

STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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Indianapolis, IN

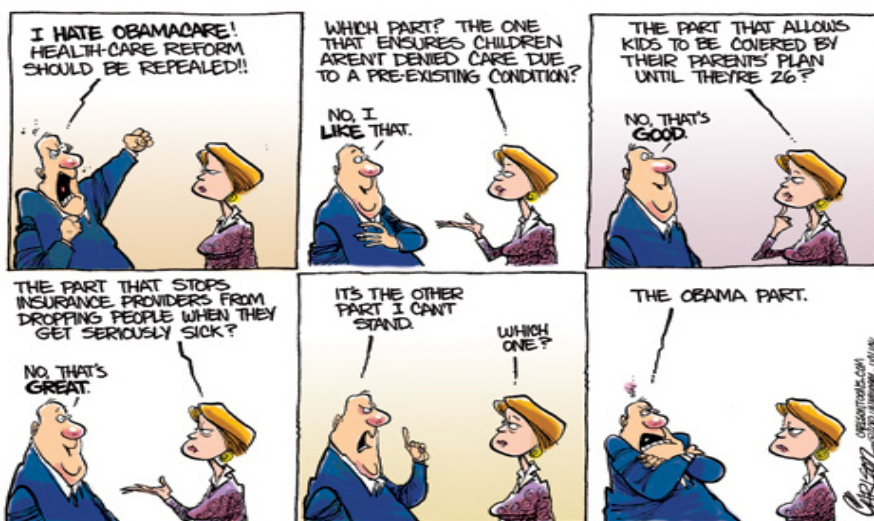
May 18, 2012

ObamaCare Pays Off – in Real Cash

By Leo Gerard

In a famous “Laugh In” sketch, Lily Tomlin, playing arrogant operator Ernestine, telephones a customer to demand payment of \$23.64 for three calls to Topeka and threatens to send a burly serviceman to the customer’s house to rip his phone out of the wall if he doesn’t pay.

Ernestine was the face of smug and uncaring Bell Telephone. Today, she’d be the mug of cocky and cold-hearted health insurers.



In the 1960s skit, when the telephone customer complains about Ernestine having access to his confidential financial and tax records, she says of the telephone company:

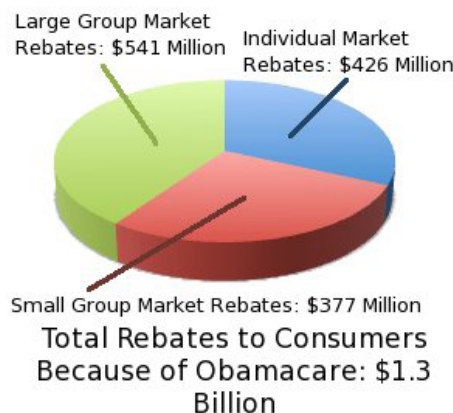
“We are not subject to city, state or federal regulations. We are omnipotent.”

Back in the days of “Laugh In,” the customer who Ernestine wrongly accused of owing \$23.64 had no recourse. Today, however, because of ObamaCare, the client could call Ernestine and demand a refund. Nearly 16 million health insurance consumers will get rebates totaling an estimated \$1.3 billion beginning Aug. 1 because ObamaCare limits the profits that insurance companies can make off of illness, injury and pain.

Take that, Ernestine!

Under ObamaCare, more formally known as the Affordable Care Act, insurers must send refunds to customers if the companies skim off excessive portions of premium payments for administrative costs and profits. For big group plans, the law says insurers must spend 85 percent of premiums on patient care. For smaller group plans and individual coverage, it is 80 percent.

This rule took effect in 2011, so insurance companies that spent too little last year on patient care must send rebates to customers this year. One New Jersey company reported it already has returned \$19 million



Data from Insurer Rebates under the Medical Loss Ratio: 2012 Estimates, Kaiser Family Foundation, April, 2012

⇒ See PAYS, Page 9.

My View

**Bruce Reed, Local Union
Representative**



Brothers and Sisters:

Our Local Union election cycle is over and I want to congratulate the newly elected officers and committee persons. As in the past we will begin education sessions with the different grievance committees and hope everyone will attend.

Since our last newsletter the right to work legislation has passed the republican controlled House and Senate, the good Governor signed the bill the same day it was given to him. I wonder why he signed it behind closed doors; after all, he has called it good news for the workers in Indiana. I expected him to have the press available so every working person would know how good this legislation is ???

I think it was interesting watching the republican battle between Senator Lugar and Richard Mourdock. Mourdock is the State Treasurer, as we know now the State misplaced a half a billion

dollars, think you would keep your job if that happened on your watch? By the way, the good Governor said it is better to have found the half a billion rather than not having it to start with. I bet all the workers that lost their jobs due to that "mistake" are as happy as the good Governor.

Mourdock's television ads attacked Lugar for not being a resident of Indiana, but the same party ran Dan Coats successfully in last years election for the Senate. Ole Dan was a Washington lobbyist that had houses in two other States but none in Indiana. And let's not forget the "party" backed David MacIntosh this cycle for a House seat, another republican that was living in Washington and working as a lobbyist, that had to rent a place to live in Indiana so he could run for the House. I hope he didn't quit his day lobbyist job.

I bet Charlie White is as proud as proud can be! Oops, I forgot he got removed from his office, living in your car doesn't establish a residency I guess.

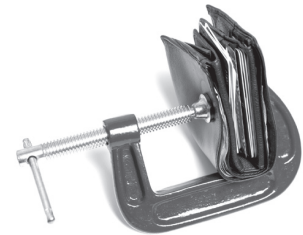
I have poked some fun with partial truths; unfortunately there is too much truth to my fun. The Republican Party is after the working class, and again unfortunately, some of us are helping them. We need to come together and fix our own problem; we can do it at the ballot box in November.

We all have heard the commercials from Mourdock, he will be unyielding, his backing came from the tea party and the tea party is who he will answer to, not the Hoosiers he will leave behind. Let's be smart about whom we support and elect Representatives

that will support the working class and not continually cut our legs off.

I will again quote Dr. Martin Luther King, "OUR WEAPON IS OUR VOTE". Let's use our weapons wisely in November. □

Are You Living Beyond Your Means?



Debt and credit problems can happen at anytime to anyone. Union Plus offers a solution for union members, the Union Plus Credit Counseling Program. Certified counselors can help you and your family. Benefits include:

- **Free Counseling**
- **Free Budget Plan**
- **Written Action Plan**

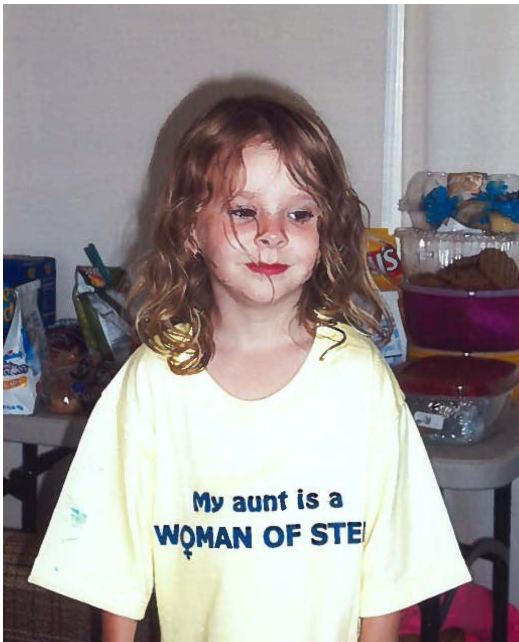


**For information
1-877-833-1745**

or visit
**UnionPlus.org/
CreditCounseling**

LOCAL 1999*Women of Steel*

WOS is taking donations for the women's shelter. We are collecting items to make the women "Feel Good" about themselves. Items needed are make - up, lip stick, perfumes, lotions, nail polish, or nail products, hair items such as clips, hair ties, hair spray, etc. Any donations will be appreciated. Please give donations to your Unit President or you can drop them off at the Union Hall for me to pick up.



Thank you,

Julie Heaton

Women of Steel - Chair

Corporations Flee ALEC and Its Harmful Agenda

By Suzanne Merkelson

As of today, ten major corporations and organizations have publicly quit the American Legislative Exchange Council, the low-profile corporate front group better known as ALEC. ALEC is responsible for pushing harmful laws like Stand Your Ground and disenfranchising

Here's how they did it:

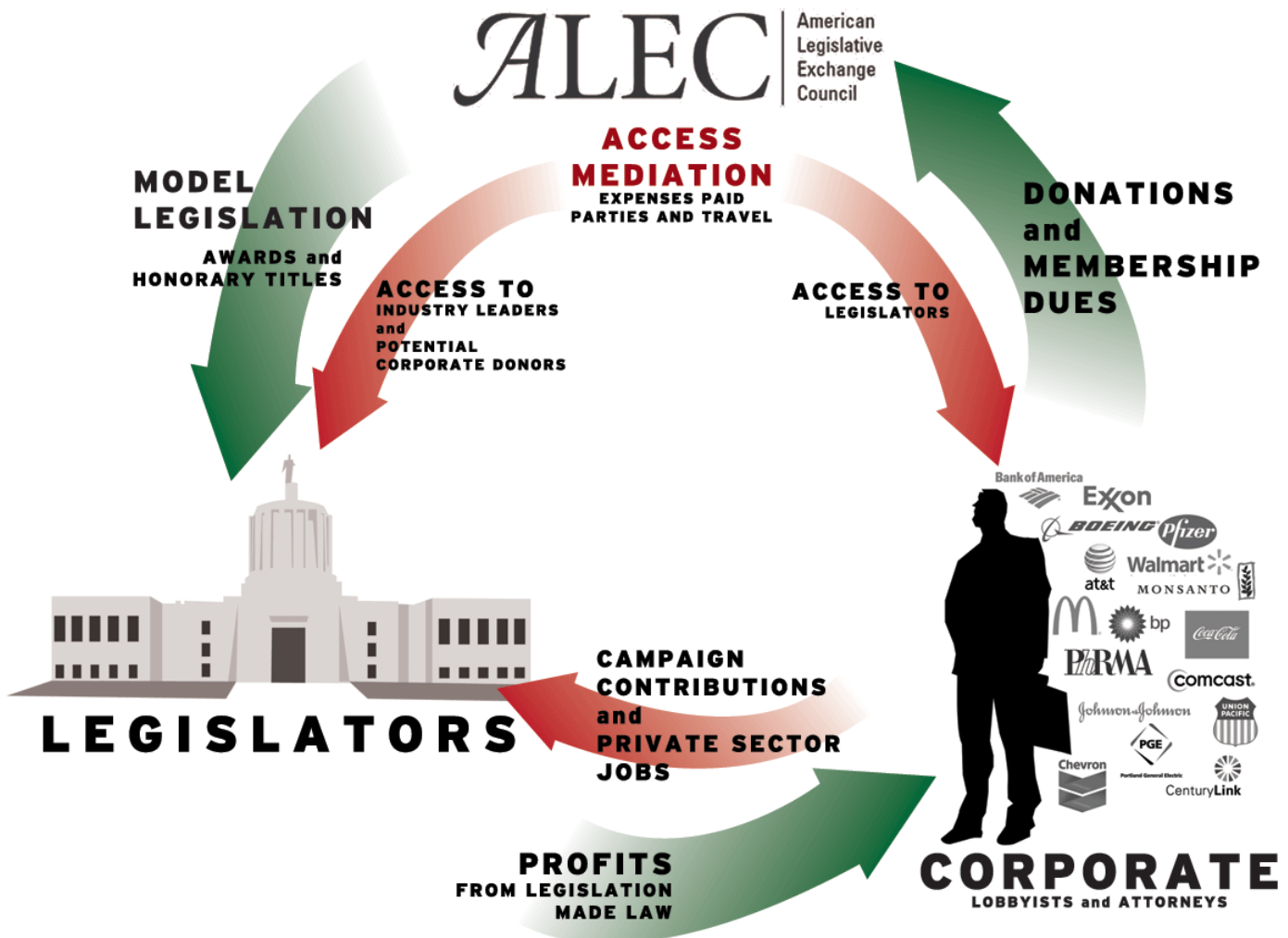
Coca Cola, April:

"The Coca-Cola Company has elected to discontinue its membership with the American Legislative Exchange Council

issues that impact our Company and industry."

PepsiCo, April 5:

As we discussed, PepsiCo has been a member of the bipartisan group of state legislators ALEC, for the last



voter ID requirements in states across the country. And it's funded almost entirely by corporations. But public pressure has compelled some of these corporations to stand by their shareholders, employees, and customers, and quit the group.

(ALEC). Our involvement with ALEC was focused on efforts to oppose discriminatory food and beverage taxes, not on issues that have no direct bearing on our business. We have a long-standing policy of only taking positions on

decade, where we largely focused on issues raised by discriminatory taxes. We were not involved in the discussion on voter registration, nor do we serve on the Task Force,

⇒ See ALEC, Page 7.

Health & Safety in the Work Place

Chuck Jones, President

Each year, approximately 6,000 employees in this country die from workplace injuries while another 50,000 die from illnesses caused by exposure to workplace hazards. In addition, 6 million workers suffer non-fatal workplace injuries.

Every business, regardless of its size, must provide its employees with safe working conditions. Every local union needs a union safety and health committee. You don't need an employer's permission to establish a union committee. It's also good to have a joint safety and health committee, with representatives from the union and from management. The union members of a joint committee should meet by themselves at least as often as they meet with management. The employer should never be allowed to appoint your safety and health representatives.

What are your rights as an employee?

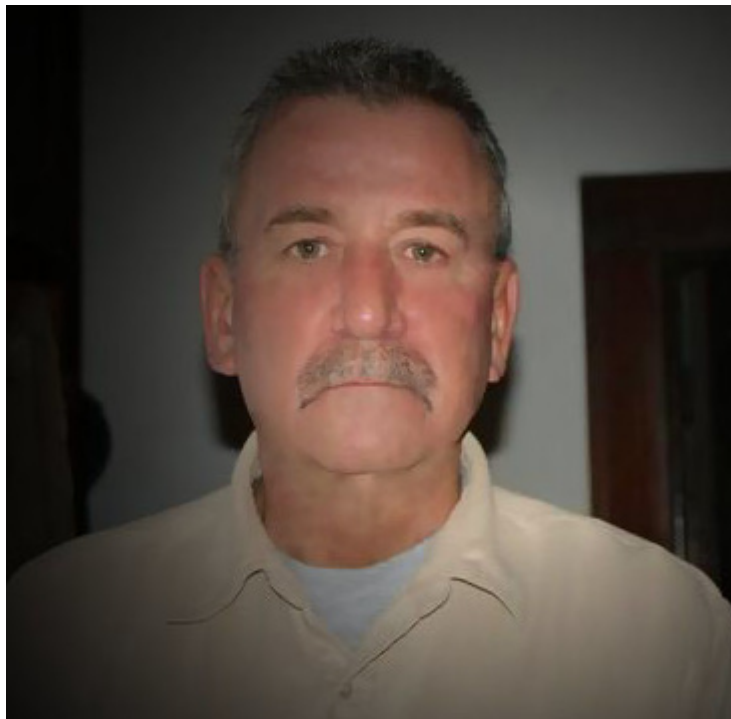
In your associations with OSHA and your employer, you have the right, among other actions, to do the following:

- *Review employer-provided OSHA standards, regulations and requirements;

- *Request information from your employer on emergency procedures;

- *Receive adequate safety and health training when required by OSHA standards related to toxic substances and any such procedures set forth in any emergency action plan required by an OSHA standard;

- *Ask the OSHA Area Director to



- investigate hazardous conditions or violations of standards in your workplace;

- *Have your name withheld from your employer if you file a complaint with OSHA;

- *Be advised of OSHA actions regarding your complaint, and have an informal review.

- *Have your employee representative accompany the OSHA compliance officer on inspections;

- *Observe any monitoring or measuring of toxic substances or harmful physical agents and review any related monitoring or medical records;

- *Review at a reasonable time the Log of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA 300) if your employer is required to maintain it;

- *Request a closing discussion following an inspection;

- *Object to the abatement period set in a citation issued to your employer;

- *Seek safe and healthful working conditions without your employer retaliating against you.

Unfortunately even with adequate safety measures, accidents do happen. Our ultimate goal is and has always been for everyone to leave from work in the same condition in which they arrived.

This article is in honor of Charlie Taylor a member of Local 1999-07 (Carrier), who suffered the loss of his arm in an accident on April 16, 2012.

Also in remembrance of Randy Komlance a member of Local 1999-07 (Carrier), who lost his life in a fatal accident, May 27, 2004. □

Commission Hears Election Protests

By Kelly Ray Hugunin

In response to the protests filed on the Local 1999 election of officers a Commission hearing was convened by the International Executive Board Appeals Panel. The hearing was conducted at the Local 1999 Union Hall on May 10, 2012.

Sub District 4 Director Mike O'Brien was selected by the Appeals Panel to be Commissioner and Loretta Tyler, Staff Representative from Sub District 1 served as Commission Secretary.

The Protests charged that candidates were campaigning in the voting area at Carrier, voting was delayed at Carrier due to incorrect ballots, 2nd shift employees at Carrier were forced away from the polls by management, and 1 ballot box that did not balance out.

The Commissioner heard testimony from the Local 1999 Election Committee Ed Johnson, Tim Spillman, and Julie Heaton. The committee was responsible for conducting the election according to the International Election Manual.

Tim Spillman testified that there was campaigning near the polling sites but that the Elections Manual does not state a minimum distance for campaigning. The manual simply states no campaigning in the voting area which is not definitive.

Tim testified that there was a mix up with the ballot cards at Carrier. SOCO the company that the membership approved to use to provide ballots and tally the votes by machine had provided the wrong ballot cards for Carrier. The mistake was discovered and corrected but caused the polls to be closed for about an hour that morning.

The commissioner heard testimony from the Election Committee that one ballot box did not balance out. Ed Johnson testified that there were 271 members checked off of the seniority list, 264 members signed in on the signature sheet, and there were 267 ballots in the box.

Testimony was given by several Carrier employees who were either in line to vote or saw other members

in line to vote at 5:00 p.m. when the Company announced over the PA that 2nd shift employees were to report to work or face discipline. A production manager even came to the polls and told employees to go to work or be disciplined. They testified that several members left without voting.

Commissioner O'Brien expected to file his report to the Appeals Commission within a week of the hearing. O'Brien stated that he is only empowered to make a recommendation to the Appeals Panel. He stated his job is to ensure that a fair election was held in accordance with the International Constitution. The International Appeals Panel is expected to meet at the end of May.

Gordon Cutshaw asked the International Appeals Committee for a stay on taking office. The Committee granted his request and current President Chuck Jones will remain in office until the Appeals Panel renders a decision. ☐



Pictured from left to right: Gordon Cutshaw, Loretta Tyler, Commissioner Mike O'Brien, Bill Jennings, Ed Johnson, Julie Heaton, Chuck Jones, and George Gann at the Commission Hearing on May 10, 2012.

↔ALEC, From Page 4.

which reviewed the proposals. In addition, PepsiCo pays the minimal, standard membership fee to ALEC and thus does not have influence over issues in which we do not actively engage. ... Please note, at this point in time, PepsiCo is not a member of ALEC, as of 2012, as our membership expires each year.

Kraft, April 5:

"We belong to many external groups, including ALEC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes growth and fiscal responsibility.

"ALEC covers numerous issues but our involvement has been strictly limited to discussions about economic growth and development, transportation and tax policy. We did not participate in meetings or conversations related to other issues. "Our membership in ALEC expires this spring and for a number of reasons, including limited resources, we have made the decision not to renew."

Intuit, April 6:

"Intuit's McKay explained to [the Center for Media and Democracy] that the company doesn't "usually issue statements about membership in any organization" and declined to comment further."

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, April 9:

"The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation today became the latest backer to withdraw financial support for the American Legislative Exchange Council. A foundation

spokesman told Roll Call that it does not plan to make future grants to the conservative nonprofit, which has come under fire from progressive activists for its support of voter identification laws and other contentious measures."

McDonald's, April 10:

"While [we] were a member of ALEC in 2011, we evaluate all professional memberships annually and made the business decision not to renew in 2012."

Wendy's, April 11:

"Wendy's is not a member of ALEC. Last year, we made the decision not to renew for 2012," wrote a spokesman for Wendy's in an email to Mother Jones.

—

The company sent out a tweet [April 11] from its official account, saying that their withdrawal from ALEC had been anticipated for several months. "We decided late 2011 and never renewed this year. It didn't fit our business needs," read the message.

Mars, April 12:

"Earlier this year, Mars, Incorporated reviewed all of its trade associations and sponsorships and decided not to renew the ALEC membership in 2012."

Arizona Public Service, April 12:

Arizona Public Service lobbyist Jessica Pacheco said the company would not renew its membership in ALEC, a conservative state lawmakers' organization known

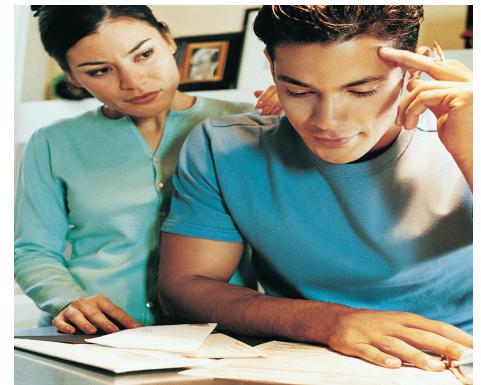
for drafting model legislation for members to sponsor in their respective states. The company's membership expires this summer, she said.

Reed Elsevier, April 13:

"We made the decision after considering the broad range of criticism being leveled at ALEC."

American Traffic Solutions, April 13:

"Our decision was based on how best to allocate our resources." □



Falling behind financially?

Union SAFE may be able to help.

If you're having trouble making ends meet in this economy, Union SAFE may be able to help. We offer valuable benefits for members who participate in Union Plus programs including Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage and Union Plus Insurance and who are facing economic hardship.



Security. Assistance. Financial Education.

To find out how Union SAFE may be able to help, visit:
UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE



Local Election Problems

By Peggy Scotten, Recording Secretary

Union Brother and Sisters,

I write this article to inform you about how our elections are run because of so much confusion. I would like for you to know we have an election manual which gives instructions and rules that must be followed; these rules are in place to ensure elections are run fairly and accurately.

I know there has been much fuss over our recent election at Carrier. We are a local together united not just one unit regardless of the number of members in our units. There were many things done wrong at Carrier, I personally feel the worst part of the election fuss is the way the results have pinned union member against union member. We feel passionate about what we do that's why we join together for the common cause of defending workers against unfair labor practices in the work place.

When the election process is finished a report in its entirety is sent to the international to review the running of the election and to hear all protest in the running of the election, this enables all to have an objective point of view of the handling of the election. We need this to keep things fair for all those who seek office.

In the Carrier unit there were 5 protests submitted along with all documents. Two of those protests were turned in by the two Local President candidates. The Protests claimed:

1. The ballots at Carrier were wrong delaying the voting by one

hour. This was not done by either candidate but by a private firm hired by our local to run the election that caused the confusion and problems by sending the wrong ballots. This was a firm that the local has used in the past with out problems.

2. The hours to vote were not in keeping with shift change giving second shift members time to vote before reporting to their jobs, which supervisors told them to do. These were the same hours of voting time we have used in the past without problems.

3. There was a ballot box that did not clear. What this means is ballots are counted by the number of members as they sign in and their names are checked off of a list. The member then fills the ballot out and turns it in to the locked box (what this does is not to allow others to fill these ballots out) you hand out 6 ballots you have 6 signatures and 6 names checked. One ballot box didn't match names to ballot numbers and those ballots could not be accounted for.

4. Candidates handing out literature in the polling areas which is not allowed.

Now let's just say you are the International of our union and you receive these election protests from both of the candidates for Local President and both agree the same things went wrong with the election but the winner by 3 votes says its members wish to keep the results and not rerun the election...are you serious?? Ok let's add in the

protest of the very committee that ran the election saying it was run poorly and would recommend it be rerun? Don't you think that the International Committee would want to investigate to see what is going on? So why would some members want to get everyone upset and say one person cried foul?? Remember you are not reading the anonymous letter sent out in our plant at Carrier but an unbiased report about how the election was run from the members who protested it. Most reports don't include passion. The report I filed to the International was just facts, the only opinions were of those who protested.

The election was held to give all of you a voice of officers who would represent you in the upcoming 3 years. They require not only a lot of personal time but hard work of those who agree to do so. It means the person who you elect will dedicate their time and efforts for the majority of members who elected them, to put aside their personal opinions at times in the best interest of the membership. That has not happen with this election. I have heard members saying they would rather opt out of the union and let RTW have their dues and I cannot tell you how pitiful that is! I would like to be there when RTW bites them in the ASS!! I take my union position with pride and integrity. I will take my time to educate you to the facts and inform you so you know what's going on and keep my personal opinions at bay although at times being human they may

⇒ See ELECTION, Page 9.

⇐PAYS From Page 1.

to customers.

Here is how the numbers break down, according to calculations by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides facts and analysis on health care issues.

Thirty-one percent of Americans who buy individual health insurance plans will get refunds or discounts on future bills. That's 3.4 million customers. Each will receive an average of \$127. The insurance companies – 215 of them – must pay a total of \$426 million.

Nineteen percent of workers covered by large group plans will benefit. That's 7.5 million customers. They'll receive an average benefit of \$72. (The money will be sent to the employers that pay the premiums and is expected to be shared with the workers who bear part of the

⇐ELECTION, From Page 8.

slip out. Misinformation or no information I don't know which is more troublesome. There are members who are using the lack of information to discredit our union and a person who has devoted years for the fair treatment of others. It almost sounds like something a company man would do to break the union doesn't it. I mean with RTW coming it would be smart of the companies to divide the union, remember divide and conquer? Do you remember United we stand divided we fall? I take your confidence very seriously and will do my best to keep you informed so you can make your own decisions without the confusion. □

cost.) The insurance companies – 125 of them – must pay a total of \$541 million.

Twenty-eight percent of workers covered by small group plans will benefit. That's 4.9 million customers. They'll receive an average benefit of \$76. (This money also will be sent to employers.) The insurance companies – 146 of them – must pay a total of \$377 million. That's a lot of customers getting a lot of money, Ernestine. And it's not even everything. It doesn't include California, for which Kaiser did not have statistics. And it doesn't include the value of premium hikes ObamaCare prevented.

The Kaiser report noted that it's impossible to calculate the entire savings consumers realize as a result of the ObamaCare rebate mandate because many insurers kept premiums low to avoid paying refunds. The report explains:

“This ‘sentinel’ effect on premiums has likely produced more savings for consumers and employers than the rebates themselves.”

It wouldn't be happening without ObamaCare.

For decades health insurance consumers fumed. Each year, insurance companies jacked up premiums while providing even more arrogant and brutish service. Each year, regional monopolies increased.

Consumers watched helplessly as insurers rescinded coverage from neighbors after tests determined cancer, as insurers declared spina bifida a pre-existing condition in order to deny coverage to newborns, as insured relatives went bankrupt

because of co-pays and uncovered costs.

Like Ernestine, insurers snorted at unhappy customers – because the companies knew customers had no recourse.

But then, ObamaCare gave consumers just a little measure of power in their relationship with insurance companies. The law forbids insurers from dropping customers who get sick. It forbids insurers from refusing to cover children because of pre-existing conditions. And it requires insurers to spend a large percent of premiums on actual medical services instead of bloated CEO pay and profits.

This is what Republicans in Congress and in state capitals across the country are trying to take away from health insurance consumers – that leverage ObamaCare gave customers to deal with massive, faceless, bureaucratic insurance companies.

Republicans have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to declare ObamaCare unconstitutional. They want to return to the days when insurers could mistreat customers like Ernestine did. They want to go back to the time when customers couldn't do a thing about it.

The U.S. Supreme Court is deciding right now whether insurers are not subject to city, state or federal regulations, whether they are, as Ernestine said, “omnipotent.”

□

Romney Says Obama' Takes His Marching Orders' From Unions

By Dave Johnson

Is this guy a presidential candidate from a major party, or a fringe nut? He sounds like Rush Limbaugh.

Speaking to a crowd at a campaign stop in Lansing, Mich., on Tuesday, presumptive GOP presidential



candidate Mitt Romney took a swipe at both President Barack Obama and organized labor, saying the president “takes his marching orders” from unions that cost American jobs.

“Liberalism once taught that unions would ensure lasting prosperity for workers,” Romney said at Lansing Community College. “Instead, they too often contributed to disappearing companies, disappearing industries and disappearing jobs. But like many politicians of the past, President Obama takes his marching orders from union bosses, rails against right-to-work states, fights to win union elections by eliminating the vote by secret ballot, and even denies an American company the right to build a factory in the American state

of its choice.”

When People Have A Say

People who follow Romney’s line of reasoning think that we need to be more “business friendly” with low wages, low benefits, low environmental protections and low taxes on the rich so we can compete with countries like China. Here’s the thing, in countries like China the people don’t have a say. When people have a say they say that they want higher wages, benefits, good schools, environmental protections and the rest of the prosperity

that democracy brings to all the people, instead of huge amounts accumulating in the hands of just a few people.

Unions Drove Wages And Benefits Up

Romney’s argument that unions “contributed to disappearing companies, disappearing industries and disappearing jobs” is based on the idea that unions drove wages and benefits up. He believes that good wages and benefits—namely US—are a “cost” instead of the reason that We, the People decided to develop the body of laws that allow corporations to exist, to use our infrastructure and educated people and laws and courts and police and

all the other “public structures” as a foundation for doing business. We, the People did that so that we—all of us—could benefit. All of us, not just a few of us.

In that respect Romney is correct, unions and democracy brought us higher pay, benefits, “the weekend,” vacations, 40-hour workweeks and things like that. Before unions came along to enforce the idea of democracy we didn’t, after unions we did. Before unions we had 12-hours a day workdays, seven days a week. Before unions we had low pay. Before unions we had no benefits. Before unions we didn’t get vacations. Before unions we could be fired for no reason. Unions are why we have had a middle class.

Unions enforce the concept of democracy. Yes, We, the People were supposed to be in charge. Yes, the economy was supposed to be for our benefit. Why else would We, the People allow corporations to exist in the first place? But it was unions that gave people the power to enforce that idea.

Laying People Off, Cutting Wages, Pocketing That Money For Himself

Romney made his fortune buying up companies (not, by the way, using his own money, but using the companies’ own assets as collateral for the loans to buy them with). Then Romney fired many of the workers,

⇒ See ORDERS, Page 13.

Unit 09

Quemetco

Here at RSR things are running smoothly. The new WESP (Electrostatic Precipitator) is up and running. The grievance load is light & we just made it through another local & unit election. Things ran pretty smoothly here and everyone seemed engaged about all the issues I would like to ask us all to stand together & support your elected officials as we face a very challenging transition to the fall elections, our upcoming negotiations and the very misguided "right to work." Together in solidarity we will only get stronger.

In Solidarity,
Derrick Morris

Unit 13

Diamond Chain

I have a few things I would like to address in this last news letter before I leave office. It has been a real experience being president at Diamond Chain. A lot has changed since I took over in May of 2009.

I have to say the low point of my term, not for just me but for everyone was in July of 2009 when the company approached us with maybe moving to Texas. When this happened, I felt like our whole world was yanked out from under us. I have explained this many times since then, but feel the need to explain it one more time. There were only two choices we had when they told us this. 1.) We could tell them that our contract expires in September of 2010 and we will see

you then. In which case, our belief by what we were told was that the process to move would begin very quickly, presumptively putting around 300 Union employees out of work. 2.) We could ask that we sit down and see what it would take to stay put and save the 300 jobs that would be lost.

The hardest part about making the choice to enter into Decisional Bargaining was knowing going in that we were about to not only go backwards in wages but contract language that has developed over the last 66 years. I take responsibility for making the choice to negotiate what we could. That decision was made so all 300 of you would have a say so in what happened by being able to cast your vote to accept or reject. It was a very close vote. It was accepted with only 9 votes separating the decision. But the key to that is that you ALL had a say in what would happen, and that is the one benefit to being in a Union shop. When you vote in an election, you ALL have a say so in the outcome and who gets elected. When you vote on a new contract, you ALL have a say so in whether or not it's accepted.

Another low was the passage of the "right to work" bill in the Indiana House. As I have said before, it is my opinion that the bill is nothing more than a bill to bust the Unions so employees no longer have a say so on anything in the workplace. Without a Union in place, you have NO say in your wages, benefits, vacations, retirement, or working conditions. The only thing guaranteed by law in a non-union shop is time and a half after 40 hours of work. There is no vacation, benefits, retirement, safety, or wages above the federal

minimum wage. The one thing you will also be without in a nonunion shop is the grievance procedure.

I am worried about the future of the union at Diamond Chain, not only long term but short term. The Union has been at Diamond Chain since 1943. My worry is that there are not enough members here that are willing to take an interest in their Union and become an activist. When I made the choice that I wanted to be president, the first people I talked to were my wife and two children. I knew that the job would not be easy and that it might have a toll on them as well as me. It is for family reasons that I cannot stay on in my present capacity, or else I would be happy to do it.

For everything that I had control over, I think that we have had more people positively affected by having a Union than negatively affected. When I took over as president my hope was to increase participation in the Union and bring some new faces into the mix. For whatever reason, I have struggled greatly. If there were ever a time where there was a time for everyone to stand up together as a UNION, it is now. The definition of UNION as stated in the dictionary is as follows: "a grouping together for a specific purpose or goal". I want all of you to ask yourself a question and be 100% honest with your answer. Wages, medical/life insurance, vacation, retirement, safety, better working conditions, and most importantly a solid future for you and your FAMILY; are these things that I listed worth taking a stand and UNITING together as a UNION for the future of your family? Or are

⇒ See CHAIN, Page 13.

Leon Lynch

First Black Vice President of a Major Labor Union

By Ann Belser

When Leon Lynch was a child, his family left Mississippi as part of the great northern migration to find better working opportunities.

That journey, which started in the early 1940s, led to Mr. Lynch becoming the first African-American to serve as an any union's international vice president and to the White House, where he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on his Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation and to the Air Traffic Service Board of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Lynch died on Friday at the Methodist Hospice Residence in Memphis, Tenn. He was 76 and had prostate cancer.

As a boy, his family settled in Indiana, where he learned the bass violin. He played with the Count Basie Orchestra when it appeared in East Chicago, Ind. He wasn't quite 18 at the time and the club where the



band was playing served alcohol, so during breaks between sets, Mr. Lynch would have to step outside.

After high school, he went to work in the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. steel mill in East Chicago, where he was a tally man, keeping count of the production totals.

There he met co-worker Joe Jackson, whose sons were forming a band. For a time, Mr. Lynch played the bass as part of the band that backed up the Jackson 5.

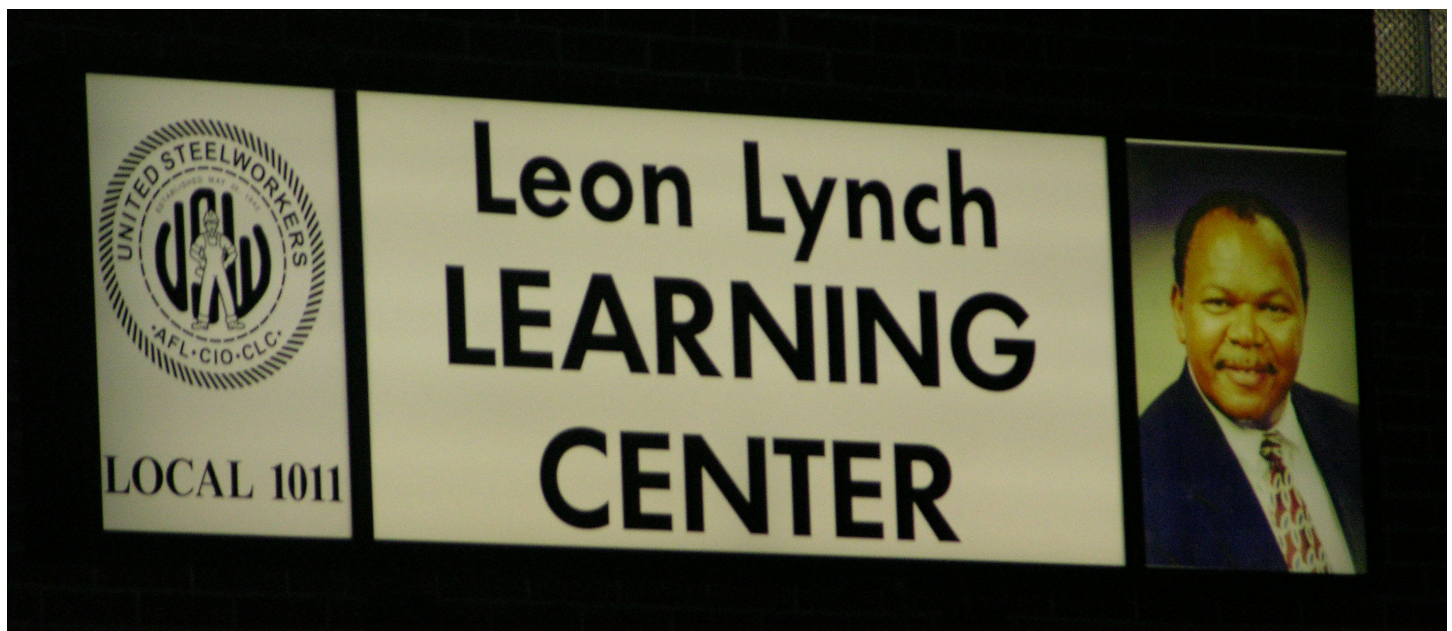
His first wife, Estella Smith, who has remained a close friend, was a third-grade teacher then and remembered how Michael Jackson would always forget to take his hat off when he came to school.

At the mill Mr. Lynch became involved in the union, writing grievances.

He was a hard worker. Ms. Smith said Mr. Lynch realized a strike at the mill in 1958 would be a long one, so he went out and got two jobs, one delivering milk and the other selling shoes to support his family. When he wasn't working, he was on the picket line at the mill.

In 1968, he was hired by the United Steel Workers of America as an organizer and was sent to Memphis, after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, to organize the African-American workers there.

⇒ See LYNCH, Page 14.





↳ CHAIN, From Page 11.

you willing to sit back and hope someone else will take the reigns and do it for you? Maybe something better will fall into your lap? If over the course of my 3 year term you all take something I say to heart, take it from me, it won't just fall into your lap. Again, I worry about the future of every individual that I have served. The time is now for you to take it upon yourself to worry about your future and the future of your family.

Thank you.
In Solidarity
Mike Hensley

↳ ORDERS, From Page 10.

making the rest do the extra work. He cut wages and benefits for the rest and then pocketed that money for himself. This is the guy who says that good wages and benefits is what puts companies out of business. *In other words, Romney is saying that the problem with our economy is that we have a middle class.* Romney wants America to be more “business-friendly.”

Romney hates unions. They get in the way of doing business the way business was done in “When Mitt Romney Came To Town.”

According to the Christian Science Monitor, this is the story of what happened to the workers in one company when the Romney/Bain machine “came to town”:

The new owner, American Pad & Paper, owned in turn by [Mitt Romney's] Bain Capital, told all 258 union workers they were fired, in a cost-cutting move. Security guards

hustled them out of the building. They would be able to reapply for their jobs, at lesser wages and benefits, but not all would be rehired.

Outsourcing jobs to places where people don't have a say so they can't demand good wages, firing people and making them reapply for their jobs but at half the pay, gutting people's benefits, stripping companies, treating employees like throwaway Kleenex, closing factories, stealing pensions, borrowing and pocketing... Locust capitalism. Chop shops. That's Mitt Romney's view of how to make money. Unions are in the way.

What Is Business-Friendly?

Some quick thoughts about what “business-friendly” really means: (add your own thoughts in the comments)

Business-friendly =

Low wages
Longer hours
No health benefits
No pensions
No vacations
No sick pay
Low taxes on the wealthy and their corporations
“Smaller government,” — which means less “We, the People” in charge of things:

No safety rules
No privacy rules
No food inspections
No environmental protections
No consumer protections
No citizen access to courts
Arbitration
Tort “reform” which means restricted access to courts

So what are your thoughts on this argument that we need to be more “business-friendly?” What does the phrase even mean? And what happens to the idea that We, the People have an economy for our own benefit? □

↳ **LYNCH, From Page 12.**

"He had a lot of drive," she said.
"He had a lot of ambition."

He worked hard in Memphis, and when Local 7655 opened its first union hall there, the members hung a sign out front that said "Leon Lynch Union Hall."

In 1976, he was appointed to be the international vice president for human affairs of the USW and was elected to the post for six consecutive terms, the first African-American to be an international vice president of a major labor union. In

October 1995, he was elected to the executive council of the AFL-CIO.

"He was a guy who was very serious about the labor movement and particularly how the labor movement related to minorities," said Fred Redmond, who followed Mr. Lynch as the Steelworkers international vice president for human affairs.

Mr. Redmond said Mr. Lynch believed that the labor movement was the way to build a black middle class.

"He was a very articulate spokesman for the union," he said, "and he was

an effective negotiator."

In 2005, USW Local 1011 in East Chicago, where he started his career, dedicated the Leon Lynch Learning Center where steelworkers are prepared for opportunities in today's job market.

He is survived by his wife Doris Tindal-Lynch of Bullhead City, Ariz.; four daughters, Tina Lynch of McCandless, Tammy Dunn of Eighty-Four, Sheila Champlin of Germantown, Tenn., and Maxine Lynch of Alexandria, Va.; two brothers, James W. of Navarre, Fla., and Vincent K. of Macon, Ga.; and five grandchildren. □





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Richard Mourdock: A Tea Partier Of Convenience?

By Katy Hall

Indiana State Treasurer Richard Mourdock unseated six-term Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) in the Republican primary Tuesday after convincing voters that Lugar was too moderate and worked too closely with Democrats.

"I don't believe we need more bipartisanship in Washington," he told a Tea Party crowd last year. "We need principle."

incumbent Democrat Frank McCloskey, the Chicago Tribune reported that Mourdock "has been likened to Ross Perot by the local press." He favored slashing U.S. troop levels overseas, ensuring health care for all and coupling tax hikes with spending cuts to reduce debt.

"I think he had strong libertarian strains in his thinking when he ran for Congress," said Chris Sautter,

broke his "read my lips" pledge against raising taxes.

"I remember Mourdock being somewhat sympathetic to that," Sautter said. "He was very interested in getting the deficit under control."

While Mourdock's specific views may have changed over the last two decades, Sautter said he had no doubts Mourdock was part of the rightwing back then, even if he wasn't



Mourdock may not have pulled off the win without big spending by Tea Party groups enamored with his far-right views, but he wasn't always so extreme.

In 1992, when he made an unsuccessful run for Congress in Indiana's 8th district against

who runs Sautter Communications and was the chief political consultant for McCloskey.

He remembers Mourdock being more interested in getting a line-item veto than in being a purist on taxes, even when then-President George H.W. Bush infamously

part of the GOP establishment. "He had a very different kind of thinking that wasn't in the mainstream Republican mold," Sautter said.

"He was conservative then, but what was conservative 20 years ago was

⇒ See TEA, Page 17.

↳TEA, From Page 16.

very different from what it is today," Sautter said. "You might say that what it means to be conservative has evolved."

Mourdock, whose campaign did not respond to a request for comment about his past views, will face off against Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly in November. Here is a brief summary of where he stands on some of the issues, and how far he has come since the '90s.

Abortion

On his campaign website, Mourdock states that he is "unapologetically pro-life and will work to stop federal funding for abortion." He believes that *Roe v. Wade* represents a serious misreading of the Constitution.

While campaigning against McCloskey in 1992, he said that he approved of abortion for "crisis pregnancies," but not "abortion on demand for birth control."

Immigration

Mourdock takes a hardline approach to immigration, stating on his website that he "opposes the DREAM Act and any other legislation that would provide amnesty for illegal immigrants. He believes that we must act immediately to secure our borders and enforce the law."

In a questionnaire he completed during his 1992 congressional run, Mourdock indicated he had "no position" on "legislation which would repeal sanctions against employers who hire illegal immigrants." He supported temporary safe haven for displaced

immigrants in accordance with the Immigration Act of 1990, which increased the number of immigrants allowed into the United States each year.

National Security

According to his website, Mourdock "believes that a strong national defense is the best strategy to deter aggression," but that force should be used "only when a vital national interest is at stake."

"Mourdock strongly supports all the branches of the US military," campaign spokesman Chris Conner told the Weekly Standard.

In 1992, the Chicago Tribune reported that Mourdock wanted to "slash U.S. troop levels overseas."

Health Care And Medicare

Mourdock considers Obama's health care law "unconstitutional and wrong for America," according to his website, and vows to work to repeal it immediately.

Mourdock questioned the constitutionality of Social Security and Medicare during a recent campaign appearance. "I challenge you in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution where those so-called enumerated powers are listed. I challenge you to find words that talk about Medicare or Medicaid or, yes, even Social Security," he said.

In the 1992 questionnaire, he indicated that he supported "comprehensive health care reform to guarantee every person in the United States access to affordable health care and to protect human

life and human dignity." Mourdock once favored "providing help for people without health insurance through community health clinics," according to a 1992 story in the Evansville Press.

Taxes

Mourdock wants to eliminate the IRS and move from an income tax system to a consumption tax. "The federal tax code has become too complicated with too many loopholes and is not a fair and efficient system of raising revenue," he writes on his website.

In 1990, the Bloomington Herald-Times reported that "Mourdock said he could back a tax hike if Congress coupled it with a line-item veto for presidents starting after the next election in 1992 to help keep a lid on spending."

Earmarks and Spending

In a recent television spot, Mourdock attacked Lugar for his February vote against a permanent ban on earmark spending. "Dick Lugar won't vote to end wasteful spending and earmarks. I will," he said.

But Mourdock approved spending \$75,000 of taxpayer money on a "new bumper-boat attraction" at a county park in 1995, according to the Evansville Courier & Press. The paper also reported in 1992 that Mourdock proposed a free year of college, funded by the government.

Now Mourdock wants to eliminate the Department of Education. □

STEEL VOICE

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Our \$14.3 Trillion National Debt Who/What/When Accumulated?



Who Holds It?

Graph Source: New York Times, "Charting the American Debt Crisis," July 29, 2011 (www.NYTimes.com)
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