

"It's very important that we get the right guys in office that will support workers and end this war on workers," said Matt Larsen, president of GCC/IBT Local 28-N, Salt Lake City. "We're a right-to-work state in Utah and that means we're pretty much a Republican state."

Larsen said he and other labor leaders hope to build enthusiasm at family-oriented union events where the importance of

backing pro-labor candidates is emphasized. "We need some people who are going to help out workers," he said.

Rick Montesano, who serves on the executive board of Local 432-M, San Diego, said if the Senate tips in favor of Republicans, the GOP would control both houses of Congress. In that case, he said conservatives would be certain to press ahead with anti-labor initiatives.

"We could lose our advantage in the Senate and that wouldn't be very good for us," he said. "We'd only have President Obama with us. I'm hoping we can influence the outcome between now and November."

Steve Sullivan, president of Local 2-N, Boston, said union leaders are mobilizing already.

Buoyed by the election last year of pro-labor mayor, Marty

Continues on Page 10

Visit to GPO Continues a Tradition of Mutual Respect

Tradition counts.

The GCC/IBT and U.S. Government Printing Office have had a long and productive relationship – union members performing their jobs in top-notch fashion and GPO officials respecting workers and assuring a harmonious labor environment.

So it was no surprise that when GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi recently visited the GPO building in Washington, D.C. to meet with union representatives and Davita Vance-Cooks, the nation's 27th public printer, cordial labor-management feelings prevailed.

"I was given a warm welcome and enjoyed meeting again with Ms. Vance-Cooks, who I've known for several years," Tedeschi said. "The GPO is an impressive operation and the public printer is a fine person with high professional standards. She knows her stuff and is keenly aware of workers' rights and appreciates the hard work of GCC/IBT members. We look forward to continued friendly exchanges with Ms. Vance-Cooks and her administrative team."

Vance-Cooks, who has served the GPO in a variety of roles for 10 years and became public printer in 2013, returned the compliment.

"It was a pleasure to have Mr. Tedeschi visit and tour GPO's operations," she said. "The Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents a number of our employees, and we were happy to show him how the important work that his members do every day on behalf of Congress, federal agencies, and the public is performed."

Bringing the two leaders together allowed for a valuable exchange of ideas, said Howard Brown, president of Local 1-C, representing workers at the GPO, where government publications – including the Federal Register and Congressional Record – are printed, and U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, producer of the nation's currency.

"I thought it was extremely beneficial for the union, and especially for President Tedeschi, to meet with Ms. Vance-Cooks," said Brown. "She is eager to work with unions. She knows that, together, we can work wonders."

Other GCC/IBT officials hailed the productive labor-management relations at GPO.

"We're not going to agree on everything but we have confidence in one another that we can work together," said Theodore Dowd, president of Local 713-S and a 24-year veteran of the GPO.

Melvin Prailow, building representative for Local 1-C and chairman of the Joint Council of Unions at GPO, said the meeting involving Vance-Cooks, Tedeschi and



PHOTOS COURTESY U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



Exchanging warm greetings at the Government Printing Office were, left-right, Andrew Sherman, GPO chief of staff, Henry Rumph, GCC/IBT organizer; Melvin Prailow, chairman of the Joint Council of Unions at GPO and building representative for GCC/IBT Local 1-C; Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks; GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi; 1-C president Howard Brown; John Crawford, managing director of plant operations; Debbie A. Harrison, GCC/IBT Local 4-B vice president at GPO.

other GCC/IBT leaders was "historic" and an "important" opportunity.

"We broke bread, had lunch together and got to know one another," said Prailow. "We have a very bright future. We want to make sure that the unions and management are on the same page and where we need to be."

Prailow said his personal commitment is to "harmonious" dealings between labor and management. "I want to bridge the gap and resolve conflicts quickly – even before they start," he said.

Also representing workers at the GPO is GCC/IBT Local 4-B.

Debbie A. Harrison, 4-B vice president and a GPO bookbinder who has been at the facility for 24 years, said the meeting between GPO officials and labor representatives was "very productive." Exchanging ideas, she said, would help "keep lines of communication open."

Brown of Local 1-C said the visit was "enlightening" for all. Tedeschi agreed.

"It was a great opportunity to visit the home of a remarkable American institution," Tedeschi said. "Meeting Ms. Vance-Cooks was an honor and I was especially pleased to hear of her high regard for our members. We should be proud of the work they do and their invaluable service to the nation."

DAVITA VANCE-COOKS: A PIONEER KEEPING PACE WITH DIGITAL AGE

When she became the nation's 27th public printer, Davita Vance-Cooks made history – twice.

She is the first woman and only African-American to serve in a post first held by Benjamin Franklin who assumed duties before colonists declared independence.

Vance-Cooks runs the Government Printing Office which, with the assistance of GCC/IBT Local 1-C, 713-S, and 4-B members, publishes a wide range of material including passports, tax forms, the Federal Register and Congressional Record – even flashcards for immigrants preparing to take the naturalization test.

Established by Congress in 1860, the GPO represents an essential part of the American experience, Vance-Cooks says.

"We've printed just about every important document of the nation, starting, of course, with the Emancipation Proclamation, which was a document that pretty much changed the world – all of those documents that have, in fact, shaped the history of the nation," she told National Public Radio.

Before joining the GPO in 2004, Vance-Cooks held several jobs in the private health care industry and worked for "a couple of start-up companies where I liked starting and finishing big items, big projects," she told the Washington Post.

At the printing office, she held a variety of jobs. Vance-Cooks, 58, became



Davita Vance-Cooks: Making sure the 'mission is carried out.'

deputy public printer in 2011, acting public printer in 2012 and assumed the top post last year. At one point, she was chief of staff for her predecessor, William Boarman.

In published interviews, Vance-Cooks said she is determined to keep the GPO well prepared for the digital age and meet the challenges of a smaller work force. The unit recently lost nearly 350 employees to a buyout program. "Once upon a time, about 20 years ago, we had almost 6,000 employees. Today, we have about 1,900," Vance-Cooks told NPR.

Another priority, Vance-Cooks said, is to continue the GPO's productive relationship with organized labor.

"Management for the public and private sector has the same primary goal – to make sure the organization's mission is carried out," she told the Post. Vance-Cooks added: I'm in constant communication and collaboration with our business leaders and our labor union leaders."

Vance-Cooks skillful leadership will assure a continued "productive relationship," said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi.

"She is a highly motivated and extremely competent person dedicated to improving production and services," Tedeschi said. "As public printer, Ms. Vance-Cooks has shown great respect for GCC/IBT members and their important role at the GPO. We look forward to working with her and moving ahead in a spirit of friendly cooperation and mutual respect."



High Court Again Favors Super-Rich Campaign Donors

First, Citizens United. Now McCutcheon.

The U.S. Supreme Court has outraged union members and millions of other Americans – again – with another decision allowing the super-rich to drown the democratic system with cash and give an important edge to conservative candidates.

In 2010, the court's Citizens United decision granted corporations the same rights as individuals when it came to campaign spending.

The latest ruling, favoring wealthy Alabama businessman Shaun McCutcheon, allows single donors to give as much as \$3.6 million to political candidates and committees in one election period. Previously, the limit was \$123,000 for every two-year cycle. "...by taking Citizen's United one step further and effectively eviscerating campaign finance laws, the Court has issued an invitation to oligarchy," said former Clinton labor secretary Robert Reich in a commentary. Reich called the court's 5-4 decision "shameful."

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi echoed Reich's assessment.

"What you have here is an attempt by a very conservative Supreme Court to give the wealthiest Americans complete political control," said Tedeschi. "While Republicans are doing all they can to block traditional Democratic voters at the polls, their millionaire allies – like the Koch Brothers, Sheldon Adelson and, now, Shaun McCutcheon – are looking to outright buy elections. It's a scandal, pure and simple."

A commentary on the Teamster Nation website was equally indignant. "Citizens United and McCutcheon are leading a national conspiracy to make corporations into people in the eyes of the law," Teamster Nation said. "Of course, if corporations are 'people,' then real people like us are made to be less than people in our political system."

Without question, analysts said, the wealthy had gained a significant advantage.

Candidates with huge cash reserves are sure to represent the interests of their benefactors – corporations and the mega-rich. Political hopefuls loyal to working people and the middle class are apt to be overwhelmed and discouraged from running. Huge amounts of money will be spent on negative advertising that voters find dispiriting. Compromise and bipartisan cooperation become even less likely.

"By protecting the interests of wealthy donors in the name of protecting their First Amendment free speech rights, the Court ignores the political reality that our elected officials will be given even greater incentive to avoid and ignore the perspectives and opinions of ordinary Americans, the majority of individuals who do not have the financial resources to contribute to political campaigns," said commentator Kyle L. Kreider on the PennLive website of the Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot News.

The McCutcheon decision has added urgency to campaigns seeking to counter the impact of money in politics.

Move to Amend, a grassroots movement with headquarters in Eureka, Calif. and 150 local affiliates, is hoping to gather 500,000 names on an online petition calling for a constitutional amendment nullifying Citizens United and McCutcheon.

"We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling and other related cases, and move to amend our Constitution to



Citizens United 2.0?

RESIST

#McCUTCHEON

MoveToAmend.org/resist

COURTESY: MOVETOAMEND.ORG



firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights," the petition says.

David Cobb, national spokesperson for Move to Amend, told the Communicator an amendment was needed to "abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of 'money equals speech.'" Though success may take as long as 10-20 years, Cobb said, Move to Amend is building a "movement" along the lines of the civil rights and organized labor campaigns that, he said, ultimately will triumph.

Already, said Cobb, resolutions backing an amendment have been introduced at 500 city councils and county boards of supervisors. Sixteen states have passed similar measures, he said.

On the national level, neither party is a "natural ally," Cobb said. "The reality is that the Democratic Party leadership is as addicted to Wall Street money as the Republican leadership."

An opinion piece in the Washington Post published online when the McCutcheon decision came down in early April left little doubt as to the Supreme Court's intent in backing the Alabama millionaire.

"Today's ruling is a small but important step on the road to the ultimate victory for those who would like to make it possible to literally buy any politician you wish: the removal of all limits on contributions to candidates," said Paul Waldman, an author and columnist. "That's the end game, and that's where this Court is headed."

Robert Reich cautions that "great concentrations of wealth" provide the rich an enormous political advantage. The McCutcheon ruling, Reich said, "accelerates this vicious cycle."

The former labor secretary recalled the warning of eminent jurist Louis Brandeis, who served on the Supreme Court from 1916-39. "We can have a democracy or we can have great wealth in the hands of a few," Brandeis said. "But we cannot have both."

A French Import Rattles the Right

Heard of Thomas Piketty?

Unless you are a policy wonk or political operative – maybe not.

But Piketty, a French economist, is an important guy.

His best-selling book, “Capital in the 21st Century,” says in nearly 700 pages what ordinary Americans have been stating for years: The wealthy few are making out like bandits, everyone else is hustling to get by, and equal opportunity is a disappearing dream.

What makes Piketty’s book important is the persuasive quality of his scholarship. Income inequality is obvious to working families, yes, but Piketty’s sharp thinking and statistical evidence prove the case so convincingly that only the most deluded conservatives could argue otherwise.

As Paul Krugman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist and columnist for the New York Times, points out, the far right is terrified that Piketty’s volume will shape the economic debate for years to come. And so, instead of challenging Piketty on the merits of his thesis, conservatives try to dismiss him as a far-left loony.

That might work on right-wing radio, but not in the real world where people worry about mortgage payments, education bills, medical expenses, car repairs, just the cost of getting by.

Piketty says that inherited wealth – the kind upon which dynasties are built – is outpacing earned wealth dramatically. His work challenges one of the most familiar – and phony – of conservative promises: in an unrestricted market everyone who works hard gets ahead.

For a couple of decades, says Krugman, the right has sought to deny how unfairly wealth is distributed while at the same time defending outrageous incomes as proper reward for those who contribute most to the economy.

“But,” asks Krugman, “how do you make that defense if the rich derive much of their income not from the work they do but from the assets they own? And what if great wealth comes increasingly not from enterprise but from inheritance?”

Answer: You can’t. The conservative argument always has been bogus and Piketty’s work closes the case.

In Time magazine, Rana Foroohar, assistant managing editor in charge of economics and business, said Piketty’s book makes clear “the rich ARE getting richer compared to everyone else, and their wealth isn’t trickling down. In fact, it’s trickling up.”

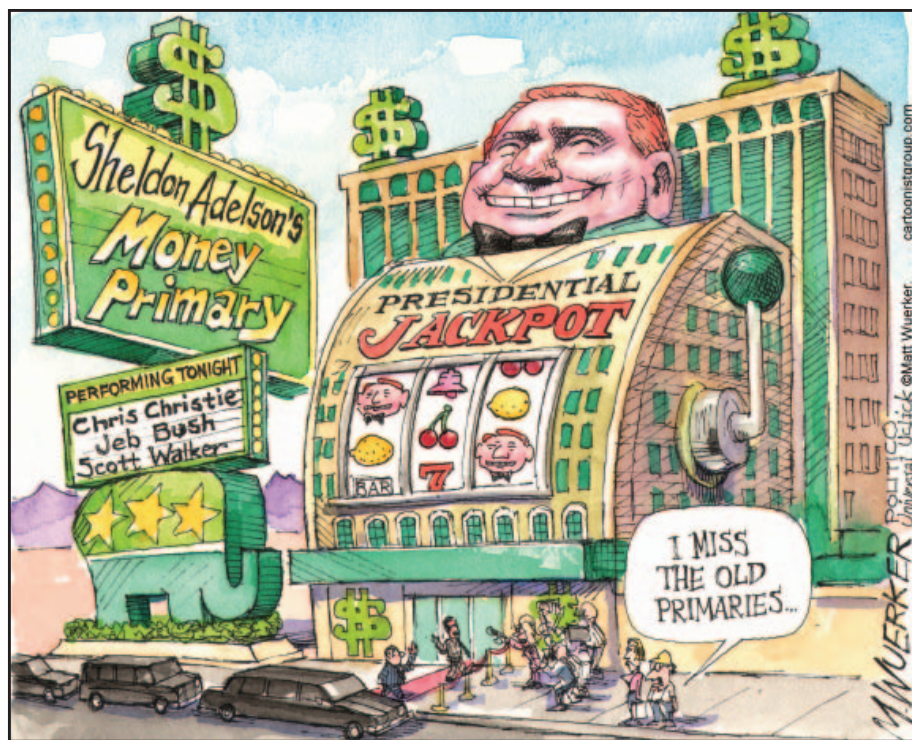
What does all this mean for union people, their families, and everyone else without a three-car garage with a Maserati in every port?

It means the deck is stacked, nothing less. Piketty warns that, if present trends are unchecked, we are headed back to conditions that prevailed in the early part of the 20th Century when oligarchs – the privileged few – dominated and everyone else served their needs.

Look at how the billionaire Koch Brothers and Las Vegas magnate Sheldon Adelson are trying to influence the process by throwing obscene amounts of money into political campaigns. Big spenders say they have the best interests of the country in mind, but, Piketty confirms, it’s their bottom line that that counts most.

In such an atmosphere, regular folks are sure to become disillusioned and restless – and who can blame them? If the tax code and regulatory system – if the economy, overall – is tilted toward those with ridiculous wealth, what kind of country will we have?

Thomas Piketty has done us a great service. Now we have to take a stand. Regular Americans must serve notice on the rich and their Capitol Hill allies, that this is a country of, by and for the people – and that they better not forget it.



MATT WUERKER EDITORIAL CARTOON USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF MATT WUERKER AND THE CARTOONIST GROUP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Point of View

BY HAROLD MEYERSON

GOP’s Damaging Evidence

It’s not easy being president during an epoch of downward mobility for the American people. The shrinking of the middle class – a phenomenon to which Americans are historically unaccustomed, most particularly during recoveries – depresses the president’s popularity, drags down that of his party, and generally plays hell with incumbents’ election prospects.

That the American people are downwardly mobile was underscored by a report from the National Employment Law Project demonstrating that while lower-wage jobs accounted for just 22 percent of the jobs lost during the recession, they account for 44 percent of the jobs created since the recession ended in 2010.

Middle-wage jobs, by contrast, accounted for 37 percent of the jobs lost during the recession, but just 26 percent of the jobs created since. Median annual household income is still roughly \$4,000 beneath its level before the recession started.

A poll from the Pew Research Center that showed that the percentage of Americans describing themselves as middle class had declined from 53 percent in 2008 to 44 percent this year, while the percentage describing themselves as lower class rose from 25 percent to 40 percent during this time.

These changes reflect deep structural shifts in the American economy.

Beginning in 2008, the slow erosion of manufacturing jobs became an avalanche, the number of jobs in construction plummeted, and long-embattled unions found themselves so enfeebled that they were unable to arrest the decline of their members’ wages and benefits in every sector of the economy.

Collective bargaining effectively vanished from the American economic landscape. As employers automated jobs, reduced wages and replaced full-time workers with temps, American workers had no capacity to defend their interests.

These were all developments decades in the making, and cannot be reversed absent a massive shift in public policy. President Barack Obama, it’s clear from his speeches and proposals, understands that.

The Affordable Care Act and his 2009

stimulus were the president’s initial attempts to make such shifts, and succeeded in providing health coverage to millions and stopping the economic near-collapse of 2008-2009.

He was unable to persuade enough Democratic senators to pass a version of labor law reform, the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), that would have made it easier for workers to form unions. And with the Republican capture of Congress in 2010, none of his subsequent economic proposals – raising the minimum wage, funding major infrastructure projects – have gone anywhere.

The GOP’s obstructionism has damaged Obama – rendering the entire federal government incapable of even beginning to address the strange crisis of downward mobility that Americans are experiencing. An Allstate/National Journal poll shows that while most Americans believe Democrats are more aligned with their interests than Republicans, a scant 25 percent believe that Obama’s agenda would increase opportunities for people like them.

The changes that are necessary to arrest this decline are so fundamental that they virtually require a new political order.

In essence, wealth and income now flowing almost entirely to capital has to be redirected to wages, through a combination of corporate tax reform that rewards companies that boost wages at capital’s expense, a re-legalization of collective bargaining, major increases in taxes on high levels of wealth and income, and massive public works programs that move the nation towards full employment.

Such changes are hardly on the horizon, which means that not only Obama but his successor – and almost surely, his successor’s successors – will experience the same drop in support that he has. We have entered an age of dwindling economic prospects, and it will yield dwindling approval ratings for elected officials until they can turn the economy around.

Printed with permission of Harold Meyerson, editor-at-large of The American Prospect magazine where the essay appeared in slightly longer form.

A Matter of Survival



The GOP-controlled House has voted 50 times since 2010 to repeal Obamacare and not once to pass a jobs bill, which is why labor must work hard to help take back the House and keep the Senate.

This isn't simply a matter of politics. It doesn't matter what your party is. This is a matter of survival if you are a working person. If you only get excited and vote in Presidential contests, you're not doing enough. Congressional elections are crucial and this year's is more important than most.

Let's look at the cost of allowing Republicans to keep stalling economic growth simply to make the president fail – the GOP's stated objective even before Obama took office. Make no mistake: if they succeed, it is at our expense.

The aim of the right wing and the billionaires who bankroll it is simple: break unions, make workers fight for jobs and effectively go back to a time when management held all the cards.

Cheap unorganized labor is the aim of conservative ideologues. The result? An economy that still is sputtering. Big companies – now sitting on \$1.8 trillion in cash – are reluctant to boost employment. Strapped for cash, Americans in low-paying jobs can't afford to buy the goods that would prompt businesses to expand and hire.

The unemployment rate might go down but millions of discouraged workers – especially those in their 50s and early 60s – are not even looking for jobs, and, in fact, may never be able to find decent-paying work again.

In the public sector, the suffering continues, too. Since the recession hit six years ago, 640,000

public servants – teachers, firefighters, sanitation workers, police, and others – lost their jobs, most of them union positions. Think about what that does to a community's economy and services.

Aggravating an already difficult situation, Republicans continue to kill every significant jobs bill – even legislation aimed at repairing our crumbling infrastructure.

At the same time, the GOP opposes an extension of unemployment insurance and blocked a Democratic move to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. A Brookings Institution report found that raising the minimum wage would increase the pay of up to 35 million workers – 29.4 percent of the work force. That's money that would go directly into the economy for such "luxuries" as food, shelter, clothing. No matter: The Republican-controlled House won't do it.

What does the GOP favor? Cost-conscious conservatives suddenly abandon austerity when it comes to tax cuts. Yes, the GOP wants to reduce levies for big corporations and doesn't seem troubled about the dent their generosity will put in federal revenue.

So it is time to for GCC/IBT members – and union people everywhere – to fight back. Even if you're in a solid Republican district, get out and vote. Stand up for your beliefs. If the GOP keeps the House and wins the Senate, there's big trouble ahead. Don't let it happen.

Guest Spot

BY RAYMON ELOZUA

Honoring Labor's Role



PHOTO BY MICHELLE GINGRAS

I grew up on the South side of Chicago, home to an industrial complex of Ford, U.S. Steel, General Mills, International Harvester, Republic Steel and many other factories.

My father worked at U.S. Steel and I spent a summer at Inland Steel. "Blue collar" – that is, manual – labor was a term of pride for the many unionized workers who were able to provide a middle-class life for their families and children through the 50s and 60s.

By the 70s the term began to be demonized. Union workers were demeaned as lazy and greedy. The struggle continues today with political attacks on civil service and teachers. De-industrialization began the steady decline of America as an industrial power. Good paying jobs were replaced with "service" jobs, non-union, non-benefit and low paying positions at Walmart, 7-Eleven and others.

As a student of history, I was interested in the visual portrayal of "labor." I conceived the "Lost Labor" website as means to provide an unusual visual and historical record of work in 20th century America. The term "lost labor" derives from the effect of technological advances, corporate takeovers and globalization.

The photographs were taken from business histories – "vanity" books self-published to celebrate special events and given out to employees or customers. Since factories are only

accessible to photographers approved or employed by the company, these images provide an intimate – albeit, often staged – behind-the-scenes portrait of the American workplace.

The photographs provide factual evidence of the work environment and physical appearance of long-forgotten factory workers and reveal subtle aspects of company attitudes towards work and workers. Each image is an important fragment in the complex mosaic of depicting work in America.

Many of the images document factories and jobs that no longer exist. They honor the role of labor in American life and serve as a memorial to our industrial heritage. History provides us with a very limited view of the past but warns us about fundamental issues between labor and capital that have never been resolved.

Raymon Elozua, a visual artist who lives in Mountain Dale, N.Y., created the *LostLabor.com* website to honor contributions of blue collar workers in the 20th Century. His multi-media project, "Home Scrap," exploring the decline of the American steel industry, was shown in New York and museums around the country. It can be viewed at homescrap.us

All the Best

Video

Blue Jasmine

Woody Allen, director

Leaving aside the endless debate about Woody Allen's private life, the guy knows how to make a movie. "Blue Jasmine" is a wry critique of class consciousness and the wacked-out priorities of the super-rich. Jasmine, played by Cate Blanchett, who won an Oscar for the role, is left penniless when her wealthy – and insufferable – husband is jailed for fraud. Out of money, luck and options, Jasmine moves in with her blue collar sister in San Francisco and learns abruptly how the other half lives. Miserable in circumstances she considers ordinary, Jasmine nearly snags another rich guy. But her uppitiness and past secrets, end the romance and crush her hopes for a second shot at the "good life." Meanwhile, her working class sister seems balanced, happy and fulfilled. A morality tale, for sure. **Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, \$17.72/Amazon.com**

Print

A Fighting Chance

Elizabeth Warren



She probably won't run for the presidency in 2016 even if Hillary Clinton decides against a bid, but Elizabeth Warren, the Democratic senator from Massachusetts, is a winner already. Warren's fearless and unrelenting defense of working people has given the middle class a much needed champion – a high-profile politician who consistently tells it like it is. In her memoir, "A Fighting Chance," Warren, who grew up in Oklahoma as the daughter of modest parents, celebrates the pluck of ordinary Americans, righteously denounces the shortsighted policies of Wall Street and big business that put everyone (except the bosses) at risk and lays out a plan for economic justice. "The game is deliberately rigged" in favor of the few, Warren writes. It's about time, she insists, that we all get a piece of the action. **Metropolitan Books, \$16.80/Amazon.com**

Music

Out Among the Stars

Johnny Cash

In the early 1980s, Johnny Cash recorded an album that never reached the public. Slumping sales of Cash's releases made studio executives wary and though the country singer's career revived in later years, some of his best stuff stayed on the shelf. We can be thankful that Cash's son, John Carter Cash, discovered these lost tunes a couple of years ago – his dad died in 2003 – and muscled them onto the market. Songs like "After All," "Tennessee," and "Don't You Think It's Come Our Time?" serve as reminder of Cash's great talent, his affection for ordinary working people, and how much he is missed. **Legacy, \$9.61/Amazon.com**

Internet

Lost Labor: Images of Vanished American Workers 1900-1980

www.lostlabor.com

Saving the American worker may be the most urgent issue in the ongoing debate on wealth inequality and economic opportunity. Jobs in the industrial sector – high quality employment that built the middle class – have dwindled perilously and thousands of workers are discouraged or displaced, or both. Though he says he is not interested merely in nostalgia, New York artist Raymon Elozua thinks it important that the nation recall the contributions of blue collar workers who made the United States the envy of the world. With gorgeous black-and-white archival photos (see Pages 8-9) from a variety of publications, Elozua has built an evocative website, lostlabor.org, that honors those dedicated men and women and implicitly asks what it will take to guarantee every American decent employment again.



A Tribute to Workers Who Helped

Its future may be unclear in an age of computers, tablets and smart phones, but the print industry has a proud and storied past that New York artist Raymon Elozua wants to preserve.

With his “Lost Labor” website, Elozua honors “vanished American workers” – dedicated people in blue collar trades who played a vital role in the country’s progress during the 20th Century but find themselves often pushed aside in a high-tech world.

Because of “mechanization, computer automation, technological advances, or through the consequences of corporate takeovers, downsizing and globalization” skills once in high demand now may be irrelevant, Elozua says in introductory material on his website, www.lostlabor.com

“I’m trying to preserve an historical memory,” Elozua told the Communicator. “Americans are quick to disown history. This is a reminder.”

With archival black and white photos reproduced from a variety of publications, Lost Labor shows workers in many essential American industries – automotive, textile, steel, printing, among them.

An Ohio pressman in a 1950 photo checks to make sure register is perfect. Women examine paper bags at the Arkell & Smiths plant in Canajoharie, N.Y. A muscular young man in sleeveless undershirt works diligently at an International Paper Sales Co. plant. At the Chicago Tribune, a worker put cylinders on a press.

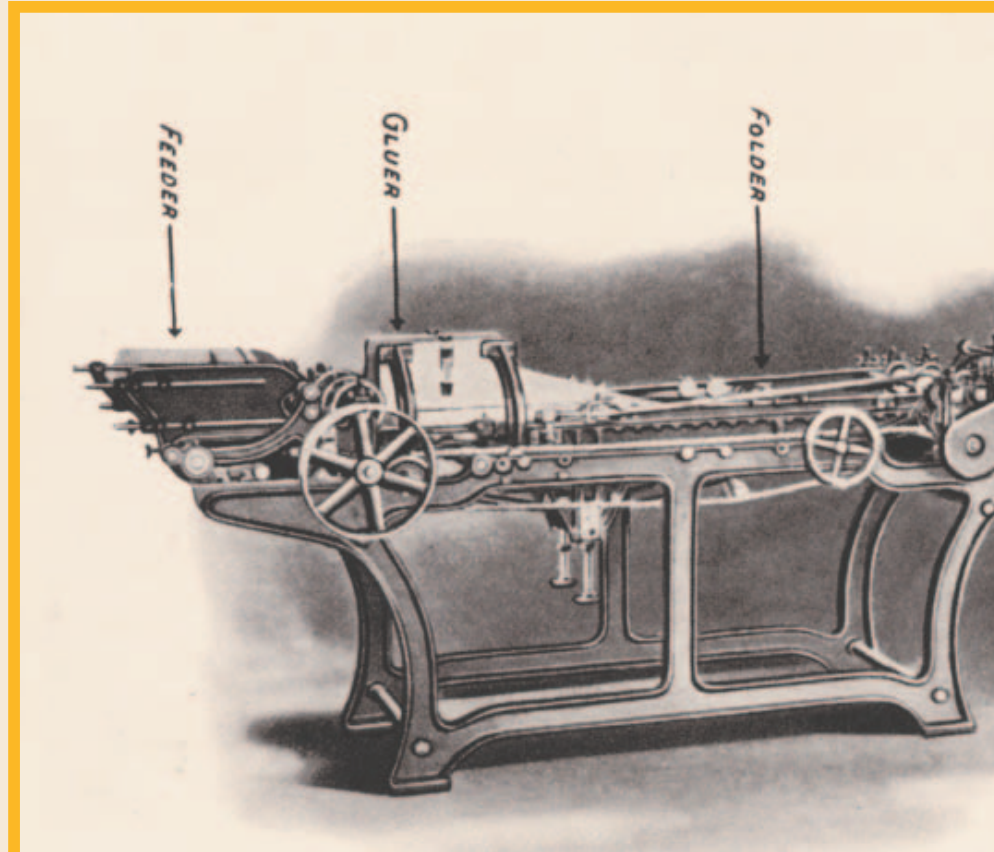
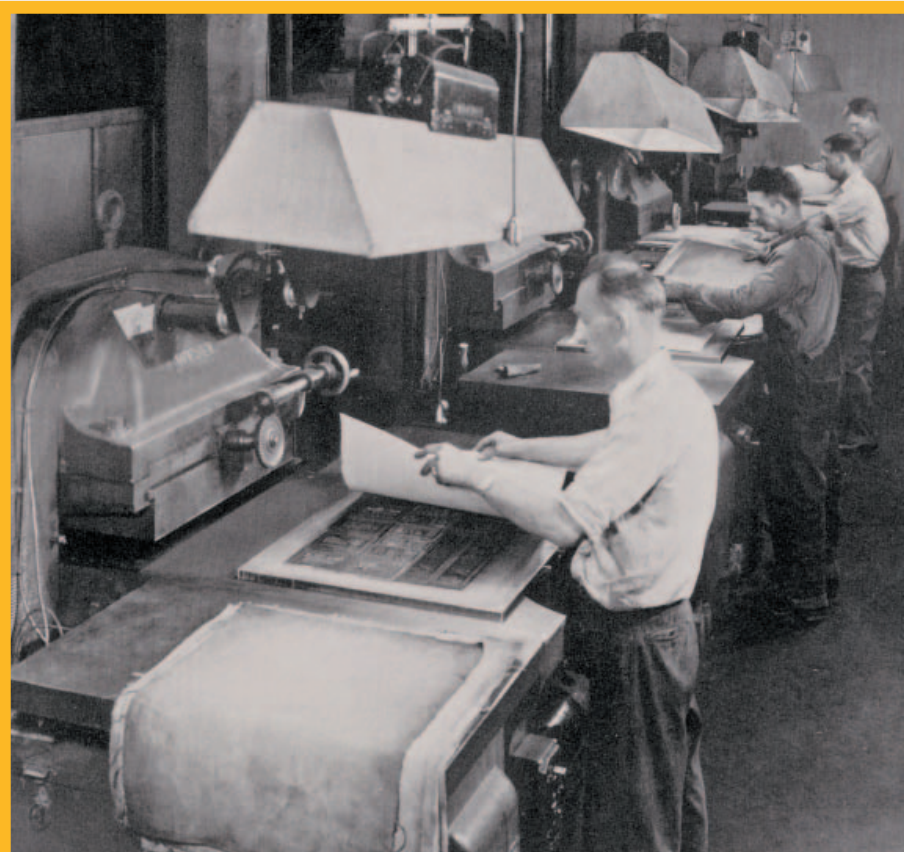
“These images are not intended to evoke feelings of nostalgia, or the desire to return to a simpler era when ‘real work’ was done with sweat and muscle but rather to honor the role of labor, a reminder of the individuals who helped to build industrial America,” Elozua says on the website.

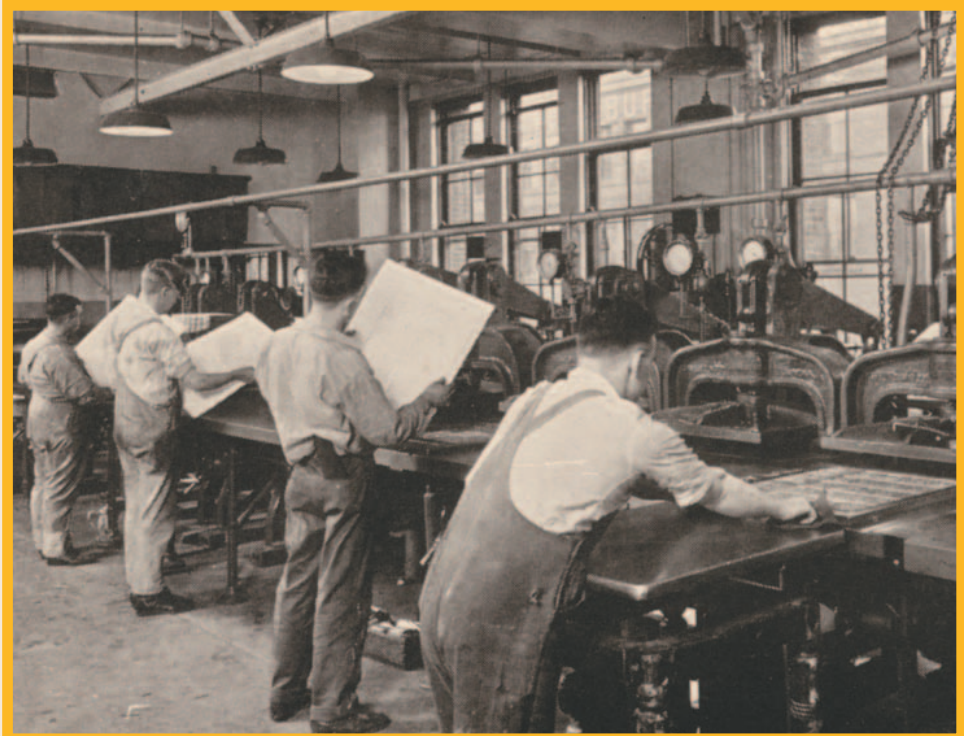
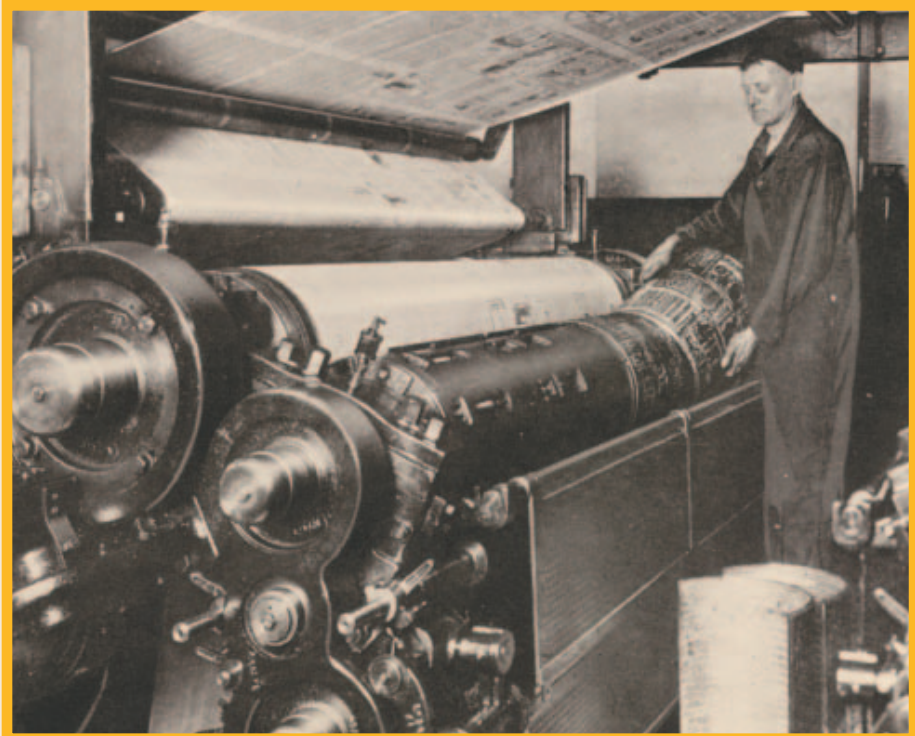
GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi said efforts like Lost Labor are especially important during a period of fierce anti-union sentiment inspired by right-wing partisans and elected officials.

“Labor – and specifically print industry workers and their union representatives – have a great history and it is essential that our contributions be recalled,” Tedeschi said. “Conservatives are not only trying to destroy unions but they want to blot out the past too. We need more efforts like ‘Lost Labor’ to keep our heritage alive.”

Elozua, 67, who lives in Mountain Dale, N.Y., approximately 95 miles from New York City, said he became interested in labor issues while studying political science in college. His father was a union steelworker in Chicago and Elozua worked for a summer at an Indiana steel plant. There, an inspirational labor leader emphasized the dignity of workers and urged appreciation for “ordinary people instead of the bigshots,” Elozua said.

At some point, Elozua, a sculptor and visual artist who works in a variety of





Build America Before the Digital Age

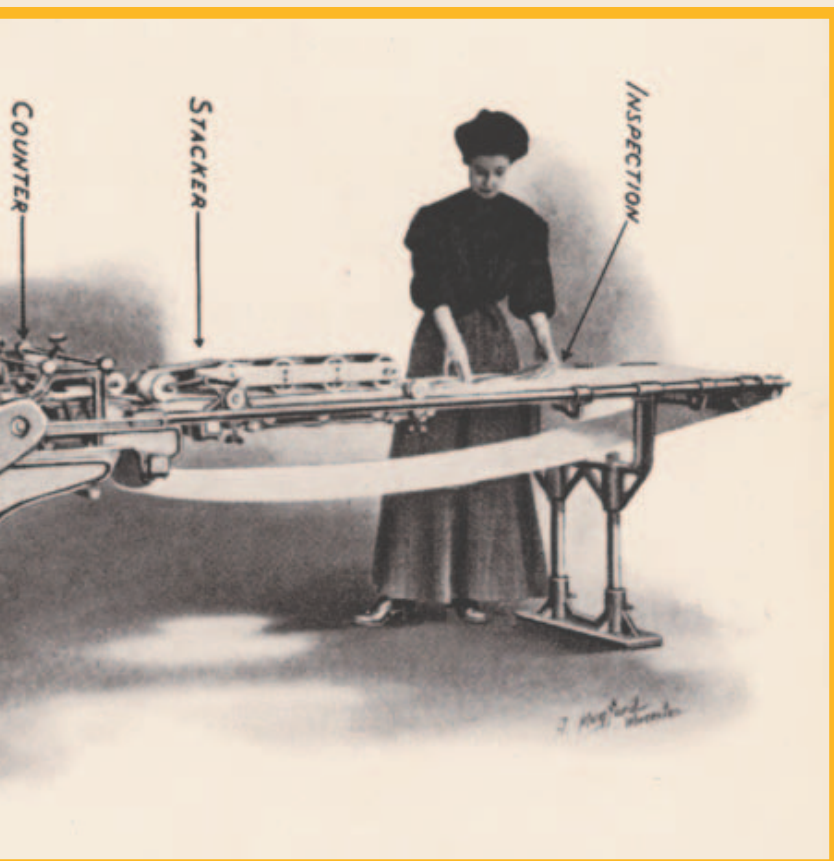
mediums, began buying “every book” he could with photos of Americans on the job and 10 years ago launched the “Lost Labor” site.

Decent jobs were becoming scarce, and workers struggling, he said. President Ronald Reagan favored the “financialization” of the economy instead of production, Elozua noted, and conservatives claim employees are an impediment to corporate success.

In countries like France and Germany, he said, workers and management representatives act as a team. Executives running U.S. companies have a much different view. “Now labor is the enemy,” Elozua said.

The current minimum wage debate reveals the short-sightedness of companies like Walmart and Target where hourly pay is so “ridiculous” that many hard-pressed employees must seek government assistance, Elozua said. In a consumer culture, it seems absurd for management to pay so little that workers are unable to spend. “You say to yourself: ‘What’s wrong with these people?’” Elozua remarked.

Likely nothing could have stopped the decline of industries that flourished in the last century but now face radical change or even extinction. But as Elozua makes clear on his website, American workers are eager and able – and always have been. No matter what corporate chiefs and conservative allies say, workers and their unions are no threat to prosperity. Labor is not an economic problem. It is the solution.



Leaders Rely on Internal Organizing To Counter Anti-Union Sentiment

By Dawn Hobbs
Special to the Communicator

In times of economic instability and anti-labor sentiment stirred by conservative politicians, unions nationwide – including the GCC/IBT – find themselves battling decertification campaigns launched by disgruntled workers with management sympathies and right-to-work partisans.

However, organizers say, there are proven strategies that union stewards and rank-and-file members can use to stave off potential decertification efforts and continue to reap the benefits that a GCC/IBT contract provides them.

Union officials – at the local and national level – must make constant efforts to educate workers about the importance of “internal organizing,” say veteran GCC/IBT organizers.

Internal organizing – creating relationships, keeping workers well informed and building membership – increases solidarity and sends a clear message to opponents that efforts to undercut the union will meet vigorous opposition.

Unity is especially important during contract negotiations, organizers say.

“Bargaining is tough, but when you begin with the threat of decert activity from a few misguided workers, it proves to be a distraction,” said GCC/IBT representative Philip Roberts. “No amount of skill at the bargaining table is more important than a successfully informed and mobilized membership,” Roberts said.

Organizers said that steps must be taken before anti-union forces file decertification petitions. Even the slightest hint of an effort to overturn the union should prompt a call to officials at GCC/IBT headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Trying to halt a decertification drive once papers have been filed often is futile, said GCC/IBT organizer Tom Jolley. “At that point, the company is already having meetings with employees to discredit the union,” Jolley said.

When there is a strong sense of unity and common purpose among union members, he said, “the word ‘decert’ never even comes up.”

Shop stewards must consistently tell workers they “belong” and encourage individuals to become active members of their locals and protect the union’s interests – and their own.



“Every worker in that plant must know if they have a problem that it is the problem of every worker in that plant and that it becomes ‘our’ problem because we are a brotherhood and a sisterhood and we will help,” Jolley said. “When a person understands that sentiment — they will join quicker than you can pull out your ink pen and give it to them.”

Stewards should also approach workers who are struggling or having disciplinary issues and must be certain to contact employees who have not joined the union.

“It happens where guys are there eight to ten months and no one has approached them,” Jolley said. “Buy them a cup of coffee and ask what can be done to improve their work situation.”

Internal organizing is the lifeline of the union – whether to increase solidarity, block a decertification or gain more leverage at the negotiations table, officials say.

“All of the workers, especially the shop stewards, need to be more proactive, rather than reactive,” said GCC/IBT organizer Rick Street. “At times when tough bargaining is anticipated, an organizer will go in early to work with stewards and members to build solidarity and help develop a preemptive plan in preparation for negotiations.”

Keeping members involved, informed and committed – through effective internal organizing – must be a high priority, said Rickey Putman, another top GCC/IBT organizer.

“Internal organizing is a never-ending process that starts long before negotiations with the employer,” Putman said. “It is helping each employee understand that they deserve dignity and respect and helping them create a communication network where everyone can work toward a unified goal and be successful.”

Locals Stress Political Activism

Continued from page 3

Walsh, union members in Boston are determined to score additional victories in November. For governor, he said, many labor organizations are backing state treasurer Steve Grossman, a strong pro-union candidate.

“The message we want to send is that labor-friendly candidates are pro-middle class,” Sullivan said. “If someone supports unions, they just have the values that support the middle class. There shouldn’t be a race to the bottom. There should be a race to the top for everyone.”

Sullivan said political activism in Massachusetts produced pioneering changes, including health insurance legislation that became a model for the federal Affordable Care Act and, most recently, a state law requiring employers to provide sick days to employees.

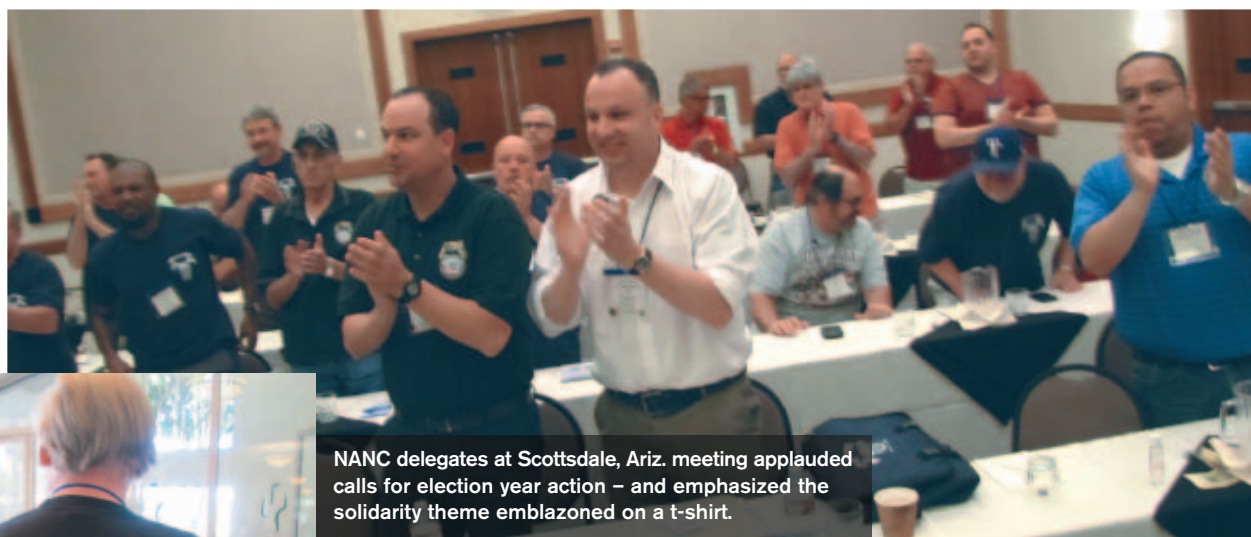
Labor can be proud of the record, he said.

“Regardless of whether you’re union or not, we’re just trying to create a pro-worker culture,” he said. “We want everyone to do better. Whether you’re union or non-union, when we do better, you do better.”

GCC/IBT leaders from around the nation left little doubt that the 2014 midterm election could be as important for unions as the last two presidential contests.

A Democratic loss in the Senate could be devastating, they said. The GOP is likely to hold its majority in the House but Democratic losses there could further encourage Republican obstructionism, leaders warned.

“Democrats have to hold onto the Senate,” said Joe



NANC delegates at Scottsdale, Ariz. meeting applauded calls for election year action – and emphasized the solidarity theme emblazoned on a t-shirt.

PHOTOS BY FRED BRUNING/GRAPHIC COMMUNICATOR

Inemer, executive vice president of GCC/IBT District Council 9, Philadelphia, and union people have to support pro-union candidates.

Inemer noted radical changes since the last

midterm election when historically blue-collar Michigan became a right-to-work state and conservative governors in Wisconsin and Ohio quickly imposed an anti-worker agenda.

“The union man and woman must get out there and vote,” Inemer said.

Inemer, also president of the North American Newspaper Conference, captured the sentiment of delegates attending the group’s May meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz. Many of those

attending said it was essential that union people begin immediately to work on behalf of reliable, pro-worker candidates.

The message was reinforced by GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi.

With 53 Democrats in the Senate, 45 Republicans and two independents, the upper house could easily go to the GOP if voters surrender to apathy as they did in the 2010 midterms, Tedeschi said.

“There is no way to overstate the importance of this election,” Tedeschi said. “We cannot afford to hesitate or be half-hearted in our efforts. We have to be educated, active and involved. There are people on Capitol Hill trying to wreck the union movement. It is our job to make sure they don’t get a chance.”

Zachary Dowdy is a reporter at Newsday and editorial unit vice president of Local 406-C, Long Island.

MINIMUM WAGE PUSH IN SEATTLE

A move to hike the minimum wage in Seattle to \$15 an hour passed recently thanks, in part, to the work a GCC/IBT local did in a nearby community to raise the minimum wage there.

Earlier this year, an aggressive community campaign led by the GCC/IBT and other influential unions prompted residents of SeaTac, outside Seattle, to approve a similar increase.

SeaTac election results – now being challenged in Washington State Supreme Court – set the stage for Seattle to move forward.

Some activists criticized Seattle mayor Ed Murray's proposal because it doesn't increase wages quickly enough. Big businesses would have three-four years to implement the new minimum wage and small businesses would have seven.

However, union leaders still consider the initiative – which won unanimous city council approval after months of discussion – a significant victory for labor.

"Believe it or not, the business community has bought into this and that's huge," said Brian Earl, president of GCC/IBT Local 767-M, Seattle, whose members knocked on doors and volunteered at phone banks to rally support in SeaTac for the wage vote there.

"It might take some time, but it's still better than the federal wage hike by a mile," Earl said. "Some people don't like it, but they realize the alternative would be to wage an initiative campaign with dueling initiatives and that isn't a good alternative."

In addition, he said, everyone acknowledges that by raising the minimum wage "floor," other wages are likely to increase.

"It's not perfect – but this is an absolute win for labor."



HAWAII GCC AND IBT LOCALS MERGE

Hawaii GCC members are coming on board and merging with Honolulu Teamsters Local 996.

Wendell Sakane, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 501-M, said the merger with 996 was delayed, in part, because the Honolulu Advertiser – where GCC members worked – was acquired by the Honolulu Star-Bulletin which began laying off personnel.

"We had to straighten out the mess first, get a new contract in place and then do the merger," Sakane said.

After the layoffs, GCC Local 501-M's membership declined

to little more than 100. But 501-M is joining a Teamster local with more than 6,000 members representing a wide range of professions that include city bus drivers, cement workers, hospital employees, bankers and teachers.

"We are looking forward to getting a lot of backing from all different kinds of people here on the island," Sakane said. "Teamsters are a big part of this island. We'll have more power in numbers and more strength in negotiations. It's a win-win for everyone."

Ron Kozuma, president of Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Union, Local 996, is also excited about the merger.

"We look forward to finalizing the merger and formally welcoming Hawaii's GCC/IBT members into Local 996," Kozuma said. "Combining the strength and resources of the IBT with the local representation that we can provide in the grievance and arbitration process, GCC/IBT members will certainly benefit from being affiliated with our larger organization."



Ron Kozuma, left, president of IBT Local 996, and Wendell Sakane, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 501-M, Honolulu, say both units will have 'more power' because of recent merger.

Photo by Sandy Takeshita

IOWA HOPEFUL GAINS UNION SUPPORT

GCC/IBT Local 727-S, Des Moines, has joined the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor and the AFL-CIO in backing Democratic candidate Staci Appel for U.S. Congress.

If elected, Appel, running in Iowa's Third District, would be the first woman to represent Iowa in the U.S. Congress.

"She stands up for working people and has working people values," said Mark Cooper, who was president of the Des Moines GCC/IBT local for 18 years and now serves as leader of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor.

Appel, who served in the Iowa Senate as the assistant majority leader from 2007-2011 and represents the 37th District, is also committed to improvements in jobs and the economy, middle-class priorities, alternative energy, education, women's health and farming and agriculture.

"She's well-connected with Teamsters," Cooper said, "and she's right on with our issues."

The local plans to knock on doors and conduct phone banking to rally support for Appel, who favors repealing right-to-work legislation on the books in Iowa since 1947.

Even though Iowa is a right-to-work state, Cooper pointed out that, unions typically have 99.9 percent density. "People make the right decisions here in Iowa and they know we are all in this together," he said. "They know that a harm to one is a harm to all."



Staci Appel
IOWA

NEWS-PRESS FIRES ANOTHER STAFFER

The Santa Barbara News-Press has fired one more member of the employee negotiations committee, prompting the GCC/IBT to file another unfair labor practice charge against the embattled paper.

Veteran prize-winning photographer Mike Eliason, who had been at the paper for 25 years, was discharged in March for allegedly giving away News-Press prints, a practice newsroom photographers have sometimes used to build public relations. Eliason also works as a photographer and public education officer for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.



The National Labor Relations Board is investigating whether Eliason was illegally fired in retaliation for his union activity. For several years, the GCC/IBT has attempted to achieve a first contract but the News-Press management, already cited by the NLRB for bad-faith bargaining, remains unwilling to enter negotiations.

Eliason's dismissal marks the second termination of a negotiations team member and the 10th firing overall of a newsroom employee since they voted overwhelmingly to join the GCC/IBT in September 2006.

The NLRB consistently ruled in favor of eight of the journalists who were fired shortly after the union vote until the paper's owner and co-publisher Wendy McCaw appealed to a federal court in Washington, D.C. A three-judge panel of conservative jurists denied the reporters back pay and reinstatement – a ruling denounced by GCC/IBT attorneys.

The ninth reporter's case, which began in 2008, is also now tied up in the D.C. appellate court, along with several bad faith bargaining violations. That matter has been put on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether President Obama's recess appointments to the NLRB are valid.

Another hearing against the paper, which had been slated to begin in Santa Barbara on May 15, has been postponed until the NLRB investigation into the Eliason matter has been completed.

At that trial, the paper will face prosecution on numerous charges, including wrongfully withdrawing its recognition of the GCC/IBT as bargaining agents for the newsroom employees and interfering with, restraining and coercing workers who attempt to exercise their rights to organize under the National Labor Relations Act.

Local Stops wants to hear from you. If your GCC/IBT local has been involved in organizing efforts, community outreach or volunteer work, e-mail a brief summary to dawnhobbs@cox.net

Elecciones de noviembre exigen que los delegados a la NANC “estén preparados”

Par Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

Lo decían, yendo al grano, los directivos de la GCC/IBT, así como delegados e invitados por los pasillos: El movimiento sindical tiene mucho en juego en las elecciones de mitad de legislatura el próximo noviembre y más vale que los sindicalizados pongan manos a la obra si tienen esperanzas de cambiar las cosas.

“Si ustedes creen que pueden quedarse sentados sin hacer nada, se equivocan”, declaró en Scottsdale, Arizona, el presidente del sindicato, George Tedeschi, durante la 57ma Conferencia de Periódicos Norteamericanos (la NANC, por sus siglas en inglés).

Tedeschi advirtió del gran despliegue de esfuerzos por parte de los republicanos más conservadores, partidarios forrados de dinero como Sheldon Adelson, el rey de los casinos de Las Vegas, y multimillonarios ultraderechistas como los hermanos Koch, dirigidos a solidificar la mayoría republicana en la Cámara de Representantes y a robarles el Senado a los demócratas.

“Si logran controlar la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado, podrán conseguir la aprobación de cualquier proyecto de ley que se les antoje”, dijo Tedeschi. Con el Congreso metido en el bolsillo, explicó Tedeschi, el Partido Republicano —deseoso de congraciarse con los fanáticos del Tea Party— puede hacer avanzar su agenda antisindical de “derecho al trabajo” (conocida dentro del movimiento obrero como “el derecho a trabajar por menos”), de reglamentos para entorpecer los esfuerzos de sindicalización de más trabajadores y de ataques contra la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales.

“Comiencen por ofrecerse de voluntarios a los candidatos que simpatizan con el sindicalismo”, exhortó Tedeschi a una entusiasta audiencia en el Hotel Chaparral Suites. Manténganse informados y estén preparados para discutir los asuntos que nos importan. Contribuyan con dinero: toda aportación, aunque sea pequeña, ayuda”.

El secretario-tesorero y vicepresidente de la GCC/IBT, Robert Lacey, tampoco dejó lugar a dudas de que la contienda electoral de este noviembre tiene importancia crucial a nivel nacional y estatal.

“Nosotros y todos los miembros de sindicatos necesitamos entender que los republicanos de derechas nos están atacando”, dijo Lacey. “Necesitamos concientizar a nuestros miembros de que tienen que ir a las urnas y votar”.

Aunque por lo general forman un bloque de electores fiable, los miembros de los sindicatos —como tantos otros partidarios tradicionales de los demócratas— no salieron a prestar apoyo suficiente en el 2010, y la debilidad de la participación en el Día de las Elecciones permitió que los republicanos volvieran a conseguir una mayoría de escaños en la Cámara, que habían perdido cuatro años atrás.

Pronto quedó muy claro que la victoria del GOP —los republicanos consiguieron agregarse 63 escaños— vaticinaba problemas para el Presidente Barack Obama, quien vio cada uno de sus más significativos proyectos de ley bloqueados por sus opositores en el Capitolio. Los demócratas se quejaron de que obstruir las iniciativas de la Casa Blanca se había convertido en una prioridad mucho mayor que despachar los asuntos del país, pero el GOP no cedió.

Entretanto, a nivel estatal, los republicanos también obtuvieron ventajas, ganando elec-

ciones para gobernadores y adueñándose de las cámaras de los Congresos estatales. Aún en estados previamente solidarios con los sindicatos, como Wisconsin y Michigan, los trabajadores sindicalizados han visto tambalearse sus derechos a negociar colectivamente y han tenido que defender sus pensiones.

El Partido Republicano se ha inclinado tanto hacia la derecha, dijo Frank Rak, ex secretario de actas de la NANC, “que ya ni siquiera Richard Nixon conseguiría que lo nominaran”.

Rendirse y adoptar una actitud derrotista es inaceptable, manifestaron los directivos sindicales.

John Agenbroad, secretario-tesorero del Consejo de Distrito 3, es un ejemplo sobresaliente de cómo un candidato motivado, que cuente con un respaldo entusiasta, puede vencer los obstáculos.

Dentro de poco, el demócrata Agenbroad habrá completado su quinto mandato como alcalde de Springboro, Ohio, comunidad localizada en una zona sólidamente republicana de ese estado. “Si queremos cambiar las cosas, tenemos que conseguir sentarnos a esa mesa”, declaró Agenbroad. Lamentablemente, dijo, demasiados miembros de los sindicatos se han vuelto autocomplacientes, e incluso algunos son capaces de “beber el veneno endulzado” que les ofrecen los republicanos. Tenemos que energizar a los miembros”.

El mensaje se repitió a menudo durante la Conferencia de la NANC —patrocinada por el Consejo Distrital 9 y la Local 16-N de Filadelfia— donde los delegados intercambiaron información y planearon la estrategia para mantener la GCC/IBT fuerte e independiente.

Pero en Scottsdale se hizo evidente el preocupante estado de los sindicatos y de lo que John Heffernan, vicepresidente de la

Conferencia y líder de la Local 2-N de Nueva York, calificó de “desastrosa condición” del sector periodístico, que según informó a los delegados el economista de la IBT, James Kimball, estaba “constantemente cambiando” en la era digital.

Una reunión que en mejores épocas atraía a más de 100 delegados sólo registró 40 asistentes. Los directivos reconocieron que, debido a la estrechez de los presupuestos, hay menos locales que puedan enviar representantes. No obstante, declaró Lacey en un discurso, el principal culpable es la decreciente cantidad de sindicalizados. “Organizar tiene que convertirse en una prioridad”

El esfuerzo de sindicalización exige nuestra atención inmediata. Y también es necesaria la acción política, dijeron otros oradores.

De cara a las cruciales elecciones de noviembre, Lacey, Tedeschi y varios otros de los presentes en la reunión de trabajadores de la prensa dijeron que los sindicatos necesitan trabajar sin descanso para elegir candidatos partidarios del movimiento obrero y leales a la clase media. “Tenemos que conseguir que todos vayan y voten”, dijo el presidente de la NANC, Joe Inemer, quien también es el líder de la 16-N.

Otra victoria convincente de los republicanos en estas elecciones sería un grave revés para el movimiento sindical, dijo Tedeschi, pero si nos involucramos más en la política podemos seguir siendo una fuerza poderosa.

“A ellos no les gustan los sindicatos, porque los sindicatos se defienden”, añadió Tedeschi.

Trabajen a favor de los candidatos que nos favorecen, insistió. Estudien los problemas. Hablen con familiares y amigos. Vayan a las urnas el día de las elecciones. Contraataquen.

Les délégués doivent aider les candidats prosyndicaux aux élections d'automne

Por Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

Los dirigentes de la CCG-FIT avaient décidé de parler franchement, et c'est ce que les délégués et les invités ont également fait dans les couloirs : le mouvement syndical a du pain sur la planche d'ici aux élections de mi-mandat qui auront lieu en novembre et les syndiqués ont intérêt à s'activer s'ils veulent faire une différence.

“Si vous croyez pouvoir rester assis à ne rien faire, détrompez-vous”, a déclaré le président George Tedeschi a la 57e Conférence des journaux nord-américains qui se tenait à Scottsdale, en Arizona.

G. Tedeschi a prévenu que la poussée des Républicains conservateurs et des partisans tout acquis à leur cause comme Sheldon Adelson, le baron des casinos de Las Vegas, et les frères Koch, des milliardaires de l'aile droite, vise à renforcer la majorité républicaine à la Chambre des représentants et à ravir le Sénat aux Démocrates.

“S'ils contrôlent la Chambre et le Sénat, ils peuvent faire passer toutes les lois qu'ils veulent. Le parti républicain, qui a le Congrès dans sa poche et tient à faire plaisir aux zélés du Tea Party, pourrait présenter un programme antisindical, notamment des lois en faveur du droit au travail (ce que les milieux syndiqués appellent le “droit de travailler pour moins”), des règlements pour freiner les efforts de syndicalisation et des attaques contre le Conseil national des relations du travail.

“Commencez à faire du bénévolat pour des candidats favorables aux syndiqués, a déclaré G. Tedeschi à un auditoire enthousiaste réuni à l'hôtel Chaparral Suites.

Informez-vous et soyez prêts à débattre des enjeux. Donnez de l'argent – chaque sou compte.”

Robert Lacey, secrétaire-trésorier et vice-président de la CCG-FIT, a lui aussi bien pris soin de préciser que l'enjeu des élections de mi-mandat était crucial pour le pays et les États.

“Nous et tous les syndiqués devons comprendre que nous sommes attaqués par les Républicains de l'aile droite. Nous devons exhorter nos membres à agir et à voter.”

Les syndiqués, qui forment habituellement un bloc d'électeurs fiable – contrairement aux autres partisans démocrates traditionnels – n'ont pas réussi à rallier suffisamment de voix en 2010 et la faiblesse des résultats enregistrés lors des élections a permis aux Républicains de récupérer la majorité de la Chambre qu'ils avaient perdue quatre ans plus tôt.

Il est devenu très vite évident que la victoire du parti républicain – les Républicains ont remporté 63 sièges – a compliqué la tâche au président Barack Obama, qui a vu chaque initiative législative importante bloquée par ses adversaires du Capitole. Les Démocrates se sont plaints du fait qu'on s'occupait davantage de faire obstruction à la Maison-Blanche que des affaires de la nation, mais le parti républicain n'a pas fléchi.

Entre-temps, les Républicains ont aussi enregistré des gains au niveau des États en faisant élire des gouverneurs et en remportant des législatures d'État. Même dans des États auparavant favorables aux syndiqués comme le Wisconsin et le Michigan, les

syndiqués ont vu leurs droits de négociation remis en question et leurs prestations de retraite menacées.

Le parti républicain est passé très à droite, estime Frank Rak, ancien secrétaire de séance de la Conférence des journaux nord-américains; même Richard Nixon n'était pas arrivé à se faire élire.”

Pour les dirigeants, il est inacceptable de céder à une attitude défaitiste.

John Agenbroad, secrétaire-trésorier du conseil de district no 3, est un exemple parfait de la façon dont un candidat motivé jouissant d'un appui enthousiaste peut déjouer les pronostics.

J. Agenbroad, un démocrate, achève bientôt son cinquième mandat comme maire de Springboro, en Ohio, un bastion républicain de l'État. Nous devons obtenir une place à table pour faire une différence”. Il déplore toutefois que trop de syndiqués soient devenus complaisants, certains allant même jusqu'à “boire le Kool-Aid” que leur servent les Républicains. “Nous devons mobiliser les membres.”

Ce message a été répété à de nombreuses reprises pendant la Conférence des journaux nord-américains, qui était commanditée par le conseil de district no 9 et la section locale 16-N de Philadelphie, une occasion pour les délégués d'écouter des témoignages et de préparer une stratégie destinée à garder la CCG-FIT forte et indépendante.

Mais il a été question à Scottsdale de l'état inquiétant des syndicats et de ce que John Heffernan, vice-président de la conférence et chef de la section locale no 2-N de New York, a qualifié de “forme désastreuse” d'une industrie qui, comme James Kimball,

économiste de la FIT, l'a fait remarquer, est “en perpétuel changement” dans cette ère numérique.

Ce rassemblement, qui attirait autrefois plus de 100 délégués, n'en a réuni qu'une quarantaine. Les dirigeants ont reconnu que les budgets étant plus limités, les sections locales sont moins nombreuses à déléguer des représentants. Mais comme l'a indiqué R. Lacey, c'est la baisse des syndiqués qui est la principale cause. Pour lui, la solution va de soi : “Vous devez faire du recrutement une priorité”.

Il faut s'occuper sans délai du recrutement. Et de l'action politique, ont indiqué les conférenciers.

Avec l'échéance cruciale des prochaines élections de mi-mandat, R. Lacey, G. Tedeschi et plusieurs autres participants ont déclaré que les syndicats doivent faire preuve de diligence pour élire des candidats sympathiques à la cause des syndicats et loyaux envers la classe moyenne. “Nous devons faire sortir le vote”, a estimé Joe Inemer, président de la Conférence des journaux nord-américains et chef de la section locale 16-N.

Selon G. Tedeschi, une autre victoire écrasante des Républicains aux élections de mi-mandat serait un sérieux revers pour les travailleurs; mais si les syndicats s'impliquent davantage en politique, ils peuvent montrer qu'ils demeurent une force.

“Ils n'aiment pas les syndicats parce que ceux-ci leur tiennent tête.”

Soutenez des candidats favorables aux syndicats, a-t-il exhorté. Étudiez les enjeux. Parlez à votre famille et à vos amis. Votez le jour des élections. “Ne vous laissez pas faire.”

In Memoriam

Listed here are GCC/IBT members for whom death benefits were paid, according to the Membership Department of the office of the GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer. Locals wishing to list members who died but did not participate in the death benefits program should contact the Graphic Communicator.

Local Date of Death DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID DECEMBER 2013

Local	Date of Death
546M Stanley E Maciag, Jr	09-18-10
546M Patricia D Watson	01-12-12
555M Jeanne Brisson	11-01-13
572T John D Spafford	03-17-12
572T Robert H Vasquez	09-27-13
577M Sametta Malone	12-30-12
577M Doris M Zielinski	12-07-12
600M William F Mcaneney	11-05-13
612M Ida B Moynihan	07-11-08
612M Anna G Sever	07-11-07
625S Anthony F Kucera	05-11-11
767M Darrel J Jessup	10-26-12
853T Ruben Fuentes	07-16-13
853T Michael J Hagerty	05-26-12
853T Ramon Limon	04-12-12
999ML Bobby L Despaigne	03-04-13
999ML Joseph Grandison, III	02-22-13
999ML Mary L Griffin	01-22-09
999ML Florence M Lord	03-01-10
999ML Ronald W Mach	10-12-11
999ML Doris E Pickering	03-03-08
999ML Raymond D Scannell	09-06-13
999ML Gladys White	06-20-11
2289M Ollie C Clayton	10-22-13
6505M Billy G Fiesler, Sr	11-12-13
546M Stanley E Maciag, Jr	09-18-10
546M Patricia D Watson	01-12-12
555M Jeanne Brisson	11-01-13
572T John D Spafford	03-17-12
572T Robert H Vasquez	09-27-13
577M Sametta Malone	12-30-12
577M Doris M Zielinski	12-07-12
600M William F Mcaneney	11-05-13
612M Ida B Moynihan	07-11-08
612M Anna G Sever	07-11-07
625S Anthony F Kucera	05-11-11
767M Darrel J Jessup	10-26-12
853T Ruben Fuentes	07-16-13
853T Michael J Hagerty	05-26-12

Local Date of Death DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID JANUARY 2014

Local	Date of Death
853T Ramon Limon	04-12-12
999ML Bobby L Despaigne	03-04-13
999ML Joseph Grandison, III	02-22-13
999ML Mary L Griffin	01-22-09
999ML Florence M Lord	03-01-10
999ML Ronald W Mach	10-12-11
999ML Doris E Pickering	03-03-08
999ML Raymond D Scannell	09-06-13
999ML Gladys White	06-20-11
2289M Ollie C Clayton	10-22-13
6505M Billy G Fiesler, Sr	11-12-13
1B David M Klein	11-19-13
1B Patricia J Lemke	12-25-13
1L Robert F Conover	11-10-13
1L Russell E Hesse	10-29-13
1L Richard Hratko	08-16-13
1L Vincent J Masi	11-28-13
1M Jeanne P Palm	12-19-07
1M Richard C Peterson	10-31-13
1M Donald D Short	11-02-12
1M Peter E Stokes	10-30-13
2N Edwin J Bernhardt	10-18-13
2N Edward Gates	10-31-13
2N David W Leacock	03-22-10
2N James P O'Hara	11-20-13
2N Robert J Rosentel	11-06-13
2N James K Shea	10-13-13
2N Lawrence D Utz, Sr	10-28-13
3N Albert K Bowers	06-24-08
4B Ernestine Ford	02-10-12
8M John W Drummond	11-11-13
9N Bryon K Blair	08-29-13
9N Richard W Schaefer	11-07-13
14M Robert O Barr	09-15-13
16C Joseph A Bellafiore Jr	10-31-13
16N George J O'Donnell	11-18-13
17M Willard Roberts	10-23-13
23N George E Washington	08-29-10

Local	Date of Death
58M Kent E Franklin	11-08-12
100M Francis J Howard	10-25-13
119B Rose Friedlander	11-09-13
119B Sidney Haimo	11-28-13
119B Humberto Moreno	10-08-13
197M Joseph T Davis	10-30-13
197M Charles R Kirby	08-30-13
197M Letha G Robertson	03-15-11
235M Lucille M Boydston	05-07-13
264M Richard H Trachy Jr	10-13-13
285M David F Hall	11-09-13
285M Erwin Woelfel	11-06-13
355T Ernest R Crapster III	02-18-12
388M Roy Edward Friday	11-08-07
444C Charles Luntsford	01-19-09
458M Thomas E Forrester, Sr	11-13-13
458M Donald R Koehl	11-17-13
458M George Mau	10-12-09
458M Philip Miserendino	11-28-13
458M John Navulis Jr	02-18-09
458M John M Reboletti	11-11-13
458M John B Steen	11-09-13
458M Elmer Zeleny	11-08-13
503M Frank Decoursey	04-24-08
503M Justin F Mohr	06-15-08
503M Richard A Vogel	10-25-13
508M Creston L Adams	11-18-13
508M Byron J Baker	09-16-13
508M Josephine P Brown	11-15-13
508M Laura L Kemper	09-13-13
508M Edward L Kilian	11-14-13
508M Hugh F Murty	11-23-10
508M Lillian A Somers	03-20-11
546M Fred L Hall	09-01-08
555M Ronald J Murdoch	11-22-13
555M Stanley Thibeault	10-22-13
568M Robert H Vaughn	10-01-13
572T Angelo R Mazzaresse	11-12-13
577M Timothy D Krentz	06-26-13
600M Cornelius J Matthews	10-09-13
612M Zygmunt Matusiewicz	11-08-13
619M Phillip N Spicer	02-24-09
625S George H Weyrick	11-26-09
767M Clyde M Bloxton	10-07-13
767M Richard K Henjyoji	10-15-13
767M Murray I Suthons	10-19-13
853T James E Black	02-17-12
999ML Florence L Shoemaker	09-27-08
2289M Howard P Loos	11-22-13
4535M William F Moeachern	06-20-08

Local	Date of Death
6505M Charles L Lee	11-30-13
DEATH BENEFIT CLAIMS PAID FEBRUARY 2014	
1B Bennett W Green	12-10-13
1B Bruce D Kennedy	09-26-13
1L Kilburn W Dean	12-24-13
1L Horst G Droscher	10-11-13
1L William J Gavin Jr	10-11-13
1L Ramdial Haridin	11-20-13
1L Harry Mechanic	08-15-13
1L Jacob Proodian	10-25-13
1L Jack Sanderson	10-14-13
1L Vartan Shirvanian	01-04-14
1L Joseph A Vella	11-25-13
2N Harold Connor	12-11-13
4B Thomas A Pauletti, Sr	09-28-13
4C Willa D Good	08-09-10
4C John J Mcgovern	11-25-07
4C Thomas E Turnbaugh	10-09-11
8N Robert Webster	11-25-13
13N Bernard J Zajac, Sr	12-29-10
14M John E Bell	12-17-13
14M Edwin C Busch Jr	12-12-13
14M Donald L Hunt	10-31-13
16C Robert A Cowden	07-11-09
16N William C Dutko	08-09-09
17M Jackie L Miller, Sr	11-30-13
17M Anthony J Mraz	02-20-13
24M Donald G Rowles	11-09-13
29C Owen R Evers	11-06-13
29C Bernard H Gangl	11-06-13
38N Charles E Scott	12-11-13
58M John F Dillon	01-27-09
77P Lloyd V Hagen	11-07-13
77P Gilbert Mericle	12-07-13
77P Donald Peterson	12-16-13
77P Norman Van Heuklon	12-09-13
119B James E Allen	11-11-13
119B Mary L Jamison	12-10-13
119B Josephine Salerno	12-01-13
119B Assunta C Verrone	12-15-13
128N Dale E Curtner	02-01-10
137C Dale P Metzgar	11-20-13
197M Gordon C Farmer	10-26-13
197M Richard Wayne Hegenheis	07-28-13
241M Robert M Harabin	03-26-08
241M James T Lanuti	11-07-07

Local	Date of Death
241M Terrance Mcginty	08-17-09
261M Bernard J Curyto	11-09-13
388M John M Brown	04-03-10
388M Theodore A Hansson	09-16-10
388M Eugene Renfro	11-15-13
455T John Toto	12-18-13
458M Victor Joseph Formella	11-30-13
458M Carl E Hand	12-08-13
458M Mark A Kasman	11-05-13
458M Peter F Manno	12-10-13
458M Patrick Miles	08-05-13
458M Gladys A Muir	07-21-13
458M Vernell Nixon	04-27-13
458M Eugene Pabich	12-23-10
458M Irene Paul	07-11-11
458M Joseph S Pollack	11-04-13
458M Clarence Reitsma	11-17-13
458M John F Scholl	09-30-07
458M Larry O Tillman	12-09-13
503M David J D'Amato	09-22-13
508M Paul G Gendron	12-23-13
508M Charles J Grebetz	12-14-13
508M Angelina Ressa	07-01-10
508M Lawrence G Vogt Jr	12-16-13
546M Clifford E Fowler, Sr	10-30-13
546M Joseph E Ziebert	11-16-10
568M Albert G Baird	12-02-13
568M Ellen A Landers	11-19-13
568M Jack N Taylor	11-05-13
571M Mark A Ruble	01-22-13
572T Blanche A Barnes	11-06-13
572T James R Dale	01-21-09
577M Mary T Adams	02-20-10
577M Vernon A Kempfer	05-19-10
577M Herbert H Koehler	08-18-13
577M Ivon Leischow	05-02-10
577M Nicholas L Minneti	11-28-11
577M Joseph F Pulice, Sr	08-18-13
577M Klaus H Samitz	05-19-13
577M John C Sattler	07-24-13
577M Leslie C Smith	05-08-10
577M Lotte Wrenger	06-27-11
600M Eugene Courchesne	12-10-13
600M Sophie Cunningham	12-11-13
600M James M Egan	11-23-13
600M Louise E Hogan	03-18-12
600M Anne R Torriani	12-14-13
612M Leona Groom	11-20-13
612M William H Schaffner	11-23-13
619M Arthur W Moore	11-25-13

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND, (Employer Identification No. 52-1632857, Plan No. 502) for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$52,915,671 as of June 30, 2013 compared to \$51,793,257 as of July 1, 2012. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$1,122,414. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$4,862,176. This income included employee contributions of \$302,597, realized gains of \$1,988,991 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$3,277,030. Plan expenses were \$3,739,762. These expenses included \$542,034 in administrative expenses and \$3,197,728 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment;
4. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and

5. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of

Robert Lacey
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-508-6660

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. These portions of the report are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Public Disclosure Room, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite N-1513, Washington, D.C. 20210.

America Needs a Champion Who Will Protect the Middle Class

By Thomas J. Mackell Jr.

This is an age of fractured jobs, a fractured economy, fractured families, a fractured political system and fractured dreams.

The soon-to-retire graying generation is experiencing no pensions. Roller-coaster retirement accounts subject to the whims of the market. Longer life spans and higher health care costs. Aging parents. Children in college. A will to work but fewer jobs to be had.

America is dying for a champion who makes preserving the middle class a top priority.

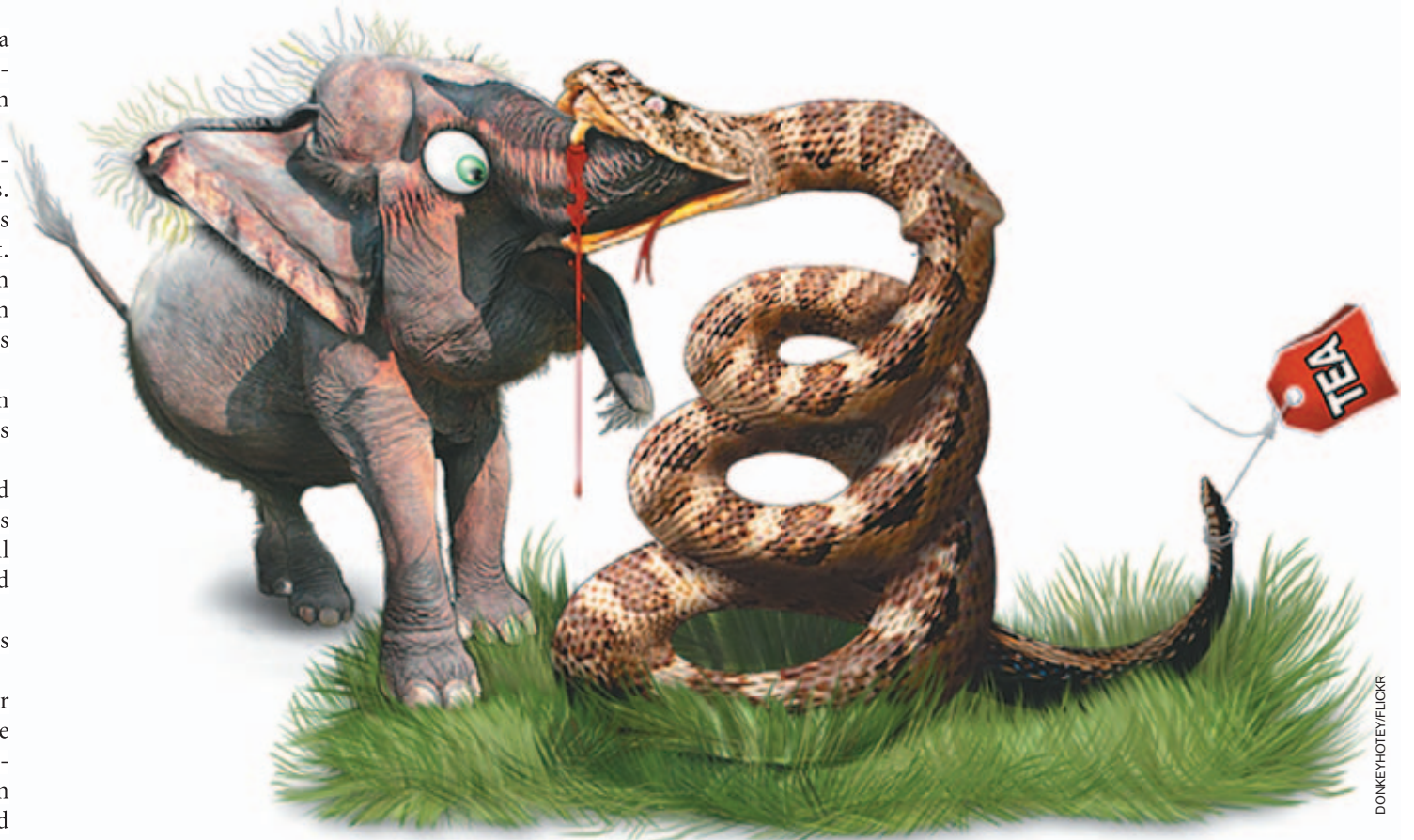
This is the bleak scenario as we head into the 2014 Congressional elections with predictions that Republicans will hold the House of Representatives and perhaps gain control of the Senate.

If that happens, forget a Congress that looks out for the little guy.

At any kind of gathering whether it be at work or at home or elsewhere Americans are expressing disappointment about the way things run in Washington. They don't see elected officials dealing with the multitude of problems facing our nation. They fear for their futures and those of their children and grandchildren. Many say they see no value in bothering to vote.

Clearly, constant bickering between Republicans and Democrats is wearing thin on Main Street and leads to a notion of false equivalency. The GOP has done all it can to undercut the Obama presidency. Democrats had to fight back. But let's put the blame where it belongs: on the Republican side of the aisle.

Recently, a number of the members of Congress who have announced



their plans to retire have expressed their frustration with the cantankerous environment in Washington and their inability to work with the members of the other party.

When even the pols start complaining, you know that things are really bad. If they can't find solutions then we are, truly, in deep trouble.

Despite this horrendous dilemma, failing to vote surely will make things worse. We have a solemn obligation to go to the polls. Neglecting the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship invites complacency and encourages

political abuse. Showing up on Election Day proves we are in the game, that we care and that we want to see change.

There are areas of this country where people have been removed from the ranks of eligible voters and GOP operatives are doing all they can to suppress participation by traditional Democratic constituencies.

We must encourage our union members to go out on Election Day and exercise their franchise – perhaps the most precious right in a free society. They must be engaged in their communities and serve as an example to those

who might stay away. Staying home is not an option.

Thomas J. Mackell Jr. is senior partner with Black Thorn Lynch & Associates, Inc., a strategic marketing firm in Fresh Meadows, N.Y. specializing in public, community and labor affairs. Former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and author of "When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America Needs a New Deal for Pension and Health Care Reform," Mackell also serves as senior consultant to the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO).

'Gratifying' IBT Victory on Executive Compensation

A historic executive pay reform measure proposed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters General Fund became the first of its kind to gain a majority of shares cast at the annual shareholders' meeting of a publicly traded company.

The ground-breaking proposal calls on directors of the Gannett Company to end the practice of accelerating the vesting of senior executives' equity awards in the event of a change in control of the company.

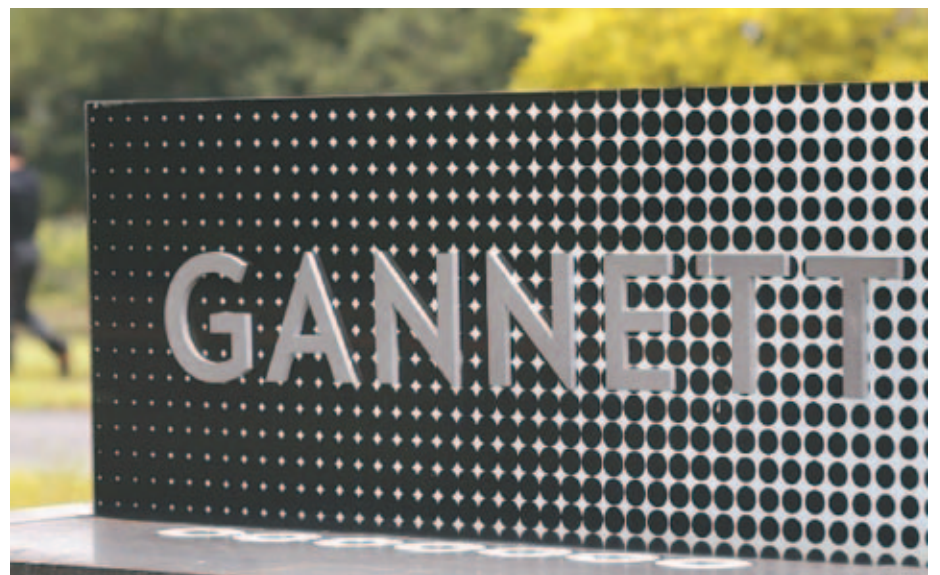
Gannett announced at the May meeting that more than 51 percent of the shares cast were in favor of the Teamsters initiative.

"It is very gratifying to know that investors increasingly share our fundamental belief that pay-for-performance is the best corporate governance practice," said Ken Hall, IBT general secretary-treasurer. "We do not believe executives should receive a guaranteed windfall in the outcome of a change-of-control when receipt of such compensation could have very little to do with the executives' actual job performance."

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi also cheered the Gannett vote. "Companies base the pay of union workers on performance and the same should apply to executives," Tedeschi said. "It's time to fold up the 'golden parachutes' management officials expect whether they have done a good job or not."

Tedeschi praised the IBT Capital Strategies Department for "outstanding work" on the Gannett vote. With approximately \$100 billion invested in equity assets, the union seeks to encourage "responsible corporate behavior" and ensure that "Teamster money works for Teamster members," according to an IBT statement. Tedeschi said the Gannett victory showed the effectiveness of the capital strategies department. "These are smart people who know how to get results," he said.

According to a Gannett proxy statement, the company's named executive officers would receive in a change-of-control situation a total of more than \$109.3 million, more than \$51 million of this compensation coming from fully vested equity. CEO Gracie Martore's fully vested equity is valued at over \$25.5 million.



The Teamsters favor a pro rata vesting standard wherein executive's equity awards would vest as a percentage of the performance achieved up to the termination for performance based awards and as a percentage of time spent on the job up to the termination for time vesting stock options.

"We are unpersuaded by the argument that executives somehow 'deserve' to receive unvested awards especially when they are already guaranteed generous post-employment benefits," Hall said. "Other Gannett employees have been asked to make significant, economic sacrifices over the years."



Summer Savings

Union families **work hard** and deserve to **play for less**.
That's why Union Plus offers travel discounts on:

- ★ Car Rentals
- ★ Airfare
- ★ Hotels
- ★ Cruises
- ★ Vacation Tours
- ★ Amusement Parks
- ★ Theater Tickets
- ★ Movie tickets



visit UnionPlus.org/Travel to plan your next vacation

'We Have to Get the Vote Out'

Continued from page 3

become complacent, some even "drinking the Kool-Aid" served up by Republicans. "We have to get members energized."

The message was repeated often at the NANC event – sponsored by District Council 9 and Local 16-N, Philadelphia – where delegates swapped stories and planned strategy to keep the GCC/IBT strong and independent.

But in Scottsdale there was evidence of the worrisome status of unions and what John Heffernan, conference vice president and leader of Local 2-N, New York, said was the "dire shape" of an industry that IBT economist James Kimball told delegates was "constantly changing" in the digital age.

A meeting that once drew more than 100 delegates was attended only by 40. Tight budgets have resulted in fewer locals sending representatives, officials acknowledged. However, Lacey said in a speech, the main culprit is declining union membership. And, he said, the remedy was obvious: "You have to make organizing a priority."

Organizing demands immediate attention. So does political action, speakers said.

With crucial mid-term contests ahead, Lacey, Tedeschi and a number of others at the newspaper meeting said unions must work diligently to elect labor-friendly candidates loyal to the middle class. "We've got to get the vote out," said NANC president Joe Inemer, who also serves as leader of 16-N.

Republicans and their allies at right-wing media outlets have exploited "hot button" issues – gun control, gay rights, abortion, for instance – as a means of siphoning off votes that otherwise might have gone to Democrats, observed a number of GCC/IBT leaders in Scottsdale.

Union members too often fall into the GOP's trap. "They've lost perspective," said Roberts. Most important, said Steve Sullivan, president of Boston Local 3-N, is that people make choices based on economics, not emotions. "Think about voting your wallet," Sullivan said.

Another convincing mid-term victory for Republicans would be a serious setback for labor, Tedeschi said, but by becoming more politically involved, unions can prove they remain a powerful force.

"They don't like unions because unions fight back," Tedeschi said.

Work for labor-friendly candidates, he urged. Study the issues. Talk to family and friends. Get to the polls on Election Day. "Fight back."

The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund

Announces This Year's Essay Contest Topic

"The vast majority of union members make more than the minimum wage. Why should Teamsters care what the minimum wage is?"



For an application, contact your Teamsters Local Union office or visit www.teamster.org

Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2014

For students attending a community college, 4-year institution or a technical/vocational program, age 23 and younger, who are the son, daughter or financial dependent of an eligible Teamster Member Relation (as defined in the application).

Win
CASH
for Class



Funny Business

