

Graphic Communicator



Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 2015

Volume 33, Number 1

The Newspaper of the Graphic Communications Conference / IBT

www.gciu.org

Executive Privilege



Commentator Jim Hightower says same old story: CEO pay races ahead while family income stalls.

PAGE 6

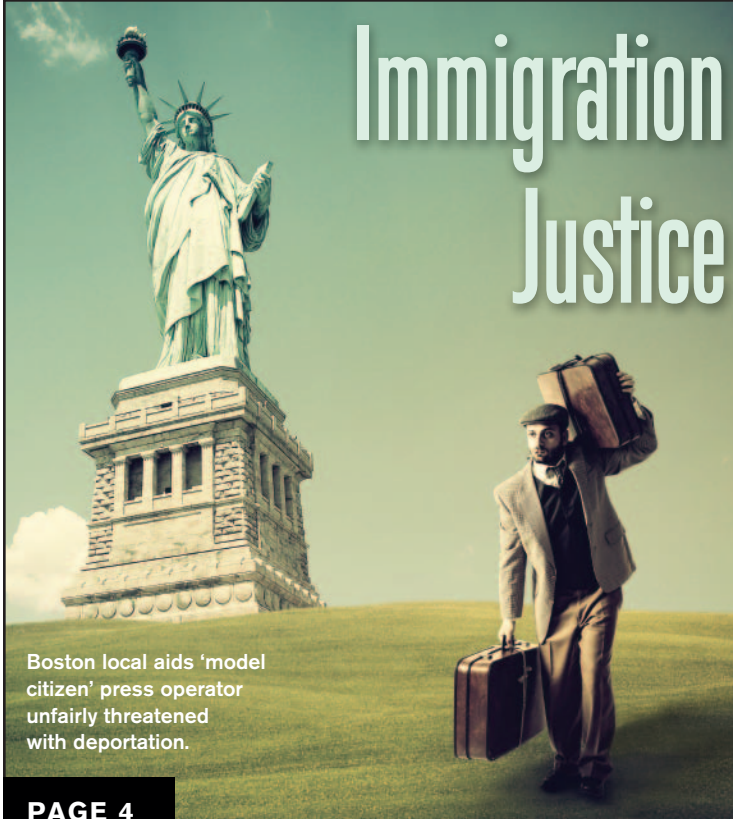
Bruising Election



GOP midterm rout a setback for worker rights but union leaders vow to get labor back on its feet by 2016.

PAGE 3, 8-9

Immigration Justice



Boston local aids 'model citizen' press operator unfairly threatened with deportation.

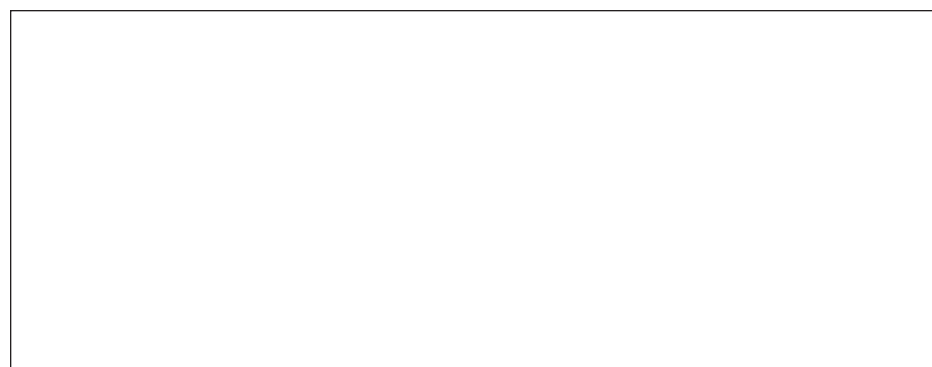
PAGE 4

Hazardous Condition



IBT and GCC/IBT officials join campaign to protect residents from dangers of waste site near St. Louis.

PAGE 5



ALSO INSIDE :

- A 'Top-Notch' Trio Retires..... 4
- GCC/Candidates on Midterm Ballots.....9
- Mackell Asks: What Went Wrong? 9
- Quad Graphic Group Comes Aboard..... 11

Middle Class was Big Loser in November

It's been a couple months since November midterm balloting but the results don't look any better now than on election night.

Almost everywhere, Democrats got clobbered. Republicans are proclaiming a mandate. On Capitol Hill, the GOP controls the House and Senate. There are Republican governors in most state houses. Legislatures around the country are dominated by the Party of the 1 Percent.

Democrats have no one to blame but themselves.

They ran away from the accomplishments of the Obama administration – and from the President, too. In one nutty episode, Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Democrat opposing Mitch McConnell in the Kentucky senatorial race, refused to acknowledge she voted for the President even though she was an Obama delegate at the Democratic convention in 2012. Grimes went down to defeat, anyway, and now McConnell is majority leader.

But let's not worry about the politicians. Few have to worry about paying the mortgage or putting gas in the car or finding money for the kids' college tuition. My concern is for the people who really got swamped in the Republican "wave" – the forgotten folks of the middle class.

Sure, I know that many ordinary Americans bought the Republican line

and voted against their best interests. That's a shame and another reason why Democrats should have shown some backbone and reminded people that it was Obama that pulled the nation out of the economic hole dug by Wall Street and George W. Bush.

Now we've got a serious situation.

Prospects for legislation that favors ordinary Americans – or the labor movement – have next to no chance with Republicans running Congress.

You can pretty much kiss good-bye action on a federal minimum wage hike, for instance. Republicans hate the idea of paying low-earning workers a living wage – bad for business, they say, without evidence – and one of the incoming GOP senators, Joni Ernst of Iowa, says there should be no U.S. law establishing base pay.

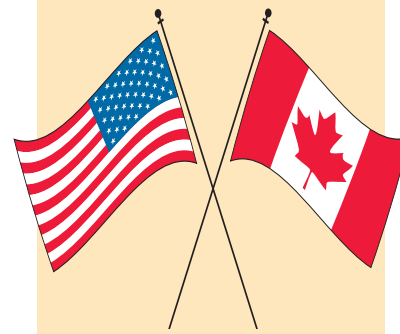
Forget about tougher restrictions on investment banks and Wall Street, too. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), a great friend of labor and the middle class, said in a Washington Post piece that the "lobbyists' agenda is not America's agenda" but that's not how Republicans and their friends in big business see things. For the GOP, the privileged few always come first.

As for the agenda of organized labor – it's hard to be optimistic.

There hasn't been talk of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), a measure streamlining the organizing process, since the early days of the first Obama term and little hope the proposal will be resurrected. Sure to come under the gun is the National Labor Relations Board, a favorite target of the right. Gone, too, is any hope of fair-minded, comprehensive immigration reform.

Sometimes I hear GCC/IBT people say unions are too close to the Democratic Party and prejudiced toward Republicans. Baloney. We are for any party willing to give workers a fair shake. But this crop of Republicans – pushed to extremes by Tea Party types – doesn't like labor. They treat us like the enemy. How can we be friends with the GOP?

For all its faults, the Democratic Party has a record of protecting the middle class and respecting unions. Yes, Democrats did a poor job in November. They ran scared. They showed too little spunk. Too often, they tried to pass as Republicans. For the sake of working people, let's hope Democrats shape up – and fast. We're a year away from 2016.



7

Jolley Good Fellow
Veteran GCC/IBT organizer
Tom Jolley reflects on his 'opportunity to serve.'

10

As If We Didn't Know
Congressional Budget Office report affirms the obvious: things never have been better for the rich.

11

Vermont Visitor
Straight-talking Sen. Bernie Sanders greets Iowa union supporters with 2016 Presidential bid in mind

16

Final Round
After 88 years, UPIGA golfers will call it quits this June in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

FEATURES

As I See It/
George Tedeschi 2

Outlook/
James Hoffa 2

Managing Editor's Note/
Fred Bruning 2

Editorial 6

Cartoon/
Mike Luckovich 6

Bottom Line/
Jerry Morgan 7

Guest Spot/
Tom Jolley 7

All the Best 7

Local Stops 11

Française/Espanol 12

Funny Business 16

Stand Firm Against TPP

Our government should take a long look at the proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal and how it could take away the federal government's ability to enforce a law allowing it to favor American companies when purchasing goods.

The Buy American procurement program has been on the books for more than 80 years. But it has become a target, thanks to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal being negotiated. The pact would allow foreign companies to compete for the tax dollars of Americans.

Under the trade agreement, the U.S. government would be required to grant all firms operating in any TPP country the same access as American companies to federal government procurement contracts over a certain value. The ban would result in the off-shoring of hundreds of millions in tax dollars now recycled into the U.S. economy.

While some might suggest that American companies will make up for any such losses through increased trading with other Pacific

Rim nations, that is not likely. The TPP would allow Chinese government-owned firms in Vietnam to undercut American businesses in order to gain U.S. government business. They can do that because the average minimum wage salary in Vietnam is 52 cents an hour. But does it make sense to allow such Communist-owned companies to handle work dealing with, for instance, U.S. national security? Hell no!

And, while the Senate has yet to take up that legislation, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) has also shown she is willing to stand up for American manufacturing. She has reintroduced the "Bring Jobs Home Act" that would give tax breaks to businesses that bring back jobs to the U.S. from overseas.

America became the world power it is today by taking tough stands. Congress needs to assert U.S. independence now by standing firm against this TPP provision and allowing the Buy American program to flourish.



MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE

November midterm elections solidified Republican control of the House of Representatives, gave the GOP a majority in the Senate and put Democrats on the defensive. As our extended coverage makes clear, labor was a loser, too. Reporter Zack Dowdy taps into the worries of GCC/IBT leaders who warn that the union movement must quickly rebound from the autumn defeat (Page 3) and an election overview in the centerfold reflects broader concerns about voter turnout and mood of the country. Stories in this edition also deal with union efforts to confront an environmental threat near St. Louis, the successful intervention of a Boston local on behalf of an immigrant worker who unfairly faced deportation and a feelgood Local Stops item about a union golf tournament that raises scholarship money. In other news from the fairway, the Union International Printcraft Golf Association says its June event will be the last. Nothing goes on forever but, after 88 years, the annual UPIGA outing almost did. – **Fred Bruning**

Graphic Communicator

The Newspaper
of the Graphic
Communications
Conference / IBT

Volume 33, Number 1
Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 2015

(USPS 410-750)

Official organ of the
Graphic Communications
Conference/International
Brotherhood of Teamsters

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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.



Bouncing Back from 'Brutal' Midterms

By Zachary Dowdy
Special to the Communicator

When the final midterm election numbers were counted, GCC/IBT leaders didn't need analysts to tell them the news was not good – not for labor, working people, or America. Democrats, traditionally friendly to labor, had been handily beaten in state after state. A Republican rout gave the GOP control of the Senate and strengthened the party's grip on the House of Representatives.

Democratic governors were ousted while Republican chief executives – including the fiercely anti-labor Scott Walker of Wisconsin – scored one victory after the other.

"It was brutal, absolutely brutal," said John Agenbroad, executive officer and secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT District Council 3 and president of Local 508-M, Cincinnati, adding that low voter turnout, about 40 percent of the electorate, was the biggest factor in Democrat losses.

GCC/IBT leaders said the dreary outcome has fired them up in anticipation of the 2016 Presidential election. Another rout by Republicans would put Congress and the White House in GOP hands – creating an even bleaker outlook for labor.

"We can't let it happen," said George Tedeschi, president of the GCC/IBT. "This is not a Republican-Democrat issue. This is a common sense matter. Today's GOP is more conservative and anti-labor than at any time in memory. We cannot afford a complete takeover of the government by a party that is trying to kill the labor movement."

Leaders said it is important to note that nationwide elections typically bring far more Americans to the polls than midterm contests and that midterm losses may not spell doom for 2016.

"We do well in presidential election years," said Mark Cooper, a member of GCC/IBT Local 727 -S in Des Moines, Iowa and president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

Voter dissatisfaction kept turnout to a minimum in November, Cooper said. Too many Americans stayed home and complained, "I am sick of it and don't want to deal with it" Cooper said.

Negative advertising – much of it bankrolled by billionaire conservatives like Charles and David Koch – soured attitudes toward the process and skewed the vote in favor of Republicans, Cooper said. He added that the GOP base was motivated by a desire to punish President Barack Obama and register objection to the Affordable Care Act that – ironically – has provided coverage to millions who otherwise could not pay for it without assistance.

"The 2014 midterm elections reflect a clear victory for the Republicans and a repudiation of the Democrats and President Obama," wrote analysts Jamie Carson, Ryan Williamson and Joel Sievert, political scientists at the University of Georgia.

'This is not a Republican-Democrat issue,' said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. 'This is a common sense matter. We cannot afford a complete takeover of the government by a party that is trying to kill the labor movement.'

In Georgia, Democrat Michelle Nunn seemed to distance herself from Obama in a senatorial race against Republican David Perdue, said GCC/IBT Local 527-S President Ralph Meers, but the tactic proved futile.

Perdue gained 53 percent of the vote compared to Nunn's 45 percent. Things didn't go much better for Democrat Jason Carter, the grandson of President Jimmy Carter, who got 45 percent in a contest against incumbent GOP Gov. Nathan Deal, who earned 53 percent.

"It's an embarrassment for all of us," Meers said. "We represent people in our union and in our country and we are trying to improve their way of life." Too often, Meers said, people vote against their best interests.

Joseph Inemer, executive vice president for GCC/IBT District Council 9 in Philadelphia, noted that Tom Wolf, a Democrat, won an upset victory over incumbent GOP governor Tom Corbett but good news was scarce on election night.

"In general, it was very disappointing," Inemer said of the national scene, adding that he agreed right-leaning voters cast ballots for Republicans to get back at Obama for the Affordable Care Act and for promising to alter immigration policy. "I think it was a backlash."

Inemer joined fellow GCC/IBT leaders in saying that members must become politically active to counter persistent GOP attacks on organized labor – an assault that includes right-to-work legislation in several states.

Concerned but not daunted, Meers saw the November midterm as a message to the apathetic members in union ranks.

"Some of the greatest gains that our local made were during the Nixon administration," he said. "We set up our health and welfare trust fund and other things. We have to play the game a little differently. We have to go to the streets and protest. We have to be more militant."

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

Boston Local Helps Member Beat Unfair Deportation

Demonstrating the importance of community outreach, Local 3-N, Boston, worked successfully with a local Jobs With Justice advocacy group, elected officials and faith-based organizations to halt government action against a Hispanic GCC/IBT press operator facing deportation.

"This is why it is important as labor leaders to have coalitions in your area," said Stephen Sullivan, 3-N president. "It's easy to be isolated but everything ties in together – minimum wage issues, immigration issues, everything."

Sullivan said the coordinated effort on behalf of a 49-year-old union member from El Salvador "represented a victory on an important cause" and blocked what would have been a miscarriage of justice.

"He had played by the rules, paid taxes and was a model citizen but was being deported on technicality," Sullivan said.

The immigrant worker, a native of El Salvador who fled in 1990 to avoid the right-wing violence sweeping his country, was granted employment authorization after filing an application for political asylum.

His petition for asylum was denied years later but the worker's attorney failed to update paperwork intended to provide temporary residency, Sullivan said. Last July, the press operator, who does not want his name published, was contacted by immigration officials and told to buy a plane ticket to El Salvador and leave the United States by Aug. 1.

Sullivan said he was "shocked" when told "one of our own" – an admirable employee who had worked his way through the ranks to become a journeyman press operator – was in jeopardy. "He played by the rules, worked hard, had never been in trouble and felt he was contributing to America. He is a low-keyed, quiet, respectful kind of person you would want as your neighbor."

Local 3-N quickly rallied support for the worker.



"Facing insurmountable odds, I knew that we needed to mobilize, educate and, most importantly, we needed action on his behalf," said Sullivan.

With assistance from Jobs With Justice, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), Democratic State Rep. Mary Keefe and several religious and community groups, Local 3-N helped the worker fight the government order.

Members of the community wrote letters on the man's behalf and so did his employer. The Teamsters "blasted out" an online petition and collected a couple hundred signatures, Sullivan said. The effort paid off. "We stopped the deportation."

At a hearing, the worker was granted "temporary protective status" which allows him to remain in the country and at his newspaper job for another year – hopefully a step toward citizenship, Sullivan said. And Local 3-N is not through. "We are going to advocate on his behalf until he's here permanently," Sullivan said.

The worker's new attorney, Madeleine Moreno of Worcester, said the worker is grateful for the intervention of 3-N. Without the union's help, Moreno said, immigration authorities "would have

executed the order of removal and he would have been removed from the United States,"

Sullivan, whose mother and father are from Ireland, said immigration is a "hot button issue" for many Americans, but union people must "stand up for what's right."

The Salvadoran press operator – once feeling abandoned and without hope – now knows union members take care of their own, Sullivan said. "He may have no blood relations in the United States but he has thousands of brothers and sisters."

3 Top Professionals and 'Irreplaceable Friends' Retire

Marty Keegan is returning to his rock 'n' roll roots. Tom Jolley will continue volunteer work with his church. Rich Whitworth looks forward to traveling and building a home on the New Jersey shore.

The three GCC/IBT stalwarts – Keegan and Jolley were international organizers and Whitworth served as executive assistant to President George Tedeschi – retired last month after years of service that helped the union remain strong during a period of declining membership and fierce attacks on the labor movement.

"You can't overstate the devotion of these men," Tedeschi said. "Each contributed enormously to our union and its members. As professionals, they were top-notch. As friends, they are irreplaceable. We owe them a great debt of gratitude and wish them the best."

Keegan, 63, of Newhall, Calif., said union work was its own reward.

"I'd like to say it was the greatest experience of my life and I was privileged to work with great people and represent great workers," said Keegan, who was hired by the GCC/IBT in 2004. Unionizing the Los Angeles Times pressroom in 2007 was "the icing on the cake," he said.

Keegan, who in the 70s and 80s managed several bands, and whose son, William, is a punk rock musician, said he has renewed ties with the music industry and expects soon to be negotiating contracts again – this time for performers. Representing union members and musicians, Keegan said, is "almost identical – you have to know how to interpret the contract."

In Cleveland, Tenn., Jolley, an international organizer for 10 years, said he would help advise union locals in retirement and pursue new volunteer opportunities at Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston, Tenn., a congregation with an ambitious outreach program and heightened sense of community service.

Religious conviction was the foundation for Jolley's union work and strengthens his volunteer commitment.

"A lot of scripture is about helping those who cannot help themselves or who have wages oppressed," said Jolley, who twice traveled to Sri Lanka to help tsunami victims.

Jolley, a former press operator at Mead/Westvaco in Tennessee joined Local 527-S, Atlanta, and became Westvaco plant chairman at age 25. In 1996, Jolley was elected a general board member and served until 2004 when he began as a full-time organizer.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the job, Jolley said, was knowing that his efforts could have an impact on many lives.

In one instance, Jolley recalled, the wife of a member hugged him and tearfully expressed gratitude for the union and his efforts to help families gain financial security. "Truly most gratifying is the very fact that in the labor movement, we do not only represent the member, but the entire family of that member's household," Jolley said.

Jolley said, his wife, Rhonda and he place high priority on caring for their own family members, too, while continuing to devote time to others. "So, 'early retirement, nope,'" Jolley said. "Maybe a different direction, yes. I choose never to retire from serving."

For Whitworth, 67, union work also represented a passion to help working people and strengthen the union that protects them.

"The most rewarding thing was being afforded the honor of working with President Tedeschi for 15 years as his right-hand man, serving as liaison between the office of the



Marty Keegan



Tom Jolley



Rich Whitworth

president and the vice-president/secretary-treasurer, working with representatives in the field – and serving the membership," Whitworth said.

Hired for a pressroom job at the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1968, Whitworth joined the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union (IAPPAU). He subsequently held several offices at Local 16-N, Philadelphia, including president and business manager.

Whitworth, a Navy veteran, was secretary-treasurer of the North American Newspaper Conference from 1989-94 and became executive assistant to Tedeschi, at a time that Tedeschi was serving as NANC president. When Tedeschi was elected president of the GCIU in 2000, he tapped Whitworth as his executive assistant.

"Exciting times," Whitworth said.

When "the weather breaks" over the next few months, Whitworth, and his wife, Linda, an emergency room nurse who also serves on medevac helicopter missions, intend to begin work on a house in the seaside community of Brigantine, N.J. and eventually move from their present home in Barrington.

Whitworth said Linda and he hope to visit Italy and France, "play a lot of golf, do a lot of fishing, enjoy life, drink wine and eat good food."

With his career as a labor leader closing, Whitworth said unions remain the best hope for the middle class and that loss of union jobs should be a major concern.

"There is a direct correlation between the constriction of organized labor and shrinking of the middle class," Whitworth said. "Unions are the backbone of the labor force in this country. When unions disappear, so do middle-class jobs."

Keegan, Jolley and Whitworth said they had no intention of slowing down despite years of demanding union work that often demanded they be away from home.

"I was going to run for President of the United States," joked Keegan. "But my wife, Leila, said that was too ambitious."

Addressing political issues in more serious fashion, Keegan said that while the defeat of many pro-worker candidates in the November midterm election was disappointing, the country's conservative mood may not last.

Keegan noted that his five adult children are enthusiastically pro-labor and say that their friends are, too.

"I have a lot of hope for the future," Keegan said.

Union Officials Back Residents In Battle Over Hazardous Waste

By Dawn Hobbs
Special to the Communicator

The West Lake Landfill operated by Republic Services northwest of St. Louis is a mess.

It poses a significant environmental and health hazard because the Bridgeton, Mo. site – which contains 8,700 tons of buried and uncontained radioactive nuclear waste – is precariously close to an underground fire that is spreading. A noxious odor permeates the area and residents claim a spike in the cancer rate.

At a teach-in sponsored recently by an environmentally aware GCC/IBT local, experts warned that if the fire – approximately 1,000 feet from highly concentrated toxic material – was to reach the waste, high levels of radiation could be released into surrounding communities.

Residents and union officials say something must be done – quickly.

“Republic Services has the legal, moral and financial responsibility to keep workers and communities safe from its toxic landfills,” Chuck Stiles, assistant director of the Teamsters Solid Waste Division, said at the event.

Stiles said that if the company is unable to remove the radioactive material, Republic should pay to “move people away from it.” The company also is obligated to protect employees who might be exposed to hazardous materials, the IBT official insisted. Republic “must pay to properly equip them, train them, and compensate them for the hazardous work,” Stiles said.

The teach-in, held at GCC/IBT Local 6505-M, St. Louis, was attended by about 200, including Teamster staff members, local residents, elected officials, environmental experts and attorneys.

Experts called on Republic Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – which has designated the landfill a Superfund site – and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, major Republic shareholders, to take speedy remedial action.

But shortly after the October teach-in, company officials downplayed any potential hazards in a report requested by the EPA and obtained by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

“Republic Services reiterated a prior conclusion from its engineers that the underground reaction is not hot enough to ignite the waste in the landfill and would

not carry radioactive particles off-site,” a Post-Dispatch story said.

The company’s claim was rejected by many residents, including retired GCC/IBT Local 6505-M member Pat Tarpey and his wife, Dolores, who live near the landfill. Like many in the area, the Tarpeys fear a catastrophe should the fire reach nuclear waste.

“Everyone keeps pointing the finger at everyone else,” Pat Tarpey said. “No one wants to take responsibility.” Federal, state or regional agencies with jurisdiction over the landfill have done little to remedy the situation, critics contend.

Even without a catastrophe, the landfill already poses significant risk to its neighbors, according to published reports.

A story in Rolling Stone magazine said that the site – eight miles from a reservoir serving 300,000 St. Louis residents – lacks many standard safety features including clay liner blocks that would stop toxic “garbage juice” from threatening ground water supplies and a cap preventing toxic gas from escaping. “Worst of all,” concluded the Rolling Stone story, “the materials dumped into this populous metropolitan area will continue to pose a hazard for hundreds of thousands of years.”

Said Tarpey: “It’s horrible.”

Many in the audience expressed frustration with Gates, well known for his overseas philanthropic efforts.

Robert Morales, director of the IBT Solid Waste Division, said Gates is the largest Republic shareholder – the Microsoft billionaire owns 29 percent of the company’s stock through the Cascade Investment firm – and had been increasing his position in recent months.

“If he were truly serious about improving health, he would forego his dividend from Republic for the next four quarters,” Morales said. “Surely, he can use some dividends to create a ‘St. Louis Relocation, Health Registry and Remediation Fund.’”

More than 1,600 Teamster families live in the shadow of the Bridgeton landfill and hundreds work nearby. “This has to be taken care of,” Morales said. “Too much time has been wasted.”

The petition urging Bill Gates to take action can be found at: www.credomobilize.com/petitions/tell-bill-gates-to-protect-st-louis-families-from-pollution



Company has 'legal, moral, financial' duty to protect communities, said IBT solid waste expert Chuck Stiles.



‘EVERYONE KEEPS POINTING THE FINGER AT EVERYONE ELSE,’ SAID PAT TARPEY, A MEMBER OF LOCAL 6505-M, WHO LIVES NEAR THE WEST LAKE LANDFILL SITE. ‘NO ONE WANTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.’

Bluster Alone Is Not Enough

What do Republicans want?

The party crushed Democrats in November's midterm elections and controls the House, Senate and a majority of state legislatures. Now comes the hard part: governing.

Early signs aren't good.

Expressions of bipartisan cooperation in Washington and on the state level – a majority of governors are Republican – quickly were drowned out by strident rhetoric indicating the GOP assault on President Barack Obama will continue for his remaining two years in office. House Speaker Boehner warned Obama against “playing with matches” for fear of being burned. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told the President not to wave a “red flag” in front of Republicans – as though the caustic Kentuckian hasn't been waving his own since Obama took office.

Grace in victory? Not these guys. But will bluster be enough?

Though voter turnout was the lowest in 72 years, Republicans claimed a mandate. What sort of mandate? To hear GOP leaders tell it, the American people have embraced the party's conservative agenda – less assistance to the needy, a rollback of the Affordable Care Act, fewer regulations protecting air and water, no breaks for immigrants, tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent.

Meanwhile, the American people are sending mixed signals. Yes, they gave the GOP a big win but are they really Republican robots? In four “red” states, for instance, people voted to raise the minimum wage – one of the GOP's favorite targets – and in Oregon, Alaska and Washington, D.C. for legalizing marijuana.

Polls showed that Americans want elected officials to compromise for the good of the country but since 2008, when Obama first was elected, Republicans have morphed into the “Party of No” – “no” to everything Obama proposes even if, like the health care plan, they once offered the idea themselves. The country gives Republicans an unfavorability rating of 53 percent and by a wide margin holds the GOP responsible for the gridlock that has stalled progress in the nation's capital.

Behind the contradictory data likely is despair.

Ordinary Americans know that they are not getting ahead. Union people win raises but many other workers are rewarded with little or nothing. People see their kids unable to find decent jobs even with college degrees. Despite an improved economy and boom times on Wall Street, most companies remain tight-fisted and unapproachable. There is little investment or expansion. All that matters is the bottom line.

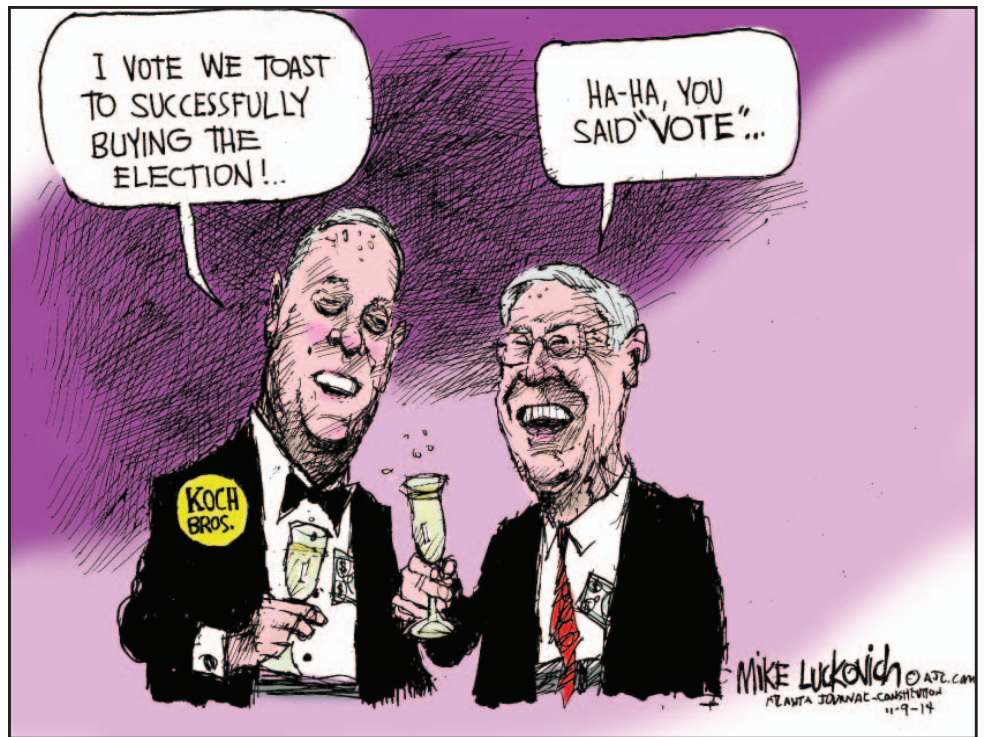
Middle-class Americans take second place to the quest for ever higher profits. The quarterly report rates top importance, not employees who are expected to work harder while wages stall and executive salaries skyrocket. Lost long ago was the sense of common purpose that tamed the most voracious corporate appetites. A previous generation of executives knew that squeezing every last cent out of workers made no sense in a consumer economy and that decent treatment won loyalty. Now CEO greed is viewed as a virtue with inevitable results: A recent New York Times poll showed that the fewest number of people in two decades believed the “American dream” was in reach for anyone who worked hard and played by the rules.

Where does that leave us?

Republican leaders say they are aware that the public is apt to punish the party in 2016 if it doesn't make an honest attempt at governing – that is, if it doesn't at least try to solve some of the country's most pressing problems and address its urgent needs. In many places across the land, America literally seems to be falling apart – creaky bridges, cracked roadways, outdated communications systems. Will Republicans pass an infrastructure and jobs bill? Obama tried endlessly to push legislation but Republicans said the nation couldn't afford to rebuild. Will that stubbornness soften as the party tries to overhaul its contrary image?

It's a longshot, at best.

The GOP won the midterms in impressive fashion. But Republicans better be careful. Americans do not want more obstructionism and tough talk. They want a better deal. That was the only mandate delivered on election night. Let's see if Republicans can come through. Want to bet?



Point of View BY JIM HIGHTOWER

CEO Pay: Up, Up and Away

One difference between top executives and worker bees, is that those at the top can lower the pay of those down below, while simultaneously raising their own pay. If you wonder what's causing America's rapidly-widening income gap, there it is.



Technically, CEOs do not set their own pay levels, supposedly leaving that to the board of directors. The typical board, however, is a CEO push-over, largely made up of other highly-paid CEOs and brothers-in-law of the corporate boss.

But in response to public disgust at the grotesque excess in the platinum paychecks of top bosses, corporations have added a new level of “pay police” to oversee the process – “compensation consultants,” they're called.

These specialists are hired to analyze industry-wide data to advise corporate boards on the going rate for top dogs, thus assuring an impartial assessment on pay that can calm public furor. Really? Ha! Surely you joke. Guess who hires the consultant? Astonishingly, the board often delegates that delicate assignment to the CEO!

But even when the board runs the process, the chief's pay keeps going up, up, and away. One

reason is that board members like to brag to their country-club peers that they have the hottest of hot-shot CEOs, and you don't prove that by paying chump change.

CorporateWorld measures everything by money, so its cultural ethic dictates that a top-notch top dog is defined by a spectacular level of pay, and the “best” is the one who commands the most.

The contrived, self-serving corporate dogma that multimillion-dollar executive compensation is determined by the invisible hand of the mysterious marketplace is pure P.T. Barnum – Elmer Gantry – Wizard of Oz hokum. A truer system of establishing a CEO's worth would be the old pirate system – let every worker on the corporate ship vote on it.

Printed with permission of Jim Hightower, national radio commentator and self-described “fiery” public speaker. With Susan DeMarco, he is author of “Swim Against The Current: Even A Dead Fish Can Go With The Flow” and publishes a monthly populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown (hightowerlowdown.org)

LABOR LAUGHS

WISHFUL THINKING – Labor and management negotiators are working late one night, struggling with a new contract. Suddenly, a genie appears and offers each a wish.

Management's union-busting consultant says: “I've always dreamed of writing the great American novel. I'd like to go to a tropical island where I can work on my masterpiece.” The genie says, “No problem!” and – poof! – the union-buster vanishes.

The company's HR director says: “I've always wanted to create a painting so beautiful that it would hang in the Louvre Museum in Paris. It would be wonderful to visit the French countryside for inspiration.” “Sure,” says the genie. “Your wish is granted!” The HR director disappears.

The genie turns to the union negotiator and says: “And what is your wish?”

The union negotiator smiles and says, “Thanks. Those last two took care of it.”

PUNCH LINE – A guy in a bar leans over to the customer next to him and says, “Want to hear a joke about managers?”

The fellow replies, “Well, before you tell that joke, you should know that I'm 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, and I'm a manager. And the guy sitting next to me is 6'-2”, 225 pounds, and he's a manager, too. You still want to tell that joke?”

The first guy says: “No, I don't want to have to explain it twice.”

Realities of a GOP Rout

If you're a pro-labor Democrat, you got a lump of coal for Christmas.

The midterm election rout gave Republicans control of the House of Representatives and made Mitch McConnell of Kentucky – land of Big Coal – majority leader. Bad news, no question – and with real-life, economic implications.

Here are three reasons why:

- Even in this GOP steamroller election, voters in red states – Nebraska, Alaska, South Dakota and Arkansas – said “yes” to a higher minimum wage. San Francisco voted to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and more than 60 percent of Illinois voters backed a minimum wage hike in a non-binding referendum. But don't expect the GOP Congress to vote on a higher national minimum wage. If anything, many of the new, conservative House members would like to do away with this basic protection and promised to seek its repeal when they got to Washington.
- Food stamps are in danger. The incoming GOP chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Mike Conway, who hails from west central Texas, wants to gut the program again, even though Republicans last year lopped \$8.8 billion out of the food stamp budget – a heartless and ill-advised move. Cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income families have taken their toll. The New York Food Bank reports that cuts elimi-



nated 56 million meals in the last 12 months and food banks all over the country are hurting. Any savings gained by Republicans are apt to be lost in productivity. Hungry people are bound to be preoccupied and struggle on the job. Literally taking food out of their mouths is a bad and costly idea.

- Still seething about passage of the Affordable Care Act, or “Obamacare,” McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner vow to revise the act so that employers with more than 50 workers are required only to provide health insurance to employees who work 40 hours instead of the 30 hours provided in the law. Estimates suggest that up to a half million would lose insurance, which means they will either get covered by Medicaid, if they can, or go to the health exchanges, if their states have one. That will mean the government will have to pay more in subsidies – up to \$130 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. McConnell and Boehner will never say so but their idea will cost the country a bundle.

These are the real results of the midterm debacle. The GOP clobbered Democrats. Now they're getting ready to do the same to the country.

Guest Spot

BY TOM JOLLEY

An Opportunity to Serve

After only two years in the printing trade, I became an elected union officer at age 22. I've been doing union work ever since – a career I might not have imagined and one made possible by the many people who had faith in me and offered an opportunity to serve.

Many of those same people – my predecessors – negotiated the great contract language and enviable benefits that assured my family a decent, middle-class life. For it all, I am grateful.

Without role models, I would not have been able to build a union career. By watching skilled leaders like Ralph Meers, president of my local, 527-S, Atlanta, and a dear friend, I learned the importance of personal relations. In my first union post, there were 88 workers in the shop, at first. Through the years, the work force grew to 147 employees – 142, union members. I knew every member's first and last name, and tried to remember the names of their wives or husbands, and children, too. It was a sign of respect. And, besides, the company knew all their names, why not me?

I knew that was how Ralph conducted business – by being honest and engaging. There is not enough space here to tell all that Ralph has taught me in 37 years. His priorities were clear. Union leaders must lay everything on the line in every situation, Ralph insisted. He told me to stand alone if I was convinced a member needed support. Never back off when your cause is right. Ralph never did.

There have been other inspirational figures. One was my friend Doug Boring, who died in 2013 at an early age. For 14 years, we worked at the same printing press. Doug was a quiet man and the most solid union member I've ever known.



He stood by me in every fight and never asked for anything. At membership meetings and informational picketing – whenever I needed him – Doug was there. And he was there again at a Cancer Treatment Center in my hometown of Cleveland, Tenn. just before his death. We were both receiving care – I've been battling prostate cancer and am doing well – but it was clear Doug was nearing the end.

We hugged. We told each other we loved each other. I knew I would not see him again. He was a noble man, Doug, a “class act” like so many of the union members and leaders I have known over the years. Those wonderful folks bring honor and respect to the labor movement. They would say they are nothing special – which is why they are.

Tom Jolley, a former general board member, retired as a GCC/IBT organizer in December after serving in that post for 10 years.

All the Best

Video

Cesar Chavez

Diego Luna, director

The struggle of immigrant farm workers in the 1960s and heroic intervention of the humble but relentless organizer who became an American civil rights icon is powerfully recalled in this effective and uplifting film. Critics said the movie romanticized United Farm Workers founder Cesar Chavez and downplayed the more controversial aspects of his career but there is no doubt that – as director Diego Luna makes clear – Chavez stirred the conscious of the nation and gave voice to thousands of vulnerable field workers whose plight had previously been ignored. Lions Gate, \$12.99/Amazon.com

Music

Cheek to Cheek

Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga

Talk about an unlikely duo – the old master of the American Songbook teamed with one of pop music's most flamboyant divas. But – who woulda' thought? – this album of standards performed by the timeless Tony Bennett and 28-year-old Lady Gaga is a splendid success and testament to the staying power of songs that never go out of style. Combining on numbers like “I Can't Give You Anything but Love,” “It Don't Mean a Thing,” “But Beautiful,” and, of course, “Cheek to Cheek,” Bennett and his youthful pal show that it's artistry, not age, that matters most. Streamline/Interscope/RPM/Columbia Records, \$13.99 (Deluxe edition), Amazon.com



Print

Living with a Wild God

Barbara Ehrenreich

In her 2001 book, “Nickel and Dimed,” Barbara Ehrenreich chronicled life in low-wage America and revealed – through personal experience – the hardships faced by millions of workers who just can't get ahead. Her latest book, “Living with a Wild God,” is another kind of investigation – a search for self and “cosmic meaning” written in the same generous and spirited style that marks all of Ehrenreich's work. With a questioning mind and fearless sense of mission, the author – daughter of a copper miner – shows that she is a relentless detective whether on the trail of greedy employers or eternal mysteries that we all ponder whether making mega-bucks or minimum wage. Grand Central Publishing, \$26.

Internet

Strengthinunion.org

The union movement was one of the most profound influences on the culture and economy of the United States but the history of organized labor often is overlooked. “Strength in Union,” a series of five, one-hour films produced by the Arete Living Arts Foundation of Brooklyn, N.Y. helps fill that void with what producers call an “epic documentary” tracing the path of unionism from Colonial times to present. Among those who appear in the film are actress Barbara Hershey, the late folksinging legend Pete Seeger and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Ample selections from the film are on the vibrant Strength in Union web page – a site that, itself, provides a powerful history lesson on the labor movement and ongoing struggle for dignity in the workplace.



Midterm Result Must Strengthen Union Resolve

By Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

It was bad.

The GOP sweep in November midterm elections – “Debate,” cried a headline on one news site – left Democrats wondering where they stood with the American electorate, analysts saying the party was deeply wounded and perhaps vulnerable to an even greater Republican rout in 2016 and labor fearing that a resurgent conservative mood could put more pressure on unions.

Republicans scored their biggest House win since 1928, took control of the Senate, hold 31 governorships and enjoy a majority in 68 lower and upper chambers at the state level.

“There’s no way to candy-coat what happened,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “Labor-friendly candidates got walloped. People voted against their best interests and obviously were swayed by the billions of dollars in advertising spent by right-wing forces. Turnout was low. And, let’s face it, the mood in the country is sour. Everything added up to a great night for Republicans but, make no mistake, a terrible one for hardworking Americans and their families.”

In comments before the midterms, IBT General President James Hoffa warned that labor had plenty on the line and urged union members to get to the polls.

There was “no shortage of reasons” why labor should be worried about the election outcome, Hoffa said. If hardliners won – as, in fact, they did in many places across the country – unions might have to battle a new push for right-to-work legislation, fresh assaults on the minimum wage and more votes for the Trans-Pacific Partnership that Hoffa described as “an unfair trade deal like NAFTA.”

Grim stuff.

Hoffa pointed to the megabucks spent by archconservatives like the Koch brothers and lamented that, in American politics, the views of the wealthy have taken “priority over those of the middle class.” He added: “For the labor movement, this is an important election. Every Teamster who cares about fair wages, good health care and retirement security should get involved.”

In the end, though, unions and their allies were not able to rally enough support to halt the GOP juggernaut. Research shows union members reliably vote for worker-friendly candidates but, analysts note, too often union people do not get to the polls. “We must turn out the vote,” Tedeschi said. “Simple as that.”

Without the robust support of unionists, experts say, pro-labor candidates are vulnerable. A post-election story in the Wall Street Journal emphasized the point.

“Republican wins in Senate and gubernatorial races on Tuesday dealt a blow to organized labor, which failed to help the Democratic Party fend off deep losses in the second straight midterm election,” the Journal story said.

Analysts pointed to a number of other reasons for the Republican triumph.

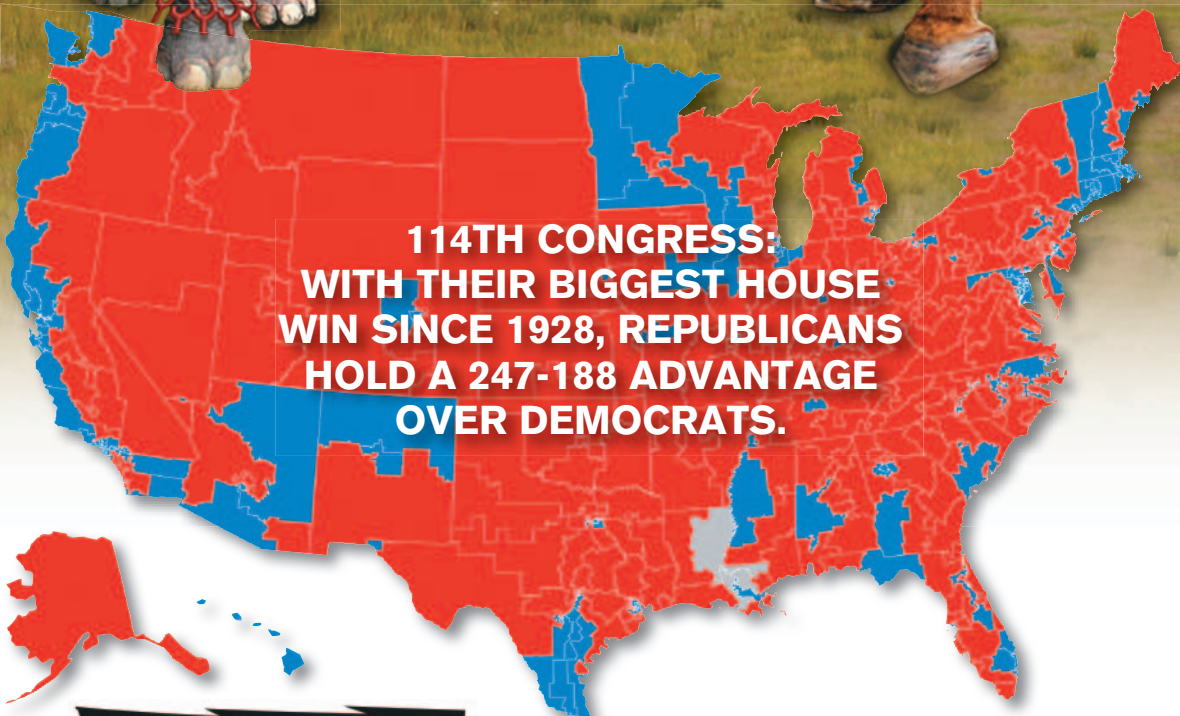
President Barack Obama’s popularity is at a low point thanks to relentless attacks by the right and a do-nothing Republican House of Representatives dedicated to denying the White House any legislative victory. Ordinary Americans are angry that they have not shared in the rewards enjoyed by Wall Street. Job worries continue for millions and even foreign affairs posed difficulties for Democrats owing to chaotic situations in Syria and Iraq that represented unique challenges to the Obama administration.

Labor-friendly MSNBC-TV host Ed Schultz said that voters were not interested in the themes emphasized by Democrats – income inequality, the “war on women,” voting rights and trade deals – while Republicans were able to capitalize on voter discontent.

Like other analysts, Schultz warned that the likely GOP agenda will be one that does not reward the middle class voters who in many cases supported Republican candidates. Almost certainly, Schultz and other observers said, Republicans will seek to wreck the National Labor Relations Board because the NLRB “gets in the way of business,” lower the corporate tax rate to 25 percent, roll back Environmental Protection Agency regulations and attack Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

“It’s going to be a tough two years,” Schultz said.

On the state level, labor has other worries as Republican-dominated legislatures are likely



‘Unfair’ trade pact likely to win more votes.

to push a number of anti-worker measures ranging from abolition of prevailing wage laws to attacks on “project labor agreements” that protect unions on construction jobs.

And at a time when anti-union sentiment is being stirred nationwide by conservative voices on Capitol Hill and right-wing radio talk shows, the GOP midterm success may further embolden labor’s enemies, the Wall Street Journal said.

“...labor experts say the outcomes could send a message to politicians that they can take on labor and survive,” the Journal reported. “That could result in more efforts to rein in public-employee pensions, curb collective-bargaining rights for government workers, and push right-to-work laws that allow employees in unionized workplaces to opt out of paying union dues.”

But, say labor leaders, the union movement cannot sulk and stand still.

The presidential election is less than two years away, officials note, and there must be a determined effort to reverse conservative gains, and make certain Republicans do not control both the legislative and executive branches of government.

“I’m even more afraid of 2016 if they get the White House,” said Marty Keegan, a veteran GCC/IBT organizer who retired at the first of the year. “If Republicans hold the House and the Senate and take the White House we are in really serious trouble. It would be a devastating blow to this country.”

With an all-GOP government, Keegan said, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) “would be gone,” there would be a push to “dismantle” the NLRB, meaningful immigration reform would be unlikely and “the minimum wage only a memory.”

CNN political commentator Marc Lamont Hill was no less blunt.

“Election night 2014 was a huge loss not only for Democrats but also for organized labor everywhere,” Hill said. The midterms, he said, “were a stern reminder that the labor movement must prepare itself for an even more ugly, bitter and politically powered force of opposition.”

How will labor get ready?

Tedeschi said hard work is always the answer.

“There is no magic to this,” he said. “We have to start now to mobilize for 2016. We have to make clear to our members – some of them in that group who insist on voting against their best interests – that the American middle class is under assault as never before and that one-party rule could put millions of workers at increased jeopardy. We have to speak out against those who would rip apart the labor movement and give enthusiastic support to our traditional allies.”

Union people have a special responsibility, Tedeschi said.

“Our contracts protect us but millions of non-union workers are at risk,” the GCC/IBT leader said. “As these midterm results show, elections matter. Anti-labor forces now feel they can do what they want – and believe me, they will be relentless. Stopping them is our duty. We have no time to lose.”



'New' Politics Badly Needed to Revitalize the Nation

By Thomas J. Mackell Jr.

What happened in November's midterm election? What accounted for the Republican "wave?"

Was it GOP voter suppression, comfortable Baby Boomers growing more conservative, disengagement of voters from President Obama, low voter turnout? No question, many Americans were bored with – and cynical about – the political process. Only 29 percent said they were "enthusiastic" about voting in November.

Economic issues trumped all others.

Only 22 percent of Americans think their personal finances improved since Obama took office and 57 percent say the standard of living in the country is getting worse. More than five years after the official end of the Great Recession, 77 percent of Americans remain worried about the economy's direction. A record 76 percent lack confidence that this generation of young people will do better than their parents. Last fall, we witnessed a landslide vote of no-confidence in the American Dream.

Pervasive gridlock in Washington adds to the somber mood. People have had enough.

We need a "new politics" that revitalizes the tradition of honorable compromise and moves away paralyzing, hyper-partisan warfare. We must find ways to counter the Supreme Court's disastrous "Citizens United" decision that cleared the way for big spenders like the Koch Brothers to buy elections. In this mid-term election cycle, 19 billionaires and their families contributed over \$20 million to right-wing super-PACs.

It is essential that we encourage poor and minority Americans to vote – not block their path to the ballot box, as Republicans intend – and dedicate ourselves to long-term economic equality.

For the organized trade union movement, it is time to re-evaluate the role of labor in the electoral process and launch bold initiatives to protect working Americans. It is time to capitalize on our people power and acknowledge the legitimate economic self-interest of the middle class.

The needs of hardworking Americans must prevail over the abusive capitalists who have no clue as to how others live. The divisions are deep. Consider the comments of

'We must organize the workforce into a cohesive team of millions who will stand against corporate tyranny.'

venture capitalist Tom Perkins, who equated criticism of the privileged 1 percent with Nazism, or remarks of private equity titan Stephen Schwarzman, who said imposing higher tax rates on financiers was akin to Hitler's invasion of Poland. Who are these two kidding? What history books do they read?

It is time to apply tactics and strategies that proved successful in the mid-20th Century when unions were making gains and reforming the American workplace. We must organize the workforce into a cohesive team of millions who will stand against corporate tyranny. We must recapture the spirit of unionism that lifted millions out of poverty and provided a decent life for workers in every sector of society.

A Greek proverb says that societies become great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never enjoy. Our lives and those of our children depend on such a great society. It is up to the workers and their representatives to take charge. It is time to plant trees.

Thomas J. Mackell Jr., special advisor to the international president of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO, is 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."

TWO GCC/IBT MEMBERS RUN FOR OFFICE AIMING TO ASSURE WORKER RIGHTS

Thousands of GCC/IBT members voted in November's mid-term elections. Two were on the ballot.

Mark Bogen, of GCC/IBT Local 508-M, Cincinnati, won the seat for county commissioner in Broward County, Florida, and Tom Trapp, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 503-M, Rochester, ran for council in the Town of Clarkson, N.Y.

The Democratic primary election in Broward was plagued with problems but, Bogen, an attorney who the Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel referred to as a "political outsider," raked in 53 percent of the votes in a five-person race during the December run-off. The second top vote-getter came in at only 27 percent.

"I'm a union member and I strongly believe in protecting employees' rights and unions," said Bogen, who added that his condominium law firm is one of the few in the country that has a collective bargaining agreement.

Originally slated to face a write-in candidate in the Jan. 13 general election, Bogen learned a day after the primary that the candidate withdrew. As a result, the January election was canceled and Bogen was scheduled to be sworn in on Dec. 9.

"As county commissioner, I will do everything I can to fight for the working person," Bogen said the day after the election. "I'm not a politician and I don't have



Mark Bogen

smooth sounding answers, but I know my priorities."

Bogen, 55, put \$386,000 of his own money into the hotly contested race for a seat that pays just over \$95,000 per year. He vowed not to accept any donations from lobbyists or companies from Broward County and ended up raising \$60,615 in contributions.

In New York, Trapp gained 32 percent of the votes in the conservative town of Clarkson, near Brockport, but lost to GOP candidate, Jackie Smith, who drew 68 percent.

A pressroom worker at the Case-Hoyt commercial printing company for 23 years before becoming 503-M secretary-treasurer, Trapp emphasized a spirit of service during his election bid.

"I want to be an advocate for all the residents of Clarkson in order to give them a voice," Trapp said.

Labor leaders know that elective office and union involvement share common goals – assuring workers' rights and defending the middle class.

After his win, Bogen sounded a similar theme:

"I have spent my entire career fighting for the rights of seniors, workers and consumers," he said. "I plan to make sure the interests of these people will continue to be protected." – Dawn Hobbs

Wealthiest Are Winners In U.S. that Has Become 'Staggeringly Unequal'

By Sam Pizzigati

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has just released its latest appraisal of America's income breakdown. Whatever yardstick you use, the CBO study makes plain, the rich are winning. Big.

But how big? How much income do America's households take in? How much do they have left after taxes? Do federal taxes leave the nation less or more unequal?

Questions don't get much more basic than these. Or more complicated either.

The CBO tries to answer those questions, but not before it asks even more.

How, for instance, do we define income? Everyone agrees, of course, that anything anyone collects from a paycheck should count as income. As should any interest collected from a bank account or any profits from the sale of an asset.

But what about the money an employer shells out to cover an employee's health insurance premiums? Or contributes into an employee's 401(k)? Should these dollars be counted as income for the employee?

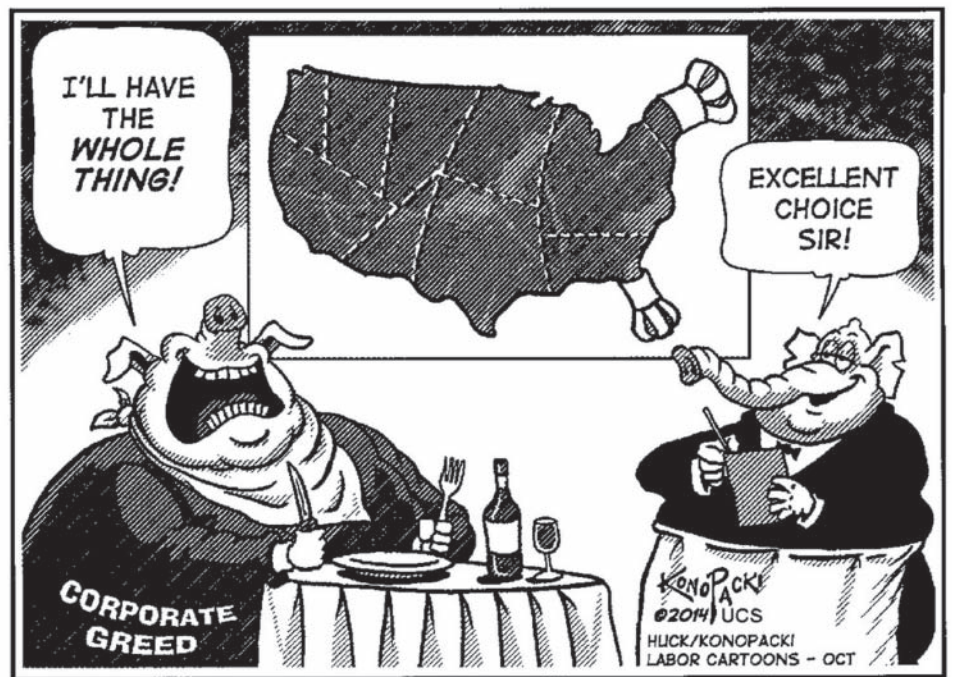
Calculating how much taxes people pay can pose similar puzzlers. How do we treat the taxes corporations pay on their income? Who in the end bears that burden? Shareholders? Consumers?

These sorts of questions carry a political edge. One example: Conservatives regularly dismiss stats on inequality researchers draw from the income people report on their tax returns. These stats, conservatives argue, overstate the income share – note that word: share – of the rich because the numbers don't take into account the value of the government benefits like food stamps that the poor collect.

The non-partisan CBO analysts heard this argument for years, so they began producing reports that address it, by expanding how we define income collected and taxes paid.

A new CBO study reinforces what most Americans already suspect: In modern times, things have never been better for America's wealthiest. They sit comfortably atop a staggeringly unequal nation.

And that inequality stands out starkly even when researchers use criteria that tend to deflate the income share – before and after taxes – of the rich and inflate the income share of everyone else. For instance, the CBO included within the income of poor and middle class Americans not just wages, not just Social Security checks, but nearly



every possible benefit that low- and middle-income Americans receive from government or their employers.

Meanwhile, on the tax side, the CBO assumes the dollars that corporations annually pay in taxes on their profits amount to a tax on rich people, since rich people own the bulk of corporate assets. In the CBO breakdown, 75 percent of corporate taxes paid get counted as taxes paid by America's most affluent.

Bottom line? Lower-income people end up looking richer than they do on the income tax returns they file and higher-income people end up looking poorer.

But that's an illusion. Inequality keeps getting worse, even after all the CBO adjustments that maximize the financial wellbeing of the poor and minimize that wellbeing for the rich. How much worse? Between 1979 and 2011, CBO numbers show after-tax and inflation-adjusted income of the top 1 percent tripled, rising 200 percent to an average of \$1,453,100.

This hefty increase ran over four times the after-tax and inflation-adjusted income increase that America's poorest fifth of households realized between 1979 and 2011 and five times the increase that went to Americans in the middle three-fifths of the income distribution.

In other words, as the Washington Post's Philip Bump notes, we shouldn't be surprised "that the top 1 percent pay an inordinate amount of overall taxes." These rich, he notes, "also make an inordinate amount of the income."

Veteran labor journalist Sam Pizzigati edits *Too Much*, a weekly journal sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies about wealth and inequality. E-mail: editor@toomuchonline.org



ATLANTA SPECIALTY CONFERENCE:

Hints of Improving Economy Boost Optimism

With word of increased hiring at some shops, delegates to the North American Specialty Conference were in an optimistic mood at the group's annual meeting in Atlanta, leaders said, and one official expressed hope that membership losses had "reached a plateau" for the GCC/IBT.

"The reports from the locals were more upbeat this year," said NASC secretary-treasurer Janice Bort, who holds the same office at Local 72-C, Washington, D.C.

In addition to reports of job openings at three or four plants, officials said there have been fewer layoffs and plant closings as the economy continues to recover from years of recession and slow growth.

"That was good news," said Eddie Williams, specialty conference president and vice president-secretary treasurer of Local 527-S, Atlanta, which hosted the September meeting at Staybridge Suites.

Of particular importance at the NASC conference, officers said, was a presentation by the Segal consulting firm regarding changes to the Affordable Care Act – known widely as "Obamacare" – and likely impact on union members.

"It is extremely important to us in negotiations to know what level of benefits and changes of the health care act have kicked in and what has changed," said Ralph Meers, president of Local 527-S and NASC president emeritus. "The update from Segal was key."

In other matters, delegates – approximately 45 from 14 locals – expressed sympathy on occasion of the death of Eliseo Mesarina, secretary-treasurer of Local 415-S, Chicago, who frequently attended NASC meetings. Mesarina died Sept. 16 at the age of 47. "We were devastated at the news," Bort said.

Also noted was the retirement of GCC/IBT organizer Tom Jolley, a member of Local 527-S and Richard Whitworth, executive assistant to GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. Bort said the two officials were revered as friends and colleagues and that delegates were "very emotional" when expressing appreciation.

The sort of bonding that goes on at NASC meetings is essential, said Williams. Delegates exchange information, provide mutual support and look toward the future.

"We are preparing leaders for the challenges of 2015," Williams said.

ALJ ORDERS RERUN IN SACRAMENTO

An administrative law judge has ordered a new union election at Sacramento Container Corp. where he found the company owner harassed and intimidated workers during a GCC/IBT organizing campaign.

The company was found guilty of coercively interrogating his employees about their union sympathies and threatening them with a plant closure if they voted for union representation, administrative law judge Jay R. Pollack ruled.



The decision followed a hearing before the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco where several workers testified about management's actions, most of which the company denied.

"The owner was doing everything illegal under the sun," said Joe Rando, a GCC/IBT District Council 2 representative. "He'd go up to people and ask them how they were going to vote, he promised people raises and never saw it through and he threatened them with losing their jobs if they supported the union. This was an on-going and daily thing with him."

The hearing was held after GCC/IBT District Council 2 and Local 388-M, Los Angeles, filed objections to a September election with the NLRB.

Workers at Sacramento Container, which manufactures and sells corrugated boxes at its McClellan Park, Calif. plant, sought to affiliate with the GCC/IBT to help remedy poor working conditions through a fair employment contract.

"They have every issue going on there in the book," Rando said. "They make very low wages, there's high turnover, family health coverage costs \$800 a month – which the employees can't afford when they're only making \$10 to \$12 per hour – and they were just generally being mistreated on the job."

The judge ruled the company must "cease and desist" unlawful actions against employees and must have a company representative read aloud the court order and then display it in prominent places in the workplace for 60 days. A rerun election is expected early this year.

DC 9 GOLF TOURNEY AIDS STUDENTS

GCC/IBT District Council 9 held its 24th annual golf tournament, a popular event that brings union people together and raises scholarship funds for the children of members.

This year's scholarship recipients, chosen by an independent educator hired to evaluate submissions, are Delaney Jenkins, Stephanie Marengo and Francis Zotter.

Each will receive a \$3,000 scholarship disbursed at \$750 per year for four years of college. So far, the council has awarded more than \$135,000 to members' children.

"I think it's important in this day and age – given how expensive a college education is – that there's a way for the members to get help with putting their children through school," said Kurt Freeman, president of GCC/IBT District Council 9, which includes seven locals in the Atlantic Region.

Money raised by the tournament is used to supplement the funding the council received from Marie Hood, who left more than \$55,000 to the GCC/IBT when she died Dec. 1, 1986 at the age of 83. The donation was used as seed money for the scholarship fund that bears her name.

Hood, who started her career at the Curtis Publishing Company in June 1921 as an apprentice gravure retoucher, joined the International Photoengravers Union, Local 7-P, three months later and continued her membership for 41 years until she retired in 1962.

"As you can imagine, Ms. Hood was one of the very few women joining a craft union in the 1920s," Freeman said. "She was a well-respected employee and very dedicated to her union."

Hood's will read in part: "I will give the balance of my entire life savings to Photoengravers Union Local 7 in appreciation and gratitude for admitting me as a member many years ago, to enable me to make good money and to enjoy my work and cooperation of my co-workers during those many years."

Freeman said they were stunned to receive the donation: "It was interesting – we just got this check out of the blue and she didn't even really tell us what to do with it."

DC9 works continuously to seek sponsors for the scholarship fund, Freeman said.

"We want to make sure we always have enough money in the fund to continue to award these scholarships," he said. "We don't charge the members any more than what pays for their golf. The sponsors pay for the prizes for the golfers and then for the scholarships. At the end of the day, it's really the sponsors that make this all possible."

For more information on how to become a sponsor, call Freeman at 215-739-3190.

QUAD GRAPHIC GROUP VOTES GCC/IBT

Joining co-workers at the Quad Graphic commercial print company in Chalfont, Pa., a group of quality assurance auditors voted to affiliate with the GCC/IBT.

The addition of the 14 quality control workers means GCC/IBT Local 16-N, Philadelphia, now represents all Quad Graphics production employees at the facility.

Quality assurance auditor Mariann Brough, who was the driving force of the organizing campaign, said she and the other auditors witnessed first-hand the benefits a GCC/IBT contract brought the rest of the plant and they wanted the same.



Mariann Brough

"We organized in the quality assurance department because we were tired of working short-handed for years and with no additional pay for doing the extra work," Brough said. "At the same time, we saw our union co-workers getting regular pay increases – and they even had seniority rights."

The fact that a majority of the auditors wanted "a fair contract legally guaranteeing regular wage increases, a worthy level of benefits, first-rate working conditions and protection against unfair discipline, motivated them and gave them the strength to overcome a vigorous campaign by management to remain non-union," said GCC/IBT organizer Rick Street.

Street noted that he was especially impressed with the tenacity of the pro-union auditors who did not yield to management pressure during the organizing drive.

"While the company attempted to isolate the views and messages from Mariann Brough – who was the true backbone of the organizing committee – and Local 16-N members from other departments with captive audience meetings and strong pressure from one-on-one meetings, the majority stood strong and voted in their right to have a voice in the workplace," he said.

With the other 400 union production employees now working under their second contract – ratified in September 2014 – the quality assurance group, Street said, "is looking forward to getting to the table under the direction of Local 16-N President Joe Inemer, and winning their voice and stability which can only be provided by a union contract."

BERNIE SANDERS MEETS IOWA LABOR LEADERS

Bernie Sanders, the straight-talking senator from Vermont who runs as an Independent, addressed capacity pro-labor crowds in Iowa twice in recent weeks – a move widely seen as an effort to court union support for a 2016 presidential bid.

Mark Cooper, who served as president of GCC/IBT Local 727-S, Des Moines, for 18 years and now is president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, was invited to meet with Sanders and local leaders before a December event in Altoona, Iowa, sponsored by the advocacy group, Progress Iowa.

Though he would have little hope of winning the presidency, Sanders could force leading Democratic candidates to debate a worker-oriented agenda in terms they might not otherwise.

Cooper said Sanders was almost certain to enter the race, though the Vermont senator's party affiliation could change.

"The big question within the labor movement and within the Democratic Party is whether he is going to run as an Independent or as a Democrat," Cooper said in late November.

In advance of the Altoona event, Sanders called for a unified approach to meeting the nation's problems.

"Big majorities of Americans understand that that the middle class is disappearing; unemployment is too high; wealth and income inequality is a threat; that corporate tax loopholes must be closed; that Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid must not be cut; that global warming threatens our planet and that billionaires should not be allowed to buy elections," Sanders said. "We should build on that unity."

During the September event, sponsored by the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, Cooper addressed minimum wage issues.

"The average minimum wage earner is not a teenager, as some would have you believe," Cooper told the crowd. "The average age of a minimum wage earner is 35 years old. If we raised the wage, over 300,000 Iowans would get a raise."

Cooper said national chains like McDonald's should show leadership.

"If they raised the wage of their workers to \$15 per hour, they'd have to raise the price of a Big Mac by 68 cents to maintain their \$6 billion dollar profit," he said. "Another option would be to leave the price of a Big Mac unchanged and reduce their bottom line to \$5.6 billion per year. Now, I will pause a second while we wipe the collective tears from our eyes for Ronald McDonald."

Note: 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

Les leaders syndicaux promettent de faire front contre les pertes « brutales » de mi-mandat

Par Zachary Dowdy
Collaboration spéciale au Communicator

Quand les résultats définitifs des élections de mi-mandat ont été connus, les leaders de la CCG-FIT n'ont pas eu besoin d'analyses pour savoir que les nouvelles étaient mauvaises – pour les syndicats, les travailleurs et l'Amérique.

Les démocrates, traditionnellement favorables aux syndicats, ont été facilement battus État après État. Leur débâcle a permis aux républicains de prendre le contrôle du Sénat et de renforcer la mainmise du parti sur la Chambre des représentants.

Les gouverneurs démocratiques ont été balayés tandis que des PDG républicains – dont Scott Walker du Wisconsin farouchement opposé aux syndicats – remportaient un siège après l'autre.

« C'était brutal, carrément brutal, a déclaré John Agenbroad, dirigeant exécutif et secrétaire-trésorier du conseil de district no 3 de la CCG-FIT et président de la section locale 508-M de Cincinnati, en ajoutant que la faible participation – environ 40 pour cent de l'électorat – était la principale cause de la défaite des démocrates.

Pour les dirigeants de la CCG-FI, ces piètres résultats les ont incités à se préparer en vue de l'élection présidentielle de 2016. Il suffit que les républicains fassent un autre gain pour que le Congrès et la Maison-Blanche passent entre leurs mains – et lais-

sent entrevoir un avenir encore plus sombre pour les syndicats.

« Nous ne pouvons pas le permettre, a déclaré George Tedeschi, président de la CCG-FIT. Il ne s'agit pas d'un enjeu républicain-démocrate. C'est une question de bon sens. Le parti républicain d'aujourd'hui est plus conservateur et antisindical qu'il ne l'a jamais été. Nous ne pouvons permettre que le gouvernement tombe entièrement aux mains d'un parti qui essaie de tuer le mouvement syndical. »

Les dirigeants ont pris soin de souligner que les Américains participent habituellement en bien plus grand nombre à l'élection nationale qu'à celles de mi-mandat et que les pertes de mi-mandat ne vont pas nécessairement influencer l'issue de 2016.

« Nous obtenons de bons résultats aux élections présidentielles, a affirmé Mark Cooper, membre de la section locale 727-S de la CCG-FIT à Des Moines, Iowa et président de la Fédération syndicale du centre-sud de l'Iowa de la FAT-CIO.

Pour M. Cooper, le faible taux de participation en novembre tient au mécontentement des électeurs. Trop d'Américains sont restés chez eux parce qu'ils en avaient assez et ne voulaient pas s'occuper de ça.

Selon M. Cooper, la publicité négative, surtout financée par des conservateurs milliardaires comme Charles et David Koch, a aigri les gens et valu des votes aux républicains. Il a ajouté que le parti républicain cherchait à punir le président Barack Obama et

sanctionner l'*Affordable Care Act* qui – ironiquement – a offert une protection à des millions de personnes qui n'auraient autrement pas pu se la payer sans aide.

« Les élections de mi-mandat 2014 sont nettement une victoire pour les républicains et un rejet des démocrates et du président Obama », ont écrit les analystes Jamie Carson, Ryan Williamson et Joel Sievert, tous chercheurs politiques à l'Université de Géorgie.

En Géorgie, la démocrate Michelle Nunn a semblé prendre ses distances avec Obama lors d'une course sénatoriale contre le républicain David Perdue, a fait remarquer Ralph Meers, président de la section locale 527-S de la CCG-FIT, mais sa tactique s'est avérée superflue.

D. Perdue l'a emporté par 53 pour cent contre M. Nunn, qui a obtenu 45 pour cent des votes. Les choses n'ont guère été mieux pour le démocrate Jason Carter, petit-fils du président Jimmy Carter, qui s'est incliné par 45 pour cent contre le gouverneur républicain Nathan Deal, qui a obtenu 53 pour cent.

« C'est ennuyeux pour tout le monde, a indiqué R. Meers. Nous représentons des personnes dans notre syndicat et notre pays, et nous nous efforçons d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie. » Selon lui, les gens votent trop souvent contre leurs meilleurs intérêts.

Joseph Inemer, vice-président exécutif du conseil de district no 9 de la CCG-FIT à Philadelphie, a fait remarquer que le

démocrate Tom Wolf a quand même été élu gouverneur en Pennsylvanie, mais que les bonnes nouvelles ont été plutôt rares le soir des élections.

« D'une façon générale, ce fut très décevant », a fait remarquer J. Inemer à propos de la scène nationale, en ajoutant que les électeurs de droite avaient voté pour que les républicains parce qu'ils voulaient faire payer Obama pour l'*Affordable Care Act* et sa promesse de modifier la politique d'immigration. « Un sacré un revers. »

J. Inemer s'est rallié aux dirigeants de la CCG-FIT en affirmant que les membres doivent s'impliquer activement sur le plan politique pour contrer les attaques persistantes du parti républicain contre les syndicats – une charge qui vise les lois sur le droit de travailler en vigueur dans plusieurs États.

Préoccupé sans être atterré, R. Meers considère les élections de mi-mandat de novembre comme une mise en garde adressée aux membres apathiques des syndicats.

« Certains des principaux gains enregistrés par notre section locale datent de l'administration Nixon, estime-t-il. Nous avons mis sur pied notre caisse fiduciaire de santé et de bien-être social. Nous devons agir un peu différemment, descendre dans la rue et protester, et être plus militants. »

Zachary Dowdy est journaliste à *Newsday* et vice-président de l'unité de rédaction de la section locale 406-C à Long Island.

Construyamos sobre los escombros de las brutales elecciones de noviembre

Por Zachary Dowdy
Especial para "The Communicator"

Cuando concluyó el recuento de votos en las pasadas elecciones de noviembre, los líderes de GCC/IBT no necesitaron análisis que les dijeran que las noticias no eran buenas: ni para los sindicatos, ni para los trabajadores, ni para el país.

Los demócratas, tradicionalmente aliados de los sindicatos, habían resultado vencidos con facilidad, en un estado tras otro. La victoria republicana le dio a ese partido control del Senado y fortaleció el dominio republicano en la Cámara de Representantes.

Perdieron varios gobernadores demócratas, mientras que sus oponentes republicanos – incluso Scott Walker de Arizona, el archienemigo del movimiento obrero – se anotaron una victoria tras otra.

«Fue brutal, absolutamente brutal,» dijo John Agenbroad, funcionario ejecutivo y secretario-tesorero del Consejo Distrital 3 de GCC/IBT así como presidente de la Local 508-M, de Cincinnati, quien agregó que la escasa participación, de apenas un 40 por ciento del electorado, había sido el mayor factor en la pérdida de los demócratas.

Los líderes del GCC/IBT dijeron que este funesto resultado les ha dado nuevos bríos en anticipación de las elecciones presidenciales del 2016. Otra derrota a manos de los republicanos pondría el Congreso federal y la Casa Blanca en manos del partido republicano, creando un futuro aún más desolador para el sindicalismo.

«No podemos permitir que eso suceda,» dijo George Tedeschi, presidente del GCC/IBT. «Esta no es una cuestión de republicanos o demócratas. Es una cuestión de sentido común. El partido republicano actual es más conservador y antisindicalista que nunca en su vida. No podemos correr el riesgo de que el gobierno completo pase a manos de un partido que está tratando de aplastar el movimiento sindical.»

Los líderes subrayaron que es importante notar que las elecciones nacionales típicamente atraen a muchos más votantes a las urnas que las elecciones a mitad de mandato, y que las pérdidas de este noviembre no necesariamente nos condenan a perder en el 2016.

«Nos va bien en los años de elecciones presidenciales,» declaró Mark Cooper, miembro de la Local 727-S de GCC/IBT en Des Moines, Iowa, y presidente de la Federación de Trabajadores de South Central Iowa, AFL-CIO.

La insatisfacción de los votantes contribuyó a la postrísima participación en noviembre, dijo Cooper. Demasiados se quedaron en casa quejándose de estar hartos de elecciones y diciendo no tener interés de participar, según Cooper.

La propaganda negativa, mucha de ella sufragada por multimillonarios conservadores como Charles y David Koch, añadió Cooper, agriaron las actitudes hacia el proceso electoral y sesgaron el voto a favor de los republicanos. Agregó que la motivación de la base del partido republicano

fue el deseo de castigar al presidente Barack Obama y dejar constancia de sus objeciones a la Ley de Atención Médica Asequible, que –irónicamente– ha dado cobertura de salud a millones de personas que antes no podían pagarla sin asistencia económica.

«Las elecciones de mitad de mandato en el 2014 reflejan una clara victoria para los republicanos y el repudio hacia los demócratas y el presidente Obama,» escribieron los analistas Jamie Carson, Ryan Williamson y Joel Sievert, profesores de Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad de Georgia.

En Georgia, la demócrata Michelle Nunn pareció querer distanciarse de Obama en la carrera senatorial contra el republicano David Perdue, comentó Ralph Meers, Presidente de la Local 527-S del GCC/IBT, pero la táctica demostró ser inútil.

Perdue logró un 53 por ciento de los votos contra un 45 por ciento para Nunn. La suerte no favoreció mucho más al demócrata Jason Carter, nieto de Presidente Jimmy Carter, el cual se anotó un 45 por ciento contra el titular republicano Nathan Deal, quien recibió el 53 por ciento de los votos.

«Es bochornoso para todos nosotros,» declaró Meers. «Representamos a gente de nuestro sindicato y de nuestro país, y estamos tratando de mejorarles la calidad de vida.» Demasiado a menudo, agregó Meers, la gente vota en contra de sus mejores intereses.

Joseph Inemer, vicepresidente ejecutivo del Distrito 9 de GCC/IBT en Filadelfia, destacó que Tom Wolf, un demócrata, salió

electo gobernador en Pensilvania – un resultado inesperado – pero las buenas noticias escasearon la noche de los comicios.

«En general, fue muy decepcionante,» dijo Inemer refiriéndose al panorama nacional y agregando que los votantes que se inclinan hacia las derechas emitieron votos a favor de los republicanos para vengarse de Obama por la Ley de Atención Médica Asequible y por prometer modificar su política migratoria. «Creo que fue una reacción extrema.»

Inemer se unió a sus colegas líderes de GCC/IBT para declarar que los miembros tienen que participar activamente en la política para contrarrestar los persistentes ataques del partido republicano contra el movimiento sindical, un asalto que incluye las leyes del derecho al trabajo en varios estados.

Preocupado pero no acobardado, Meers tomó las elecciones de noviembre como un mensaje a los miembros indiferentes de las filas sindicales.

«Algunos de los mejores logros de nuestra Local los conseguimos durante la administración de Nixon,» dijo. «Logramos establecer nuestro fondo fiduciario de salud y bienestar, y otros adelantos. Ahora tenemos que jugar este juego de manera algo diferente. Tenemos que salir a la calle y protestar. Tenemos que ser más militantes.»

Zachary Dowdy es reportero del diario *Newsday* y vicepresidente de la unidad editorial de la Local 406-C, en Long Island.

Unpaid Beneficiaries

December 2014 – The following is a list of persons whom the Graphic Communications Benevolent Trust Fund believes may be eligible to receive part or all of a participant's death benefit. The participant whose name is listed has died but the fund has been unable to locate the person listed as beneficiary. Potential beneficiaries, or anyone with information relating to their whereabouts, should contact the fund at 25 Louisiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or phone the secretary-treasurer's office at (202) 508-6660.

PARTICIPANT NAME	LOCAL	DOD	BENEFICIARY NAME	PARTICIPANT NAME	LOCAL	DOD	BENEFICIARY NAME
Warren J Bressingham	M 51-23	10/1994	Alice Kunze	Dieter Luft	L 1	12/2011	Gabriele Kummer
William Herbert Brown II	N 9	06/2007	Eileen S Tibbs	Dieter Luft	L 1	12/2011	Stephen Kummer
William Herbert Brown II	N 9	06/2007	Cathy L Brundage	Harry MacCartney	M 14	03/2007	Harry MacCartney Jr
Paul S Brown	M259	09/2010	Dorothy Whitcomb	Robert M Moss Sr	B 4	12/2012	Catherine Moss
Garnett Dague	M 24	08/2009	Children	Robert Pinckert	M514	12/2010	Daniel Pinckert
Donald Granley	C 29	11/2011	Ronald M Olson	John L Pratt	T853	04/2012	Brent Pratt
Alvin J Hirsch Jr	MAL		Delaine Hirsch	Fred K Quattlebaum	M575	05/2013	Regena Williams
Charles Knipfer	M508	01/2010	Mildred Iva Knipfer	Lewis Russell	T455	06/2013	Daughter
Alfred LaTour	M259	05/2011	Christopher LaTour	Edward Sepich, Jr	M518	03/2014	Michael Sepich
Jessie Marguerite Long	M197	05/2010	Siblings	Helen Uman	M235	06/2012	Joe Uman

Unpaid Benefits

In order to determine if there were retired participants whose heirs were entitled to, but did not collect, death benefits, The Graphic Communications Benevolent Trust Fund (BTF) electronically compared a list of the fund's retired participants with various databases tracking dates of death.

The following is a list of deceased BTF retirees for whom no benefit claims were made as of September, 2014. The beneficiaries of these members may be entitled to a benefit from the fund. They, or anyone who knows the whereabouts of the beneficiaries, should contact the fund at 25 Louisiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or phone the secretary-treasurer's office at (202) 508-6660.

Note: Local indicated for a deceased participant may not be consistent with the individual's local at retirement date due to subsequent mergers.

NAME	LOCAL	DOD	NAME	LOCAL	DOD	NAME	LOCAL	DOD
Don E Anderson	M 1	12/2013	Silas Dorsey Jr	B4	09/2013	David Robertson	M508	12/2013
Paul H Anderson	M577	10/2013	Carl R Doudera	MAL	12/2013	Letha Roe	L1	08/2013
George V Andrews	M458	03/2014	Ronald E Dove	M285	04/2014	Jack A Rohrbach	C329	05/2014
Martha Balthazar	L 1	08/2013	Richard C Doyle	M1	09/2013	Herbert Roncarti	L1	06/2013
Henry J Bartosz	C 27	12/2013	Edward F Duffy	N2	11/2013	Barry S Russell, Sr	C1	01/2014
R Stewart Bell	MAL	03/2014	Richard E Easton	N128	03/2014	Thomas M Russo	N2	05/2014
Stanley C Blake	M2289	03/2014	Emil Ebner	C72	12/2013	Charles E Scherier	C4	04/2014
Charles R Boley	M 58	07/2013	William A Ervin	S625	10/2013	Edward Smith	M458	10/2013
Paul J Brosseau	L 1	02/2014	David Evans	L1	08/2013	Richard L Smith	N128	01/2014
Fred D Brown Jr	T355-01	03/2014	Abe A Fractor	T572-01	01/2014	Willis S Smith	B119	05/2014
Louise C Brown	M 14	01/2014	Russel W Gilbert	L1	09/2013	Agnes Snoppek	M241	07/2013
Thomas H Burke	N 13	04/2014	James T Griffin	M197	10/2013	Jessie R Snow	M197	11/2013
Henry Burts	B 4	11/2013	Alexis Hackenbracht	M508	07/2013	Alvin W Spears	M17	05/2014
Michael W Byra	M577	10/2013	R A Hamilton	T355-01	09/2013	Roscoe E Spears	M17	09/2013
Emil T Caesar	M 17	04/2014	P Hartman	L1	08/2013	Kathryn Spengler	S625	07/2013
J Callura	M503	12/2013	Edwin C Heintzman	MAL	12/2013	Bartholom Sportelli	L1	05/2014
Edgar M Campbell	M388	02/2014	Edith Heller	T572-01	10/2013	Albert Stahly	C1	08/2013
G T Capps	M8	01/2014	Norman Lee Henderson	C1	07/2013	Genevieve Steadman	M17	01/2014
Charles Carpenter	M518	04/2014	Charles Higdon	M619	12/2013	Don J Steavens	M2289	09/2013
Diane M Clarke	B119	07/2013	Lawrence R Hilb	M458	03/2014	G E Steckbeck	C4	07/2013
Bonnie Conklin	L1	04/2014	William B Hilbert Jr	C1	01/2014	Herman W Sudbrink	M17	04/2014
William C Cornwell	M518	08/2013	Marvin E Horton	B4	03/2014	Ronald L Swatzyna	M197	12/2013
Ruth L Cramblett	MAL	08/2013	John R Huggler	M241	03/2014	Grace E Tallchief	MAL	10/2013
Leroy Crutcher	M508	11/2013	Eva Jaurique	T572-01	09/2013	Kelly Tawney Jr	N128	04/2014
Gilbert R Damian	MAL	11/2013	Darby Johnson	M8	10/2013	Arthur R Thulson	S625	09/2013
Josephine V Dangelo	M285	07/2013	Henry J Johnson Jr	B4	08/2013	Frances M Thurston	M600	12/2013
Jack L Dauzenroth	M747	04/2014	Paul R Johnson	MAL	04/2014	Billie C Turvill	M2289	12/2013
Mary Demperio	M503	09/2013	Naomi J Jones	B4	11/2013	Francis Twitchel	B4	01/2014
Charles J Deroche	C558	07/2013	Edwin C Karr	C329	03/2014	William Utter	M514	10/2013
Randy C Dewberry	M8	10/2013	James F Kennedy	M264	04/2014	Robert Vicarini	T355-01	10/2013
Charles Dierbach	M612	03/2014	Thomas C Kenny	N2	05/2014	George Voss	C27	09/2013
Louis M Dinatale	C27	12/2013	Richard D Kochmanski	C27	07/2013	Edward J Waiter Sr	N3	01/2014
Emerald J Doman	MAL	03/2014	Edward Kocjancich	M458	05/2014	Betty M Walrath	M503	04/2014
						Martin Ward	M503	09/2013
						Violet A Watanabe	T996-01	08/2013
						Garry A Weese	M285	12/2013
						Lloyd Westlake	L1	10/2013
						James M Wheldon	M388	08/2013
						Olivia J Widmer	MAL	02/2014
						Edward E Williams	M575	02/2014
						Joseph M Wine	N128	04/2014
						Gilbert A Wolford	M285	07/2013
						Marjorie A Zeman	M518	09/2013



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Eastern Conference Set For May 3-5

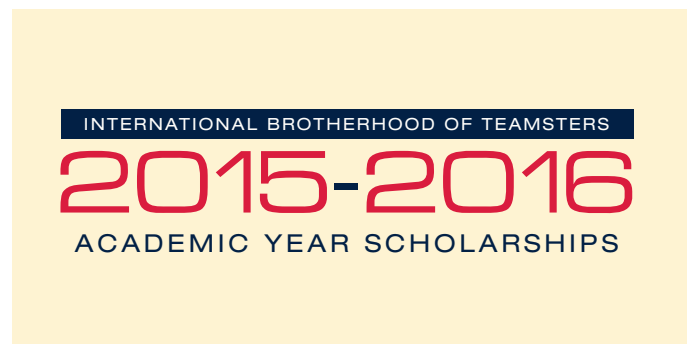
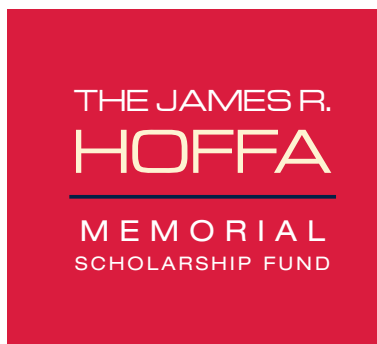
With a strong emphasis on education but promise of good times, the annual GCC/IBT North American Eastern Conference meeting will be held May 3-5 at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, N.J.

Scheduled to make presentations will be representatives of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, health insurance officials, and financial experts.

John Agenbrod, chairman of the Inter-Local Pension Fund Board of Trustees, and Math Wenner, administrator of the GCIU-Employer Retirement Fund, also will address delegates. Other speakers include GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi and Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Robert Lacey.

"For new union officials and all the delegates, it's a learning experience," said Harry Selnow, vice president of the conference and president of Local 612-M, Caldwell, N.J.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Selnow at 973-227-6801.



LAST ROUND FOR UPIGA TOURNEY

Nothing goes on forever but the Union Printcraft International Golf Association looked like it had a shot.

The annual tournament of union golfers survived the Great Depression, a three-year layoff during World War 2 and even the depths of the post-millennial recession.

But UPIGA officials say the 88th tournament in June at North Myrtle Beach, S.C. will be the event's "last hurrah." Dwindling membership and tight money have made it impossible to continue, said Jim Sherlock, the group's secretary-treasurer.

This is not good-bye, however.

Golfers intend to meet informally for an outing once a year. "We made a promise we'd get together in smaller groups," Sherlock said.

The final UPIGA tournament will be May 31-June 5 at the Baywatch Resort and Conference Center, North Myrtle Beach. For information, call Sherlock at 201-666-7773 or tournament chairman Matt Wertheim at 201-664-9676. Wertheim's email is: mwertheim@callagylaw.com

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Funny Business



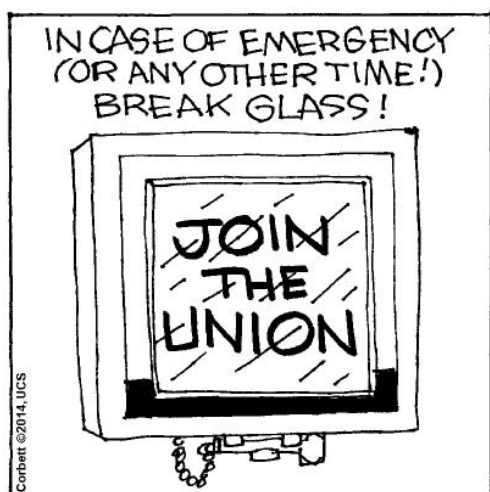
"I think we have a mole."



"Once upon a time there was a thing called a pension..."



"My boss really screwed up today. He accidentally made me feel valued and appreciated."



Corbett ©2014, UCS



"Jill's right. 'We offer a challenging work environment' sounds better than 'Welcome to the salt mines.'"



"My supervisor has a number of annoying habits. The worst is showing up for work every day."