

Graphic Communicator

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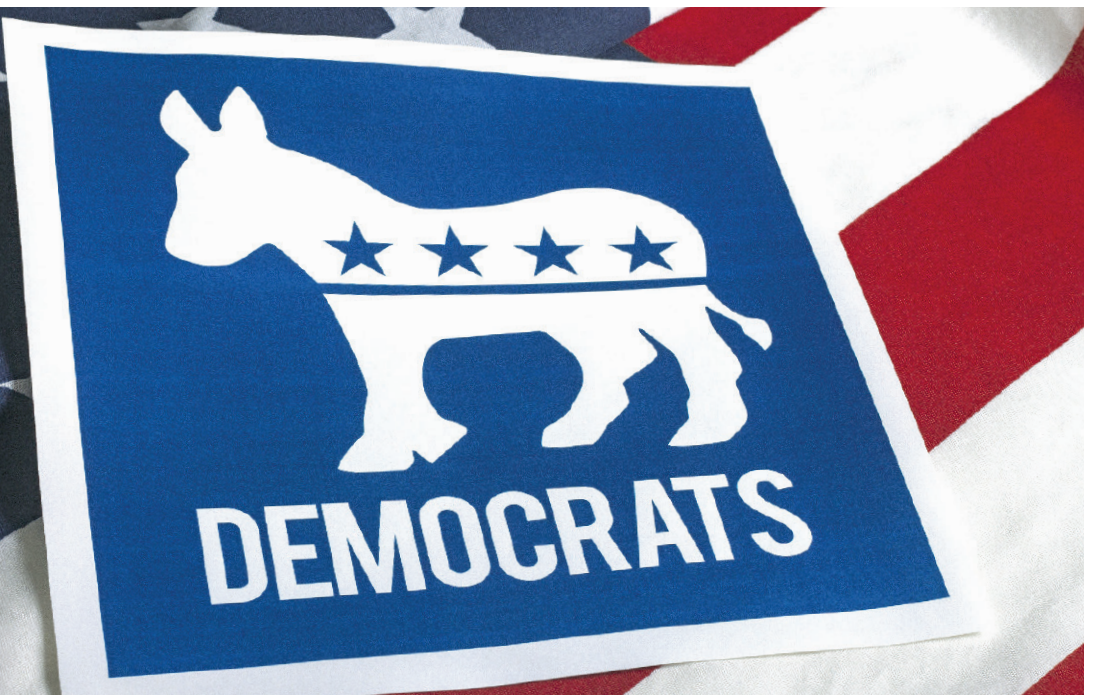


PAGE 11

TOP STORY

A 'Better Deal' from Democrats Must Include Organized Labor

By Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator



IN JULY, DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCED “A BETTER DEAL” FOR AMERICAN workers – a list of policy objectives that include a boost in the minimum wage, big spending on infrastructure, reduced costs for education and prescriptions and an ambitious re-training and apprenticeship program.

“Democrats will show the country we are the party on the side of working people,” Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer of New York said at the time.

But something was missing from the Democratic prescription for winning back – and protecting – America’s increasingly vulnerable middle class.

There was no mention of organized labor, arguably the most potent force for guaranteeing workers a fair share of the nation’s economic success and affording them a voice in their own future.

Democratic officials insist they are not overlooking the role of unions – still an essential element of the party’s core constituency despite shocking defections by rank-and-file members that helped Donald Trump gain the White House last year – and will make that clear when the broad outline of “A Better Deal” is sharpened in subsequent statements.

“It was not intended as a slight,” a source in Schumer’s office told the Communicator. “Organized labor plays a huge part [in the plan] and is central to it.” Likewise, Blake Androff, executive director of the Democratic Policy & Communications Committee, said the party soon would announce “strong pro-worker, pro-union proposals” aimed at preventing “special interests from stripping away the rights of workers.”

continues on PAGE 10

Joint Pension Trust Seeks Help Locating Fund Participants

SEE FLYER INSERT



Printed in the USA

Kurt Freeman Begins Work As Secy-Trsr/Vice President



CREDIT: IBT PHOTO BY FRED NYE

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi, left, said Kurt Freeman (taking oath) was a ‘talented union professional’ who was ‘devoted to the union’s mission and all our members.’ – PAGE 4

Union Solidarity Is a Model for the Nation

LET'S TALK UNITY.

The labor movement is built on that idea. In the simplest terms: no unity, no unions.

Our Teamster partners hold an annual Unity Conference to emphasize the importance of solidarity and common purpose.

I always attend and am consistently impressed – and moved – by the deep sense of commitment expressed from the podium and among delegates between sessions and at social occasions.



When people address each other as “brother” and “sister,” they mean it. They are acknowledging the bond that connects union members, and, in fact, all workers.

They are pledging themselves anew to the creed of one-for-all, and all-for-one. They are expressing pride and determination.

And they are saying, loud and clear, that even while detractors in the corporate and political worlds try to undermine the labor movement – indeed, try to snuff it out – unions are not going anywhere. As the great American spiritual and civil rights anthem says: “Just like a tree that’s standing by the water side, we shall not be moved.”

At the last Unity meeting, IBT General President Jim Hoffa rallied the crowd with a stirring speech on the subject of resilience and teamwork.

“We have to seize the moment and be united like never before,” Hoffa said. “We don’t have the luxury of being divided.”

Those are powerful words that reach beyond the convention hall. They relate as much to national affairs as union concerns. And they have special urgency at the moment.

The last several months have been tough. The political atmosphere is tense and, too often, Americans are screaming at one another.

At times, I think, President Donald Trump has done too little to bring us together. At some unscripted moments – like those at campaign-style rallies – he ends up making matters worse.



Emotions were running especially high after the President’s sometimes contradictory remarks about a far-right march in Charlottesville, Virginia. The event drew white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan and cost the life of Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old counter protester killed when a car plowed into the crowd.

In response, the Teamsters issued a forthright statement that you can read on Page 6. It says, in part: “It is time for this madness to stop. The Teamsters pledge to stand up against such despicable acts of hatred and intolerance. Only then will we truly become the great nation we all expect us to be.”

Everyone in the GCC/IBT and the IBT can be proud of that message.

I know, of course, that President Trump has a strong base of supporters, and that many are union members. I’m not here to change anybody’s mind.

But, whatever our political outlook, I would urge that we put partisan preferences aside when it comes to keeping peace in our beloved country and, as the Teamsters said in their post-Charlottesville statement, make “clear that all Americans are entitled to the same rights and protections.”

The solidarity that binds union members is no less essential on the national level. Often the labor movement has led by example. Time to do it again. ■

OUTLOOK

JAMES P. HOFFA TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

We Must Halt the Deadly Opioid Scourge

OPIOID DRUGS, INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION painkillers and heroin, killed more than 33,000 people in this country in 2015, the most on record. The epidemic is straining public services and state budgets. With a problem this big, no single solution will help everyone. But elected officials and groups like the Teamsters are getting involved to help stop this scourge.

The Teamsters is leading a shareholder effort to demand accountability from our country’s largest wholesale drug distributors for their role in fueling the opioid epidemic. In addition to representing workers at each of the “Big Three” distributors — McKesson, AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health, which account for 85 percent of all prescription drug distribution in the U.S. — the union and its affiliated pension and benefit funds are long-term shareholders.

The numbers are staggering. According to news reports, the “Big Three” shipped 423 million doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone



into West Virginia, a state of only 1.8 million people, over a six-year period. At the same time, more than 1,700 people in West Virginia fatally overdosed as the three companies reported a combined \$17 billion in profits and their CEOs received more than \$500 million in combined compensation.

Each company had been put on notice by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) over the past decade for failing to report suspicious orders as required by law. Together, McKesson and Cardinal Health paid more than \$200 million to settle charges with the DEA over that period.

As long-term shareholders of McKesson, AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health, the Teamsters have called for independent board committees to investigate each company’s opioid sales practices and compliance programs, and report the findings to shareholders.

Additionally, the union has urged independent board leadership and executive pay reform that incentivizes compliance and empowers boards to claw back compensation when corporate mismanagement creates significant financial or reputational harm.

It’s time to come together, protect the people – and get serious about opioid abuse. ■



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Politics Swirl but Organized Labor Remains Steadfast

IT'S BEEN A TOUGH YEAR FOR DEMOCRATS.

Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 election. Republicans kept control of the House and Senate. President Donald J. Trump continues playing to his right-wing base. And, let's face it, Trump's unruly approach to governing has the country on edge and Democrats often wondering what's going to happen next.



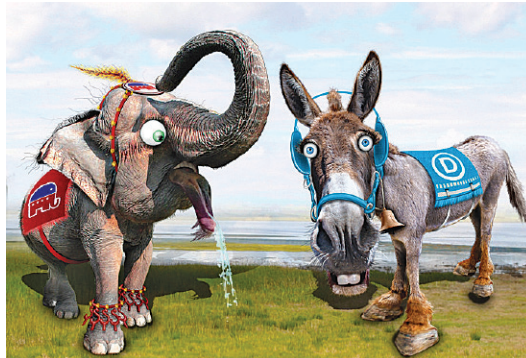
As we report in our Top Story on Page 1, Democrats are trying to pull themselves together and offer the nation "A Better Deal."

The question is: Where does that leave labor? Will the Democratic Party strengthen its traditional bonds with unions? In the face of an anti-union Republican Party, can we expect Democrats to battle hard for plant safety, job security and bargaining rights? Our story addresses the issues.

Politicians must always be reminded that unions are vital to the country's welfare – and not just in terms of pay and benefits. Sure, organized labor speaks up for the middle class values and workplace rights but unions – and their members – are valued, productive members of the community, too.

When Hurricane Harvey belted Texas and Hurricane Irma slammed into Florida, the Teamsters and GCC/IBT took action through the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund as Dawn Hobbs reports on Page 11.

A cavalcade of big-rig trucks emblazoned with IBT markings headed for the stricken area with badly needed supplies. Volunteers aided stranded residents. "The outpouring was just indescribable," Oscar Lopez, president of GCC/IBT Local 4535-M, Houston, told Hobbs. Added GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi: "This is the true meaning of solidarity."



Another example of union outreach is evident in our story (Pages 8-9) on a unique Oakland, California, apartment complex sponsored 50 years ago by the predecessor union of the GCC/IBT and still providing affordable housing today.

Our union is dedicated to high ideals, demonstrated not only during recent natural disasters and at the Oakland apartment complex but through a social agenda that includes helping young people afford college and succeed in a competitive world.

This year, four students from GCC/IBT households won James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 "bootstrap" awards (Page 16). Eric Curley, 19, whose mother, Carol, is a member of Local 285-M, Washington, D.C., spoke for all when he said union membership had helped make his family "secure" and provided a "positive impact." Last year, the Hoffa fund awarded \$1.2 million in scholarships.

Elsewhere in this issue, we take a look at the long-time cartooning team of Estelle Carol and her husband, Bob Simpson, whose pro-labor cartoons are published widely. The couple's work is distinctive, clever, insightful – and always favors working people. Management types don't always fare so well. Be glad Carol and Simpson are on our side. (Page 5).

Finally, there's a story on Page 4 about Garry Forman, president of Local 17-M, Indianapolis, and Central Region general board member, and his family's mastery of karate. On the same page we get an update on Bob Lacey, who recently retired as GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president, and is enjoying life back home in Indiana. Lacey says hello from the Hoosier state.

And at the top of Page 4, we note the installation of Kurt Freeman, who succeeded Lacey in the union's second highest job. Freeman has set a demanding agenda for himself – controlling finances, organizing, aiding in negotiations – and is hard at work. "He's a talented union professional," Tedeschi said. "Great to have Kurt aboard." ■

COMMENTARY

Power of the People Can Easily go Phhttt!

By Jim Hightower

We the People are being burgled. Again. The moneyed elites and their political henchmen are master thieves, often plucking our power without us realizing it, until we try to use it and – phhttt – it's gone. Recently, another democracy-stealing tool has been fabricated and quietly distributed to profiteering corporations and right-wing ideologues throughout the country: PREEMPTION.

This concept has been around since Day One of our nation, contained in the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and in similar clauses in state constitutions. It allows higher levels of government to intervene and overrule lower levels – the Feds can legally preempt state and local laws, and states can preempt city and county ordinances.

Preemption is an extreme power meant to be used sparingly but some of the greediest corporations and grubbiest politicians have colluded to take matters into their own hands. Discarding the concept's core principle of serving the public interest, they're presently wielding its nullifying power as a cudgel to clobber democratic rule and impose special interest policies against the will of the people.

As you might expect, Trump & Co. are big on federal preemption.

They're targeting a multitude of state and local laws for extinction, including popular and effective provisions enacted to ensure workplace safety, provide consumer protection, establish sanctuary cities, expand voting rights, prevent air and water pollution, reduce gun violence, maintain public oversight of for-profit charter schools, improve children's health, and mitigate climate change.

It's at the state level, however, that the intrusive and abusive power of preemption is exploding, as today's right-wing governors and legislators rapidly escalate a state war to quash progressive actions by local governments and grassroots movements. Democracy be damned.

A report by the National League of Cities found that 24 states preempt local authorities from increasing the minimum wage; 17 preempt local ordinances providing paid-leave benefits for workers; three preempt city regulation of home-sharing networks such as Airbnb; 37 preempt the authority of local officials to set



safety standards for ride-sharing corporations such as Uber; 17 preempt municipalities from providing low-cost broadband service to residents; and 42 preempt local authority to increase taxes to meet local needs.

And there's much more.

States are also dropping the preemption bomb on communities trying to regulate damage from factory farms, Big Oil frackers, coal-fired utilities, pesticide spewers, gun manufacturers, plastic bag makers, e-cigarette peddlers and pipeline builders.

According to the Center for Media and Democracy, 36 states introduced laws preempting cities in 2016, up from 29 states in 2015. State lawmakers are on a pace to exceed those numbers in 2017.

The legal theory behind states' authority to overrule local governments was first articulated by Judge John Forrest Dillon. In an 1872 opinion, he ruled that municipalities have only the powers state legislators expressly grant them. "Dillon's Rule" has subsequently been cited and adopted by the US Supreme Court and other courts, but the theory is not without its critics.

Other judges have made eloquent arguments for the principle of "home rule," noting that unlimited state power imposes unreasonable constraints on the ability of local communities to govern themselves.

Notably, supreme court rulings do not prevent states from passing legislation or amending their constitutions to expressly allow home rule, and today a new Home Rule movement is taking root to re-assert the rights of local people for self-governance.

To learn how to get involved, visit Campaign to Defend Local Solutions (www.DefendLocal.com). It's a "nonpartisan and people-powered" coalition of local leaders focused on defending communities' rights to local solutions. ■

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

Freeman Makes 'Smooth' Transition to New Post

Kurt Freeman, who assumed duties as GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president Aug. 1, says his first few weeks confirmed that the job is tough but rewarding – plenty of travel to meet local leaders and assist in contract negotiations – and hailed the staff at union headquarters for helping him quickly get up to speed. “This is not a surprise but I have to say that the reception I have received from everyone at GCC has made my transition to Washington as smooth as I could have hoped for,” said Freeman, who succeeded Robert Lacey, the union’s first secretary-treasurer/vice president. At a swearing-in ceremony, President George Tedeschi administered the oath of office with support personnel and Freeman’s wife, Theresa, looking on. Attending were: (seated, front row, left-right) Tedeschi, Freeman and general counsel Peter Leff; (second row, left-right) Theresa Freeman, Bonnie Lindsley, Dinese Askew, Tina Ball, Kim Barnes, Diana Fasce, Tina McPherson. Freeman, former president of Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and DC9, said his top priorities were keeping tight control of union finances and making “sure conference representatives and organizers have what they need to continue to provide assistance in negotiations and organizing.” With the patience, skill and initiative necessary for success, Freeman already is proving himself, Tedeschi said. “Following Bob Lacey is not an easy assignment but Kurt is up to the challenge,” Tedeschi said. “He is a talented union professional devoted to the GCC/IBT’s mission and all our members. It’s great to have him aboard.”



Assuming duties in the GCC/IBT’s second highest office, Kurt Freeman said staff support had been outstanding and that his first weeks as secretary-treasurer/vice president proved demanding but productive. Freeman said he would emphasize service to local unions, organizing efforts and successful contract negotiations – and strive to meet the high standards of his predecessor, Bob Lacey, who retired in August.



Photo display at Bob Lacey’s retirement party celebrated his years of union service.

PHOTOS BY KRISTEN MULLIGAN

Happy to be Home Again in Indiana

Bob Bob Lacey is retired -- and loves it. The former GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president left office August 1 and headed home to Evansville, Indiana. “After about a week, I thought to myself, wow, I don’t have to be anywhere, or do anything, or hop on a plane,” Lacey said in an interview. “When I wake up in the morning, it’s, ‘What do you want to do today, Bob?’” Lacey, 65, who was elected GCIU vice president in 2004 and became the GCC/IBT’s first secretary-treasurer/vice president in 2006, said that, while retirement is a pleasure, he missed “the whole gang” in Washington, D.C. “President Tedeschi, the staff – you couldn’t ask for finer people anywhere,” he said. “It was like a family at 25 Louisiana,” Lacey said, referring to the GCC/IBT office at Teamster headquarters on Louisiana Avenue NW.

Lacey has another family – the one awaiting him in Indiana. And, boy, were they glad to get him back. Lacey’s son, Ryan, and daughter, Kristen Mulligan, organized a party at a local park to celebrate after their dad’s return.

Among the 45 guests – including six grandchildren – were friends from Local 571-M, Evansville, where Lacey was six times re-elected as president. Don Nichols, who served as 571-M secretary treasurer when Lacey was president, attended. Union attorney Tom Allison traveled from Chicago. Lacey’s boyhood friend, Norm Colle, of Carmel, Indiana, was there, too. There was a cake, of course – bright yellow with a GCC/IBT logo in the middle – and a photo display recalling Lacey’s many years of union service. “I cannot describe how happy my father looked that evening,” said Mulligan. “It was a wonderful celebration of him as a leader, union brother, and true friend.”

Lacey, who was succeeded in the GCC/IBT’s second-highest job by Kurt Freeman, former president of Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and District Council 9, said he will become involved in local labor and political activities after “catching my breath.”

For now, his agenda is open. Lacey said there is plenty to do around the house. And he already has been approached about a possible role with the Democratic Party in southwest Indiana. No worries, Lacey said. “I won’t get bored.”

As a retiree, Lacey takes the cake.



FOREMAN’S FAMILY GETS ITS KICKS WITH KARATE

For Garry Foreman, martial arts is a family affair – and how.

Foreman, president of Local 17-M, Indianapolis, and Central Region general board member, is a third-degree black belt in karate.

That’s just the start.

His older brother, David, is a fifth-degree black belt – once ranked 10th in the nation by a leading martial arts magazine – and a green belt in judo. David’s wife, Brenda, and daughter, Cathy, a former national champion, are third-degree black belts. David operates a karate school – known as a dojo – in Muncie, Indiana.

There’s more.

Foreman’s middle brother, Dale, is a black belt in judo and has earned many awards. His sons, Chris, Brad and Marc are brown belts in judo.

And more.

Ryan, Foreman’s son, and Holly Powell, his daughter, are blue belts in karate. Ryan’s boy, Devin, is an orange belt. Devin is 6.

“He’s just thrived at it,” said Ryan, 44, a firefighter who lives in Denver, Colorado. “He understands and loves it and wants to practice all the time. He even gives me a run for my money.”

The family’s passion for self-defense training and competition was prompted by David, who learned martial arts while stationed in Korea with the U.S. Army.

In his 20s, Garry Foreman began studying karate. “I gave it a shot and fell in love with it,” he said.

At 66, Foreman, who has won a number of awards, no longer competes.

But when a family member is in a match, Foreman may put on his “gi” – the familiar karate uniform of loose-fitting white jacket and pants – and show up to lend moral support.

The martial arts have taught him – and family members – discipline, self-confidence and restraint, Foreman said.

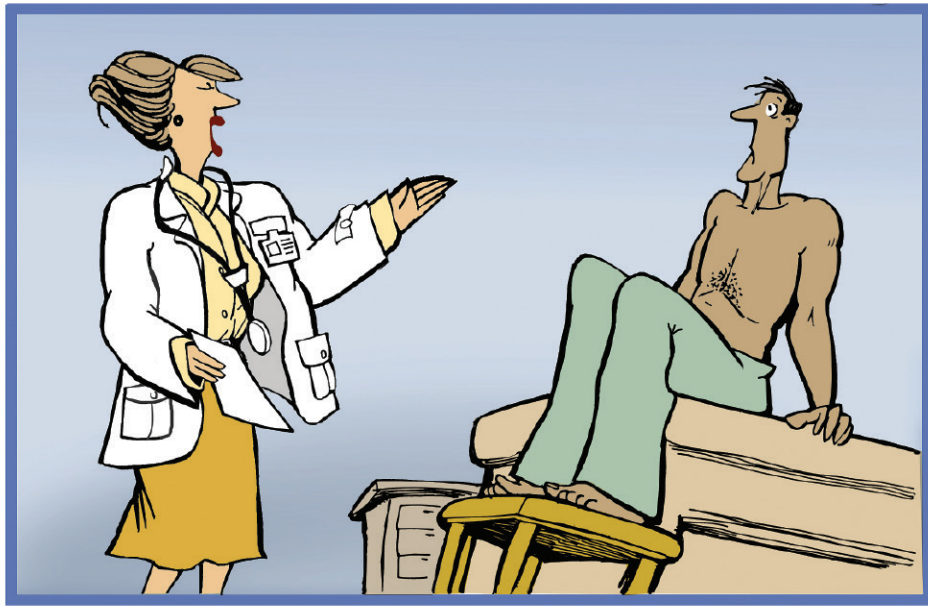
High ideals are fundamental to the practice, he said -- show adversaries respect and use no more force than necessary.

“It’s a philosophical path,” said Ryan Foreman. “It’s meant as a way of peace.”

The lessons are never forgotten, his father agreed. “Once you have the knowledge, it’s always with you,” Garry Foreman said.

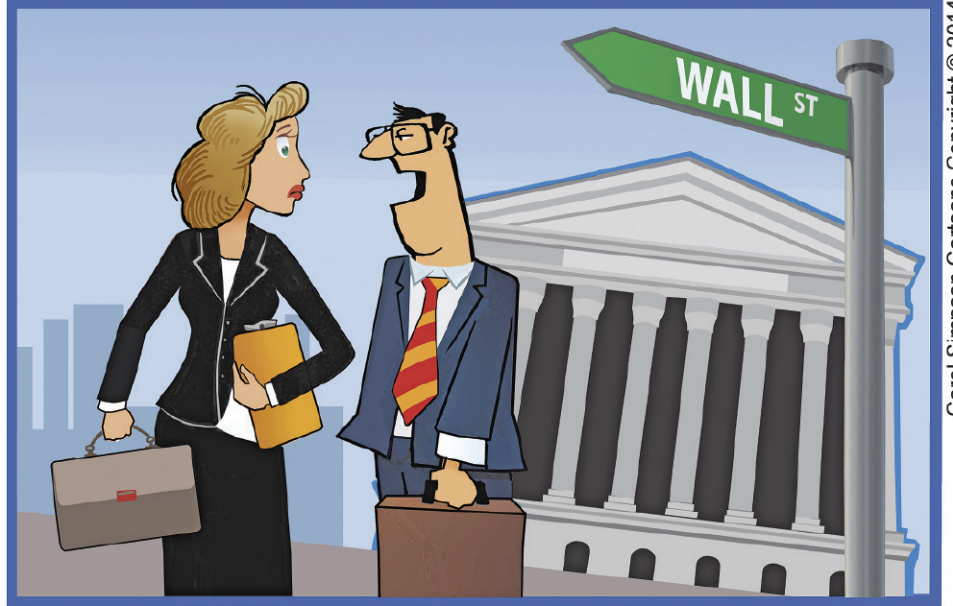


Garry Foreman, left, with a couple Karate “kids” – son, Ryan, of Denver, Colorado, and six-year-old grandson, Devin, already an orange belt.



Carol Simpson Cartoons © 2014

“You’re suffering from **job stress**. Take two aspirins and **call your union rep** in the morning.”



Carol Simpson Cartoons Copyright © 2014

“Fortunately, most of the **crimes** we commit are perfectly legal.”

Carol and Simpson: Still on the Hunt for Hypocrisy

In the fight for workplace rights, art can be a valuable union ally, says labor cartoonist Estelle Carol – and lighten the mood a little, too. “Have fun and laugh at the enemy,” she says.

For nearly 30 years, Carol, 68, and her gag-writing husband, Bob Simpson, 70, have spoofed bigwigs, fat cats and captains of industry with hundreds of distinctive, right-on cartoons featured in a multitude of union publications and labor newspapers like the Graphic Communicator.

In their work, the Oak Park, Illinois-based couple salutes workers and skewers greedy bosses and clueless politicians who ignore ordinary Americans.

One cartoon shows a family portrait labeled “With Medicare.” Included are Grandma and Grandpa. A second panel is labeled “Without Medicare.” The old folks are missing, represented only by dotted lines.

Another piece focuses on turnstiles at the entry to a hallway called “U.S. Labor Law.” The turnstile designated “Employers” is the standard sort – push and move through. The other, marked “Employees,” is studded with spikes and impassable.

“I’m totally amazed at the hypocrisy of how American politics and economics work,” said Bob Simpson. “We look for points where we can show that hypocrisy.”

Carol and Simpson come from strong pro-worker backgrounds.

Born in New York, Carol was guided by parents deeply involved in progressive politics. Her father, Bernard, at one point was the target of the House Un-American Activities Committee whose intimidating tactics are associated with the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s.

Simpson grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland near Washington, D.C., with a mother and father who supported Franklin D. Roosevelt and recognized the importance of organized labor. “They saw the changes that were possible through unions,” Simpson said.

Rooted in the politics of equal rights, racial justice and fair play for workers, Carol and Simpson seemed a perfect match in 1974 when

they met outside Havana while building houses with the Venceremos Brigade, a volunteer group engaged in construction and agricultural projects. “We fell in love in Cuba,” Simpson said.

The two ended up in Chicago – Carol was studying art and devoting herself to feminist and other progressive causes; Simpson, who has a master’s degree in English, taught adult education – and soon found a way to combine their talents.

They first collaborated with artist Rhoda Grossman, on “The Incredible Shrinking American Dream,” an illustrated “people’s history” of the United States, and then began turning out hundreds of cartoons with social justice and worker-related themes.

“I think that the arts attest to social change and remain one of the most powerful tools available,” said Carol, who, in 1970, was a founding member of the Chicago Women’s Graphics Collective, a group that provided poster art for the emerging feminist movement.

Carol and Simpson, who married in 1985 and have two adult children, distribute their material – he writes the punch lines, she draws the cartoons – through a service called CartoonWork. Both are involved in WebTrax Studio, a graphic design and marketing business whose clients include unions, small businesses and community groups. This fall the couple will launch a new website at Cartoonwork.com

A major stroke last year made it difficult for Simpson to collaborate with his wife on new material but, he said, most of the team’s work remains current. Equal justice is a long way from being fully realized. “We’re dragging anchor,” said Simpson.

In a Carol-Simpson cartoon that seems as timely as today’s headlines, two Wall Street executives are speaking outside a courthouse. One exec says to the other, “Fortunately, most of the crimes we commit are perfectly legal.”

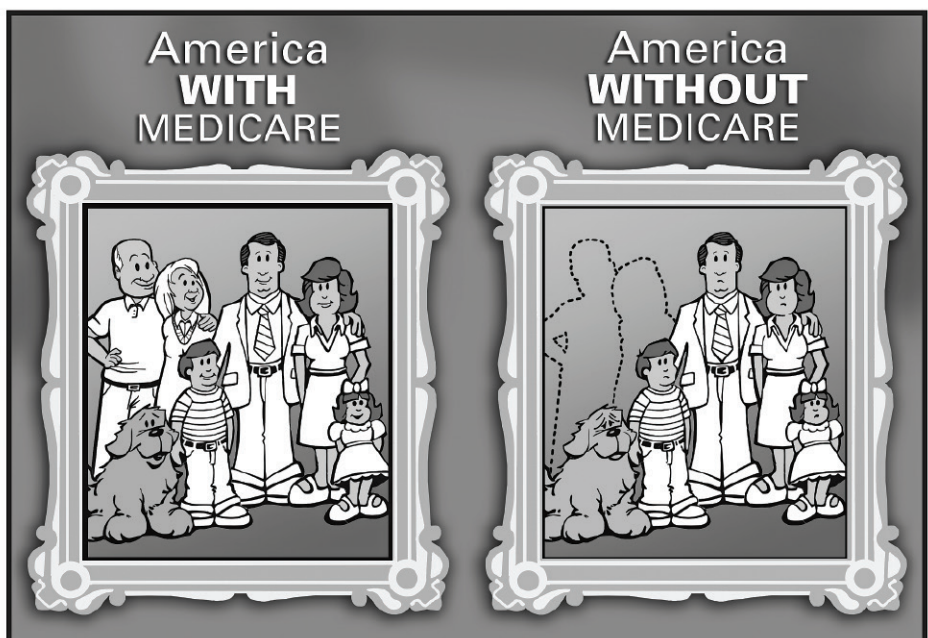
Abuse of power may endure, say Estelle Carol and Bob Simpson, but so does the clout of social commentary. Somebody has to keep yanking on that anchor.



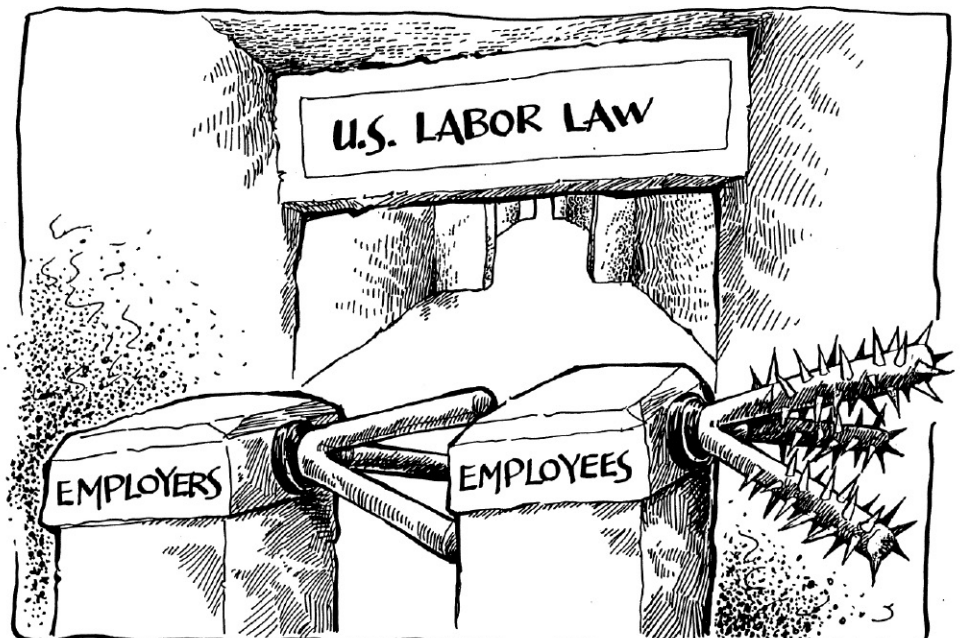
Estelle Carol: ‘Arts aid social change’



Bob Simpson: Spoofing the fat cats



Carol Simpson Cartoons © 2012



Carol & Simpson © 1991

Is This the 'Change' Those Angry Voters Really Had in Mind?

After the stunning 2016 election that launched Donald Trump into the White House and kept the House and Senate in Republican control, Democrats entered a period of soul-searching.



What had gone wrong? There was no shortage of answers.

Some said the party's presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, just didn't connect with working class Americans. Yes, she won the popular vote but suffered humiliating setbacks in blue collar districts that guaranteed an electoral college victory for her billionaire New York opponent.

Others said Democrats were undone by focus on social issues like transgender bathroom rights and support for immigration reform. And then there was the matter of Trump stirring up his base by claiming he would repeal "Obamacare," tear up trade deals and show the world who's boss. Clinton had measured policy positions on all those concerns but Trump drowned her out with empty slogans and trademark bluster.

But above all there was consensus that Democrats had somehow lost touch with everyday Americans – the hard-working men and women who really keep the country running.

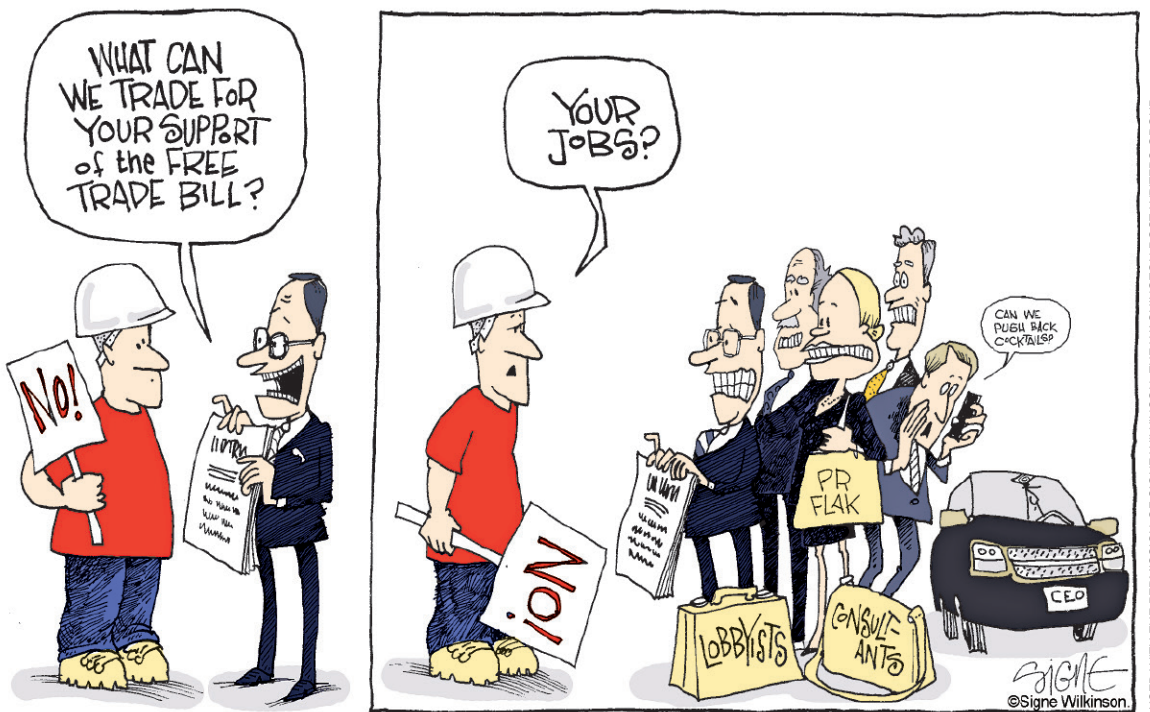
These are the folks who complained that they had been ignored during the post-recession years of recovery. They had lost jobs in a highly specialized economy and couldn't find others. Wall Street was booming but they didn't own stocks. Opioid use was decimating their communities. They were disheartened, angry and looking for change.

And in Donald Trump, they got it. And how. To a large extent, the knock against Democrats is unfair. The party's leaders – including Hillary Clinton – did not always find the right words to communicate with alienated American workers but the Democrats have been pro-labor at least since the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Workplace safety, collective bargaining protections and organizing rights – all are thanks to Democratic advocacy and not big business Republicans.

Nevertheless, Democrats find themselves at a disadvantage with working people – including many in union ranks who voted for Trump despite the advice of leadership. As a result, the party announced "A Better Deal" last summer – an outline for a way forward that emphasizes job growth, training and programs that help middle-class Americans cope with the costs of education and health care. The introductory version of the Democratic plan made no mention of organized labor though party officials say they view unions as essential allies and will make that partnership clear as specific policy prescriptions are announced.

Democrats know that unions have been the engine of economic prosperity for millions. And they know, too, that Republicans want to destroy the labor movement and that, Trump, who talks a good game when schmoozing with union leaders but has a dreadful anti-worker track record, likely will sign any anti-labor bill sent him by Congress – including a national right-to-work law.

Labor should welcome the Democrats' new initiative and make certain our voice is heard as the plan takes shape. Winning back the support of American workers is crucial – especially with midterm elections coming up. Republicans offer little. Trump even less. Every day, it becomes more clear: America needs a much better deal.



Point of View

BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

IBT's 'Unwavering' Stand Against Promoters of Ignorance and Malice

The following is a statement by the Teamsters in response to violence propagated by white nationalists and neo-Nazis during an August rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that led to the deaths of counter-protester Heather Heyer, as well as state Trooper Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates. The statement appeared on the IBT website at <https://teamster.org/news/2017/08/america-must-stand-against-new-wave-racism-anti-semitism>

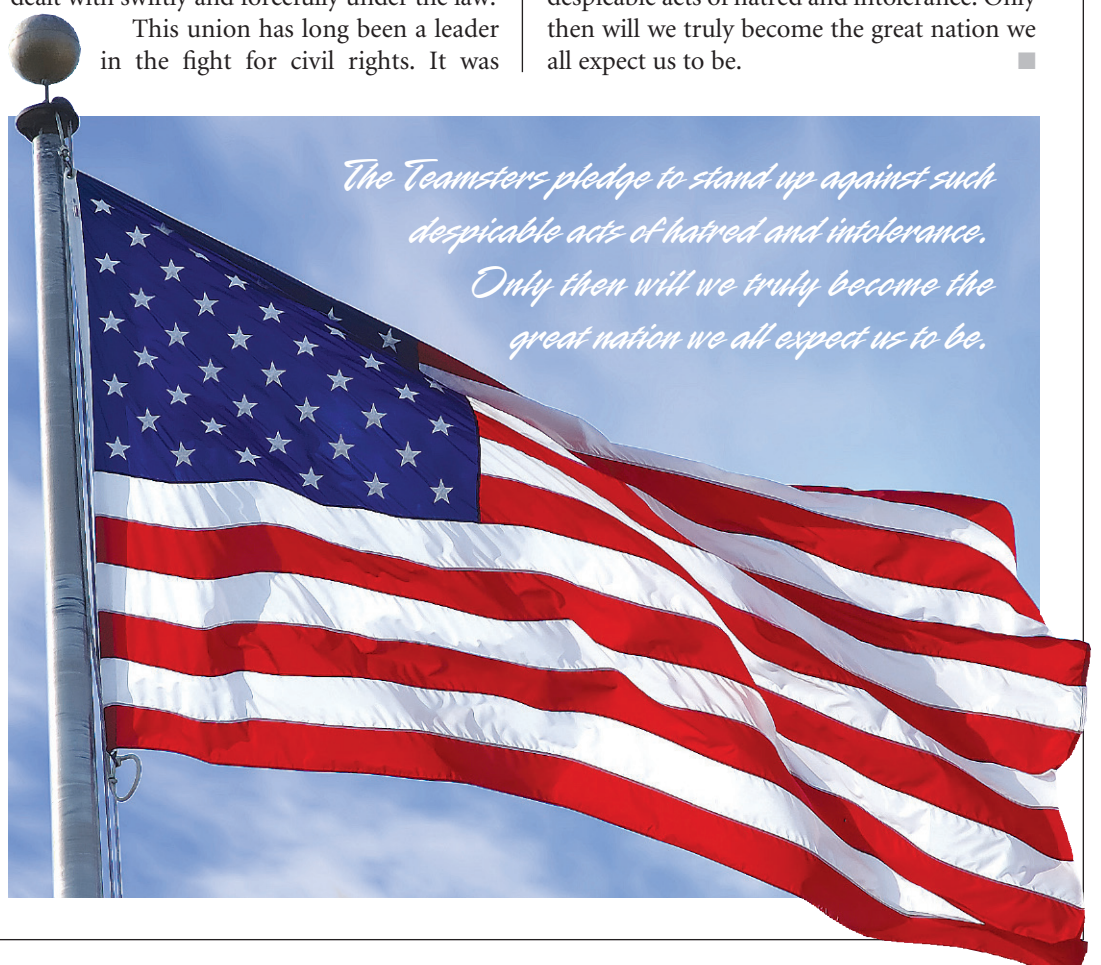
The Teamsters were saddened and disgusted by the behavior of hate mongers that resulted in the deaths of a woman standing up against them as well as two others who were involved in protecting the safety of all those present.

In the face of such ignorance and malice, all of us must speak out and show unwavering resolve that makes it clear that all Americans are entitled to the same rights and protections, and that those who try to impede them will be dealt with swiftly and forcefully under the law.

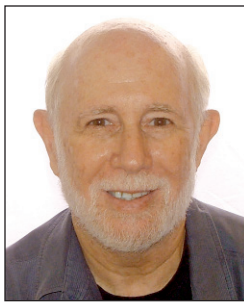
This union has long been a leader in the fight for civil rights. It was

more than 52 years ago that Viola Liuzzo, the wife of a Teamsters' business agent in Michigan, was murdered by members of the KKK in Alabama while standing up for equal voting rights for African Americans. She was a martyr in the fight for justice. Tragically, Ms. Heyer joined her and became one herself on Saturday.

It is time for this madness to stop. The Teamsters pledge to stand up against such despicable acts of hatred and intolerance. Only then will we truly become the great nation we all expect us to be.



Big Talk but Few Results



Donald Trump made campaign promises to repeal and replace Obamacare on his first day in office. He blew it and, with it, his chance to succeed.

If he had first pushed infrastructure legislation to repair and rebuild highways, airports, bridges, seaports, and pipelines, he would have had a bill that would have passed with Democratic support.

It would have given millions of union workers high paying jobs and the economy would have surged. All he can claim now is job and economic growth that are simply carryovers from the Obama Administration.

Instead, he picks fights with his own party in the House and Senate and consistently berates them – not the best way to get results.

Trump brags about the stock market surge since his election, but that was Wall Street betting on tax reform. Failed Obamacare repeal, questions about Russian collusion during last year's election campaign and Trump's stubborn demand for a border wall – Mexico has made clear that it is not paying – are distractions that put the economy at risk.

Most congressional experts say Trump won't be able to pass tax reform this year, which is why the stock market surge has slowed. The most he can expect are minimal tax cuts that will largely benefit his millionaire and billionaire friends and the President, himself, if

he actually pays taxes – unknown because Trump won't divulge his returns.

Tax cuts are relatively easy – basically, just a matter of changing tax brackets – but tax reform is hard.

Armies of lobbyists are willing to go to war to protect their interests. For example, the housing lobby is fighting to protect the biggest tax break most middle-class homeowners get – deduction of mortgage interest.

Meanwhile, some in the GOP want to do away with deductions for state and local income taxes and property taxes. Any move along those lines will be opposed fiercely by members of Congress from high tax states like New York and California – places that voted against Trump.

Even more complicated are plans to cut corporate tax rates, which involve not only the rate companies should pay but how to handle their overseas taxes and income.

But the real problem facing Congress is that tax "reform" must be done expeditiously because the entire House and a third of the Senate is up for re-election in 2018. Incumbents want to show constituents they can get results. With Trump in the White House, that won't be easy.

Guest Spot

BY ESTELLE CAROL AND BOB SIMPSON

Poking a Pin in the Corporate Balloon

For nearly 30 years, we have been collaborating on labor cartoons. Here's why.

We believe humor and cartoons can alleviate the fear present in many workplaces. At best, cartoons illustrate unfair aspects of society and get people thinking in new directions. They can help demystify power relationships, build self confidence among working people and inspire labor activists. And, we hope, they can make you laugh.

A good cartoon gets passed around – hopefully encouraging thought and discussion about complex issues. That act of sharing is, itself, a small act of resistance. Good labor art can build morale, enhance a sense of community and strengthen solidarity – the indispensable notion that, yes, we are all in this together.

There's more.

Labor cartoons – all labor art – help activists overcome challenges, and press on. Their cause is our cause, and it is a noble one – giving people a voice and chance to order their own future. So, in our work, there is a priority. We aim to portray the dignity of labor and show the heroism of ordinary people – the folks who show up for work every day, give it all they've got, and shrug off unfair management policies and the whims of clueless bosses.

In other words, we want to touch the heart, and mind. Sure, we're out to lighten the mood, poke fun at the powerful and deflate the corporate balloon. But, mostly, we intend to applaud the working man and woman – the real-life heroes of the American economy.



The labor movement should support labor art of all kinds. On the local level, union leaders ought to sponsor art shows and draw attention to talented union members and community artists who use labor themes in their work. Union leaders should encourage their members to take their creative impulses in different directions – cartoons, murals, banners, films, songs, signs, poetry, humor. It all has value, and can make a difference.

Since artwork touches both the heart and mind, it is a perfect vehicle for bringing labor's message to the general public. A labor writer once told us that he likes to see our cartoons next to his articles because it attracts readers. And that is exactly the idea: grab attention, get people engaged, inspire activism, spark debate, make progress – one laugh at a time

Cartoonist Estelle Carol and her husband, writer Bob Simpson, are based in Oak Park, Illinois, and operate the graphic arts service, Cartoonwork. They are launching a new website this fall at their present online address, Cartoonwork.com

All the Best

Print

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power

Al Gore

At this point in the climate crisis, says former vice president Al Gore, there are three essential questions: Must we change? Can we change? Will we change? Republicans have used the environment as a wedge issue for years and President Donald Trump, ignorant of the facts but loud of voice, dismisses global warming as a "Chinese hoax." But in his new book – companion to a movie of the same title and follow-up to his best-selling, "An Inconvenient Truth" – Gore says ordinary people are rallying as evidence mounts that man-made activity contributes significantly to a warming earth. "I have never been more hopeful," says Gore. The deniers make a lot of noise. Gore makes a lot of sense. **Rodale, \$16.97, Amazon.com**



Music

Turn Up the Quiet

Diana Krall

With daily headlines often bringing a sure dose of the nervous willies, who wouldn't want a little relief? Diana Krall to the rescue. Her latest album, "Turn Up the Quiet," is soothing as an early autumn breeze and guaranteed to lower spiking blood pressure. Krall, one of the world's pre-eminent song stylists, revisits the American songbook with gorgeous renditions of standards like, "Night and Day," "Moonglow" and, "I'll See You in My Dreams." Another track promises, "Blue Skies." With so many thunder clouds overhead, let's hope. **Verve, \$12.22, Amazon.com**



Video

Where to Invade Next

Michael Moore, director

Leave it to Michael Moore to put things in perspective. The sort of U.S. invasion Moore has in mind has nothing to do with Trumpian "fire and fury." Instead, Moore tours a number of countries to check on social programs that would seem extraordinary to most Americans. Italians take longer vacations. The French serve schoolchildren gourmet lunch fare. Norway treats prisoners with dignity. Iceland emphasizes the role of women in government and industry. Moore's reportage is always one-dimensional – little of Europe's economic woes are mentioned, for instance – but he sparks conversation, which is a lot better than starting a war. **Anchor Bay, \$14.96, Amazon.com**



Internet

The Onion

<http://www.theonion.com/>

While President Trump falsely accuses the mainstream media



of reporting "fake news," the Onion amasses an Everest of "alternative facts" in every edition – and without apology. This satiric superpower, up to mischief since 1988, shows no favorites. One recent entry claimed Hillary Clinton dedicated a library celebrating what her presidency might have been. Another reveals that Trump's sons, Don Jr. and Eric, released an alligator into the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool. Elsewhere, the Onion "reported" that planes were grounded when it was determined man was not meant to fly and that the pyramids were an early attempt at camping. Nobody would believe any of it – except maybe the alt-news guy in the Oval Office.

Union-sponsored Apartment Still Home for Those Who

By Dawn Hobbs
Special to the Communicator

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA – Elderly residents at the low-income Northgate Terrace had reason to worry.

The apartment complex – financed 50 years ago by HUD and guaranteed by a predecessor union of the GCC/IBT – was on the market. Residents were fearful a new owner would convert their quaint studios into unaffordable condos and put them on the street.

It was a reasonable fear given skyrocketing property values that have left many low-income Oakland residents little choice but to join the swelling ranks of homeless people surviving in tents and cardboard boxes only a few blocks away.

“We have very limited income,” said John Wong, who has lived at the complex since 2004 and receives \$900 per month in Social Security. “Everyone was very worried that we couldn’t afford it here anymore and we would then have no home.”

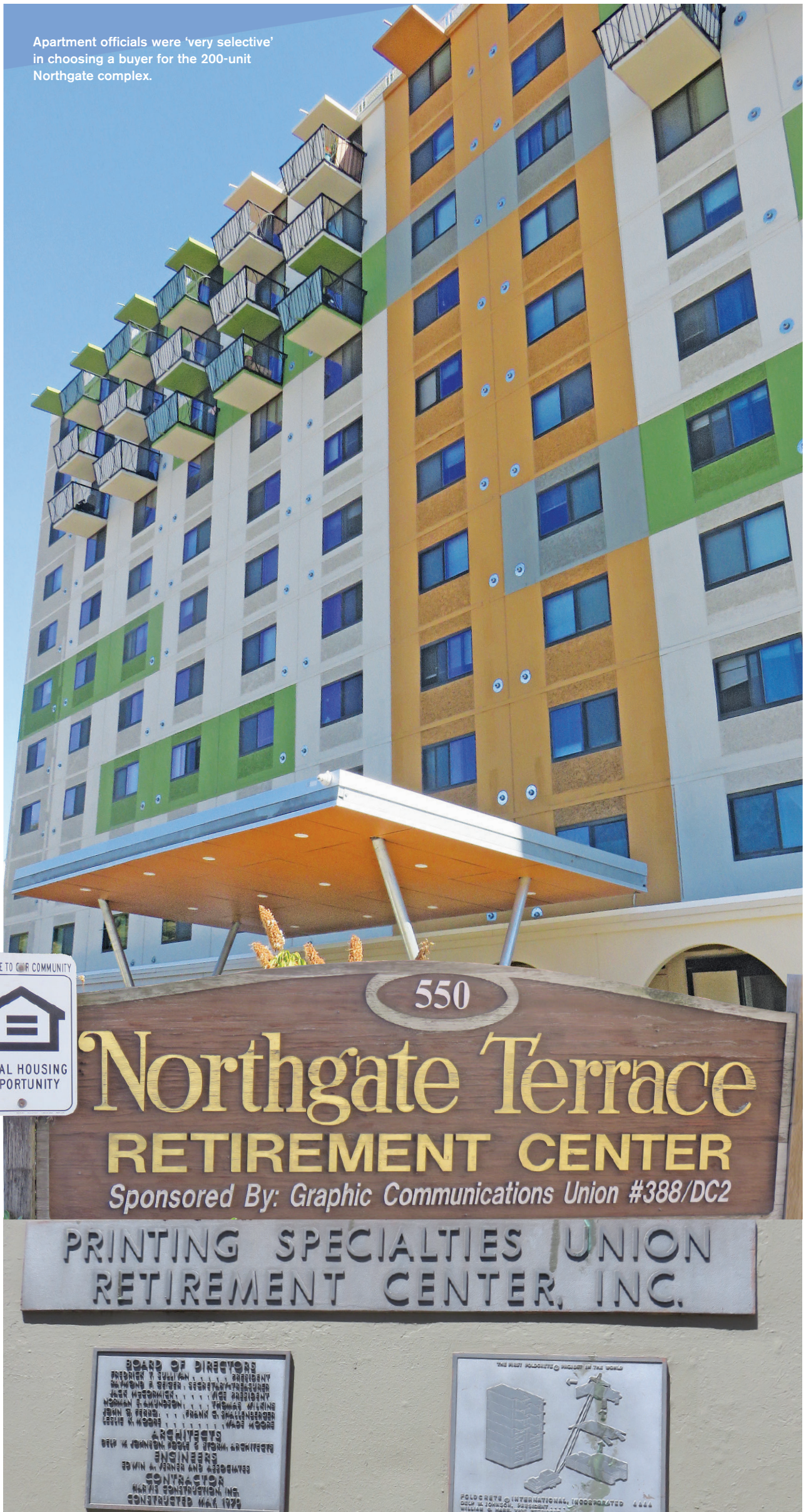
However, GCC/IBT members on the former Northgate board of directors had no intention of leaving residents without a home.

Instead, the board turned down the highest bid and accepted the third highest offer – from a buyer who promised existing residents could still afford to live at the 200-unit complex.

“We were very selective with who we wanted the buyer to be,” said Steve Northup, retired District Council 2 vice president, who had served as president of the former Northgate board since 1995 and vice president for 25 years before that.

The building sold for \$27.5 million to WNC Real Estate Inc., a national leader in community development initiatives. The firm agreed to keep the complex as low-income housing for seniors and provide lodging for residents if displaced during the extensive renovation process.

“The new owner is very Teamster friendly,” Northup said. “In fact, we extended for five years the union contract representing the maintenance and clerical staff and included that as a condition of the sale.”



Apartment officials were ‘very selective’ in choosing a buyer for the 200-unit Northgate complex.



With property values in Oakland skyrocketing, residents feared they might be shut out of the market and were grateful the GCC/IBT made it possible for them to remain in their homes.

Feared 'We Couldn't Afford to Live Here Anymore'



GRAPHIC COMMUNICATOR PHOTOS BY DAWN HOBBS

Steve Northup (seated left), retired District Council 2 vice president and former Northgate board president and vice president, said the union was making an 'ongoing commitment' to residents like those joining him for a chat with former board member Julie Wang (center, wearing scarf) and Mary Hill, social services coordinator (standing, rear left) and Tobias Polk, building maintenance (standing rear, center), both Teamster members.

Additionally, the GCC/IBT will use sale proceeds to provide an on-site residential medical clinic, which will offer medical check-ups, optometrists, dentists, podiatrists, massage therapy and acupuncture.

"Some residents are uncomfortable leaving the building and a lot just can't afford medical care," Northup said. "This is part of our on-going commitment to the tenants to provide a visiting health care professional clinic."

After the sale of Northgate, the board dissolved and proceeds from the transaction were used to create a new agency called the Senior Assistance Foundation Eastbay (SAFE). As a public foundation, SAFE is required to donate 5 percent of sale proceeds annually to qualified nonprofit organizations that serve seniors in Alameda County.

"With prudent investments, SAFE should continue in perpetuity," Northup said. "There is more money in SAFE

than when established, even after recently issuing \$1.5 million in grants."

Northup said former Northgate board members now serve in the same capacity at SAFE, and remain "committed to working with the residents as demonstrated by funding the ongoing medical facility and funding grant requests through other non-profit groups dealing with low-income seniors."

The project is a prime example of how effective unions can be when they are part of the community.

"All unions that are successful not only look out for their members, but they look out for the communities where their members live and work," said Clark Ritchey, president of District Council 2, which includes the Bay Area. "We've got to make sure people know that we care about them."

Northgate residents say they are grateful that the GCC/IBT stood by them – especially with President Donald Trump threatening cuts in funding for seniors.

"This will help people here who have no health insurance," said Shirley Weintraub, 80. "But they still need to get someone here to cut hair and do nails."

The Northgate story began nearly 50 years ago when the printing specialty unions and the commercial printing unions in the Bay Area joined forces to build an 11-story apartment complex for retired members using HUD funds and a combined union guarantee on a \$2 million loan.

Jack McCormick, head of Western Graphic Arts Local 14, and Fred Sullivan, of the Specialty Workers Conference, spearheaded the building committee in 1969.

Although the complex was intended for retired union members in the Bay Area, most exceeded income eligibility guidelines. The few who met the requirements lived there for a while, but none for the last 25 years.

The GCC/IBT, however, continued to sponsor the facility. When the union decided to put Northgate up for sale, there was agreement that residents – mostly Asian people who do not speak English – had to be protected.

"The board of directors determined to sell the building with serious conditions imposed on the buyer to maintain the facility for low-income tenants for another 50 years," said Northup, who serves on the board with DC 2's Joe Rando.

The average rent paid there is \$300 per month in a neighborhood where market rates would demand close to \$2,000.

"It is very nice here and I can afford it," Shu Kwan Chao said through an interpreter.

Yau Fong Yip, who also spoke through an interpreter, said, "I love it here very much."

Both women said they moved from Hong Kong to live near their daughters, who reside in the Bay Area.

Julie Wang, a former Northgate board member who now serves on the SAFE board of directors, frequently visits friends at the complex where she provides help as a translator.

As Wang walked around the well-manicured grounds one recent day, several Asian women rushed to greet her with open arms.

"These people have limited resources, some don't have any family and then there's the language barrier," Wang said. "They are just so grateful for your help. It's very touching. What we've accomplished here with the GCC Teamsters is truly incredible." ■

Each Day, An Inspirational Message from 'Grandpa'

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA – When John Wong walks into the community center each morning at Northgate Terrace, residents flock to him because they know he'll have the latest Asian newspapers.

After Wong, 87, distributes the papers, he writes a message of his own on the center's chalkboard – in Chinese and English.

On July 4, he offered a poem entitled "My Beloved Second Country."

It read: "This is the land of opportunity... I can become whatever I want to be. Thanks to her I found freedom and democracy. I am so proud that I am a citizen of this country. I love you, I love you America."

Wong says he is grateful for Northgate Terrace, a low-income senior apartment complex built by a predecessor union of the GCC/IBT nearly 50 years ago.

"I'm lucky to be here," he said, pointing to his many friends. "It's like one big family. And we all help each other."

Wong helps with translation at the complex. He speaks seven languages, including Chinese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cambodian, French and English.

Affectionately known as "Grandpa," Wong, who is Chinese but grew up in Vietnam, arrived in Oakland in 1982 at the age of 52 after a lifetime under Communist regimes.

"We were scared," he said. "Everyone was scared. We had no food. It was very bad under Communist regime. We had to leave and run out. We were on the high sea for a very long time. It was very hard."

He learned English within two years of arriving in Oakland and became a restaurant manager and now gets by on \$900 per month in Social Security Income. In 2004, he moved to Northgate Terrace.

Though the GCC/IBT recently sold the complex, Wong and other residents know their homes are safe. Union officials wrote a provision into the sales agreement guaranteeing to offer affordable housing there for the next 50 years.

"It's very hard to find homes here – they are very expensive," Wong said. "I'm lucky I found a place I can afford and where I get treated well." – Dawn Hobbs



On the Fourth of July, John 'Grandpa' Wong, who is Chinese and grew up in Vietnam, wrote a poem, 'To My Beloved Second Country,' on a Northgate chalkboard. 'I love you, I love you, America,' it said. Residents like Shui Kwan Chao, formerly of Hong Kong, look forward each day to the messages Wong writes on the board – and his daily delivery of Asian language newspapers.

Democrats Must Not Take Labor for Granted

continued from PAGE 1

As Democrats seek to recover from 2016 election defeats and reconcile the Hillary Clinton wing of the party with progressives favoring Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, the labor movement likely will press for stronger endorsement of union priorities.

“We have an opening here and should make the most of it,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. “Democrats have been allies over the years but should not take us for granted.”

Though Democrats know they must do more than merely oppose Trump to regain the confidence of working class voters in 2018 midterm elections, polls show the President’s erratic performance since inauguration is beginning to erode support in blue collar districts animated by his call to “Make America Great Again.”

Trump has promised to create millions of jobs through an ambitious infrastructure campaign and by eliminating Obama Administration regulations the White House and corporate leaders consider bad for business. The President’s bullish outlook – and his promise to renegotiate trade deals -- initially won over many union officials, or at least gave hope a bonanza in good-paying jobs was around the corner.

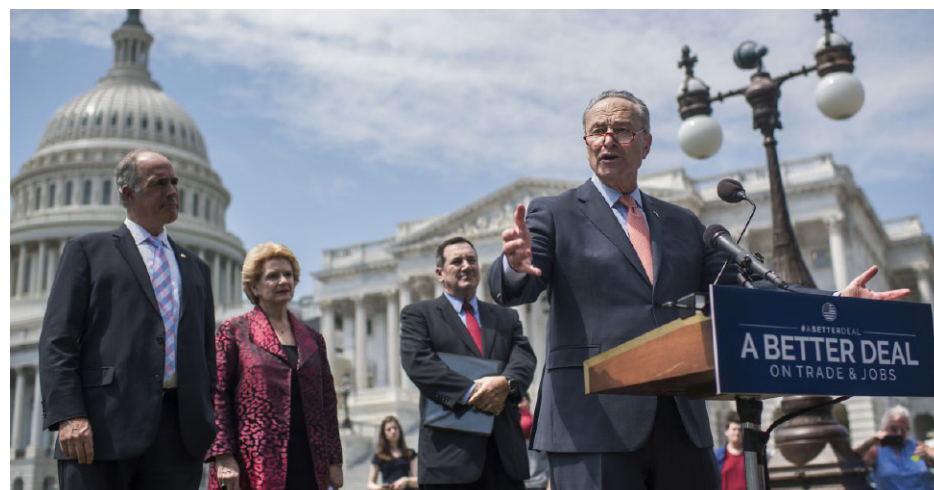
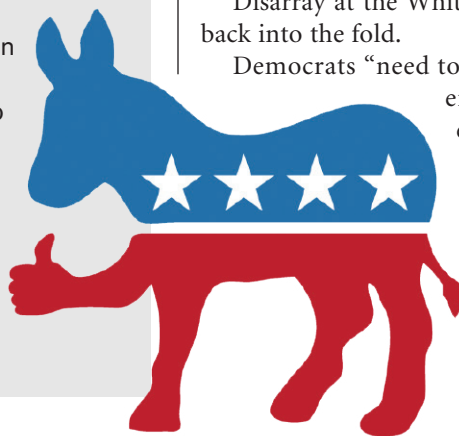
“He talked a very good game,” said Tedeschi.

AMERICANS NEED A BETTER DEAL

Democrats say they are offering the American people – and organized labor – “A Better Deal.”

Features include:

- Raise wages and create “millions of good-paying, full-time jobs by directly investing in our crumbling infrastructure” and placing a priority on small business and entrepreneurship.
- Crack down on unfair foreign trade and overseas outsourcing.
- Protect Social Security and Medicare and ensure a living wage for all Americans.
- Cut living costs by bringing the price of pharmaceuticals and education under control.
- Oppose the “concentration of economic power” and rein in Wall Street excesses.
- Build a 21st Century economy by providing tax incentives to employers that invest in workforce training and education.
- Bring high-speed Internet “to every corner of America” and create ambitious apprenticeship programs to prepare young people for a 21st Century economy.
- “American families need a better deal,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York. “They deserve for this country to work for everyone again.”



Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer of New York promised Democrats will show ‘we are the party of working people.’ Labor leaders say unions must be part of any ‘Better Deal.’

But Trump has yet to deliver.

Nowhere in sight is the boom in high-paying jobs for working-class Americans. Work continues to be shipped overseas – even by Trump whose products seldom bear the “Made in USA” label. Trade deals remain in place. And most experts say the nation’s low unemployment rate is the result of Obama economic policies, not Trump’s.

“Trump ran as a working-class hero so let’s look at the results,” Joseph Geevarghese, executive director of an activist group called Good Jobs Nation, told the Washington Post in August. “We’re seven months into his administration and wages are flat. People are still getting pink slips.”

Further weakening the president were conflicting remarks following a white supremacist demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia, that led to the death of counter-protester, Heather Heyer – a fumble that dropped his ratings in many sections of the country that favored him last year.

Trump’s comments prompted AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka to resign from a White House manufacturing council and, while not mentioning Trump specifically, the IBT decried neo-Nazi “hate mongers” and said “all of us must speak out and show unwavering resolve” in the fight against “ignorance and malice.” (See IBT statement on Charlottesville, Page 6.)

Disarray at the White House gives Democrats a fresh opportunity to bring labor back into the fold.

Democrats “need to make it clear they stand for raising up the power of workers,” said Jeff Spross in The Week magazine where he is economics and business correspondent. A “full-throated, FDR-style embrace of unions would be a good place to start,” he said.

As Democrats take steps to overcome the debacle of 2016, unions must be a top priority, said Tedeschi.

“There can’t be ‘A Better Deal’ without organized labor,” he said. “Unions are the key to middle class survival and economic security for American workers. Let’s go forward together.”

As Democrats Regroup, Traditional Allies Demand Results

By Zachary Dowdy

Special to the Communicator

The hope many union officials expressed in the early days of Donald Trump’s administration has given way to a more pragmatic assessment of the President and renewed emphasis on protecting core union values, several GCC/IBT local leaders say.

And with Democrats promising Americans “A Better Deal,” officials say labor must pressure the traditional allies to redouble efforts on behalf of the middle class and organized labor.

“This is an important moment,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. “Republicans would like nothing more than to bury the union movement. We need Democrats to step up and give us a better deal, all right – a much better deal.”

The traditional alliance between Democrats and labor frayed last year when Trump won significant support from blue collar families who believed the Manhattan “deal maker” would bring jobs back to the United States.

“I think Trump’s idea of ‘America First’ and manufacturing sounds great on its face,” said Boston Local 3-N President Steve Sullivan. “But we should have known right away that he wouldn’t be able to deliver.”

Sullivan and other GCC/IBT leaders said that when it comes to trusting Trump, his conservative cabinet members and Republicans on Capitol Hill -- caution is advised.

They cite Trump’s support for a federal right-to-work law, failure to back a mini-



mum wage hike, attempt – though unsuccessful – to repeal the Affordable Care Act known as “Obamacare” and effort to undercut the National Labor Relations Board.

District Council 3 President Israel Castro said labor should look beyond politicians, in any case. “We’ve got to stop assuming that they’re going to save us,” he said.

Castro, who also is secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 546-M in Cleveland, said labor must be more aggressive in building coalitions with community leaders, activist organizations and faith groups. “It has to be more than just us,” he said.

Most important, said Chris Lang, president of Pittsburgh’s GCC/IBT Local 24-M/9-N, is not to

fall for boasts and big promises – the kind that have become a trademark of Donald Trump.

“He basically gave union people a line of bull saying he cared about them and their jobs and it couldn’t be further from the truth,” Lang said. “He has absolutely hoodwinked a lot of our members.”

In the end, said Steve Sullivan of Local 3-N, partisanship is not the issue. Results count.

“It’s not about a Democrat or a Republican,” Sullivan said. “We’re going to be with anybody who supports our issues.”

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



CREDIT: IBT LOCAL 20

'INDESCRIBABLE' EFFORT TO AID HARVEY VICTIMS

Nearly a dozen Teamster 18-wheeler big rigs packed with much-needed supplies pulled into Houston just days after Hurricane Harvey pummeled eastern Texas with a historic amount of rainfall.

Water, food and personal items were donated by locals and joint councils from around the country – an effort that was repeated in September when Hurricane Irma tore through Florida.

“The outpouring of charity to all of the people who have been affected by the storm is just indescribable,” said Oscar Lopez, president of GCC/IBT Local 4535-M, Houston, who is serving as the labor liaison between the Teamster relief effort, the Red Cross, the Army Reserve and other organizations working to assist Harvey victims.

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi hailed the effort. “This is a great response to a historic natural disaster,” he said. “Our people always stick together. This is the true meaning of solidarity.”

Working through the Teamster Disaster Relief Fund, Lopez – and Teamster officials Roy Gillespie and Robert Mele -- received, warehoused and helped distribute supplies to hard-hit IBT members, retirees and neighbors affected by the storm.

Teamster General President Jim Hoffa said: “Whether on the Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina, the East Coast for Hurricane Sandy or the countless other natural disasters that have impacted our members, the Teamsters Union has been there for our brothers and sisters.”

When the storm hit, Lopez immediately began texting, emailing and calling members.

“People were marooned in their own neighborhoods and couldn’t get out, unless it was by boat,” he said. “It was terrible.”

Many GCC/IBT members were temporarily unable to work because plants closed because of flooding, but Lopez said the worst was avoided.

“Everyone seems to be safe so far,” he said.

DAILY NEWS LAUNCHES LABOR PAGE

Hot off the press: The New York Daily News is running a weekly “On the Job” page of labor-related stories – an innovation encouraged by leadership of GCC/IBT Local 2-N – and has significantly increased coverage of union activity.

And, to make it better, the paper is offering a discounted subscription price of only \$1.99 per week to union members and their families.



“This is a great opportunity for labor and for union members to read about union activity throughout our country,” said Richard Daly, 2-N secretary-treasurer.

During the week, more stories dealing with labor issues appear in the Daily News -- right-to-work, health care, globalization, for example –and the paper publishes, “On the Job,” written by veteran reporter Ginger Adams Otis, in its Sunday edition.

“The labor page is already expanding and will give opportunity for leaders to contribute articles with the pro and cons of the policies facing our country,” Daly said. The union also recently brokered the right to have op-eds written by union presidents.

John Heffernan, president of Local 2N-1SE, said he approached Daily News officials during negotiations and proposed a labor page along the lines of, “On the Job.” Daily News officials liked the idea, Heffernan said. “They jumped in with both feet.”

The coverage has been “excellent,” Heffernan said, and there has been a positive impact on circulation.

“So far, the News has picked up several thousand new subscriptions.”

UNION ELECTION WIN UPHELD

Five years after workers at Oberthur Technologies voted to join the GCC/IBT, a federal appellate court in Washington, D.C. upheld a National Labor Relations Board order declaring the election valid.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia also ordered the company to begin bargaining in good faith or be held in contempt.

“This decision has provided wind to the sails of Oberthur employees and instilled hope in realizing improvements in wages, benefits and conditions through the collective bargaining process and a Teamster contract,” said John Potts, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT District Council 9 and Local 14-M.

After the federal court decision, Potts and organizer Rickey Putman met with more than 230 workers at Oberthur’s plant in Exton, Pennsylvania.

“We wanted them to know that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that all their hard work and determination has paid off,” Potts said.

QUIT STALLING, INTERLAKE

Workers at Interlake Mecalux Inc. in Pontiac, Illinois, say it’s time to get down to business. They want the company to negotiate in good faith and sign a first contract.

More than 100 workers at Interlake voted to join the GCC/IBT in August 2016. The company has stalled in contract negotiations but employees are motivated.

At a summer demonstration, workers wore pro-union t-shirts and handed bottles of Gatorade to employees who complained management allows them to drink only water on breaks.

“The rally really pumped up everyone’s morale,” said Rickey Putman, a GCC/IBT organizer

In an effort to break the stalemate, Illinois workers sent a petition to company officials at an Interlake operation in Barcelona, Spain.

Mike Huggins, a GCC/IBT representative, said management and labor have a productive relationship at that site. “We hope the petition will motivate management in Spain to contact their counterparts here and explain that such bad treatment of their employees will ruin the reputation of the company worldwide,” Huggins said.



PHOTO BY BRUCE BARTH / L 6505M

Union members rally at Missouri capitol in Jefferson City.

BATTLING RIGHT-TO-WORK IN MISSOURI

Members of GCC/IBT locals and other labor organizations in Missouri needed 100,000 signatures to place an initiative on next year’s ballot challenging the state’s right-to-work law.

They got more than three times that amount and voters will have a chance to overturn the anti-union legislation signed in February by Republican governor Eric Greitens.

“Missouri, down deep, is a pretty good labor state,” said Mike Congemi, president of GCC/IBT Local 6-505-M, St. Louis. “A lot of people here might not necessarily be union-minded, but they felt like the citizens of the state deserve an opportunity to vote on it -- rather than have it forced down their throat.”

Labor leaders know ultra-conservative political action groups, including the National Right to Work Committee, are sure to finance a fierce counter-attack. But union activists say they are ready – and that the stakes are high.

“Right-to-work lowers the standard of living for the entire state,” Congemi said. “It takes away everything unions fought to gain and diminishes the influence and power of organized labor in building the middle class.”

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 reporter Dawn Hobbs at dawnhobbs@cox.net or call 805-284-5351.

Une « meilleure proposition » des démocrates doit inclure les travailleurs

Par Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

En juillet, les démocrates ont annoncé « une meilleure proposition » aux travailleurs américains – il s'agit d'une liste d'objectifs politiques consistant à hausser les salaires, à beaucoup investir dans les infrastructures, à réduire les coûts de l'éducation et des médicaments, et à mettre sur pied un ambitieux programme de recyclage et d'apprentissage.

« Les démocrates vont montrer au pays que nous sommes le parti des travailleurs », avait déclaré alors Chuck Schumer, le leader de la minorité au Sénat de New York.

Mais il manquait quelque chose à la proposition démocratique pour rattraper – et retenir – la classe moyenne américaine de plus en plus vulnérable.

Il n'a pas été fait mention des travailleurs syndiqués, la force manifestement la plus à même de garantir aux travailleurs une juste part de la réussite économique de la nation et leur permettre d'avoir leur mot à dire dans leur propre avenir.

Les responsables démocratiques soutiennent qu'ils ne négligent pas le rôle des syndicats, qui forment encore une composante essentielle du parti malgré les défections impressionnantes dans la base syndicale ayant permis à Donald Trump d'accéder à la Maison-Blanche l'an dernier – et ils vont faire en sorte que cela se sache lorsque les grandes lignes d'« une meilleure proposition » seront précisées dans les déclarations à venir.

« Il ne s'agissait pas d'offenser qui que ce soit, a indiqué une source du bureau de C. Schumer

au Communicator. Les travailleurs syndiqués tiennent une place considérable [dans le plan] et sont fondamentaux. » Blake Androff, directeur exécutif du Comité des politiques et communications démocrates, a déclaré de son côté que le parti annoncerait bientôt des « propositions extrêmement favorables aux travailleurs et aux syndicats » qui visent à empêcher « des intérêts particuliers de spolier les travailleurs de leurs droits ».

Alors que les démocrates cherchent à se remettre de leur défaite électorale de 2016, le mouvement syndical pourrait exiger un appui plus marqué des priorités syndicales et un engagement à lutter contre les mesures antisyndicales républicaines que Trump a laissé passer discrètement.

« Nous avons une brèche et devrions l'exploiter au maximum, a indiqué George Tedeschi, président de la CGC-FIT. Les démocrates sont des alliés depuis des années, mais ils ne devraient pas nous tenir pour acquis. »

Même si les démocrates savent qu'ils ne doivent pas se contenter de s'opposer à Trump pour regagner la confiance des électeurs de la classe ouvrière aux élections de mi-mandat de 2018, les sondages montrent que le comportement erratique du Président depuis son entrée en fonction commence à miner le soutien des districts de cols bleus qui avaient été séduits par son exhortation à « redonner à l'Amérique sa grandeur ».

Trump a promis de créer des millions d'emplois en mettant en place un ambitieux programme d'infrastructures et en éliminant les règles de l'Administration Obama que la

Maison-Blanche et les chefs d'entreprises considèrent mauvaises pour les affaires. Les projections optimistes du Président – et sa promesse de renégocier les accords commerciaux – ont tout d'abord séduit les dirigeants syndicaux ou leur ont à tout le moins laissé espérer l'imminence d'une pléthore d'emplois bien payés.

« Il s'est montré très convaincant », a dit G. Tedeschi.

Mais Trump n'a encore rien fait.

Il n'y a pas le moindre boom d'emplois bien payés en vue pour les Américains de la classe moyenne. Le travail continue d'être envoyé à l'étranger – même par Trump dont les produits portent rarement une étiquette « Fabriqué aux États-Unis ». Les accords commerciaux sont maintenus. Et la plupart des experts estiment que le faible taux de chômage du pays est le résultat des politiques économiques d'Obama et non de Trump.

Selon un article du Washington Post, Trump « a abandonné un certain nombre de règlements pour lesquels les syndicats faisaient pression ». L'un d'eux exigeait que les entrepreneurs déclarent les infractions à la loi sur le travail avant de soumissionner des emplois du gouvernement. Un autre rendait des millions de personnes admissibles au paiement des heures supplémentaires. Et le ministère du Travail de Trump semble prêt à annuler la soi-disant « règle de persuasion » – à présent devant les tribunaux – obligeant les sociétés à divulguer la façon dont elles comptent utiliser les consultants et les avocats lorsqu'elles sont confrontées à des campagnes de syndicalisation.

« Trump s'est présenté en héros de la classe ouvrière, voyons ce que cela va donner, a indiqué Joseph Geevarghese, directeur général d'un groupe activiste appelé Good Jobs Nation, au Post en août. Cette administration est en place depuis sept mois et les salaires n'ont pas bougé. Les gens continuent de recevoir des feuillets roses. »

Les propos tenus par le président après une manifestation de suprémacistes blancs à Charlottesville, en Virginie, ayant mené à la mort de Heather Heyer, une contre-manifestante, ont affaibli encore plus le Président – une maladresse qui a fait chuter sa cote de popularité au sein de nombreux partis du pays qui l'avaient soutenu l'an dernier.

Les remarques de Trump ont amené Richard Trumka, le président de l'AFL-CIO, à démissionner d'un comité-conseil manufacturier de la Maison-Blanche et, sans mentionner spécifiquement Trump, la FIT a dénoncé les « marchands de haine » néonazis et affirmé que « nous devons tous dénoncer cela et afficher une détermination farouche » à combattre l'ignorance et la méchanceté ».

Le désarroi qui règne à la Maison-Blanche ouvre une brèche aux démocrates – et leur apporte une occasion d'attirer à nouveau les syndicats.

Les démocrates « doivent montrer clairement qu'ils défendent les pouvoirs accrus des travailleurs », a indiqué Jeff Spross du magazine The Week dont il est le correspondant pour les questions économiques et les affaires.

Los trabajadores deben ser parte esencial de cualquier 'Pacto Mejor'

Por Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

En julio los demócratas anunciaron "Un Pacto Mejor" para los trabajadores de Estados Unidos: una lista de objetivos estratégicos que incluyen elevar el salario mínimo, importantes inversiones en infraestructura, reducción de los costos de educación y de las recetas médicas, y un ambicioso programa de capacitación para otros trabajos y aprendizaje.

"Los demócratas le demostraremos al país que somos el partido que está del lado de los trabajadores", decía entonces Chuck Schumer, senador por Nueva York y líder de la minoría en el Senado.

Pero algo faltaba en la receta de los demócratas para recuperar, y proteger, a la clase media estadounidense, cada día más vulnerable.

No se mencionaban las organizaciones sindicales, que probablemente sean la fuerza más poderosa a la hora de garantizar a los trabajadores una participación justa en el éxito económico del país y que se oiga su voz cuando se trata de su propio futuro.

Los dirigentes demócratas insisten en que no desestiman el papel de los sindicatos, los cuales continúan siendo parte esencial del núcleo de base del partido a pesar de las escandalosas deserciones de ciertos miembros que ayudaron a Donald Trump a hacerse con la Casa Blanca el año pasado, y afirman que lo dejarán bien claro en declaraciones subsiguientes que detallarán mejor el esquema general del "Pacto Mejor".

"No queríamos menospreciarlos," le explicó a The Communicator una persona de la oficina de Schumer. "Los sindicatos desempeñan un

enorme papel (en el programa) y son esenciales para él". Igualmente, Blake Androff, director ejecutivo del Comité de Comunicaciones y Políticas Democráticas, dijo que el partido anunciaría próximamente "propuestas vigorosas a favor de los trabajadores y de los sindicatos" cuyo objetivo es impedir que "intereses especiales despojen de sus derechos a los trabajadores."

Ahora que los demócratas buscan reponerse de los fracasos de las elecciones de 2016, los sindicatos podrían estar en situación de pedirles más apoyo para sus prioridades y que prometan combatir las medidas antilaborales de los republicanos que Trump calladamente ha permitido prosperar.

"Se nos presenta una oportunidad y tenemos que aprovecharla al máximo", ha dicho el presidente de GCC/IBT, George Tedeschi. "Hemos sido aliados de los demócratas durante años, pero no tienen que tomarnos por descontentado".

Aunque los demócratas saben que no basta sencillamente con oponerse a Trump para recuperar la confianza de los votantes de clase trabajadora para las elecciones de mitad de mandato en 2018, las encuestas dicen que el comportamiento errático del presidente desde la inauguración está empezando a desgastar el apoyo de los distritos obreros que se identificaron con el lema "Hagamos a América Grande Otra Vez".

Trump ha prometido crear millones de empleos mediante una ambiciosa campaña de obras de infraestructura y la eliminación de normativas del Gobierno de Obama que la Casa Blanca y los líderes corporativos consideran perjudiciales para las empresas. La actitud

optimista del Presidente, y su promesa de renegociar los acuerdos comerciales, en principio convencieron a los dirigentes sindicales, o al menos les hicieron confiar en que en poco tiempo habría abundancia de empleos bien remunerados.

"Sonaba muy convincente", dijo Tedeschi.

Pero Trump todavía no ha hecho realidad estas promesas.

Esa abundancia de trabajos bien pagados para la clase trabajadora no se ve por ninguna parte. El trabajo continúa exportándose a países extranjeros, incluso por el mismo Trump cuyos productos pocas veces llevan la etiqueta "Hecho en Estados Unidos". Los acuerdos comerciales siguen en pie. Y la mayoría de los expertos dicen que la baja tasa de desempleo en el país es resultado de las políticas económicas de Obama, no de Trump.

Al mismo tiempo, Trump "se ha desentendido de unas cuantas medidas que los sindicatos habían promovido", según un artículo del Washington Post. Una de ellas exigía que para poder licitar en concursos de obras para el gobierno los contratistas divulgaran si habían cometido infracciones de las leyes laborales. Otra daba derecho a recibir paga por sobretiempos a millones de personas. Y el departamento laboral de Trump parece a punto de rescindir la llamada "regla persuasoria", que ahora está atascada en una demanda ante los tribunales, la cual requiere que las empresas informen de qué forma planean utilizar consultores y abogados cuando se enfrenten con movilizaciones sindicales.

"Trump hizo campaña presentándose como un héroe de la clase trabajadora, así que vamos

a ver los resultados", le dijo al Washington Post en agosto Joseph Geevarghese, director ejecutivo de un grupo de activistas llamado Good Jobs Nation. "Llevamos siete meses con esta administración y los salarios no se mueven. La gente continúa recibiendo papeletas de despido."

El presidente perdió todavía más credibilidad por unos comentarios muy conflictivos que hizo a raíz de una manifestación de defensores de la supremacía de la raza blanca en Charlottesville, Virginia, que resultó en la muerte de una de las manifestantes en contra, Heather Heyer. Este traspie hundió sus niveles de aprobación en muchas partes del país que el año pasado estaban a su favor.

Los comentarios de Trump llevaron al presidente de AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka, a dimitir de un consejo industrial que asesora a la Casa Blanca y, aunque sin mencionar a Trump específicamente, la Fraternidad Internacional de Transporte (los Teamsters) denunció a los extremistas neonazis que incitan al odio y dijo que "todos nosotros tenemos que hablar bien alto y demostrar una determinación inquebrantable" en la lucha contra la "ignorancia y la maldad".

El desarreglo que reina en la Casa Blanca abre un resquicio de esperanza para los demócratas, y una nueva oportunidad para que los trabajadores sindicalizados vuelvan al redil.

Los demócratas "necesitan dejar claro que están a favor de potenciar mejor a los trabajadores", dijo Jeff Spross en la revista The Week, de la que es corresponsal para asuntos económicos y de negocios.

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
Death Benefit Claims Paid			
March 2016			
1B	Gurdie P Braun 01-21-16	77P	Myron A Drum 10-06-15
1B	Amelia M Ramirez 10-31-15	77P	Paul W Gennigen 01-14-16
1B	Bruce L Ritchie 01-13-16	77P	Jake J Hodge 12-06-15
1B	Mildred K Welton 02-04-16	77P	Bruce H Peterson 12-14-15
1C	Norman J Edwards 11-18-13	119B	Michelle Brinez 02-09-16
1L	Russel W Gilbert, Sr 09-10-13	119B	Stephen J Ehrhardt 01-23-15
1L	Joseph D Jacobs 11-11-15	119B	Rudolf S Feuerbach 01-19-16
1L	Joseph H Kaminski 01-16-16	137C	John N Thompson 12-08-15
1L	Louis A Maffeo 01-22-16	235M	Edward W Grimm Jr 01-10-16
1L	Kenneth A McDonald 01-22-16	235M	Ralph P Meyers 01-16-16
1L	Frank W Rykowski 01-01-16	235M	Kenneth W Smith 02-04-16
1M	Harold E Anderson 01-02-16	241M	Joseph Kazmierski 01-10-16
1M	Donald J Asp 01-01-16	241M	Chester F Kulesa 12-04-15
1M	William N Moody 02-07-16	241M	Michael S Miller, Sr 05-22-04
1M	Gerald J Pipes 01-11-16	285M	Edward Clore Jr 12-23-15
1M	Albert N Schuler, Jr 12-17-15	285M	Anne E Tokoli 12-20-15
3N	Peter B Hargadon 02-03-16	329C	James F Brosend 03-12-13
3N	Robert J Mcnamara 02-05-04	355T	Alan F Gassaway 07-16-14
4C	Ella L Johnson 12-24-15	355T	Andrew M Trageser 02-19-16
4C	Rosemary Resch 05-26-15	458M	Robert J Hanks, Sr 01-16-16
14M	Patricia M Brehm 01-13-16	458M	Stephen J Hujar 12-19-15
14M	Isaac W Brown 02-08-16	458M	Russell H Jenrick 01-15-16
14M	Edward G Devine 06-11-15	458M	Frederick D Metz 01-18-16
14M	Herbert P Evans, Sr 01-31-16	458M	Frederick W Natschke 02-14-16
14M	Richard E Mainley, Sr 02-04-16	458M	Richard L Nelson 01-01-16
14M	William J Nolan 01-15-16	458M	Edward T Orlos 02-09-16
14M	James V Procopio 02-01-16	458M	Willard W Payne, Sr 02-02-16
14M	Stanley A Proietto 02-08-16	458M	James H Rice 01-12-16
16N	Harry Krakovitz 01-09-16	458M	Louis Saladino 01-25-16
16N	James P Mckenna 02-14-16	458M	Marion E Stafford 01-30-16
16N	Francis P Mulhern 01-23-16	458M	Elbert A Vowell 01-24-16
16N	Richard Sieck 11-27-15	458M	Beverly J Wyatt 01-26-16
17M	Annie M Brown 11-14-15	458M	Chester H Yassen 01-30-16
17M	Thomas P Carroll 12-14-15	458M	Francisco Ybarra, Jr 01-07-16
17M	Glen E Hollett 01-06-16	503M	Oluf L Nielsen 12-16-15
17M	Vernon Meeks, Sr 01-22-16	508M	Torry D Cato 02-10-16
24M	Varren R Allen 06-27-15	508M	Richard A Hull Sr 09-15-15
24M	Paul D Camus 02-27-15	518M	Pauline M Belha 02-12-16
24M	Robert T Cunningham, Sr 06-18-14	518M	David D Gottwalt 12-12-15
24M	Stephen R Kasay 06-08-14	518M	Jack M Rynearson 05-16-15
24M	Earl F Lewis Jr 02-04-16	527S	Thomas G Butler 12-09-15
24M	Frank J Lux, Jr 01-14-16	527S	Max D Earwood Sr 11-29-15
24M	Donald W Mooney 11-26-15	546M	Joseph D Forbrizzio 01-27-16
24M	Frank J Rudzki 02-06-16	546M	Stanley W Kocienski 01-30-16
24M	William R Willis 10-06-13	546M	Lucinda A Miciak 02-15-16
27C	John G Mowry 11-21-15	546M	Philip J Rinaldi 01-31-16
38N	Robert G Griffin 12-16-15	546M	Robert J Terpak 02-05-16
72C	Kevin D Hinton 07-19-15	555M	Leonard J Burke 07-18-15
		555M	Yvon Fontaine 01-23-16
		555M	Jack L Gouy 02-02-16

David Jacobs, 'Devoted, Decent Man'

David R. Jacobs, a fighter for the "little guy" who served on the GCIU general board as a central region representative for 14 years and local officer in Detroit for more than 35 years, died May 1 at the age of 77.

His wife, Sylvia Jacobs, said death was related to pure red cell aplasia, a rare condition that affects the ability of bone marrow to make red blood cells. Jacobs suffered with the illness for three years, said his wife.

Physical setbacks did not change her husband's warmhearted nature, Sylvia Jacobs said. "He was very caring," she said from the couple's home in Roseville, Michigan. "Every day, he told me he loved me."

Jacobs joined Local 2-C of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America in 1960 while at Saffrin Printing in Detroit where he worked as a web apprentice and then press operator. He devoted himself to union service and went on to become secretary-treasurer, vice president and president of 2-C, which merged with 289-M to form 2/289-M.

Steve Nobles, secretary-treasurer/executive officer of District Council 3 and president of Local 2/289-M, said Jacobs "put aside his ego" to facilitate the 2002 merger and, subsequently, was "very instrumental" in the affiliation of Local 2/289-M with DC3. "I can never thank him enough for how he helped me and our union," Nobles said.

Jacobs was president of the Detroit Allied Printing Trades Council from 1981-2004 and a member of the Detroit Metro AFL-CIO for 25 years. As a union professional, he devoted himself to pension and health and welfare issues "so his members could enjoy the benefits of the union and good contracts," Nobles said.

Assuring the rights of working people was a priority for Jacobs, his wife said. "He always tried to protect the little guy," Sylvia Jacobs said.

In 1992, Jacobs was elected to the GCIU general board and held the position until retirement in 2006, a year after the union merged with the



David R. Jacobs

Teamsters to become the GCC/IBT. Before leaving his post, Jacobs received a commendation from officers and general board members that hailed him for organizing more than 70 shops and for his selflessness in facilitating the merger of Local 2-C with 289-M.

The resolution honoring Jacobs cited "his love for the union, his devotion to organizing, and his dedication to improving the lives of working men and women." As part of his responsibilities, Jacobs attended 10 international conventions – sometimes accompanied by Sylvia, who admitted a preference for warm-weather spots. "I only went if there were palm trees," she joked.

In addition to Sylvia, his wife of 56 years, Jacobs is survived by a daughter, Lee Ann Near, of Canton, Michigan; sons, Eric, of Macomb Township, Michigan and Keith, of Clinton Township, Michigan; and seven grandchildren.

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi said Jacobs was the sort of stalwart union activist essential to the success of organized labor. "Dave was a devoted and decent man," Tedeschi said. "He had a strong sense of mission and deeply caring nature. We are grateful for his service." ■

NOTICE ON WORKER OBJECTIONS TO AGENCY FEES

Annual notice is hereby given of the policy on worker objections to agency fees which has been adopted by the General Board in response to the United States Supreme Court's 1988 decision in Beck v. CWA. The policy sets forth a formal procedure by which an agency fee payer may file an objection to the payment of that portion of his or her dues which is attributable to expenditures for activities which are not germane to collective bargaining. The policy applies only to agency fee payers who work in the United States. The policy applies to the Conference, district councils, and local unions.

Agency fee payers (also referred to as "financial core members") are those individuals covered by a union security agreement who meet their financial obligations by paying all dues, fees, and assessments, but elect not to become or remain actual members of the union. Agency fee payers may not exercise the rights of membership such as running for union office, electing union officers, ratifying contracts, and voting on strikes. They may be eligible to receive strike benefits if they are participants in the Emergency and Special Defense Fund, but they are not eligible to receive benefits from the Graphic Communications Benevolent Trust Fund whose benefits are for members only.

The policy adopted by the General Board includes the following elements:

1. The agency fee payable by objectors will be based on the expenditures of the Conference, district councils, or local unions for those activities or projects normally or reasonably undertaken by the union to advance the employment-related interests of the employees it represents. Among these "chargeable" expenditures are those for negotiating with employers, enforcing collective bargaining agreements, informal meetings with employer representatives, discussing work-related issues with employees, handling employees' work-related problems through the grievance procedure, administrative agencies, or informal meetings, and union administration. Based upon an independent audit by the Conference's auditors, it has been determined that seventy-five and seventy-five hundredths percent of the Conference's expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2016 were for such activities. Because at least as great a proportion of district council and local union total expenditures are spent on

"chargeable" activities as are spent by the Conference, in calculating the amount of local union dues to be paid by objectors, district councils and local unions may exercise the option of presuming that the Conference's percentage of chargeable activities applies to the district council or local union also. Alternatively, district councils or local unions may calculate their own percentage of chargeable activities.

2. Objectors will be given an explanation of the basis for the fee charged to them. That explanation will include a more detailed list of categories of expenditures deemed to be "chargeable" and those deemed to be "nonchargeable" and the accountants' report showing the Conference's expenditures on which the fee is based. Objectors will have the option of appealing the union's calculation of the fee, and a portion of the objector's fee shall be held in escrow while he or she pursues that appeal. Details on the method of making such a challenge and the rights accorded to those who do so will be provided to objectors with the explanation of the fees calculation.

3. Objections for the year 2018 must be filed on or before December 31, 2017 for current agency fee payers unless a prior objection was filed on a continuing basis. Timely objections are for one year and will expire on December 31, 2018 unless they are filed on a continuing basis. Objections filed on a continuing basis will be honored until they are revoked. If an employee is not an agency fee payer, the employee must assume non-member status and file an objection to be eligible for a reduction of dues for the period beginning with the timely receipt of the objection. New employees who wish to object must not obtain member status and must file an objection within thirty days of first receiving notice of this policy for a reduction of dues for the period beginning with receipt of a timely objection.

Objections should be sent to the attention of the Agency Fee Administrator, Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Graphic Communications Conference/IBT, 25 Louisiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001. The objection should be signed and contain the objector's current home address, place of employment, and district council and/or local union number. Copies of the full text of the procedures for worker objections to agency fees are available upon request from the Agency Fee Administrator.

Exec Pay Keeps Soaring: ‘More for Them, Less for Us’

For corporate executives, plenty is never enough.

Last year, CEOs at S&P 500 Index companies bagged \$13.1 million in total compensation on average, according to an AFL-CIO analysis, while production and non-supervisory workers – you know, the people who keep the operation humming – earned less than \$38,000.

That’s a CEO-to-worker pay ratio of 347-1. “More for them, less for us,” said the AFL-CIO.

The labor organization’s study also found that 322 Fortune 500 companies are avoiding \$767

billion in taxes by keeping \$2.6 trillion of “permanently invested” profits off shore. Eighteen of the top companies paid nothing -- \$0 – in taxes between 2008 and 2015.

“Corporations like to complain that their federal income tax rates are too high. But lost amid the clamor to cut taxes for corporations is the fact that many U.S. corporations are not paying taxes on their offshore profits,” said the AFL-CIO.

In other words, the labor group concluded, they are “tax avoiders.”



Pope Hails Union ‘Mission’

Union people often say they are doing God’s work by assuring members dignity and a fair deal.

Pope Francis made it official.

Speaking to an Italian trade union group at the Vatican, the Pontiff hailed organized labor for its “prophetic” mission and giving “voice to those who have none.”

He said the labor movement “unmasks the powerful who trample the rights of the most vulnerable workers, defends the cause of the foreigner, the least, the discarded.”

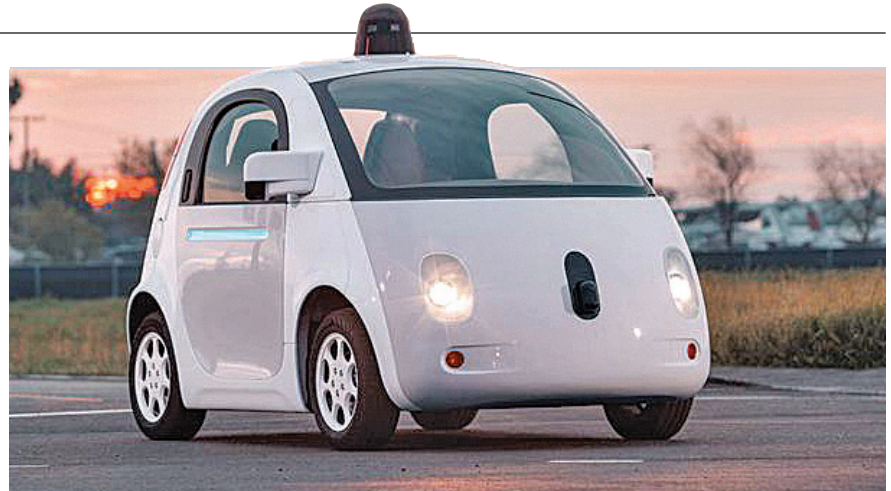
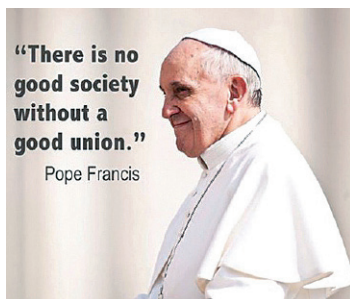
Referring to a Biblical passage from the Book of Amos, Pope Francis warned against those who would “sell the needy for a pair of sandals.” Too often, he said, big business forgets the “social nature of the economy” – that is, the need to balance profit with public good.

The Pope had a warning for unions, too.

He said organized labor must preserve its credibility and not become “too similar to the institutions and powers that it should instead criticize” – self-interested politicians and corporate chiefs who advance themselves at the expense of others.

Francis also urged unions to look beyond their own rank-and-file and, like a “watchman,” protect not only those within “the city of labor” but hard-pressed people “outside the walls.” In what clearly seemed a pro-immigrant appeal, the Pope told labor leaders: “Your vocation is also to protect those who do not yet have rights.”

Commenting on the Pope’s remarks, journalist Michael Sean Winters said in the National Catholic Reporter that Francis is not a “revolutionary” but a religious leader with a sharp sense of social justice “like the prophets of old.” Winters added: “He is calling us back to the best of our history...”



Safety First With Driverless Cars

What’s the best way to enter a future of driverless cars and trucks? Very carefully, according to the Teamsters and other labor organizations.

Unions are telling Congressional leaders who favor driverless vehicles that safety and job security must come first.

“We see no positive outcome that could come from any rush to implement laws due to urgency from the companies that have a profit interest in the rollout of their technologies,” said Lamont Byrd, director of the IBT Safety and Health Department.

The Teamsters pledge to monitor all aspects of the driverless technology and are calling for comprehensive federal rules regulating autonomous vehicles.

“If anyone needs to be at the table for a discussion on self-driving technology, it’s the package car driver, the long-haul truck driver and the taxi driver,” said James Hoffa, Teamsters general president. “We are encouraged that legislators are soliciting feedback on early proposed legislation, and we firmly believe it’s important that their constituents—and that includes Teamsters—are involved in the process and listened to throughout.”

In August, the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted unanimously to advance a measure that would aid development of self-driving vehicles. A similar measure in the Senate has drawn bipartisan support and backing of the automakers.

But labor leaders are wary.

Larry Willis, president of the AFL-CIO’s Transportation Trades Division, warned against moving too quickly and said self-driving vehicles “are likely to cause massive job dislocation and impact worker safety.”

A study by the Center for Global Policy Solutions, estimated that rapid transition to automated vehicles could result in more than 4 million lost jobs, according to a story in Bloomberg Technology.

Researchers at the University of Michigan reported that fewer than 16 percent of people liked the idea of totally self-driving cars, according to the Washington Post, and Kelley Blue Book reported 51 percent of drivers wanted to retain control of their vehicles.

“Why is that?” the IBT asked in a blog post. “Because not being able to control the vehicle you’re driving in is scary as hell!”

Byrd said the Teamsters are not against progress – but that “wholesale and expansive changes that are not properly vetted and overseen by public officials will not serve anyone when it comes to safety.”

No Kidding – We May be Running Out of Sand

Once a symbol of abundance, sand is speedily losing its reputation.

“Sand is the essential ingredient that makes modern life possible,” said journalist Vince Beiser in a New York Times op-ed. “And we are starting to run out.”

Some will think it incredible but the global demands of energy production, public works and major construction projects like apartment buildings, roads and shopping malls are consuming this basic resource at a worrisome rate.

Beiser mentions a United Nations survey showing that in 2012 the world used enough concrete – basically sand and gravel – “to build a wall 89 feet high and 89 feet wide around the equator.”

Where does the sand come from? The \$70 billion a year extraction industry strips sand from riverbeds, flood plains and beaches, Beiser said. The stuff gets shipped everywhere – 40 billion tons of it.

Results?

– Damaged coral reefs in Kenya and weakened bridges in Liberia and Nigeria.

– Deaths of sand miners in Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Gambia.

– Ecosystems disrupted in India where fish and birds are dying at an alarming rate.

– Midwest farmers in the United States blame sand mining for air and water pollution, according to news reports.

Supplies of natural resources – including sand – once seemed endless, says Beiser. “...we’re learning the hard way that none of those things are infinite...”

Goodbye Summer, Hello to Autumn Savings!

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Hoffa Scholarship Winners: Focus, Determination, Gratitude

Hunter Byrne aims to be a physical therapist. Eric Curley is studying material science and wants to improve substances used in skis, cars and bicycles. Sean O'Byrne expects to teach health and physical education. Haylee Pettus is headed for a career in computer engineering.

GCC/IBT recipients of the latest James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 "bootstrap" awards demonstrated the same sort of focus and determination that have characterized winners through the years.

"These fine young people are a credit to their families, their teachers and our union," said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. "They are part of a great labor tradition that emphasizes hard work and commitment. We couldn't be more proud."

Students said the work ethic of their parents had been a major influence.

"This scholarship represents a big thank-you to my mom and dad," said Hunter Byrne, step-daughter of Brian Jones, a member of Local 6-505-M, St. Louis, who works at Fort Dearborn Co. as a press operator. Hunter's mother, Karen Byrne-Jones, returned her daughter's compliment. "Whatever Hunter does in life, she dedicates herself to it," Byrne-Jones said.

THE WINNERS:



Hunter Byrne, 18, is a graduate of Ladue (Missouri) Horton Watkins High School where she was in the National Honor Society and served in a variety of volunteer roles. She is attending Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, as a health science and pre-physical therapy major and is a member of the Bradley volleyball team. "It was an honor receiving the bootstrap award," she said.

Eric Curley, 18, is the son of Carol Curley, a member of Local 285-M, Washington, D.C., who works at Mosaic Learning Inc. of Columbia, Maryland, as a client solutions manager. Eric is a graduate of Mount Hebron High School in Ellicott City, Maryland,

who attends Clemson University in South Carolina where he is studying engineering. He has a particular interest in composite materials – carbon fiber and polymers – used in equipment associated with adventure sports. Eric said his mother's union membership had a "positive impact" on the family and helped make their lives "secure."



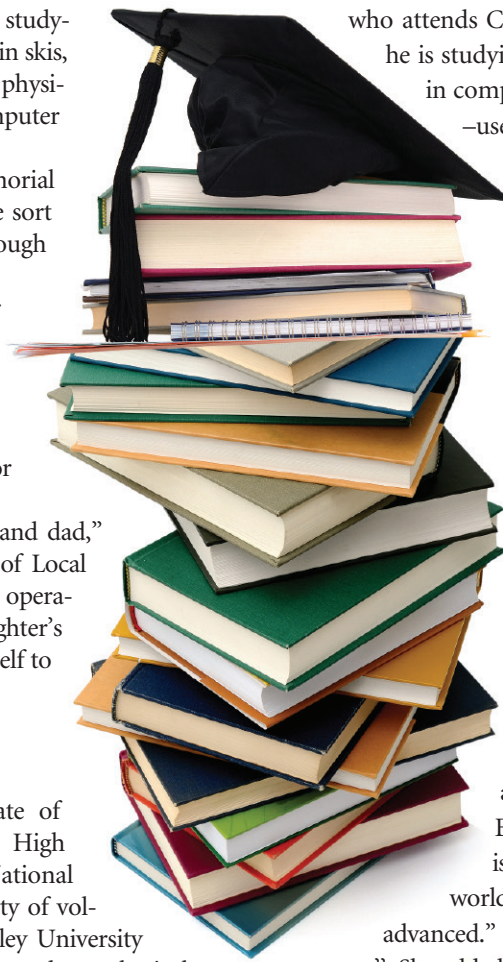
Sean O'Byrne, 19, is the son of Michael O'Byrne, a member of Local 735-S, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, who is a plate moulder at Bemis Co., West Hazleton. An older brother, Harry, is a previous Hoffa scholarship winner. A graduate of Hazleton Area High School, Sean attends Penn State Hazleton and says his interest in teaching reflects his high regard for the teaching profession. "I've always looked up to my teachers and want to inspire others," he said.

Haylee Pettus, 18, is the daughter of Steve Pettus, Local 6-505-M, a maintenance technician at Graphic Packaging International, in Pacific, Missouri. Haylee is a graduate of Pacific High School and attends East Central College in Union, Missouri. She is studying computer engineering because "the world is becoming more and more technologically advanced." Haylee said winning a Hoffa award gave her a "sense of accomplishment." She added: "The hard work was worth it."



The James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund is an independent organization established to provide scholarships to the child or dependent of a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. In 2016 the Fund awarded \$1.2 million in scholarships.

"The Teamster organization places a high priority on education and individual advancement," said Tedeschi. "We want the best for our members and their families." ■



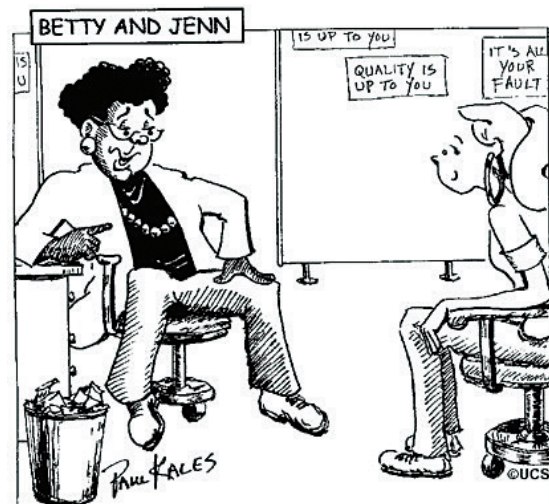
Funny Business



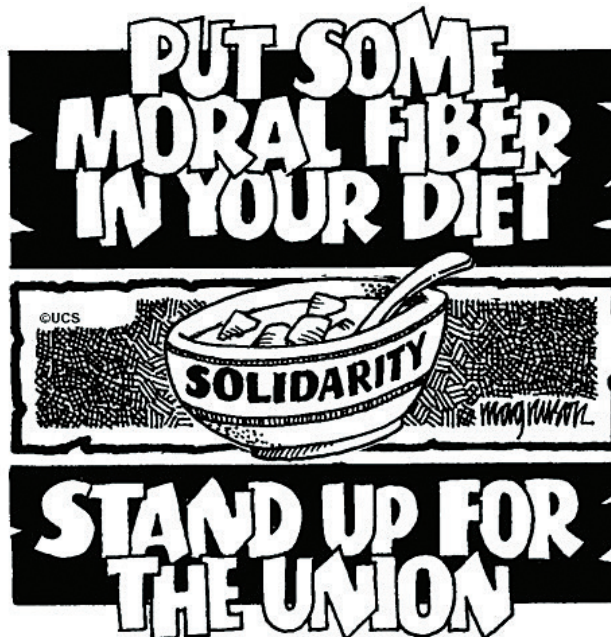
"Sure I can come in this weekend. Can you babysit for my kids?"



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MAJOR UNION SHOP HAS JOB OPENINGS

Arandell, a major catalog producer based in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, needs workers in a number of areas covered by GCC/IBT contracts and union officials said interested members should respond immediately. "I urge people to apply for these great opportunities at Arandell," said Perry Kettner, president of Local 77-P, Neenah, Wisconsin, and secretary of DC1. "This is a long-time GCC shop." GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi called Arandell "a class operation" with a "solid" employee record. Jobs are available in the bindery, electrical and web-related sectors. Information and application specifics can be found at <https://www.arandell.com/career/>