

# Graphic Communicator

April-May-June 2016




Volume 34 Number 2

The Newspaper of the Graphic Communications Conference / IBT

www.gciu.org


## Emergency Response



**PAGES 5**

GCC/IBT members and Teamsters around the nation aided residents of Flint, Michigan, after government officials failed to protect the community from lead-tainted water.

## Wrong Turn



**PAGE 3**

Union members who support anti-worker political candidates jeopardize their own best interests and the future of organized labor, leaders warn.

## Going Under



**PAGE 6**

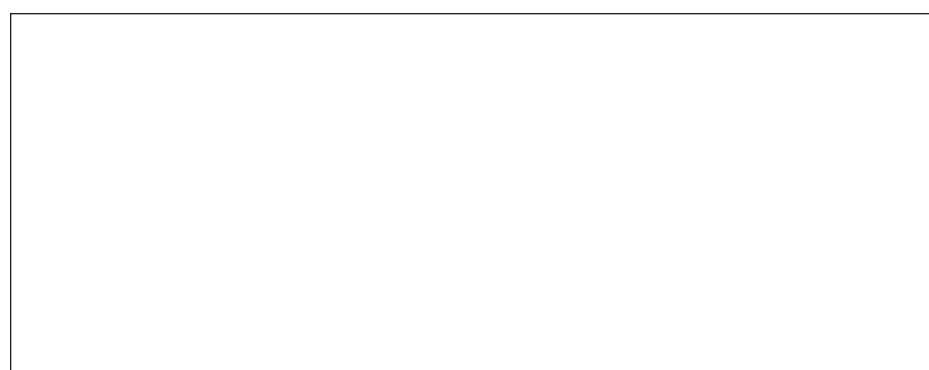
With stagnant wages and mounting money worries, middle-class Americans are anxious – and angry, says former U.S. labor secretary Robert Reich

## High Stakes



**PAGE 8**

Emphasis at the GCC/IBT's third international convention in Las Vegas will be on political awareness and support for labor-friendly candidates in the unpredictable 2016 election season.



### ALSO INSIDE :

- Women have 'Rich' Teamster History..... Page 4
- The Push for Fiduciary Standards..... Page 7
- Racial Equality Long a Top IBT Priority ..... Page 9
- Small Scale Organizing Still Works..... Page 11

# GOP's Regrettable Right-Wing Rhetoric

You can't blame union people for worrying.

Any labor advocate paying attention to 2016 campaign coverage is sure to be spooked by the fierce rhetoric coming from Republican presidential candidates and the implications for working people.

Catering to the party's far-right base, GOP hopefuls find it useful to portray the United States as a faltering giant and President Barack Obama as either inept or sinister, or both.

"Barack Obama is undertaking a systematic effort to change the country, to make America like the rest of the world," declared Sen. Mark Rubio of Florida. Rubio dropped out of the nomination sweepstakes after losing a primary in his own state but Republicans still peddle the idea: Obama is a stealth agent trying to rob the nation of its unique character and best qualities.

As challengers to the White House, Republicans have a right, and, even, a duty, to question the person in power and the party he represents. But the level of discussion is so off-kilter that you wonder if GOP zealots and the American electorate inhabit the same solar system.

Obama is portrayed as an utter failure whose alleged European-style policies will crush initiative, empty the national treasury and snuff the innovative spirit essential to free market success – in other

words, turn the United States into some bleak socialist backwater.

Wrong, ridiculous – and seriously out of touch with reality.

Unmentioned by Republicans is that Obama saved the auto industry, launched a health care program based on private insurance, supported entrepreneurial efforts of all sorts and is less a social experimenter than Richard Nixon, whose support for affirmative action, OSHA and the Environmental Protection Agency would have left him open to charges of treason by GOP firebrands of today.

Just below the surface of GOP scare talk is a strain of anti-unionism that demands attention. On the campaign trail, candidates are smart enough to mostly avoid direct attacks on organized labor – Republicans are advertising themselves as deeply concerned about the middle class – but the result of their policy prescriptions attack unionism at its roots.

With an agenda of tax cuts, reductions in the social safety net, calls for the end to "Obamacare" and allegiance to the extremist, small-government agenda of billionaire benefactors, Republicans are

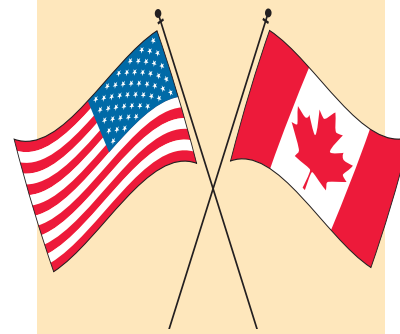
preparing to put in place a radical, me-first society that, by definition, rejects collective action of any sort. Make no mistake: If Republicans could snuff unions entirely, they would.

Even though the GOP has been overtaken by ideologues ready to smash organized labor, many union members have been drawn to the populist message of Republican candidates.

The New York Times reported, for instance, that Donald Trump is gaining ground with rank-and-file unionists. Union officials told the Times

that workers worried about job security have fallen for Trump's promise to snap his fingers and solve every problem – as though governance was just another gig on reality TV.

In unsettled financial times, concerns about the future are understandable. But let's get serious. If the GOP keeps control of Congress and takes back the White House – with Donald Trump or anyone else – years of progress could unravel overnight. We must be smart enough to ignore election year sweet talk. The interests of American labor will not be served by a party that wants to kill the American labor movement.



4

## Something Happened

*Once Americans worked together and built a booming middle class. Commentator Tom Mackell asks: What went wrong?*

7

## Missing Persons

*When voters don't show up, the wrong people are apt to get elected and, as the Flint, Michigan water crisis shows, trouble can follow.*

10

## Risky Business

*Researchers say the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact puts U.S. jobs in danger.*

16

## Along Came Jones

*A refurbished memorial honoring Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones hails the labor activist once called 'most dangerous woman in America.'*

### FEATURES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| As I See It/<br>George Tedeschi . . . . .         | 2  |
| Outlook/<br>James Hoffa . . . . .                 | 2  |
| Managing Editor's Note/<br>Fred Bruning . . . . . | 2  |
| Editorial . . . . .                               | 6  |
| Point of View/<br>Robert Recih . . . . .          | 6  |
| Cartoon/John Branch . . . . .                     | 6  |
| Bottom Line/<br>Jerry Morgan . . . . .            | 7  |
| Guest Spot/<br>Steve Nobles . . . . .             | 7  |
| All the Best . . . . .                            | 7  |
| Local Stops . . . . .                             | 11 |
| Française/Español . . . . .                       | 12 |
| In Memoriam . . . . .                             | 13 |

# 'Let's Get America Working'

Everyday Americans are facing increased challenges at work and at home. The outsourcing of millions of good-paying jobs overseas has led to lower paychecks here in the United States. That, in turn, has made it more difficult for many workers to provide for their families.

The Teamsters, however, have a plan to help turn the tide. Called "Let's Get America Working," it will encourage both Democratic and Republican lawmakers to endorse a pro-worker platform. At the center of the campaign is the need for this country to invest in infrastructure, which in turn will create good jobs for hard-working Americans.

Infrastructure investment is key to creating better-paying jobs and getting the U.S. economy back on track. Working on transportation, energy and water projects will put thousands to work across the country. It will also improve roads, bridges, ports, which in turn will help business and improve the U.S. economy.

Buy-in from both parties is necessary to effectuate change. If this nation is going to improve the lives of its citizens, Congress needs

to advance bipartisan policies that will encourage job growth. And it must put the current and future generations of workers in a position to succeed by giving them the skills they need.

There also is a significant need to move forward with a broader agenda that puts U.S. workers first. That means standing up against lousy trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership that send American jobs overseas.

There was a time when all these issues weren't partisan issues – they were American values, something everyone could support. But government is broken. Partisan bickering has replaced finding solutions. That's why it's

essential for the Teamsters and like-minded allies to join together and push this message with lawmakers, colleagues, friends and family.

If elected representatives from both parties want to rebuild the trust between government and workers, they need to reinvest in the people that make this country great. Better pay will lead to more spending and improve workers' quality of life. Everyone wins.

Let's get America working.



### MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE

Isn't the Republican presidential contest something? Conversation among candidates often is more like a kindergarten shouting match than discussion of vital national issues. Despite the sorry state of GOP politics, reporter Zack Dowdy observes in a Page 3 story that union leaders are worried. Officials say too many members – in the GCC/IBT and organized labor, generally – are edging toward Republicans. President George Tedeschi warns that defections of this sort are a "huge mistake" that threaten middle-class Americans and the union movement. Also in this edition, financial columnist Jerry Morgan highlights a Labor Department plan to assure investment advisers give clients a fair shake and reporter Dawn Hobbs writes about the Flint, Michigan, water crisis – a sad story of government neglect. One optimistic note: IBT members from around the country joined GCC people in Michigan to bring clean water to needy community members. We succeeded where politicians failed. – Fred Bruning

# Graphic Communicator

The Newspaper  
of the Graphic  
Communications  
Conference / IBT

Volume 34 Number 2  
April-May-June 2016

(USPS 410-750)

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

25 Louisiana Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202-508-6660

e-mail: [webmessenger@gciu.org](mailto:webmessenger@gciu.org)  
Internet: [www.gciu.org](http://www.gciu.org)

**GEORGE TEDESCHI**  
Editor

**FRED BRUNING**  
Managing Editor

**AFFILIATIONS**  
Change to Win Coalition  
Canadian Labour Congress  
Member of International  
Labor Communications  
Association of Labour Media



© GCC/IBT 382 M

© CALM 3

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.

#### CANADA POST:

Return undeliverables to  
P.O. Box 2601, 6915 Dixie Rd,  
Mississauga, ON L4T 0A9.



# Right Turn is Wrong Move For Labor Union Members

By Zachary Dowdy  
Special to the Communicator

Like many GCC/IBT leaders, the president of Local 3-N, Boston, has heard his members speak favorably of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump as a champion of the working class – a straight shooter who aims to bring greatness and jobs back to America.

But Sullivan urges caution. Trump, and other Republican presidential contenders, also have argued against the minimum wage, vilified the Affordable Care Act widely known as “Obamacare,” and shown persistent disregard for labor interests and minority rights, Sullivan warns.

“He’s long on rhetoric but short on details,” Sullivan said of Trump. “I tell people, ‘Don’t look at what he says. Look at what he does.’”

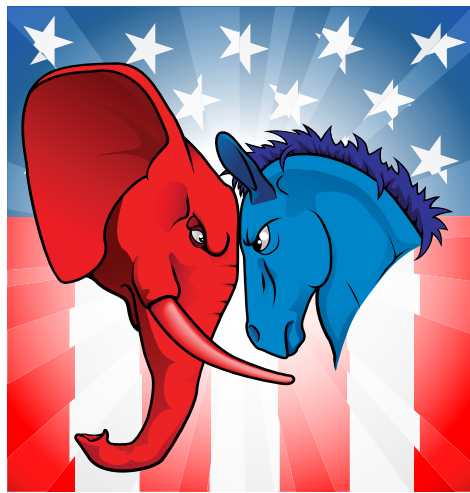
For labor leaders who find members leaning increasingly toward conservative, anti-labor candidates, there is an urgent need to counter right-wing arguments before November.

In the case of Trump, longtime GCC/IBT leader John Agenbroad said the billionaire businessman has shrewdly portrayed himself as an “outsider” who has never held public office and doesn’t seek funding from wealthy backers. To voters who feel betrayed by establishment politics, Trump can seem irresistible, Agenbroad said.

Often ignored are Trump’s crude campaign trail remarks, lack of coherent policy statements and what often appears little knowledge of vital domestic and foreign policy issues. Also overlooked was his recent backing for right-to-work laws. “I like right to work,” Trump said in South Carolina, adding the anti-union legislation is “better for the people.”

“He’s a loose cannon,” Agenbroad said of Trump.

Agenbroad, former executive officer and secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT District Council 3 and president of Local 508-M in Cincinnati who now works as a political consultant, said if Trump wins the GOP nomination he is likely



to lead his party to defeat in November. But, in an unusual election year, predictions often have proved risky.

Union leaders admit they are wary. “Don’t ever be over-confident,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “Anything can happen.”

Writing in *The Atlantic* magazine, journalist Richard Brownstein observed that Trump is “amplifying the voices of constituencies that have usually been outshouted in fights for their party’s nomination,” Brownstein said.

Worried union leaders acknowledge that many members feel “outshouted” by powerful voices in American politics and are showing anger by backing extreme candidates.

Trump may be the most obvious beneficiary of the trend, labor officials say, but GOP hopeful Ted Cruz also represents extreme right-wing positions and is a Tea Party favorite. Even Ohio governor John Kasich, cast as a moderate in the GOP race, has a strong conservative streak.

In recent years, many union members voted for candidates like Kasich and right-wing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who stripped public unions of most collective bargaining rights. It is a development that causes concern at the highest union levels.

As Teamster General President James Hoffa often has observed, the irony of union people voting for conservatives is obvious.

“We’ve made them into Republicans,” Hoffa has said.

Tedeschi also laments the rightward drift evident in union ranks.

“Sometimes people become comfortable and lose focus,” Tedeschi said. “They get won over by empty talk and distracted by hot button social issues that have little to do with real-life worries like wages and plant safety. And they forget who have been long-time friends of unions and who wants to tear down our movement. Voting for any Republican candidate this year is a huge mistake. When it comes to labor, one is worse than the other.”

Mark Cooper, a member of GCC/IBT Local 727-S, Des Moines, Iowa and president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, said, for instance, that he knows union members who oppose Hillary Clinton so strongly that they might vote for a Republican alternative, including Trump.

It is a case in point, he said. Clinton has been criticized for her stand on some international trade agreements but, in general, stands strongly with union workers.

On the other hand, Cooper recalled meeting a worker at one of Trump’s hotels who said he made \$9 per hour working at non-union Trump property and \$18 hour working for another property that was unionized.

It is essential that union leaders point out disparities of this sort as the election season continues, Cooper said.

Union people must vote for candidates who will oppose the Republican anti-union agenda that includes pushing a federal right-to-work law, gutting the National Labor Relations Board and seating a far-right justice on the Supreme Court to replace the late Antonin Scalia, labor leaders say.

“You need to have those conversations with your members,” Cooper said. “We do have Republicans in our ranks.”

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

# Pull America Together Before Elites Allow it to Unravel

By Thomas J. Mackell Jr.

**W**e fought great wars together and were victorious. We coalesced as a dynamic and energized workforce and built powerful factories and industries, schools, roads, dams, bridges, pipelines and ports. We knew no bounds.

We recognized that forming and joining unions was a good thing. We knew how to do our jobs and make employers wealthy but were convinced our collective success would lift us into the middle class.

We educated our children and in hopes of offering them a better life. We reveled in our success. We were proud of it and were eager to make certain others gained the same advantages. It was the American way.

Then something happened!

When corporate leaders began to recognize that they could outsource jobs, shift entire factories overseas, master technology and automation to the detriment of workers and take advantage of shifting currencies, our world began to unravel.

The worker became a commodity.

Today, after a seven-year economic recovery, hiring has improved to a degree, stock markets have rallied and consumer confidence has elevated slightly but selfish U.S. corporations remain hesitant to deploy funds to new projects and equipment, or upgrade facilities. Instead, companies continue to shower shareholders with record levels of dividends and buy backs.

The shift to a greater inequality of wealth between worker and owner began three decades ago and continues relentlessly. Many workers have been forced to take a second or third job in order to survive.

Elitists began to think that they, and only they, mattered and that the will of the collective interest went against the grain – that unions, and a sense of community, were irrelevant.

Fraud became acceptable and pervasive as evidenced in the financial and banking world that led to the great crash in 2008. Fraud haunts our legislative chambers and halls of justice and embraces the ugly advances of lobbyists. It has entered the realm of sports and soiled our passion for heroes.



DONKEYHOTEY VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

Cynical elected officials have nurtured this mindset and pushed legislation that favors the wealthy and weakens the working class – the people who rise up every morning to go off and start this great engine of the machine we call the American economy.

They have fostered a culture of excess and narcissism and self-promotion – a society where wealth, not character, is the highest priority.

But I have faith in the knowledge that the collective interest will succeed in the long run – that the will of the people will be triumphant.

The old adage that “no man is an island” will ring true again and the people will regain their rightful power. We must devote our energies to accomplish this goal and not

falter in our belief that we can win the day. Failure should not be an option.

We know that history does, in fact, repeat itself and there will be a political day of reckoning for the anti-labor elites – those who said the ordinary American didn’t matter.

*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.”*

## IBT Women are ‘Making Better Life for All’

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

**I**n 1918, Teamster women truck drivers transported doctors and medicine to rural areas during the deadly Spanish Flu pandemic. Women were on the front lines in the 1934 IBT strike against Minneapolis trucking firms that led to creation of the National Labor Relations Board. They worked on production lines during World War 2 and after the war helped the union gain political clout.

The IBT celebrated the contributions of 20th Century women Teamsters – and their contemporary counterparts – as the union reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality and marked Women’s History Month.

“Throughout our rich history, Teamster women have been engaged and active in their local unions and communities, helping to make a better life for all workers and their families,” said a tribute on the IBT website. “Teamster women have fought, and continue to fight for social and economic justice for workers.”

Women also have contributed significantly in the unionized print industry, said Janice Bort, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 72-C, Washington, D.C., and a member of the IBT Human Rights Commission.



Women mechanics in 1928 were pioneers in the push for gender equality. On the job and at the bargaining table, Teamsters continue ‘standing up for what is just and right.’



She noted that suffragist Susan B. Anthony, who launched a newspaper, “The Revolution,” with activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was elected president of the Women’s Typographical Union in 1869 and subsequently became corresponding secretary for the International Typographical Union. Anthony “worked tirelessly” to bring women into the ITU, Bort said, and the union became the first labor organization to accept women members.

Often overlooked in the history of women printers is Mary Katherine Goddard of Baltimore, Bort said. Goddard was hired by the Continental Congress to print copies of the Declaration of Independence – a task that likely would have been viewed as treason by the British. “She put herself in grave danger,” Bort said.

In its recognition of Women’s History Month, the IBT said women Teamsters – and their union – continue the fight for equality and social progress.

“Our past reflects a consistent, persistent fight for justice, and

Teamsters are continuing that fight to this day,” The IBT said. “Whether it’s in statehouses, at the negotiating table, or in the workplace, Teamsters are standing up for what is just and right – and Teamster women are taking a leading role in these important battles.”



# Politicians Talk but Unions Take Action in Flint Water Crisis

By Dawn Hobbs  
Special to the Communicator

**W**hile politicians continue to grandstand and bicker about the lead-contaminated water supply in Flint, Michigan that prompted an alarming and highly publicized public health crisis, GCC/IBT and Teamster locals from throughout the Midwest have taken action to help the city's residents.

Union members have been hitting the road and trucking in hundreds of thousands of bottles of water to Flint, a community of approximately 100,000 with a significant population of low-income residents and minority families with small children.

GCC/IBT Local 2/289-M, which represents about 75 workers in Flint, has donated \$1,000 to Teamsters Joint Council 43 to aid residents, said Steve Nobles, 2/289-M president and secretary-treasurer of District Council 3. In addition, Nobles said, a number of Flint-area GCC/IBT members declined offers of bottled water and requested supplies "be sent to folks in more need than them."

The Flint emergency drew sharp comments from IBT General President James Hoffa, a native of Detroit, and GCC/IBT leader George Tedeschi.

"Flint residents are in a crisis, placed in a situation no one in this country should face," Hoffa said in a Detroit News commentary. He blamed Michigan governor Rick Snyder, a Republican, for "shirking his responsibilities to find a long-term solution" and said elected officials "need to ask themselves what they would do if their own families faced such a health crisis."

Tedeschi said the debacle in Flint reflected a familiar disconnect between those in power and the public they are sworn to serve.

"This is an outrageous situation where honest, hard-working people were put at great risk because of short-sighted government leaders who jeopardized health and wellbeing in the name of phony fiscal responsibility," Tedeschi said. "It's more of the same reckless conservative politics and it's about time we said enough is enough."

Trouble began when government officials switched Flint's water source in April 2014 from Lake Huron to the Flint River in order to save money. Tainted by dangerously high levels of lead from the city's aging service lines, contaminated water leached into the public supply.

The results have been devastating.

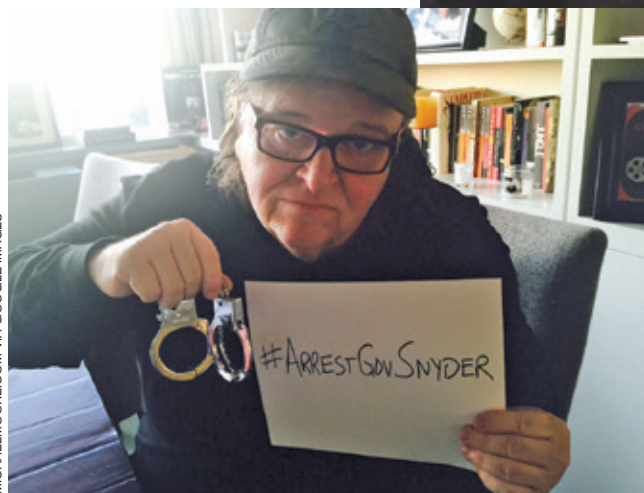
Local residents and health advocates have reported Legionnaire's disease, miscarriages, memory loss and skin rashes. Of particular concern is evidence of elevated lead levels in children's blood, which could cause a multitude of problems including attention deficit disorder, nervous system ailments and thwarted intellectual development.

"At least 10 people have died of Legionnaire's disease from the water and thousands of children have been poisoned by lead in the water that could cause them to be affected for the rest of their lives by the greed of the current Republican administration," Nobles said.

Politics – and voter apathy – played a part in the Flint debacle, Nobles said.

"When so many of the citizens in our state decided to sit out the elections in 2010 and 2014, we were left with an anti-union, anti-worker governor," he said.

The Local 2/289-M leader said Gov. Snyder "catered to business and his big-money donors rather than the citizens." Nobles added: "What happened in Flint is exactly what happens when you put money and profits before human life."



As elected leaders in Michigan played the blame game, activist movie maker Michael Moore hinted Republican Gov. Rick Snyder was guilty of criminal neglect and union members delivered badly needed supplies to Flint residents coping with a tainted public water system.

Hoffa demanded that Snyder and his administration be held accountable. "Decisions made by state officials over the last year-and-a-half have led to the community being forced to use tainted water," the IBT leader said. "The parents of Flint's 8,000 young children have real reason for worry. Even trace amounts of lead can have health effects that could last a lifetime. That includes lower IQ scores, developmental delays and behavioral issues. It is believed that all of them have been exposed."

Hoffa made clear the problem went beyond Flint. "Cities all across America have aging water infrastructure, including lead pipes," he said. "It is a ticking time bomb that must be addressed by policymakers at all levels of government."

The Teamsters – and President Barack Obama – have urged Congress to put aside partisan differences and invest in the nation's aging infrastructure but Republicans consistently blocked White House proposals.

"Infrastructure investment is not about Democrats or Republicans," Hoffa said at a Washington press conference last September. "It's about doing what's right for America. Our nation's bridges, roads, airports and ports are crumbling and it is time for Congress to hammer out a bipartisan plan that invests in our nation's infrastructure."

In the case of Flint, Nobles said the water crisis pointed to the dangers of choosing an unprepared corporate executive – Snyder, a former venture capital executive, bragged during his campaign that he was a "nerd" who would run government with business-like efficiency – for a top government spot.

Referring to the ascendancy of billionaire real estate developer Donald Trump in Republican presidential politics, Nobles urged voters to keep the Flint situation in mind.

"The whole country should take note of what happened in Michigan when you elect a self-proclaimed businessman to run things like they do companies by putting profits before the safety and welfare of the citizens."

# Indifference a Luxury Unions Can't Afford

In June, the GCC/IBT will hold its third international convention. The timing couldn't be better, or the moment more urgent.

At the state and federal level, powerful political forces on the right are searching for ways to cripple – and, even, kill – organized labor. There is nothing subtle about their effort.

From undercutting the National Labor Relations Board to proposing federal right-to-work legislation, anti-union zealots have been busy, boastful and single-minded.

The Republican campaign against collective bargaining is so evident that President Barack Obama spoke out strongly in his last Labor Day speech.

“What we're seeing from them is this constant war against unions, a constant attack on working Americans, by weakening worker protections, undermining workplace safety, gutting your ability to save for retirement, preventing you from forming a union,” Obama said. The inescapable conclusion: “They're doing all they can to bust unions.”

At virtually every conference they attend, GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi and Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Bob Lacey sound a similar warning. They are certain to do the same when delegates gather in Las Vegas. The message to members from Tedeschi, Lacey and union leaders around the country is stark and simple: Wake up.

Folks in the rank-and-file union – all of us – can no longer afford the luxury of apathy or indifference. We cannot shrug and say political debate doesn't interest us, or claim elected officials are “all the same,” or insist there is no difference between the parties, or complain that “my vote doesn't count,” or make any of the familiar excuses for sitting on the sidelines. Nor can we simply expect top union leaders to do all the work.



We can be proud of the political engagement of GCC/IBT leaders and powerful national presence of Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa whose access to top officials assures that the voice of working people will be heard at the highest levels. When representatives of the country's largest labor union – 1.4 million members – make their case, prudent politicians listen.

But power resides at the grassroots level, too – especially in an election year.

This is where we come in.

Our first obligation as union members is to be adequately informed – to pay attention.

Read the political news, watch the debates, check policy pronouncements on the candidates' websites.

Extra cash is scarce for many families but donations to labor-friendly candidates should be a priority. Even five or 10 bucks helps. Modern campaigns cost a fortune and lax finance laws give billionaire donors – most of them fierce right-wingers – a considerable edge. We can't let them buy their way into power while putting labor at risk.

Working for Democratic candidates with a consistent record on middle-class issues also is important. Knocking on doors, passing out flyers, making phone calls – those are elements of the so-called “ground game” that can push a campaign over the top.

Unions have been under pressure from Republicans for years but labor's foes are more brazen and confident than any time in memory. GCC and IBT leaders have warned us about the risks and so has the President of the United States. We've heard the call. Let's do our part. If we don't, who will?



USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF JOHN BRANCH, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE AND THE CARTOONIST GROUP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## Point of View BY ROBERT REICH

# Shrinking U.S. Middle Class Is a Revolting Development

The great American middle class has become an anxious class – and it's in revolt.

Start with the fact that the middle class is shrinking, according to a new *Pew survey*, and the odds of falling into poverty are frighteningly high, especially for the majority without college degrees.

Two-thirds of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. Many are part of a burgeoning “on-demand” workforce – employed as needed, paid whatever they can get whenever they can get it.

Yet if they don't keep up with rent or mortgage payments, or can't pay for groceries or utilities, they'll lose their footing. The stress is taking a toll. For the first time in history, the lifespan of middle-class whites are dropping.

According to research by the recent Nobel-prize winning economist, Angus Deaton, and his co-researcher Anne Case, middle-aged white men and women in the United States have been dying earlier. They're poisoning themselves with drugs and alcohol, or committing suicide.

The anxious class feels vulnerable to forces over which they have no control. Terrible things happen for no reason.

Yet government can't be counted on to protect them.

Safety nets are full of holes. Most people who lose their jobs don't even qualify for unemployment insurance. Government won't stop their jobs from being outsourced to Asia or protect them from evil people with guns or bombs. The odds of being gunned down in America by a jihadist are far smaller than the odds of self-inflicted deaths, but the December tragedy in San Bernardino only heightens an overwhelming sense of arbitrariness and fragility.

Anxious Americans view government as not so much incompetent as not giving a damn.

When I visited so-called “red” states this fall, I kept hearing angry complaints that government is run by Wall Street bankers who get bailed



out after wreaking havoc on the economy, corporate titans who get cheap labor, and billionaires who get tax loopholes.

It was only a matter of time before the anxious class would revolt. They'd support a strongman who'd

promise to protect them from all the chaos. That's a pipe dream, of course – a conjurer's trick.

No single person can do this. The world is far too complex. You can't build a wall along the Mexican border. You can't keep out all Muslims. You can't stop corporations from outsourcing abroad.

We live in a messy democracy, not a dictatorship.

For years I've heard the rumbles of the anxious class. I've listened to their growing anger – in union halls and bars, in coal mines and beauty parlors, on the Main Streets and byways of the washed-out backwaters of America. I've heard their complaints and cynicism, their conspiracy theories and their outrage.

Most are good people, not bigots or racists. They work hard and they have a strong sense of fairness. But their world has been slowly coming apart. And they're scared and fed up.

The revolt of the anxious class has just begun.

ROBERT B. REICH is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as secretary of labor in the Clinton administration and was named one of the 10 most effective cabinet secretaries of the 20th Century by *Time* magazine. He has written 14 books, including the best sellers “Aftershock,” “The Work of Nations,” “Beyond Outrage,” and, his most recent, “Saving Capitalism.” He is a founding editor of the *American Prospect* magazine, chairman of *Common Cause*, a member of the *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, and co-creator of the award-winning documentary, “Inequality for All.”

## 'Suitability' Standards

For decades, the standard rule for investment advisers was suitability: Is the investment right for this investor?

Very often, that investment also was "suitable" for the adviser, who made all kinds of fees – some open, some hidden – that cost investors plenty. Over the course of a typical investment history, the ordinary client easily can pay \$10,000 in unnecessary fees as things now stand.

The Department of Labor has proposed a new standard for retirement investment advisers demanding that brokers, financial planners, insurance agents meet a "fiduciary" standard, which would put the interests of investors first.

It has taken six years for the DOL, talking with the financial industry and other regulators, to come up with a proposed set of rules that the White House hopes to put in place before the end of President Barack Obama's term.

The new standard is for those who not only advise individuals with retirement accounts, but also employers with retirement plans. Not surprisingly, it is opposed broadly by the business community and Republicans lawmakers. While some members of the President's party also have expressed concern, Democrats are likely to block any legislation aimed at thwarting the DOL adviser initiative.

One of the proposed rules requires that advisors disclose "clearly and prominently ... hidden fees" that the DOL says can be a conflict of interest and are often buried in fine print.

For example, there is something called a 12(b)1 fee for mutual funds that entitles the adviser who sold the fund to a small fee for as long as the client owns the fund. In return, the adviser is supposed to keep an eye on performance to make sure the investment continues to make sense.

The investment has to be right for the retiree and the adviser must act first on behalf of the client – not merely attempt to increase fees and commission. If things are working correctly, advisers should not be altering investments merely to boost their own bottom line. Remember: If your adviser urges that you make a move, ask why.

At the same time, it doesn't mean that advisers should dump you into a passively managed stock index fund that tracks the stock market and puts the client's portfolio on remote control. Investors pay plenty in fees and are entitled to hands-on service. Anything less amounts to benign neglect.

Under all conditions, advisers are obligated to monitor changing financial conditions and counsel clients accordingly. That means making sure the investment is still suitable. Investing for retirement is a long-term proposition and requires constant vigilance and – as the Labor Department says – unfailing loyalty to the customer.



## All the Best

### Video

#### Anti-Unionol

AFSCME

Depressed because of decent pay? Plagued by a good benefit package? Bothered by ample sick leave provisions? Sad about a secure retirement? In this short satire sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, workers pretend they are sick, sick, sick of union benefits. Remedy? The make-believe medicine "Anti-Unionol" – a "revolutionary new drug that drastically reduces economic equality and a strong middle class." It's AFSCME's upbeat approach to a dead serious situation. "Talk to your boss about Anti-Unionol and see if it's right for you," urges the announcer. If the stuff really was available, management would be handing it out for free. *Comic relief at [www.anti-unionol.com/](http://www.anti-unionol.com/)*

### Music

#### Clear Day

Emilie-Claire Barlow

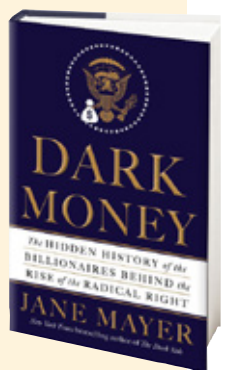
Anyone who has attended a GCC/IBT international convention like the one scheduled for Las Vegas in June or meeting of the North American Newspaper Conference knows how much spirit and savvy are provided by Canadian union colleagues. Emilie Claire-Barlow gives us another reason to cheer our neighbor to the north. In her latest album, Barlow, a seasoned jazz artist who sings with a rare sort of purity and intelligence, is backed by a 70-piece orchestra and invites listeners on a wide-ranging journey via the music of legends like Paul Simon, David Bowie and Joni Mitchell. Her rendition of the album's title song, alone, is enough to stall any cold front blowing in from the provinces and make south-of-the-border admirers rejoice, "O, Canada!" *Empress Music Group, \$16.99, Amazon*

### Print

#### Dark Money

Jane Mayer

The role of the rich in American politics has long been debated – Washington and Jefferson would have been millionaires in today's dollars – but pro-business Supreme Court decisions and the aggressive agenda of a few libertarian billionaires have upped the ante, big time. In her deeply reported book, Jane Mayer, a writer for the New Yorker magazine, assesses the stupendous influence of deep-pocket ideologues like Charles and David Koch who favor a radically reduced government role – few regulations, tax breaks for the rich, minimal regard for workplace safety, the end of organized labor – and are willing to spend a fortune to make their far-right dreams a reality. In the campaign rhetoric of most GOP nominees this year, the voice of the Kochs and other flush benefactors can be heard. Mayer's book should prompt ordinary folks to rally against this imperial vision of the common good and say loud and clear that, unlike certain politicians, America is not for sale. *Penguin Random House, \$17.97, Amazon*



### Internet

#### FiveThirtyEight.com

Nate Silver, editor

In 2012, Nate Silver, a statistician whose "FiveThirtyEight" blog appeared in the New York Times, correctly predicted that President Barack Obama would win re-election by defeating his GOP opponent, Mitt Romney. That wasn't such a big deal. What made Silver's forecast remarkable is that he nailed the outcome in every state – 50 for 50! Subsequently, ESPN bought "FiveThirtyEight" because Silver also is a whiz at sports-related data but the blog continues to provide a ton of valuable political insights. In what already has proven a most peculiar and confounding campaign season, Silver's work is indispensable. Even the name "FiveThirtyEight" allows a teaching moment. What does it signify? The number in the Electoral College – a tally that could be especially relevant in this wild presidential year.

## Guest Spot

BY STEVE NOBLES

## Flint Disaster Teaches a Lesson

By now everyone should know about the Flint, Michigan, water crisis but maybe not everyone knows the facts that led to the disaster.

Flint Michigan was under the direction of Darnell Earley, an "emergency manager" appointed by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder.

In an effort to save money, Earley – with Snyder's permission – decided to move Flint from the Detroit water system to a new one that drew from Lake Huron. Until the changeover could be accomplished, officials used treated water from the Flint River as a stopgap.

The river water was corrosive. The water was not treated properly and the state failed to test it. Some report that treating the water would cost as little as \$100 a day, but in a short-sighted budget move, politicians said "no" to a cautious approach.

Now jump ahead to the present: 8,600 children have been exposed to lead that will have a lifelong effect on intellectual development and nervous systems. At least 10 deaths can be traced to Legionnaire's Disease. Under Gov. Snyder, the state was slow to react and acknowledge problems until it was too late.

By contrast, the response by organized labor was nothing short of phenomenal.

Teamsters from around the country have been trucking bottled water to Flint. GCC/IBT Local 2/289-M, which has members in Flint, and other locals in District Council 3, have donated water and money to assist the families in need.

IBT Joint Council 43, with which District

Council 3 is affiliated, also donated water and money desperately needed by Flint families. Union plumbers volunteered across the region, installing filters in both residences and businesses. Union members and their families dropped off water at central locations and delivered bottles to the homes of people who couldn't get to the sites.

This should be a lesson to all: In 2010 and 2014, we allowed Republicans to gain control in Michigan because too many union members and pro-worker voters failed to get to the polls. The new governor, a self-described corporate "nerd," pledged to run the state as he did Gateway Inc., a computer company that shipped thousands of jobs overseas.

In elections this November, we must turn out and vote for people who support the working class. Running government "like a business" means putting money before people. The Flint crisis will be repeated throughout the country. For the sake of our children and their future we cannot let this happen.

*Steve Nobles is president of Local 2/289-M, Detroit, secretary-treasurer/executive officer of District Council 3 and a GCC/IBT general board member from the Central Region.*



# Political Awareness To be Major Theme At June Convention

As they prepare to meet for the GCC/IBT's third international convention, union leaders say they will emphasize political awareness, independence and organizing at the June 23-25 gathering in Las Vegas.

Of particular concern, officials say, is a worrisome trend – union members voting against their own interests in local, state and national elections.

“Our members and local officers have to understand the need for participation in upcoming elections and how important it is to support candidates – from president to state representatives – who represent labor,” said Clark Ritchey, president of Local 747-M, Seattle, and Pacific Region general board member.

IBT General President James Hoffa sometimes notes that contracts assuring middle-class status too often result in members rejecting progressive values and turning toward conservatism.

“This is a problem for all of organized labor,” agreed GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi, who said he will bring the same message to Las Vegas delegates. “People become comfortable and forget what’s best for them, and the union movement. Voting for conservatives who are doing everything possible to cripple organized labor makes no sense. It’s essential that we back candidates who care about us and defeat those who want us gone.”

Kurt Freeman, president of Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and an Atlantic Region general board member, said the obstructionist tactics of Republicans, their defiance of President Barack Obama and the GOP’s anti-worker agenda should alarm union members.

It is especially important, Freeman said, to keep in mind that the next president will make at least one, and perhaps more, Supreme Court nominations. After the death in February of Justice Antonin Scalia, GOP senate leaders refused to even consider a White House choice for replacement. If the court – now with four conservative judges – gains more power, unions could suffer badly, Freeman said.

“The Supreme Court can hurt, or help, the labor movement,” he said.

Too often, GCC/IBT officials say, members are distracted by a few “hot button” social concerns and fail to focus on more important matters.

“Let’s stick to our wallet issues,” said Steve Sullivan, president of Local 3-N, Boston, and a convention delegate. “Republicans do a good job of tearing us apart on fringe issues. We have to be united on things that are important to us.”

National politics is one of several important areas leaders intend to address in Las Vegas.

Robert Lacey, GCC/IBT Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President said he will assure delegates that the union is in good fiscal health – essential to the conference remaining autonomous.

The GCC/IBT has “put its financial house in order and is operating in the black,” Lacey said. He will tell delegates that expenses have been reduced by more than \$2 million since the last convention – double the cost-cutting pledged by officers.

But, said Lacey, financial wellbeing takes hard work.

“While the present financial condition is good news, it can only be sustained by stability and growth of our membership through organizing which must be the focus of this convention,” Lacey said.

Other officials said organizing was the key to survival for the GCC/IBT – and unions, generally.



“What I would like to see come out of the convention is some type of organizing strategy to help build the conference,” said Garry Foreman, president of Local 17-M, Indianapolis, and a Central Region general board member.

Foreman noted several successful 17-M organizing efforts at small plants where union representatives convinced management that status as a GCC/IBT shop was a significant advantage.

He said organizing on this scale costs little – no election is necessary when the company recognizes the union – and brings rewards for the business and its employees.

Owners gain more jobs when able to apply the union label to their work and can take advantage of union-backed health insurance and retirement plans. Workers get the security of a union contract.

“We should be looking at small plants and selling our product as we did years ago,” Foreman said.

Ritchey also said strategies for boosting membership should be among the top items discussed when delegates meet in Las Vegas.

“I hope that we can educate our folks, our officers and delegates to understand that organizing is the tool we have to continue to use not only to stop the bleeding but grow our union,” he said. “Organizing has to be Number One on every local union agenda.”

## Union Numbers Steady in 2015

The news was good – or at least not so bad.

Latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show union membership held steady in 2015 at 11.1 percent of the work force – approximately the same as 2014.

The bureau, an office of the U.S. Department of Labor, reported that 14.8 million Americans, most civil service employees, were protected by union contracts.

In the public sector, 35.2 percent of workers were organized. In the private, union members accounted for 6.7 percent of the work force.

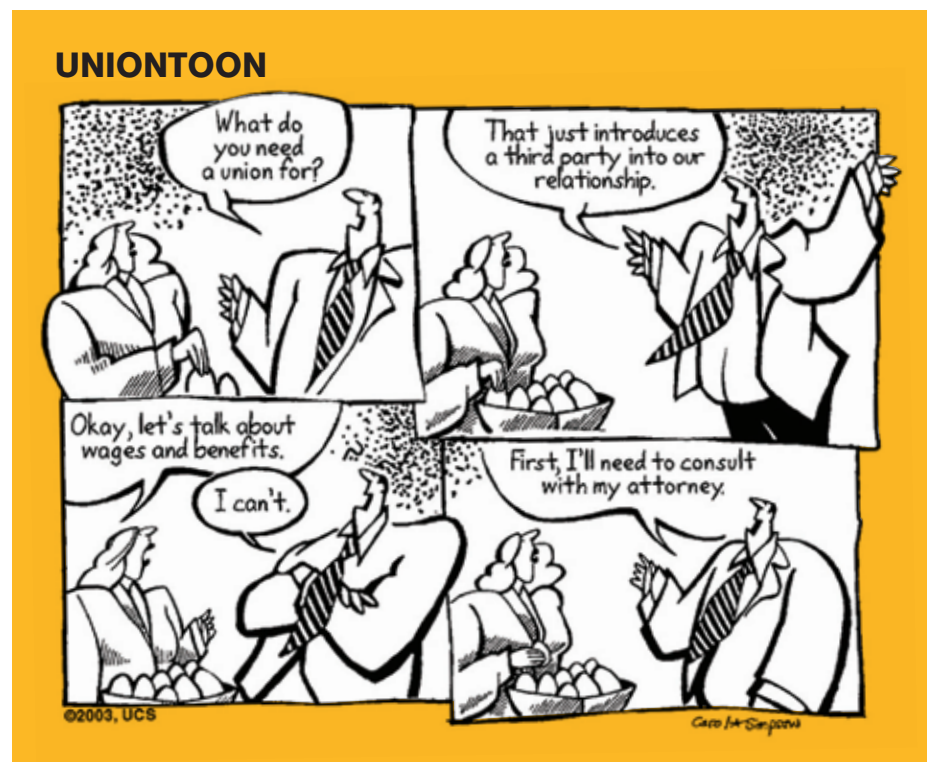
Men were slightly more likely than women to be in unions, the BLS said, and black Americans more apt to be affiliated than white, Asian or Hispanic workers.

Though the rate of union membership remained the same in 2015, the BLS said 219,000 workers were added to union rolls.

The increase was welcome, but a broader view of American labor shows unions struggling.

Membership was 20.1 percent in 1983 when comparable data first was compiled, the BLS said. According to the New York Times, union participation peaked at 35 percent during the mid-50s.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 1.4 million workers in the United States and Canada. In 2005, the Graphic Communications International Union affiliated with the Teamsters and became the Graphic Communications Conference of the IBT – the GCC/IBT – and gained the strength, support and resources of the nation’s fourth largest labor organization.





# Pledge to Equality Undiminished: ‘Fairness is Fundamental’

Racial equality – part of the American Dream that too often fails its promise – has been an IBT priority for more than a century and GCC and Teamster officials say the union’s commitment to civil rights remains undiminished.

“Fairness is a fundamental Teamster principle, and one that we proudly observe and exercise at the local and international levels,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi during Black History Month. “Union people respect one another, on the job and off, and make no exceptions. It ought to be that way everywhere in our country. Unfortunately, that is not always the case.”

Teamster leaders called for “no color line” in the union as early as 1906 and began actively seeking to organize black men and women workers.

In 1917, black women helped establish one of the first “color free” contracts in the country as Teamsters negotiated equal pay for black and white laundry women.

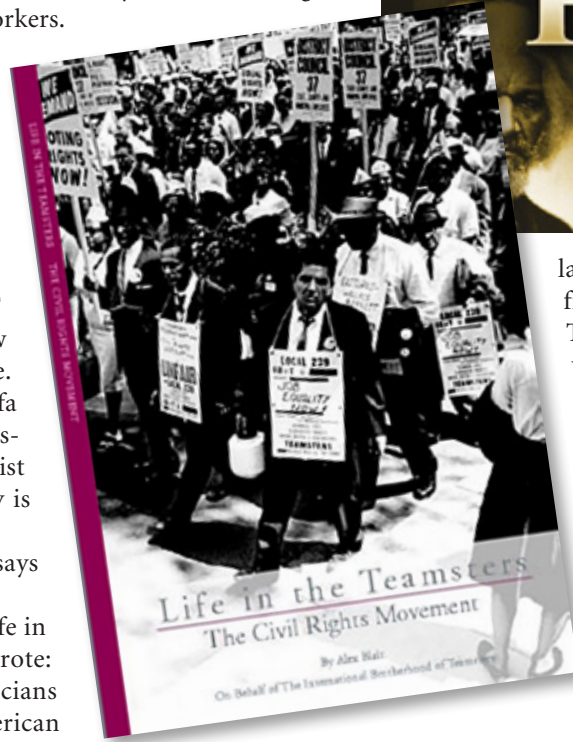
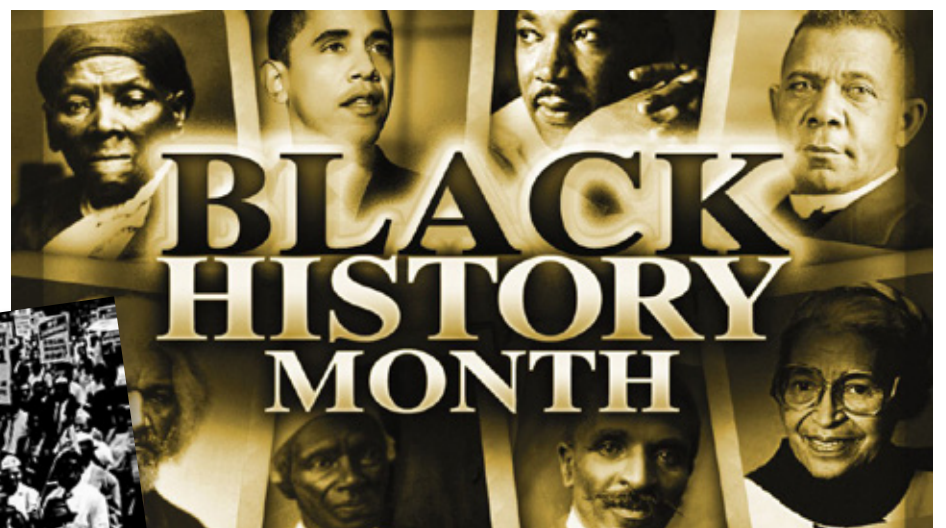
General President James R. Hoffa – whose son, James P. Hoffa now holds the same office – strongly opposed segregation even if his outlook alienated potential members

At one point in the 1950s, Hoffa and then-IBT Vice President Harold Gibbons arrived at a New Orleans chemical plant to lead an organizing drive. White workers demanded a separate local but Hoffa refused and the union drive was defeated. Though disappointed, Hoffa said the IBT was better without racist members. “We don’t need ‘em,” he said. “Their way is not the Teamster way.”

The IBT’s “way” has not changed, and won’t, says General President James P. Hoffa.

In the forward to the 2010 book by Alex Blair, “Life in the Teamsters: The Civil Rights Movement,” Hoffa wrote:

“No matter what the nation’s most powerful politicians say; no matter what the prevailing norms of the American



labor movement are; no matter how much resistance they face from employers who seek at all costs to keep workers divided—the Teamsters Union will continue to fight for equality in the same ways we have since the beginning.”

As part of Black History Month, the union hailed the contributions of black members in February. “Black members are an integral part of the legacy we have created for working families over the last century,” an IBT statement said. “...the experiences and achievements of our black members have made a difference and deserve to be recognized.”

Tedeschi said IBT support for racial equality – even when not popular – demonstrates the union’s strong sense of decency. “The Teamsters were on the right side of history from the beginning,” said Tedeschi. “At the GCC, we are thrilled to be part of that tradition.”

## At 50, Medicare and Medicaid Must be Protected

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

Medicare and Medicaid – historic government initiatives that have provided health coverage to millions of senior citizens and low-income Americans – turned 50 a few months ago with activists and organized labor leaders demanding that the programs be shielded from moves to cut benefits or allow private sector control.

“It is urgent that we continue organizing for the right to health care by fighting efforts to roll back or privatize Medicare and joining with movements around the country to establish a publicly-financed healthcare system that includes all people,” said Ellen Schwartz, president of the Vermont Workers’ Center, in a Common Dreams story noted on Teamsters Nation Blog.

At a rally in Washington, union members and health care advocates hailed the programs signed into law in the summer of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Speakers called for expansion of Medicare, which benefits seniors, and Medicaid, aiding poor Americans, and vowed to protect it against political attacks.

“Medicare provides seniors a secure retirement without fear of medical expenses that might wipe out their retirement,” said Alliance for Retired Americans member Jim Baldrige, according to a report on the American Federation of Teamsters website. “We are the inheritors of Medicare, and it is our responsibility to preserve it.”

When Medicare first became available, 19 million Americans signed up. Now the program provides health insurance for approximately 50 million. Medicaid covers nearly 70 million people – “the single largest source of public health coverage” in the United States, according to the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation research group.



Among union officials noting the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid was GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi.

“These visionary programs have provided health coverage and peace of mind for millions of older Americans and low-income people,” Tedeschi said. “Medicare and Medicaid are examples of how government can work effectively and efficiently – and how a nation shows compassion and concern. We must oppose any attempt to tamper with programs that work so well and do so much good.”

The push for a plan covering elderly Americans began under President Harry S Truman. President John F.

Kennedy backed a similar idea but it took the political clout of Lyndon Johnson to get legislation passed.

Signing the bill in Independence, Missouri, Johnson said: “No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years.”

At the ceremony, LBJ issued the first Medicare card to the town’s most prominent citizen – 81-year-old Harry Truman. Thanking Johnson for “inspired leadership,” Truman said Medicare “puts the nation right where it needs to be...”

# Researchers Warn TPP Lacks Safeguard for U.S. Jobs

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

The proposed trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership – strongly opposed by the Teamsters and other labor organizations – would afford favored treatment to countries that drained 2 million jobs from the American economy last year and lacks an “absolutely key component” to protect against currency manipulation, according to researchers at the Economic Policy Institute.

By devaluing currency, overseas governments seek to gain a trade advantage at the expense of U.S. workers, EPI experts said – a worrisome prospect in an economy still struggling to gain strength after years of recession.

Without strong restrictions outlawing currency manipulation, the TPP – now being considered by Congress – would put U.S. workers at continued risk, according to EPI researchers Robert E. Scott and Elizabeth Glass.

“Currency manipulation acts like a subsidy to the exports of the manipulating country...” Scott and Glass said.

Concerns about the TPP have been sounded often by IBT General President James Hoffa and other labor leaders.

“Despite the efforts of supporters to frame this...agreement as the gold standard and one that would stick up for the interests of millions of workers in



the U.S. and abroad, the TPP fails on all accounts,” said a statement by Hoffa, Leo Gerard, president of the United Steel Workers and Dennis Williams, leader of the United Auto Workers.

The three union officials said TPP “offers only false promises of progress” in the area of union organizing and has no means to deal “forcefully” with unfair labor practices. And, like the EPI researchers, Hoffa, Gerard and Williams said the TPP falls short of combating currency manipulation “in a meaningful way.”

Of the 2 million U.S. jobs lost in 2015 to America’s 11 proposed TPP trading partners, half were in manufacturing alone, according to EPI researchers, who warned that only by imposing strict monetary guidelines can the

United States avoid “even greater” job-killing trade deficits.

The TPP – which involves the United States, Canada, Japan and nine other Pacific Rim nations -- is being pushed by the Obama administration despite opposition from a number of pro-labor Democrats. While Republicans generally favor free trade, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said no Congressional action on TPP was likely until after the 2016 presidential election.

“President Obama has done a good job under difficult conditions over the past eight years,” said Tedeschi, “but he’s wrong on TPP. The last thing we need at this point is any kind of deal that puts American workers at an even greater disadvantage, and rewards

countries that keep wages low, block unions and manipulate currency.”

Unionists around the country are being urged to oppose the TPP and make their views known to local political leaders.

Taking the advice recently was Mark Cooper, a member of GCC/IBT Local 727-S and president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, who joined a group of retirees meeting with Des Moines, Iowa, mayor Frank Cownie.

Retired individuals told Cownie, a Democrat, they feared the price of foreign-made prescription drugs would soar if TPP is passed. Cooper said there also is concern that TPP provisions will not adequately safeguard overseas workers or provide meaningful environmental safeguards – and that the pact will represent a blow to American workers.

The group asked Cownie to propose a City Council measure putting Des Moines on record against the TPP. Cownie, who is known to have a good relationship with the Obama administration, made no commitment but promised to pass concerns to the White House.

Overall, Cooper said, the TPP is a bad deal for organized labor and its members.

“We wouldn’t be on a level playing field,” he said.

## GOP for Local Control? Not if Workers are Getting a Break

In another attempt to undercut worker rights, state-level Republican legislators around the country are seeking to subvert labor-friendly laws passed in cities and counties – measures that guarantee everything from minimum wage hikes to paid leave.

Business-backed legislators are pushing their right-wing workplace agenda in states as widespread as Pennsylvania and Montana.

As the New York Times pointed out in an editorial, the strategy is at odds with fundamental conservative philosophy.

“...the hypocrisy is obvious,” said the Times. “Small government is a supreme Republican virtue only until localities pass pro-labor legislation. Then the party’s anti-worker, pro-corporate bias takes over.”

The newspaper noted several examples of state elected officials interfering with policymaking at the local level.

A measure introduced in the Alabama legislature would block a Birmingham law setting \$10.10 minimum wage scheduled to go into effect next year. In Kentucky, Democrats are hoping to thwart any effort by state conservatives to block minimum wage increases passed by Louisville’s elected officials.

Conservatives in Indiana, Kansas and New Mexico are trying to halt local laws requiring employers to post work schedules in advance. Measures in Pennsylvania and the State of Washington would jeopardize local regulations on compensation.

“The real needs of real people are driving pro-labor legislation on the local level,” the Times editorial said. “The question in some states is whether those needs and those people will prevail over the interests of low-wage employers and the lawmakers who do their bidding.”

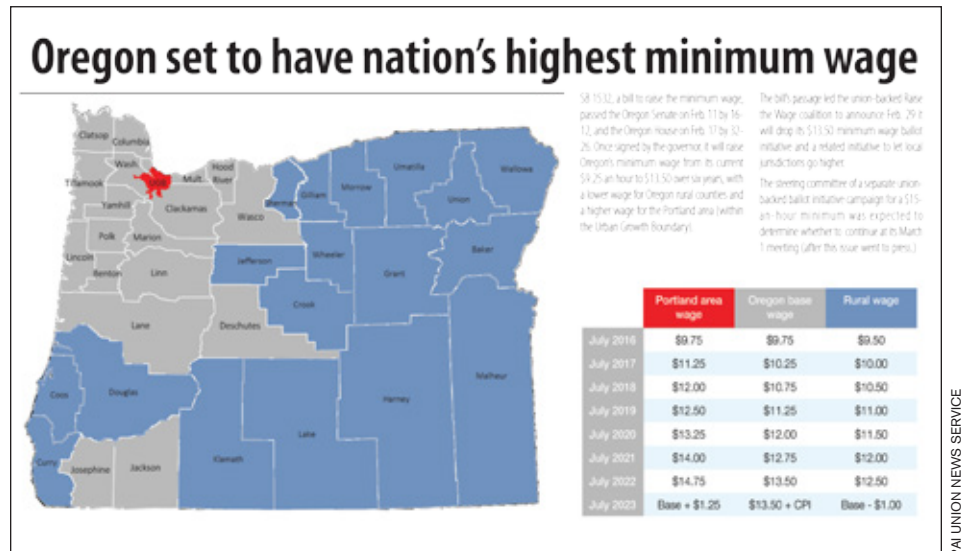
Concern over the issue has reached the 2016 presidential campaign.

Democratic contender Hillary Clinton has denounced efforts in Alabama to scuttle the Birmingham minimum wage initiative.

A statement by the Clinton campaign said:

“It’s wrong that Alabamians work hard for 40 hours or more each week and could still be unable to make ends meet. So it’s disturbing that Alabama Republicans are considering legislation to overrule a local government’s actions to require employers in their community to pay their employees a living wage. We should be raising wages, not insisting they are high enough.”

Clinton has called for a \$12 federal minimum wage and urges states to go even higher.



While Republicans in many states fight minimum wage increases even at the local level, Oregon and Democratic governor Kate Brown are proving there is a better way.

Her opponent in the Democratic race, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, backs a \$15 federal minimum.

“It is a national disgrace that millions of full-time workers are living in poverty and millions more are forced to work two or three jobs just to pay their bills,” Sanders says. “In the year 2015, a job must lift workers out of poverty, not keep them in it. The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is a starvation wage and must be raised to a living wage.”

The effort by conservatives to overturn local pro-worker measures drew a sharp rebuke from GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi.

“This shows how extreme the right wing has become,” Tedeschi said. “Despite all the talk about intrusive government and individual rights, conservatives are showing again what they really care about – serving their business allies at the expense of ordinary working men and women. People like this do not deserve to be in office and we will do all we can this year to defeat them.”

## SMALL-SCALE ORGANIZING STILL WORKS

Rather than butt heads with management and deal with obnoxious union busters, a GCC/IBT local in Indianapolis has successfully resurrected an historic approach to organizing smaller shops.

“We go in and we talk with management — and try to get voluntary recognition,” said Garry Foreman, president of GCC/IBT Local 17-M. “If you look at the history of printing unions, that’s how they got started.”

As far-fetched as this may sound — especially with right-wing extremists stirring anti-union sentiment nationwide — the technique has produced positive results.

It’s a straight-forward strategy.

Foreman and his organizers lay out the advantages of unionization: more jobs with access to the union label, health and welfare support and the GCC/IBT Inter-Local Pension Fund.

“We tell them we understand that, because they are a small shop, they can’t find affordable health care or a pension fund,” Foreman said. “But mainly we talk up the union label because they can get work they normally wouldn’t be able to get without it.”

The advantages are clear. “It’s a win-win — for the company, for the employees, and for us,” Foreman said.

This is exactly the way union organization of small print shops was achieved decades ago, he noted.

The local’s latest victory was at Presstime Graphics, Inc., in Terra Haute, where there are 15 new GCC/IBT members.

“We didn’t even need to have an election — they gave us voluntary recognition,” Foreman said. “We sat down, made our pitch, worked out a tentative agreement that subsequently was ratified by the employees. We will get Presstime Graphics the union label before the Indiana primary in May.”

In addition to securing a pay raise, health care and a pension plan for the workers, the local will send letters to all of the unions in the Terra Haute area and the Democratic Party chairs in nearby counties to let them know there is a new union printer in town.

“We still got a product we can sell,” Foreman said. “This helps with business, establishes a good relationship with the employer and it sure beats the heck out of having to deal with election challenges through the National Labor Relations Board.”

## PRINT DEAD? NOT IN BOSTON

Boston Red Sox owner John Henry made a shrewd move when he purchased the highly regarded Boston Globe in 2013 and — ignoring grim talk about the future of newspapers — is showing he means business by opening another print plant in a nearby suburb.

The expansion will provide employment for more than 100 pressmen and 50 paper handlers and engravers, GCC/IBT officials said.

The huge undertaking involves converting a 328,000 square-foot property Henry bought last year in Taunton, Massachusetts into an efficient print operation scheduled to be fully operational sometime next year.

“With installation completed, the Taunton Globe Production Facility will be the largest in New England with a state-of-the-art press, mailroom and direct mail operation,” said Stephen Sullivan, president of GCC/IBT Local 3-N, Boston.

Four Goss Urbanite presses and a Tensor press will be installed. That, combined with other renovations, Sullivan said, will be “an unparalleled investment in a new facility and pressroom equipment that will run well into the tens of millions of dollars.”

In addition to the Globe, numerous other publications are expected to be printed in Taunton, including the Boston Herald, New York Times, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, USA Today and approximately 50 community papers.

“Commercial printing makes up a sizable portion of the overall revenue of the Boston Globe as reflected by this massive undertaking and commitment to printing,” Sullivan said.

The Local 3-N leader said the professionalism of union workers was key to the Globe’s decision to expand.

“I’m extremely proud of the men and women of Local 3-N for their hard work and commitment to quality newspaper printing — without that, none of this would be happening,” he continued.

The Globe was in peril of closing in 2008 and 2009 when owned by the New York Times, but the union built flexibility into contract language and provided an environment that fostered gaining new commercial printing jobs.

“The commercial printing market is extremely competitive,” Sullivan said. “Our members’ wages and benefits remain second to none, but where we can compete is with our superior skill set and flexibility on commercial work.”

## DETROIT LOCAL AIDS AUTISM SOCIETY

GCC/IBT Local 2/289-M and District Council 3 raised \$14,000 to help children with autism through its annual William Browning Memorial Golf Outing.

Including funds from the golf event, the Detroit local has contributed more than \$66,000 in five years to the Macomb/St. Clair Autism Society of America.

This year’s event was attended by 164 golfers, mostly GCC/IBT members, and companies that also sponsor the tournament.

“Our local got involved with this charity because some of our members have children afflicted with autism,” said Steve Nobles, president of Local 2/289-M and secretary-treasurer of District Council 3.

Nobles said autism represents a major health concern in the United States.

“The current statistics show that one out of about 75 children are born with some form of autism,” Nobles said. “I can’t think of a better way to help out than helping children. ... And these folks do great things with our donations that really help the children and their families.”

Money raised by the local has been used to rent out a movie theater for the children, organize camping trips and host holiday parties. In each of the last four years, 2/289-M has been top donor to the autism society, said Israel Castro, president of District Council 3.

Union officials presented the check to the society in December and then attended a Sweetheart Ball in February hosted by the society as a thank-you to its donors.

“It’s important to be involved in our local community,” Castro said. “It lets people know we truly care.”



Attending this year’s presentation were, left to right, Local 2/289-M vice president Dan Courtney, Macomb/St. Clair Autism Society president Theresa Gabalis, her son Brian, Autism Society secretary Lori Phillips and Steve Nobles, 2/289-M president and District Council 3 secretary-treasurer.

DOLORES HARKINS, LOCAL 2/289M (RETIRED)

## UNION MEMBERS TESTIFY AT LANDFILL INQUIRY

A tribunal in St. Louis reporting to the United Nations heard testimony from community members — including Teamster and other union members — who claim public health has been seriously compromised by illegal dumping of nuclear waste at a Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri.

More than 1,600 Teamster families live near the West Lake landfill operated by Republic Services and hundreds work near the site which contains 8,700 tons of buried and uncontained radioactive material.

The site is precariously close to an underground fire and residents say a noxious odor permeates the area. Residents claim a spike in the cancer rate, especially among children who attend a nearby elementary school.

“For too long, our rights to a safe and clean environment at work and at home have been trampled by indifference from our government and the heavy-handed tactics of the corporations that have operated the site,” said Steve Johnson of Teamsters Local 688, St. Louis.

Speaking on behalf of Marvin Kropp, president of Teamsters Joint Council 13, Johnson demanded that Republic and Microsoft chairman and co-founder Bill Gates, the company’s biggest shareholder, “be held accountable” and the United Nations “monitor a successful resolution to this environmental and social crisis.” GCC/IBT Local 6-505M supports the effort to assist residents.

“As Teamsters Joint Council 13 has provided significant assistance to the community regarding the Westlake Landfill, we at GCC/IBT Local 6-505M are pleased to be able to offer a small amount of help by providing our building for some of their community informational meetings,” said Mike Congemi, the local’s president.

The tribunal will report its findings to the United Nations Human Rights and Environment Program. Preliminary recommendations include a call for Republic to provide housing assistance for residents who choose to move and for the Army Corps of Engineers to take control of the site.

*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.*



## Le virage à droite des syndiqués est une mauvaise chose

Par Zachary Dowdy  
Collaboration spéciale au Communicator

Comme bien des dirigeants de la CCG-FIT, le président de la section locale 3-N de Boston a entendu ses membres se dire favorables à Donald Trump, le candidat présidentiel républicain qui se présente comme un champion de la classe ouvrière – un franc-tireur qui dit vouloir redonner à l'Amérique sa grandeur et ses emplois. Sullivan les met en garde. Trump, comme les autres candidats républicains, s'est aussi prononcé contre le salaire minimum, a vilipendé la Loi sur la protection des patients et des soins abordables surnommée « Obamacare », et a affiché un mépris persistant pour les intérêts des travailleurs et les droits des minorités.

« Il est fort en rhétorique mais avare de détails, a expliqué Sullivan en parlant de Trump. Les gens ne doivent pas écouter ce qu'il dit mais regarder ce qu'il fait. »

Pour les dirigeants syndicaux qui trouvent que leurs membres penchent de plus en plus pour les candidats conservateurs et antisindicaux, il est urgent de réfuter les arguments de l'aile droite d'ici novembre.

Parlant de Trump, John Agenbroad, un leader de longue date de la CCG-FIT, raconte que l'homme d'affaires milliardaire s'est carrément présenté comme un « outsider » qui n'a jamais occupé un emploi public et ne sollicite pas le financement des riches qui l'appuient. Pour les électeurs qui s'estiment trahis par la classe politique, Trump peut exercer un attrait irrésistible.

On a tendance à ignorer les propos crus qui émaillent la campagne de Trump, son

absence de déclarations politiques cohérentes, et ce qui apparaît souvent comme une méconnaissance des enjeux essentiels en matière de politique intérieure et extérieure. Tout comme le soutien qu'il a apporté récemment aux lois sur le droit de travailler. « Je suis pour le droit de travailler, a-t-il affirmé en Caroline du Sud, ajoutant que la législation antisindicale est « meilleure pour les gens. »

« C'est un électron libre », estime J. Agenbroad.

Ancien dirigeant et secrétaire-trésorier du conseil de district 3 de la CCG-FIT et président de la section locale 508-M de Cincinnati qui travaille actuellement comme consultant politique, J. Agenbroad pense que si Trump remporte l'investiture républicaine, il risque fort de mener son parti à la défaite en novembre. Mais il s'agit d'une année électorale inhabituelle et les prédictions se sont souvent avérées risquées.

Les dirigeants syndicaux sont inquiets. « Il ne faut jamais se montrer trop confiants, estime George Tedeschi, président de la CCG-FIT. Tout peut arriver. »

Dans un article qu'il a écrit pour le magazine *The Atlantic*, le journaliste Richard Brownstein a fait remarquer que Trump « amplifie les voix des circonscriptions qui n'arrivent généralement pas à se faire entendre lors des luttes pour la nomination de leur parti ».

Les dirigeants syndicaux, qui sont inquiets, reconnaissent que de nombreux membres ont le sentiment d'être « étouffés » par les voix puissantes dans le milieu politique américain et ils expriment leur colère en soutenant des candidats extrêmes.

Selon les dirigeants syndicaux, Trump est peut-être celui qui profite le plus de la tendance, mais le candidat républicain Ted Cruz représente aussi les positions de l'extrême droite et est un favori du Tea Party. Même John Kasich, le gouverneur de l'Ohio, qui fait figure de modéré dans les rangs républicains, suit une ligne particulièrement conservatrice.

Ces dernières années, de nombreux membres du syndicat ont voté pour des candidats comme Kasich et Scott Walker, gouverneur de l'aile droite du Wisconsin qui a privé les syndicats publics de la plupart de leurs droits de négociation collective. Il s'agit d'un développement qui préoccupe les instances supérieures des syndicats.

James Hoffa, le président général des Teamsters, a souvent fait allusion à l'ironie manifeste du vote des travailleurs syndiqués pour les conservateurs.

« Nous en avons fait des républicains. »

G. Tedeschi déplore aussi le virage à droite évident des syndiqués.

« Quand les gens gagnent en aisance, il leur arrive de perdre de vue leur objectif. Ils sont séduits par les discours vides et distraits par les enjeux sociaux brûlants qui n'ont pas grand chose à voir avec les soucis de la vraie vie comme les salaires et la sécurité dans les usines. Et ils oublient ceux qui sont des amis de longue date des syndicats et ceux qui veulent anéantir notre mouvement. Ceux qui voteront pour un candidat républicain cette année font une énorme erreur, car chacun est pire que les autres en ce qui concerne les travailleurs. »

Mark Cooper, un membre de la section locale 727-S de la CCG-FIT à Des Moines,

en Iowa, et président de la Fédération des travailleurs du centre-sud de l'Iowa, a dit qu'il connaît des syndiqués qui sont tellement opposés à Hillary Clinton qu'ils pourraient bien voter pour un républicain, notamment Trump.

Clinton, explique-t-il, a été critiquée pour sa position sur certains accords commerciaux internationaux, mais d'une façon générale, elle soutient fermement les travailleurs syndiqués.

En revanche, M. Cooper se rappelle avoir rencontré un travailleur d'un des hôtels de Trump, qui lui a dit qu'il gagnait 9 \$ de l'heure dans une propriété non syndiquée de l'homme d'affaires et 18 h de l'heure dans une autre propriété qui était syndiquée.

Il est essentiel que les dirigeants syndicaux signalent ce genre de disparités à mesure que la campagne électorale se poursuit, estime Cooper.

Selon les dirigeants syndicaux, les travailleurs syndiqués doivent voter pour des candidats qui vont s'opposer au programme antisindical des républicains, qui prévoit notamment d'imposer une loi fédérale sur le droit de travailler, d'en finir avec le Conseil national des relations du travail et d'obtenir un siège d'extrême droite à la Cour suprême afin de remplacer le défunt Antonin Scalia.

« Vous devez en parler avec vos membres, a indiqué M. Cooper. Nous avons des républicains dans nos rangs. »

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

## Girar a la derecha: grave error para trabajadores sindicalizados

Por Zachary Dowdy  
Especial para The Communicator

Como muchos líderes de GCC/IBT, el presidente de la Local 3-N de Boston ha oído a sus miembros hablar favorablemente del candidato presidencial republicano Donald Trump como campeón de la clase trabajadora, un hombre franco y de fiar que se propone recuperar la grandeza de Estados Unidos y los puestos de trabajo perdidos.

Pero Sullivan recomienda cautela. Advierte que Trump, y otros aspirantes republicanos a la presidencia, se han pronunciado también contra el salario mínimo, han denigrado la Ley de Cuidado de la Salud Asequible, también llamada Obamacare, y han ignorado persistentemente los intereses de los trabajadores y los derechos de las minorías.

“Habla mucho y largo, pero se queda corto en los detalles”, dijo Sullivan hablando de Trump. “Yo les digo a todos que no se dejen llevar por lo que dice, que se fijen más bien en lo que hace.”

Los líderes sindicales que vean que sus miembros se inclinan cada vez más por los candidatos conservadores y antisindicalistas, necesitan urgentemente contradecir los argumentos de la derecha antes de noviembre.

En el caso de Trump, John Agenbroad, uno de los líderes de larga trayectoria de GCC/IBT, ha dicho que el multimillonario se presenta astutamente como una persona ajena al sistema, que nunca ha ocupado un cargo público y que no busca patrocinadores ricos para financiarse. A los votantes que se sienten traicionados por las políticas de la clase dirigente, Trump les puede parecer irresistible

Lo que se pasa por alto son los comentarios despectivos y vulgares pronunciados por Trump en el curso de su campaña, la falta de coherencia de sus declaraciones sobre las políticas a seguir, y la ignorancia que frecuentemente demuestra en cuestiones de vital importancia en materia de política interior y exterior. Tampoco se presta atención a su reciente respaldo a las leyes que amparan el “derecho a trabajar”. “Me gusta el derecho a trabajar”, dijo Trump en Carolina del Sur, añadiendo que la legislación antisindical es “buena para la gente”.

“Es un descontrolado”, dijo Agenbroad refiriéndose a Trump.

Agenbroad, anteriormente funcionario ejecutivo y secretario-tesorero del Consejo del Distrito 3 GCC/IBT y presidente de la Local 508-M, Cincinnati, que ahora trabaja como consultor político, ha dicho que si Trump gana la nominación republicana es probable que conduzca al partido a la derrota en noviembre. Aunque en un año electoral tan fuera de lo corriente como éste, muchas veces es arriesgado hacer predicciones.

Los líderes sindicales reconocen estar recelosos. “Nunca hay que confiarse demasiado”, dice el presidente de GCB/IBT, George Techeschi. “Puede pasar cualquier cosa.”

En un artículo publicado en la revista *The Atlantic*, el periodista Richard Brownstein observa que Trump está “amplificando las voces de electores potenciales que hasta ahora han sido generalmente silenciados en las batallas del partido para la nominación de candidatos”, dice Brownstein.

Preocupados, los líderes sindicales reconocen que muchos miembros se sienten silenciados por voces poderosas de la política y para

demostrar su descontento están apoyando a candidatos extremistas.

Trump puede ser el beneficiario más obvio de esta tendencia, dicen los dirigentes laboristas, pero el aspirante republicano Ted Cruz representa también posiciones de extrema derecha y es un favorito del Tea Party. Incluso el gobernador de Ohio, John Kasich, que se supone es un moderado del partido republicano, tiene una fuerte veta conservadora.

En los últimos años, muchos afiliados han votado por candidatos como Kasich y el gobernador de derechas de Wisconsin, Scott Walker, que despojó a los sindicatos de empleados públicos de la mayoría de sus derechos a la negociación colectiva.

Como ha dicho en repetidas ocasiones el Presidente General de los Teamsters, James Hoffa, es irónico que los sindicalistas voten por los conservadores.

“Los hemos convertido en republicanos”, ha dicho Hoffa.

Tedeschi se lamenta también del evidente giro a la derecha entre la membresía.

Hay veces que la gente se va por lo más cómodo y pierde perspectiva”, ha dicho Tedeschi. “Se dejan ganar por discursos sin contenido y los distraen hablándoles de cuestiones sociales candentes que tienen poco que ver con las preocupaciones de la vida real, como los salarios y la seguridad en el lugar de trabajo. Y se olvidan de quiénes son los que han apoyado a los sindicatos desde hace mucho tiempo y quiénes los que quieren destruir nuestro movimiento. Votar este año por un candidato republicano es un grave error. Para el sindicalismo, no se sabe cuál es el peor de todos ellos.”

Mark Cooper, miembro de GCC/IBT Local 727-S, Des Moines, Iowa y presidente de la Federación del Trabajo de la Región Centro Sur de Iowa, ha dicho, por ejemplo, que conoce a miembros del sindicato tan contrarios a Hillary Clinton que podrían votar por una alternativa republicana, incluso por Trump.

Es verdad, dice, que a Clinton se la ha criticado por su posición sobre algunos acuerdos de comercio internacionales pero, en general, apoya decididamente a los trabajadores sindicalizados.

Por otro lado, Cooper recuerda haber hablado con un trabajador de uno de los hoteles de Trump que dijo que ganaba \$9 por hora trabajando en una propiedad de Trump sin afiliación sindical, y \$18 por hora en otra propiedad sí sindicalizada.

Es esencial que los líderes sindicales pongan de relieve este tipo de disparidades durante el resto de la campaña electoral.

Los afiliados tienen que votar por candidatos que se opongan a la agenda anti-sindicalista de los republicanos, que busca impulsar la ley federal del derecho al trabajo, desbaratar la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales y colocar un juez de extrema derecha en la Suprema Corte en sustitución del fallecido Antonin Scalia, dicen los líderes sindicales.

“Tenemos que hablar de estas cosas con nuestros miembros”, dice Cooper. “Ciertamente tenemos republicanos en nuestras filas.”

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

# In Memoriam

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

| Local  | Date of Death          | Local    | Date of Death | Local                  | Date of Death | Local  | Date of Death           | Local    | Date of Death                               | Local                   | Date of Death | Local | Date of Death         |          |
|--|------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------|----------|---|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Death Benefit Claims Paid December 2014</b> |                        |          |               |                        |               |  |                         |          |   |                         |               |       |                       |          |
| 1B   | Loretta I Etienne      | 10-24-14 | 3N            | James N Galt           | 11-26-14      | 577M   | Roger A Gatzow          | 09-25-14 | 508M  | Jerry P Harper          | 01-16-15      | 514M  | Margaret L Curry      | 01-19-15 |
| 1L   | Sal R Currao           | 01-16-14 | 4B            | Robert Marshall Boykin | 12-18-14      | 577M   | Ronald H Hanson         | 08-17-14 | 518M  | Martin L Humphrey, Sr   | 01-26-15      | 518M  | William A Powell      | 02-10-15 |
| 1L   | Frank P Keller         | 11-02-14 | 4C            | Robert T Mchugh Sr     | 11-18-14      | 577M   | Douglas G Novak         | 09-06-14 | 518M  | Robert R Romans         | 02-03-15      | 546M  | John R Folmer         | 02-15-15 |
| 1L   | Albert C Love Jr       | 06-28-09 | 8N            | Robert Delaney         | 10-30-14      | 577M   | Alice J Platt           | 07-29-14 | 546M  | Paul J Lowry            | 12-15-14      | 546M  | Robert D Morton       | 02-10-15 |
| 1L   | Michael E Lubrano      | 11-03-14 | 14M           | Charles W Bolger       | 11-01-14      | 577M   | Richard V Platt         | 06-12-14 | 555M  | Jean Bonneau            | 01-28-15      | 555M  | Benoit Gauvin         | 02-08-15 |
| 1L   | Larry Martin           | 10-16-14 | 14M           | Charles F Burnham, Sr  | 11-27-14      | 577M   | Todd C Schwarten, Sr    | 11-22-14 | 555M  | Daniel Gendron          | 01-22-15      | 555M  | Jean-Marie Legare     | 10-10-14 |
| 1M   | Joseph J Daut          | 08-28-13 | 14M           | Joseph A Hughes        | 09-29-14      | 600M   | Gary L Umbreit          | 10-12-14 | 555M  | Marcel G Ouimet         | 08-13-14      | 555M  | Patrick E Wilkins     | 12-17-14 |
| 1M   | James L Dorothy        | 03-11-14 | 14M           | Margaret E Marquardt   | 11-12-14      | 600M   | George E Gowland        | 09-26-14 | 568M  | Larry M Hendricks       | 01-31-15      | 568M  | Donald L Shaw         | 12-21-14 |
| 1M   | Gary W Leagjeld        | 11-08-14 | 14M           | Frederick F Selg, Jr   | 11-29-14      | 600M   | John Mooradian          | 11-30-14 | 572T  | Milton Fitzpatrick      | 01-20-15      | 572T  | Gilles Carlson        | 04-11-01 |
| 2N   | Daniel G Eriksson      | 09-27-14 | 16N           | Francis X Garmeski, Sr | 12-21-14      | 612M   | Helen Cierpial          | 11-24-14 | 571M  | Andre A Dionne          | 01-01-13      | 600M  | Jacqueline E Garner   | 12-10-03 |
| 3N   | Christopher Campbell   | 09-21-14 | 16N           | Herbert Porst          | 11-28-14      | 612M   | George F Fescko         | 11-23-14 | 600M  | Helen P Goshea          | 01-31-03      | 600M  | Kazmira W Klatka      | 08-20-99 |
| 3N   | Albert J Lawton        | 08-29-14 | 23N           | Gordon O Franke        | 11-18-14      | 612M   | James G Western         | 11-14-14 | 600M  | Elaine Kowalczyk        | 09-05-14      | 600M  | Marilyn Morning       | 11-29-96 |
| 4C   | John F McMahon         | 10-21-14 | 24M           | Paul H Kotek           | 12-09-14      | 612M   | William D Mahoney       | 11-26-14 | 612M  | Catherine Ishill        | 12-10-14      | 625S  | James E Meeker        | 10-11-14 |
| 9N   | Joseph M Paris         | 09-08-14 | 27N           | Robert R Faylor        | 12-27-14      | 619M   | Earl J Schneider        | 10-19-14 | 600M  | Charles R Courchaine Sr | 01-29-07      | 625S  | Kathryn E Spengler    | 07-19-13 |
| 13N  | Paul A Burke           | 07-19-14 | 77P           | Thomas J Sloane        | 12-09-14      | 619M   | Betty E Clark           | 12-04-14 | 600M  | James J Fanning         | 06-30-11      | 853T  | Michael G Edwards     | 01-09-15 |
| 13N  | William R Wenck        | 11-17-14 | 77P           | Eugene F Steckbauer    | 11-23-14      | 853T   | Alfred L Costelli       | 12-04-14 | 600M  | John A Stevens, Jr      | 12-24-14      | 853T  | James W Peck          | 10-23-13 |
| 17M  | Lois J Saunders        | 10-29-14 | 100M          | Craig L Duckett        | 09-24-14      | 853T   | Rosario C Herrera       | 12-05-14 | 612M  | Beatrice A Guida        | 01-17-15      | 853T  | Irene M Robertson     | 05-16-14 |
| 24M  | James N Varner         | 10-28-14 | 119B          | Salvatore Abbate       | 12-04-14      | 853T   | Manuel F Madeiros       | 12-07-14 | 619M  | Gerald L Newton, Sr     | 12-28-14      | 853T  | Anthony Zolezzi       | 01-06-15 |
| 27C  | Harry W Sobolewski     | 10-25-14 | 119B          | Warren E Arrington     | 10-19-14      | 853T   | Raymond D Melott        | 11-17-14 | 853T  | Betty E Clark           | 12-04-14      | 999ML | Joseph F Dimario      | 01-14-15 |
| 119B   | Edward Buchanan        | 10-08-14 | 119B          | Rafael Garcia          | 12-15-14      | 999ML  | John Lewis Hofer        | 10-30-14 | 853T  | Rosario C Herrera       | 12-05-14      | 999ML | Joseph F Leonard, Sr  | 10-12-14 |
| 197M   | Joseph D Ventura, Sr   | 12-14-08 | 119B          | John W Oconnell        | 12-06-14      | 999ML  | Juanita Shannon         | 11-28-14 | 853T  | Manuel F Madeiros       | 12-07-14      | 999ML | Dale C Morris         | 01-21-15 |
| 235M   | Donald P Wise          | 10-07-14 | 119B          | Emilio Ortiz           | 04-26-10      | 999ML  | James J Sleeman         | 12-16-14 | 853T  | Erwin J Novak           | 09-08-14      | 999ML | Rosemary Muff         | 01-08-15 |
| 406C   | Joseph Danielson       | 11-03-14 | 119B          | Charles T Scofield     | 11-23-14      | 2289M  | Stanley C Blake         | 03-22-14 | 853T  | Frank P Stahlnecker     | 11-13-14      | 999ML | Christine M Rankin    | 12-03-14 |
| 455T   | Willard Milton Cowan   | 07-27-14 | 137C          | Ann K Tellick          | 10-23-14      | 6505M  | Glenda J Huskey         | 11-08-14 | 999ML                                       | Carl D Cassidy          | 01-04-15      | 2289M | Melissa S Baber       | 08-26-14 |
| 458M   | Alexander G Hook       | 10-21-14 | 197M          | Gladys Williams        | 10-21-14      | 6505M  | Richard J Jovanovic     | 11-24-14 | 999ML                                       | James J Sleeman         | 12-16-14      | 2289M | Arthur F Layzell      | 09-28-14 |
| 458M   | Gerald P Obermaier     | 10-22-14 | 197M          | Joseph B Mulvey        | 10-16-14      | 6505M  | Mary J Stewart          | 11-16-14 | 2289M                                       | William L Cross         | 12-28-14      | 6505M | Ralph W Freund, Sr    | 01-07-15 |
| 458M   | Michael W Sommers      | 10-31-14 | 241M          | George V Palmer        | 11-16-14      | 6505M  |                         |          | 6505M                                       | Warren R Downey         | 01-07-15      | 6505M | Mary H Gaffney        | 01-08-15 |
| 458M   | Russell Ventimiglia    | 11-02-14 | 261M          | Loretta A Mantell      | 09-25-14      | 6505M  |                         |          | 6505M                                       | Bernice M Pleimann      | 12-23-14      | 6505M | Dean G Kaucher        | 01-16-15 |
| 458M   | John F Winston Jr      | 11-02-14 | 285M          | Henry L Grizes         | 09-16-14      | 6505M  |                         |          | 6505M                                       | Pete L Sgouros          | 12-02-14      | 6505M | Nick C Porter         | 01-19-15 |
| 508M   | Joseph Auer            | 10-17-14 | 355T          | Robert B Haslacker     | 11-08-14      | 6505M  |                         |          | 6505M                                       | William R Stevener      | 10-21-14      | 6505M | James R Spohr         | 10-29-14 |
| 514M   | Evelyn M Geideman      | 11-02-14 | 388M          | Clyde W Clemens        | 09-25-14      | <b>Death Benefit Claims Paid February 2015</b> |                         |          |   |                         |               |       |                       |          |
| 514M   | Shirley D Jarman       | 10-07-14 | 388M          | Kenneth D Brinkman     | 10-15-14      | 1B   | Marian A Thompson       | 12-06-14 | <b>Death Benefit Claims Paid March 2015</b> |                         |               |       |                       |          |
| 518M   | Francis B Crusan       | 10-26-14 | 388M          | Edward S Joslin        | 11-14-14      | 1L   | Ronald V Clark          | 12-13-14 | 1B  | Deane H Heller          | 02-10-15      | 1B    | William E Bass        | 02-27-15 |
| 518M   | Russell E Denin        | 10-18-14 | 388M          | Douglas A Young        | 11-09-14      | 1L   | Vanig Hagopian          | 01-14-15 | 1B  | James G Merrell         | 01-28-15      | 1B    | Alice M Roskowiak     | 02-27-15 |
| 546M   | Philip R Pagon         | 10-29-14 | 455T          | J P McBride            | 10-10-14      | 1L   | William J Kalb          | 06-15-14 | 1C  | Berlon L Cooper         | 12-05-14      | 1C    | Francis R Delbianco   | 01-15-15 |
| 555M   | Armand Dion            | 10-09-14 | 458M          | Edward V Bucaro        | 11-12-14      | 1L   | Marcello Manzo          | 01-09-15 | 1L  | Edward Chookasezian     | 02-01-15      | 1L    | Louis A Alfonso       | 01-09-15 |
| 555M   | Edward G Lortie        | 11-10-14 | 458M          | Theodore E Campbell    | 11-11-14      | 1L   | Martha Paturzo          | 01-21-15 | 1L  | William B Scull, Sr     | 11-11-14      | 1L    | John H Brown          | 01-09-15 |
| 555M   | Yvette Petitclerc      | 09-03-14 | 458M          | Frank J Czajkowski     | 12-27-14      | 1L   | Washington J Testa      | 09-18-14 | 1M  | Robert L Bartelmehs     | 01-29-15      | 1L    | Bonnie L Conklin      | 04-15-14 |
| 555M   | Brendan D Reid         | 10-30-14 | 458M          | Warren Elste           | 11-06-14      | 1M   | Charles J Stoehr Iii    | 01-07-15 | 1M  | Larry W Reynolds        | 01-19-15      | 1L    | Grace Curcio          | 03-16-15 |
| 555S   | Joseph A Stasiak       | 10-29-14 | 458M          | Richard H Fleming      | 11-18-14      | 2N   | Thomas A Bizzoco, Jr    | 12-24-14 | 14M   | Albert N Varano         | 01-23-15      | 1L    | Arnoldo B Diaz        | 03-08-15 |
| 572T   | Edith B De La Fuente   | 10-29-14 | 458M          | John J Flock           | 09-20-14      | 2N   | Albert A Criscuoli Jr   | 12-17-14 | 16N   | Robert L Kane           | 01-28-15      | 1L    | James Giacobello      | 12-17-14 |
| 572T   | Robert F Nelson        | 09-23-13 | 458M          | Robert J Glod          | 10-30-14      | 2N   | Timothy J Curtin        | 01-13-15 | 16N   | Francis X Mcneila       | 02-08-15      | 1L    | August V Sehring      | 02-17-15 |
| 600M   | Samuel J Lombardo      | 09-18-14 | 458M          | Norman P Klein         | 11-09-14      | 3N   | James N Galt            | 11-26-14 | 16N   | Lorenz H Menke          | 02-01-15      | 1L    | Salvatore Tagliaferro | 02-26-15 |
| 612M   | John Chiaradia         | 01-19-13 | 458M          | Robert P Kosan         | 10-24-14      | 3N   | Harold C Palmateer, Jr  | 09-18-14 | 17M   | John D Peterson         | 12-03-14      | 1M    | Robert S Batten       | 02-03-15 |
| 612M   | Cecelia R Conroy       | 10-31-14 | 458M          | Walter M Langlois, Jr  | 10-11-14      | 3N   | Russell J Vekeman       | 01-10-15 | 24M   | Harold W Corkran        | 01-06-15      | 1M    | Darrell G Gauvite     | 02-19-15 |
| 612M   | Jack C Minnick         | 10-31-14 | 458M          | Barbara F Laplaca      | 12-09-14      | 4B   | Robert Marshall Boykin, | 12-18-14 | 24M   | William Polaski         | 01-22-15      | 1M    | Donald W Johnson      | 01-22-15 |
| 619M   | John A Westerman, Jr   | 09-20-14 | 458M          | Charles A Million      | 12-12-14      | 4B   | John W Gossman Sr       | 12-21-14 | 27C   | Henry J Bartosz         | 12-02-13      | 1M    | Eugene V Johnson      | 02-05-15 |
| 625S   | William Schreiner      | 10-12-14 | 458M          | Ted J Moskal           | 11-10-14      | 8M   | Ruth Allison            | 01-03-15 | 27C   | John E Dolina           | 02-04-15      | 1M    | Frederick P Kasper    | 05-08-14 |
| 999ML  | Ralph L Roberts        | 10-30-14 | 458M          | George Nazarov         | 12-09-14      | 8M   | Michael K Fondren, Sr   | 12-11-14 | 27C   | John E Dolina           | 02-04-15      | 1M    | Sean O'Brien          | 01-23-15 |
| 999ML  | George W Zimmerman, Jr | 10-30-14 | 458M          | Gerald J Poirier       | 11-28-14      | 8N   | Robert F Delaney        | 10-30-14 | 28N   | John R Mansfield        | 07-10-14      | 1M    | Albert E Standing     | 01-10-15 |
| 2289M  | Marvin N Slusher       | 10-15-14 | 458M          | Hughie Young           | 10-19-14      | 14M  | Phyllis E Cross         | 12-31-14 | 77P   | Leroy E Christenson     | 01-26-15      | 1M    | Richard A Stassen, Jr | 03-01-15 |
| 2289M  | Frank N Wilson         | 11-16-14 | 458M          | Robert E Zavadny       | 12-02-14      | 14M  | Dominick Iacaruso       | 12-27-14 | 77P   | James J Sessions        | 01-31-15      | 1M    | John W Wondra         | 01-11-15 |
| 6505M  | Helen A Dean           | 10-15-14 | 503M          | John A Scavulli        | 11-16-14      | 16C  | Raymond W Vanek         | 11-06-14 | 77P   | Eugene F Steckbauer     | 11-23-14      | 2N    | John A Himpler        | 02-07-15 |
| 6505M  | Tom J Molnar           | 10-18-14 | 503M          | William J Wailgum, Sr  | 12-01-14      | 16N  | Francis X Garmeski, Sr  | 12-21-14 | 77P   | Fredric T Walker        | 07-18-14      | 4B    | Albert F Jablonski    | 01-25-15 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | Deborah Carter         | 10-28-14      | 16N  | James J Marengo, Sr     | 11-01-14 | 119B  | Florence M Donnelly     | 12-28-14      | 4B    | Naomi J Jones         | 11-25-13 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | Steven Crager          | 11-17-13      | 17M  | Joel D Fisher           | 01-01-15 | 119B  | Peter Schembari         | 01-17-15      | 14M   | Susan Davis           | 11-20-14 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | Chester W Dunn         | 12-20-14      | 17M  | Charles Mecklenburg     | 12-19-14 | 128N  | Francis J Berfanger     | 01-17-15      | 14M   | George J Maglio       | 12-07-13 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | Fred J Gruen           | 12-10-14      | 23N  | Thomas L Brown          | 12-13-14 | 128N  | Robert S Parker         | 01-09-15      | 14M   | Robert F Sultzbaugh   | 12-02-14 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | Hershel G Hayes, Sr    | 12-20-14      | 23N  | James A Witczak         | 11-22-14 | 128N  | Kelly Tawney Jr         | 04-19-14      | 14M   | Carol L Williamson    | 11-16-14 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | James A Macdonald      | 12-19-14      | 24M  | Paul H Kotek            | 12-09-14 | 128N  | Henry N Temple          | 08-15-11      | 16C   | Jayson L Marshall     | 07-15-14 |
|  |                        |          | 508M          | William C Zimmer Jr    | 10-11-13      | 27N  | Robert R Faylor         | 12-27-14 | 146P  | Curtis C Krueger        | 04-18-14      | 16N   | Thomas A Brett        | 02-10-15 |
|  |                        |          | 509M          | Andre Hamel            | 10-02-14      | 77P  | Richard J Martell       | 01-06-15 | 197M  | Ronald L Swatzyna       | 12-26-13      | 16N   | John T Connaghan      | 01-22-15 |
|  |                        |          | 514M          | John P French          | 11-08-14      | 119B   | Salvatore Abbate        | 12-04-14 | 235M  | James I Minor           | 02-08-15      | 17M   | Dale R Linker         | 02-27-15 |
|  |                        |          | 514M          | William J Utter        | 10-13-13      | 119B   | Warren E Arrington      | 10-19-14 | 285M  | Jane E Frye             | 08-17-14      | 17M   | Robert A Sahn         | 03-08-15 |
|  |                        |          | 518M          | Donald P Boylan        | 12-19-14      | 119B   | William Bennett         | 12-15-14 | 355T  | John A Kelley, Sr       | 01-20-15      | 24M   | Leonard F Dourson, Jr | 02-14-15 |
|  |                        |          | 518M          | Ival R Jones           | 12-09-14      | 119B   | Jorge Deleon            | 12-19-14 | 388M  | Robert G Griggs         | 01-22-15      | 27C   | Brent L Westphal      | 11-17-14 |
|  |                        |          | 518M          | Ciell D Lewis          | 10-29-14      | 128N   | Richard W Bird          | 12-29-13 | 458M  | Marian Bucko            | 02-02-15      | 77P   | Leon F Thomas         | 01-29-15 |
|  |                        |          | 518M          | Stanley A Troxel       | 11-04-14      | 137C   | Joseph V Delucca, Sr    | 01-02-15 | 458M  | Kenneth G Erb, Sr       | 05-18-13      | 100M  | Bryan Armstrong       | 01-30-15 |
|  |                        |          | 546M          | Thomas L Bellitto      | 09-15-14      | 137C   | Joseph B Mulvey         | 10-16-14 | 458M  | Ralph C Grothendieck    | 01-25-15      | 100M  | Ralph N McGowan       | 03-05-15 |
|  |                        |          | 546M          | Ronald R Goliass       | 12-16-14      | 197M   | Glenn W Bass            | 10-14-14 | 458M  | Bernard G Heinis        | 11-03-14      | 119B  | William Henry Freeman | 01-11-15 |
|  |                        |          | 546M          | Edith L Hastings       | 08-28-14      | 235M   | Cecil G Huckstep        | 01-01-15 | 458M  | James Kariotis          | 09-07-08      | 119B  | Daniel Maddaloni      | 02-05-15 |
|  |                        |          | 546M          | Lloyd C Urgeleit       | 11-01-14      | 241M   |                         |          |   |                         |               |       |                       |          |

# Pay and Benefits Confirm: Unions Make a Difference

There's no doubt – unions make a difference. Here's proof:

Wages of union members are, on average, 27 percent higher than those of workers without union representation.



- **Women** in unions earn an extra \$170 a week – \$9,000 more a year.
- **African Americans** in unions earn an extra \$150 a week – \$8,000 more a year.
- **Latinos** in unions earn an extra \$225 a week – \$11,650 more a year.

Eighty-eight percent of union workers have job-related health coverage while only 69 percent of non-union workers do.

More than two out of three union jobs offer a dental plan. Only 44 percent of non-union workers receive dental coverage.

More than half of all union jobs offer vision coverage. Approximately one-quarter of non-union jobs provide vision care.

Eighty-five percent of union jobs offer prescription drug coverage. Only 66 percent of non-union jobs provide prescription drug coverage.

Union workers pay an average of 8 percent of the total monthly premium (employer pays 92 percent) for single coverage while non-union workers pay 20 percent. Union households pay an average of 12 percent of the monthly premium for family coverage. Non-union families pay 32 percent.

Seventy-two percent of union workers have a guaranteed defined-benefit pension compared to 15 percent of non-union workers.

– Source: U. S. Department of Labor



## OUT OF GOP RACE, SCOTT WALKER STILL WAGING 'WAR ON WORKERS'

Anyone who thought Scott Walker would lay low after his embarrassingly early exit from the 2016 GOP presidential sweepstakes underestimated the Wisconsin governor's urge to remain a favorite of the far right.

After drawing praise from Tea Party types in 2011 by eliminating most bargaining rights for civil service workers, Walker limped back from the campaign trail – where he did miserably – and quickly dealt public sector employees another blow.

He signed into law a so-called “reform” plan that upends Wisconsin's 110-year-old civil service system by giving the governor's office additional control over hiring, eliminating employment exams, extending probation periods to as much as two years and banning the right of veteran employees to “bump” into other jobs if theirs are eliminated during layoffs.

Walker contends the “streamlined” system – which will affect 30,000 workers – is intended to stop patronage. But, critics say, the real reason is clear: He is grabbing more power and opening the civil service system to favoritism and political payoffs.

In an editorial headlined, “Gov. Walker Resumes His War on Workers,” the New York Times blasted Walker's preference for “political cronyism.” Citizens may have considered the “spoils system” ancient history, the paper said, but: “Here it comes again.”

### Summary Annual Report for GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND, (Employer Identification No. 52-1632857, Plan No. 502) for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

#### BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$54,908,178 as of June 30, 2015 compared to \$57,152,483 as of July 1, 2014. During the plan year the plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of \$2,244,305. This decrease includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$1,191,920. This income included employee contributions of \$245,925, realized gains of \$2,034,914 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$825,928. Plan expenses were \$3,436,225. These expenses included \$596,510 in administrative expenses and \$2,839,715 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

#### YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

1. An accountant's report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment;

4. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets; and
5. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan participates.

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

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

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

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

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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

# Your Home Is Waiting



The Union Plus Mortgage program is one of the many benefits available to help union members. The program is for union members, their parents and children. Benefits of the program include mortgage hardship assistance to help protect members' homes in the face of financial hardship. With Union Plus, a mortgage is more than a monthly payment. It's long-term protection for everything your home means to you.

Learn more: [UnionPlus.org/Mortgage](http://UnionPlus.org/Mortgage)

## MOTHER JONES MEMORIAL IN ILLINOIS HAILS AMERICA'S 'MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN'



PHOTO COURTESY THE LABOR PAPER VIA PAI

Eighty-six years after her death, the stalwart, Irish-born labor advocate known as "Mother Jones" remains a symbol of solidarity and strength to all union members – print industry and across the labor spectrum – whose fearless approach to organizing still serves as an inspiration.

The contributions of Mary Harris Jones were celebrated when labor, political and community leaders – and approximately 200 members of the general public – attended re-dedication of the Mother Jones monument in Mount Olive, Illinois.

According to the State Journal-Register of Springfield, Illinois, approximately \$130,000 was raised through union, public and private sources to refurbish the 22-foot pink Minnesota granite obelisk honoring Mother Jones. The monument was erected 79 years ago in the miners' cemetery Jones requested as her burial place.

Jones died in 1930 at the age of 93 but her story still resonates.

"We can all learn from the example of this brave and enduring labor leader," said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi

Jones gained prominence as an organizer for the United Mine Workers but began labor activities in Chicago after the city sought to recover from the Great Fire of 1871. Alarmed at the treatment of workers, she helped organize so many strikes – and in so many places – that she was denounced as "the most dangerous woman in America" by a West Virginia district attorney.

"She wasn't afraid to stand up to the big shots, like judges and politicians," a former miner at re-dedication ceremonies told the Journal-Register. "She was just a hell-raiser."

For Jones, even her choice of cemetery was an act of union loyalty. She is buried with workers who died in Virden, Illinois when management of a local coal company sought to break an 1898 strike by hiring replacement laborers.

In a high-powered speech at monument ceremonies, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) said Jones would tell union members there was plenty of work to be done in 2015– and to get busy.

"If Mother Jones and her boys were alive today, we know what they would tell us to do when we leave this celebration – to fight like hell for the living, fight like hell to preserve the rights of working people to form and join unions and all the other basic rights for which earlier generations fought and too many people died," Durbin said, according to the Labor Tribune of St. Louis and Southern Illinois.

Tedeschi agreed.

"In the spirit of Mother Jones, we will do exactly what Sen. Durbin said at Mount Olive – fight like hell for working people, build our union and never surrender to those trying to turn back the clock," he said. "Our heritage, and our members, demand nothing less."

*A small Mother Jones museum has opened in Mount Olive. For information on how to contribute visit [www.motherjonesmuseum.org](http://www.motherjonesmuseum.org) or contact the Mother Jones Heritage Project, 215 E. Main St., Mt. Olive, Ill. 62069.*

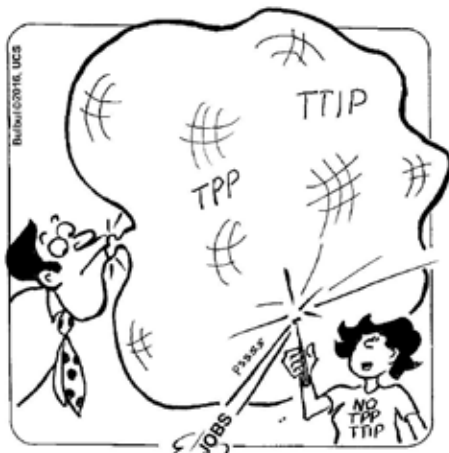
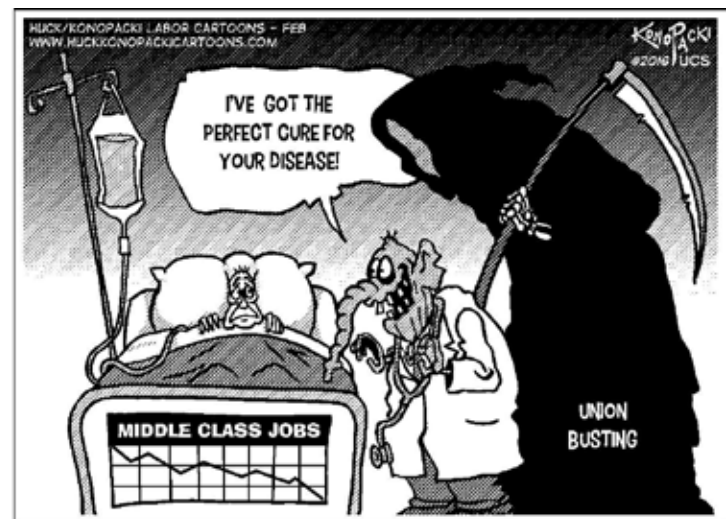
## Funny Business



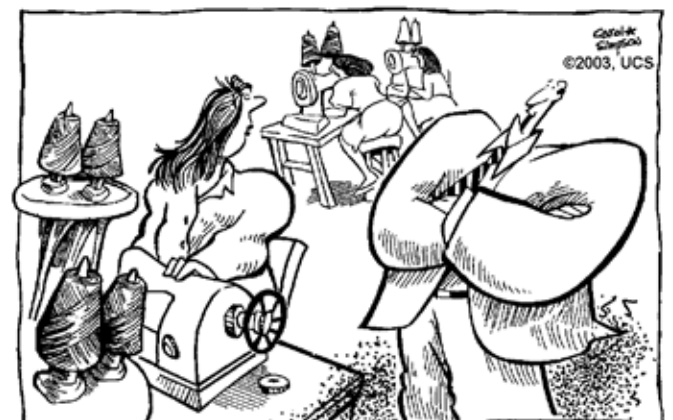
"So much for management's pledge to bargain in good faith."



"'Dead-end job' is such a harsh phrase. We prefer to call your position a corporate cul-de-sac."



"Just letting the hot air out of trade agreement promises."



"I wouldn't worry about being deported. We own lots of sweatshops back in your home country."