

# STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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October 18, 2013

## Enough Is Enough

William Spriggs

Back on Sept. 12, the Republican-led House of Representatives voted for the 42nd time to derail the Affordable Care Act. That's 42 more times than they have voted on raising the minimum wage, increasing federal investments in our roads or highways or helping local school districts get the hundreds of thousands of teachers whose jobs were lost when the Great Recession cut local tax revenue back into our children's classrooms. That makes the count zero votes on the things America's families want to see Congress address. Instead, having lost 42 times at this strategy if this were a best of competition, like the World Series best of seven games, House Republicans are now playing for best of out of 85 to see if they can finally derail people from getting access to affordable health insurance.

The catch is that the best of 85 tries



they are shooting for is now coming at the expense of all America's workers having access to their government. So, families of veterans cannot get timely payments to help bury their dead, small business owners cannot get loans, people cannot get their home loan papers approved on time, children are losing out on Head Start, mothers are losing out on food assistance for their children through the Women, Infants and Child (WIC) nutrition program, all so the Republicans can try stopping peoples' access to health insurance from private health insurance companies.

Having failed through normal channels of getting legislation passed, Republicans sided with conservative strategists who earlier

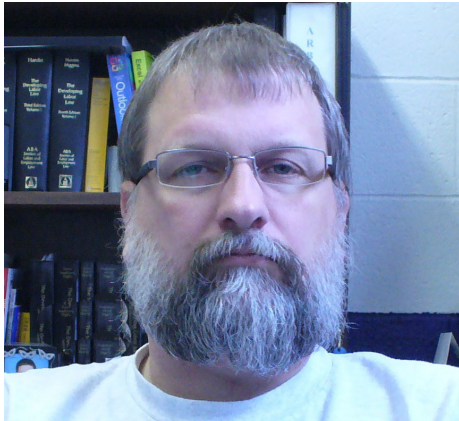
this year conceived a plan to shut down the federal government to force President Barack Obama to concede. Thank goodness the president has stood firm to this reckless behavior and refused to negotiate with these tactics.

To understand if these tactics are really what Republicans claim to be the new rule of the day, ask how Fox News would react if the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) decided that it would vote against a funding resolution for the government if the House Republican leadership did not pass the comprehensive immigration reform legislation passed early this year by the Senate. With America's

⇒ See ENOUGH, Page 3.

# My View

Kelly Ray Hugunin,  
Local Union Representative



## Brothers and Sisters:

First of all I want to congratulate Central Indiana Labor Council President Brett Voorhies and the Labor Council on a very successful inaugural Indy Laborfest. The turnout for the event was outstanding and surpassed expectations. The Laborfest replaced the long running Labor Day parade founded by former Labor Council President Bob Voorhies. Although the event was cut a little short by rain in the late afternoon no one's enthusiasm was dampened.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out to visit Local 1999's booth. I also want to thank the Local's Laborfest Committee who volunteered their time to man the local's booth, set up the night before the event and to help tear down that evening. Members of the committee were, Chuck Jones, Robert James, Vickie Burrus, Allen Johnson, Peggy Scotten, Greg Rippey, Duane Graham, Julie Heaton, Ed Johnson, Jason Campbell, Pam Presley, Jarvis Hagger, Frank Staples, and myself. I would also like to thank retiree Frank Kratoska for his help and use of his

truck to pick up Gatorade and haul it to Georgia St. Friday evening.

I would like to congratulate the memberships at Vertellus, Diamond Chain and Rexnord on the ratifications of their new contracts.

The three negotiations were "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." The temperament of each plants respective management negotiating committees was markedly different as well as their goals.

## "The Good"

The Vertellus negotiations were entered into with a good relationship between the Company and the Union. Both sides approached bargaining as a partnership and worked to address each sides issues in a manner that was not detrimental to the membership. Negotiations ended with a tentative agreement that both sides felt good about and with a unanimous committee recommendation. The agreement included 2.25% - 3.5% wage increases depending on Labor Level over three years, the addition of new higher paying Labor Levels, an increase to the Company 401K contributions and a 1% insurance increase per year with the wellness program. It was ratified 67-13.

## "The Bad"

We went into negotiations with the Diamond Chain Co. having a very strained relationship over the last three and a half years. It was at that time that the membership decided to enter into decisional bargaining with Diamond Chain after they gave the local notice of their intent to move the plant to Texas. The membership took concessions in wages, benefits, and contract language in order

to keep the plant and the jobs here in Indianapolis. That coupled with management at the plant that seemed intent on breaking the Union or at the very least weakening it meant for a very contentious round of bargaining.

The Company brought in Wayne Luce from Diamond's parent company Amsted to chair their committee and try to repair the damaged relationship. The Company was struggling with sales that had led to downsizing of the salaried staff and short workweeks for our members. After negotiating for more days than had originally been scheduled a tentative agreement was reached. With three quarters of the committee recommending it, the agreement was ratified 117-85. The new agreement included a \$1500 lump sum in the first year with \$0.50 increase each of the last two years and a higher increase for skilled trades. There was a partial freeze of the pension plan that came with increased 401K contributions from the Company.

## "The Ugly"

After the initial exchange of proposals with Rexnord things took a turn from what we were expecting. Management informed the Union that Rexnord CEO Todd Adams had told them that wages at the plant were 30% above the average wages for industry in the region. Rexnord needed a two tier pay scale and a wage freeze to bring them in line. Supposedly Todd Adams would move the plant out of state if he didn't get what he wanted. The sore spot was of course the fact that unlike Diamond Chain, Rexnord had been posting millions in profits. It wasn't the

⇒ See UGLY, Page 5.

**↔ENOUGH From Page 1.**

families taking to the streets asking Congress to take action, the CHC would be responding to the will and desires of millions of Americans. I am sure that Fox News' anchors would go ballistic over national parks being closed and held hostage to demands on immigration reform. Despite analysis from the Congressional Budget Office that passing the immigration act will lower the federal deficit and raise projections of future growth rates for America's economy, Fox News would insist the government cannot be hijacked by demands from a few members of Congress.

Yet, here we are. The House has held 42 votes to kill access to subsidies for private health insurance to America's middle-class families, refuses to fix our broken immigration system in a way that would cut the deficit and boost growth and is sticking to its strategy of closing the government to the people.

Their next move is to double down on threatening the fragile state of the economy by repudiating the word and honor of the United States of America. Around the globe, governments, companies and people hold U.S. Treasury notes, because at its founding, America pledged and made good on its word as a fledgling nation to honor its debts. China does not buy U.S. Treasury notes out of some nefarious motive as much as they understand that U.S. Treasury notes are better than gold in the current world economy. Our ability as a nation to have a government with the option of expanding our economy when needed and make investments in

our children's future rests on the bond of the full faith people have that America keeps its word. At the moment, it is what makes us the global leader. Even the thought of reversing the hard-earned legacy of our nation's 237-year history is to surrender our unique standing in the world. It would be equivalent to sending our nuclear arsenal to China and handing them the global mantle. The world economy would be thrown into disarray as central banks and governments rushed to devise another standard of security. Loan activity would halt because U.S. Treasury notes serve as rock solid collateral for so many transactions.

Clearly, this is not the way to run government. Creating crises that affects the functioning of the government and threatening to create a global economic crisis over the honor of America is not acceptable. If President Obama concedes to this type of strategy, then America will limp from one manufactured crisis to the next. Congress has a responsibility to pass a budget, and to pass legislation to ensure that America pay its debt. President Obama need not bargain anything to get Congress to do its job.

The current potential resolution is a Senate proposal to fund the government at a level below the amount originally proposed by Republican Rep. Paul Ryan for 2014 back when he took power of the House Budget Committee in 2011. Since 2010, the president has negotiated to give Republicans more than they initially requested in budget cuts. The federal deficit is now half the size it was relative to the size of the economy in

2009. And the deficit is projected to continue to fall as a slice of the economy below the targets set by the Supercommittee that initiated the sequestration cuts.

All this has been the wrong set of policies. The economy is still not recovering from the Great Recession of five years ago: employment is still below its 2007 level, median family incomes are still thousands below their peak and more of America's children struggle in poverty. Fixating on the deficit is ruining our economy. It is now reckless to engage in further cuts to our children's education and risk America's future with inadequate investments in our roads and bridges, and research in science and health, because it is precisely now we need to concentrate on getting people back to work and improving the prospects for continued American growth and prosperity.

It also would be wrong for President Obama to trade our earned benefits from Social Security and Medicare to satisfy the demands of Republicans for low taxes for the richest Americans, many of whom benefited from the bailout of the corrupted banking system. The lesson of this downturn is that America's families are underinsured for the ups and downs of the economy. Scaring older people and stealing benefits from our children, who will bear the brunt of the cuts, is not going to make America's economy stronger. Continuing a path of growth too slow to generate jobs and cutting off our children's future is a poor legacy to leave.

Enough is enough.







**Charles J. Jones**  
President USW - Local 1999

**Robert James**  
Vice - President USW - Local 1999

## **SHEET OF SHAME**

**The following have made the choice to be  
FREE LOADERS  
THEY ARE ALL SCABS**

DAVID BAKER – A.S.C.	CHARLES SHORT – ALEX. IND.
BOB BRATTAIN – CENVEO	MICHAEL SOMMERS – ALEX. IND.
STEVE PATTINGILL – CENVEO	TERRY WALKER – ALEX. IND.
JAMIE CRUM – RSR QUEMETCO	WILLIE WILSON – ALEX. IND.
DENNIS LEWIS – CENVEO	BRIAN HACKERED – DIAM CHAIN
GARY TACKETT – CENVEO	ALAN HICKS – DIAM CHAIN
MARK HOLLAND – CENVEO	DEREK JOHNSON – DIAM CHAIN
FREDDY COOK – CENVEO	GARY MATTINGLY – DIAM CHAIN
JERRY TYLER – CENVEO	LUIS ORTIZ – DIAM CHAIN
STANLEY NIX – PEPSICO	SCOTT SHEEKS – DIAM CHAIN
JAMES GREEN – PEPSICO	EDGUR SUBRIS – DIAM CHAIN
COREY BERNSTEIN – COLORS	MATT TOWNSEND – DIAM CHAIN
MELISSA BERNSTEIN – COLORS	ERNEST WATERMAN – DIAM CHAIN
MICHAEL BOHANNON – ALEX. IND.	TODD WAGONER – DIAM CHAIN
ROBERT COLE – ALEX.IND.	CHESTER BOHANNON – COLORS
ROOSEVELT GILBERT – ALEX.IND.	LINDA BOHANNON – COLORS
JEFFERY GREG – ALEX. IND.	KATIE GILLIN – COLORS
JEFFERY HARRISON – ALEX. IND.	BYRON MONDAY – COLORS
JAMES HASTINGS – ALEX. IND.	SHARON SLAYTON – COLORS
EDDIE HILL – ALEX. IND.	JESSICA STEPHENS – COLORS
ROBERT IVY – ALEX. IND.	DAROL THOMAS – COLORS
WILLIE JONES, JR. – ALEX. IND.	JON TRUETT – COLORS
ANTHONY KING – ALEX. IND.	MONTE ERIC WALKER – COLORS
CHARLES McCOY – ALEX. IND.	
ROY MORTON – ALEX. IND.	
MARTEL RICHARDSON – ALEX. IND.	

**THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO MORALS!**

*Chuck*



# Sheet of Shame – Justified

Chuck Jones, President

As many of you may know, with the new Right to Work Law enacted Union Members now have to deal with scabs in the work place. But what you may not know is that I created a Sheet of Shame. This is a list of people within our local that have chose not to pay union dues, but instead freeloading off of the loyal dues paying members, therefore having no morals. After making the Sheet of Shame public one of these freeloading scabs decided to file Labor Board charges against the local because they felt offended by these words.

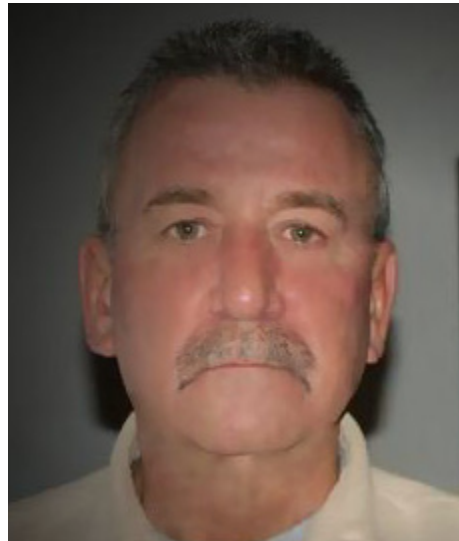
**Scab** – a worker who refuses to join a union (2): a union member who refuses to strike or returns to work before a strike has ended (3): a worker who accepts employment or replaces a union worker during a strike

**Freeloader** – to impose upon another's generosity or hospitality without sharing in the cost or responsibility involved

**Morals** – proper ideas and beliefs about how to behave in a way that is considered right and good by most

people

The National Labor Relations Board has made a ruling on these charges, Regional Director, Rik Lineback wrote the decision as follows: Quote "We have carefully investigated and considered your charge that



United Steelworkers Local 1999 has violated the National Labor Relations Act. Based on that investigation, I have decided to dismiss your charge for the reasons discussed below. Your charge alleges that the Union coerced, harassed and discriminated against employees because they refrained from engaging in union

activities. The investigation revealed that the Union posted a "Sheet of Shame" listing the names of employees not paying union dues and referred to such employees as scabs, free-loaders and as having no morals. Court and Board precedent have held that a union's use of the word 'scab' is protected under federal law. See Letter Carriers v. Austin, 418 U.S.264 (1974). Federal law gives a union license to use intemperate, abusive, or insulting language without fear of restraint or penalty if it believes such rhetoric to be an effective means to make its point. Id. At 283. In the absence of evidence that the Union here made specific threats against you or evidence that it has threatened to not represent you, there is insufficient evidence of a violation of the Act."

In lieu of this decision we will continue to post and make public the Sheet of Shame. Because it is not fair to the dues paying members to have to carry the load for the freeloading scabs that want all the benefits of having a Union but don't feel that they have any moral obligation to pay their fair share. □

## ↳ UGLY From Page 2.

fact that they needed lower wages to stay in business, they just wanted it so they could profit more. Simply put: Corporate Greed!

Over Fourteen days of negotiations, the Company held strong in their resolve for two tier wages and a wage freeze. It wasn't until their final pass any wage increase was

offered by the Company. I believe this was due to the strong message the membership sent to the Company that they would not accept a wage freeze.

The agreement included a 2% wage increase each year (2 year agreement), two tier wages, a total freeze of the pension with all members receiving the Personal Retirement Account Contribution

from the Company. Modifications were made to the insurance plan to include a wellness program that results in a decrease to the employee contributions for healthcare. In the end the membership ratified the agreement 162-113.

Some will say we should have called the Company's bluff, if it was a bluff. Only time will tell, but we are here to fight another day. □











# Add It Up: The Average American Family Pays \$6,000 a Year in Subsidies to Big Business

Paul Buchheit

\$6,000.

That's over and above our payments to the big companies for energy and food and housing and health care and all our tech devices. It's \$6,000 that no family would have to pay if we truly lived in a competitive but well-regulated free-market economy.

The \$6,000 figure is an average, which means that low-income families are paying less. But it also means that families (households) making over \$72,000 are paying more than \$6,000 to the corporations.

## 1. \$870 for Direct Subsidies and Grants to Companies

The Cato Institute estimates that the U.S. federal government spends \$100 billion a year on corporate welfare. That's an average of \$870 for each one of America's 115 million families. Cato notes that this includes "cash payments to farmers and research funds to high-tech companies, as well as indirect subsidies, such as funding for overseas promotion of specific U.S. products and industries...It does not include tax preferences or trade restrictions."

It does include payments to 374 individuals on the plush Upper East Side of New York City, and others who own farms, including Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, and Ted Turner. Wealthy heir Mark Rockefeller received \$342,000 to NOT farm, to allow his Idaho land to return to its natural state.

It also includes fossil fuel subsidies,

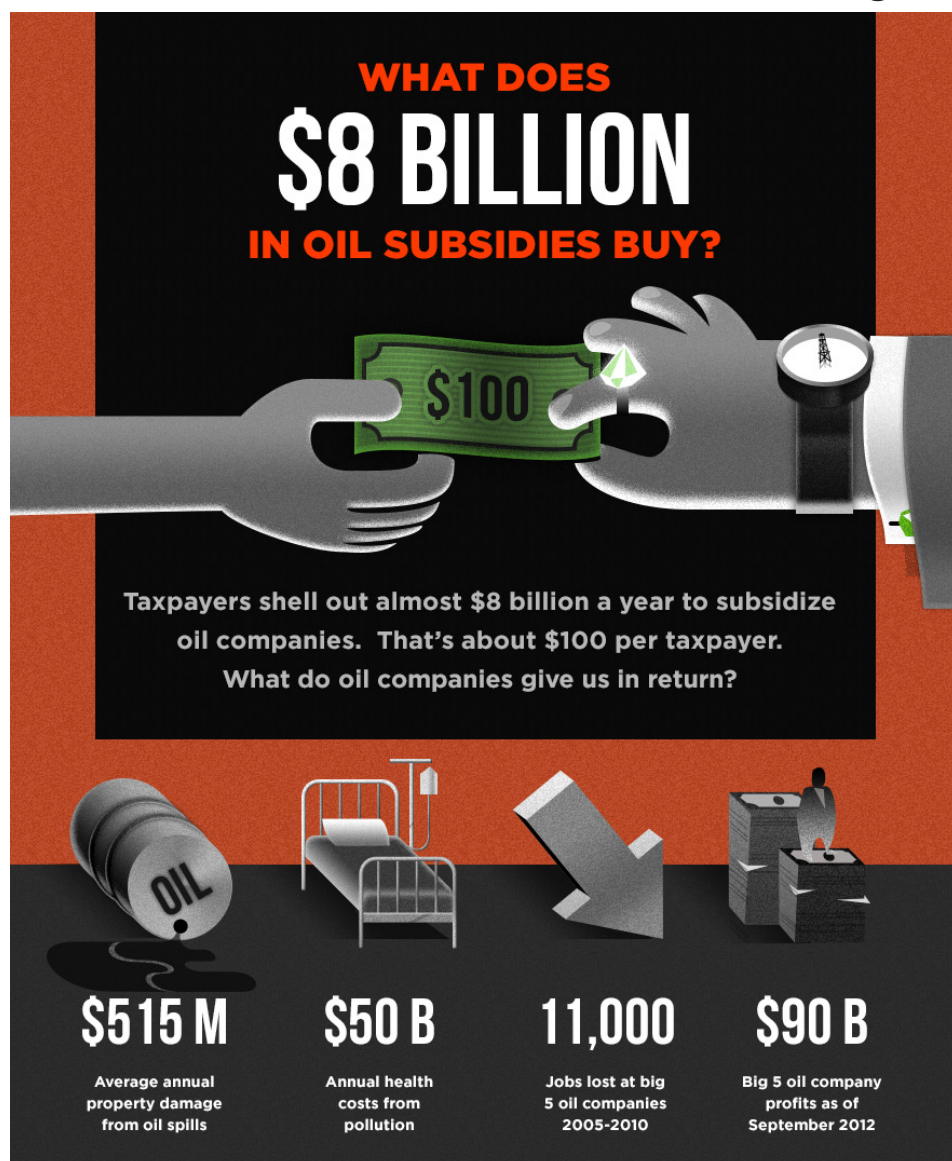
which could be anywhere from \$10 billion to \$41 billion per year for research and development. Yet this may be substantially underestimated. The IMF reports U.S. fossil fuel subsidies of \$502 billion, which would be almost \$4,400 per U.S. family by taking into account "the effects of energy consumption on global warming [and] on public health through the adverse effects on local pollution." According to Grist, even this is an underestimate.

## 2. \$696 for Business Incentives at the

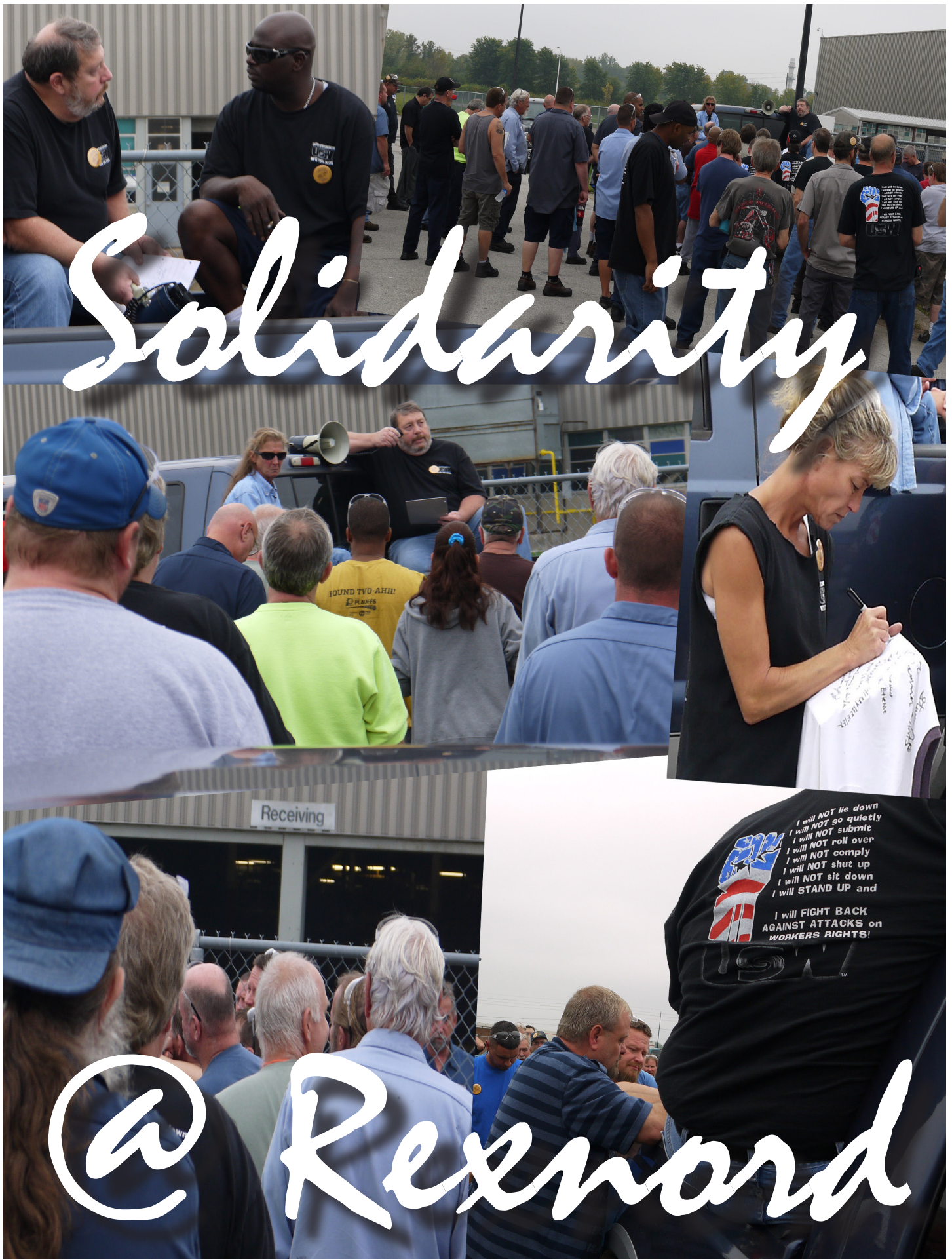
State, County, and City Levels

The subsidies mentioned above are federal subsidies. A New York Times investigation found that states, counties and cities give up over \$80 billion each year to companies, with beneficiaries coming from "virtually every corner of the corporate world, encompassing oil and coal conglomerates, technology and entertainment companies, banks and big-box retail chains."

⇒ See PAYS, Page 10.









## ↩ PAYS From Page 8.

\$80 billion a year is \$696 for every U.S. family. But the Times notes that "The cost of the awards is certainly far higher."

### 3. \$722 for Interest Rate Subsidies for Banks

According to the Huffington Post, the "U.S. Government Essentially Gives The Banks 3 Cents Of Every Tax Dollar." They cite research that calculates a nearly 1 percent benefit to banks when they borrow, through bonds and customer deposits and other liabilities. This amounts to a taxpayer subsidy of \$83 billion, or about \$722 from every American family.

The wealthiest five banks — JPMorgan, Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., Wells Fargo & Co. and Goldman Sachs — account for three-quarters of the total subsidy. The Huffington Post article notes that without the taxpayer subsidy, those banks would not make a profit. In other words, "the profits they report are essentially transfers from taxpayers to their shareholders."

### 4. \$350 for Retirement Fund Bank Fees

This was a tough one to calculate. Demos reports that over a lifetime, bank fees can "cost a median-income two-earner family nearly \$155,000 and consume nearly one-third of their investment returns." Fees are well over one percent a year.

However, the Economic Policy Institute notes that the average middle-quintile retirement account is \$34,981. A conservative one percent annual management fee translates to about \$350 per family. This, again,

is an average; many families have no retirement account. But many families pay much more than 1% in annual fees.

### 5. \$1,268 for Overpriced Medications

According to Dean Baker, "government granted patent monopolies raise the price of prescription drugs by close to \$270 billion a year compared to the free market price." This represents an astonishing annual cost of over \$2,000 to an average American family.

OECD figures on pharmaceutical expenditures reveal that Americans spend almost twice the OECD average on drugs, an additional \$460 per capita. This translates to \$1,268 per household.

### 6. \$870 for Corporate Tax Subsidies

We've heard a lot about tax avoidance and tax breaks for the super-rich. With regard to corporations alone, the Tax Foundation has concluded that their "special tax provisions" cost taxpayers over \$100 billion per year, or \$870 per family. Corporate benefits include items such as Graduated Corporate Income, Inventory Property Sales, Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, Accelerated Depreciation, and Deferred taxes.

Once again, it may be even worse. Citizens for Tax Justice cite a Government Accountability Office report that calculated a loss to the Treasury of \$181 billion from corporate tax expenditures. That would be almost \$1,600 per family.

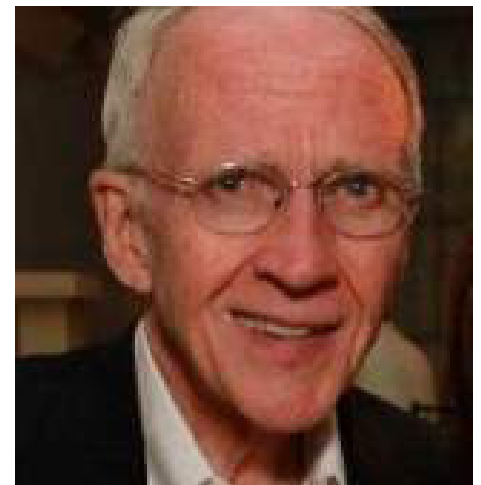
### 7. \$1,231 for Revenue Losses from Corporate Tax Havens

U.S. PIRG recently reported that the average 2012 taxpayer paid an extra \$1,026 in taxes to make up for the revenue lost from offshore tax havens by corporations and wealthy individuals. With 138 million taxpayers (1.2 per household), that comes to \$1,231 per household.

### Much More Than an Insult

Overall, American families are paying an annual \$6,000 subsidy to corporations that have doubled their profits and cut their taxes in half in ten years while cutting 2.9 million jobs in the U.S. and adding almost as many jobs overseas.

This is more than an insult. It's a devastating attack on the livelihoods of tens of millions of American families. And Congress just lets it happen. ☐



Paul Buchheit teaches economic inequality at DePaul University. He is the founder and developer of the Web sites UsAgainstGreed.org, PayUpNow.org and RappingHistory.org, and the editor and main author of "American Wars: Illusions and Realities" (Clarity Press).



# 2014

## UAW UNION-BUILT VEHICLES LIST

### UAW CARS

BUICK LACROSSE  
 BUICK VERANO  
 CADILLAC ATS  
 CADILLAC CTS  
 CADILLAC ELR (ELECTRIC)  
 CHEVROLET CORVETTE  
 CHEVROLET CRUZE  
 CHEVROLET CRUZE (DIESEL)  
 CHEVROLET IMPALA  
 CHEVROLET IMPALA (POLICE)  
 CHEVROLET MALIBU  
 CHEVROLET SONIC  
 CHEVROLET VOLT  
 CHRYSLER 200  
 CHRYSLER 200 CONVERTIBLE  
 DODGE AVENGER  
 DODGE DART  
 FORD C-MAX (FULL HYBRID/  
 ELECTRIC)  
 FORD FOCUS  
 FORD FOCUS (ELECTRIC)  
 FORD FUSION\*  
 (GAS-POWERED ONLY)  
 FORD MUSTANG  
 FORD TAURUS  
 LINCOLN MKS  
 SRT VIPER

### UAW TRUCKS

CHEVROLET SILVERADO\*\*  
 FORD F SERIES  
 GMC SIERRA\*\*  
 RAM 1500\*

### UAW VANS

CHEVROLET EXPRESS  
 FORD E SERIES  
 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT  
 GMC SAVANA

### UAW SUVs/CUVs

BUICK ENCLAVE  
 CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV  
 CADILLAC ESCALADE/HYBRID  
 CHEVROLET EQUINOX  
 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN  
 CHEVROLET TAHOE  
 CHEVROLET TAHOE (POLICE)  
 CHEVROLET TAHOE  
 (SPECIAL SERVICE)  
 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE  
 DODGE DURANGO  
 FORD ESCAPE  
 FORD EXPEDITION  
 FORD EXPLORER  
 GMC ACADIA  
 GMC YUKON/HYBRID  
 GMC YUKON XL  
 JEEP CHEROKEE  
 JEEP COMPASS  
 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE  
 JEEP PATRIOT  
 JEEP WRANGLER  
 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR  
 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT

### UNIFOR SUVs/CUVs

CHEVROLET EQUINOX  
 FORD EDGE  
 FORD FLEX  
 GMC TERRAIN  
 LINCOLN MKT  
 LINCOLN MKX



TONY HUFFORD/UAW LOCAL 5960

### UNIFOR CARS

BUICK REGAL  
 CADILLAC XTS  
 CHEVROLET CAMARO  
 CHEVROLET IMPALA  
 CHRYSLER 300  
 DODGE CHALLENGER  
 DODGE CHARGER



### UNIFOR VANS

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY  
 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

*These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.*

*However, those marked with an asterisk (\*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty, 1500 crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) are manufactured in the United States and Mexico.*

*When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.*

*Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.*

# 'We Want to Work': 12 Federal Jobs That Are Vital to the Lives of America's Families

Kenneth Quinnell

Johnny Zuagar just wants to go back to work. It's been 72 hours since he's been locked out of his job at the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, Md., and he's scared.

"I don't know what bills to pay," says Zuagar, who has two young children. "I'm afraid I might lose my house. I don't know how it got to this."

Zuagar and 800,000 federal workers all over the United States are locked out of their jobs because of the House Republican government shutdown. While most people think that the shutdown is focused on Washington, D.C., the reality is that about 85% of federal workers don't work in the Washington area. In fact, the D.C. metro area is only the fourth largest concentration of federal workers (see a map of where federal workers are).

Here are 12 examples of workers, some of whom are still working, are going without paychecks because of the irresponsible House Republican shutdown.

1. Washington, D.C., Capitol Police: The officers who responded to the tragic incident near the U.S. Capitol on Thursday are currently working without pay. Whenever the shutdown ends, they'll receive pay for time worked, but they don't know when their next check will arrive.

2. Wyoming Nuclear Missile Support Staff: More than 1,000 support staff at a base that houses Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles were furloughed. While people who directly work in national security-related jobs stayed working, others, like map technician Thomas Sweet-

ney, were sent home. The absence of Sweetney and others isn't as benign as some members of Congress would have you believe: "As for civilians who work for the (Defense Department) and support our national security, furloughs and pay freezes are equally serious and threatening to our national security, especially at a time of war," American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger said.

3. Florida Air Safety: Jennifer Martin is a member of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) and computer specialist with the Federal Aviation Administration in Melbourne, Fla. Martin develops and maintains software applications to monitor equipment like air-to-ground

⇒ See **WORK**, Page 13.



**WORK From Page 12.**

and ground-to-ground communications and surveillance. She and her co-workers, who include aviation safety inspectors, are dedicated federal employees who want to return to their jobs where they can "serve the nation, and provide for our families." Martin says while they are locked out of their jobs, the safety of flying public may be at risk.

4. Missouri Mortgage Assistance for Rural Homeowners: Nicole Starr, a single mother of three, was locked out from her job helping low-income rural homeowners pay their mortgages. She says she's very proud of the job she has helping people. "Now I'm in the same position as the people I help," she says. "I feel like I am watching our community fall apart."

5. New York Toxic Waste Cleanup: The Environmental Protection Agency was scheduled to begin the process of helping residents near the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site move to homes that are uncontaminated with asbestos, PCBs, lead and chromium—hazards they currently live with—but the shutdown has stopped the process. The local community involvement coordinator Mike Basile says he doesn't know when things will move forward. "I don't know. I can't find out because it's so chaotic today."

6. Montana Native American Programs: Leaders of the Crow Tribe laid off hundreds of workers who perform home health care for the elderly and people with disabilities, bus service for rural areas and other projects. "It's going to get hard," says Shar Simpson, who leads the Crow's home health care program. "We're already taking calls from people saying, 'Who's going to take care of my

mom? Who's going to take care of my dad?'"

7. Illinois Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Agencies: The state's Department of Human Services has enough money to fund WIC for about two weeks, after that, it won't be able to afford to buy baby formula that it provides to more than 600 single mothers.

8. Idaho Missing Woman Search: Jo Elliott-Blakeslee, 63, was missing at Craters of the Moon National Monument and the search was temporarily called off after furloughs set in. Law prohibits federal government employees from volunteering for the search, since it would be unfunded work, so the remaining monument staff are trying to recruit capable volunteers from outside their office.

9. National Labor Relations Board: Lynn Rhinehart, general counsel of the AFL-CIO, says the NLRB, the government agency that helps protect workers' rights, cannot process unfair labor practice charges or hold elections. There are no hearings taking place when employers violate work-

ers' rights. And workers who were scheduled to vote in elections about getting a union on the job are having those elections pushed off. "Basically," says Rhinehart, "there is no labor law right now."

10. South Dakota National Guard: The majority of the National Guard employees in South Dakota have been laid off, which spokesman Maj. Anthony Deiss says will hurt their ability to maintain vehicles, aircraft, and other equipment, and could impact training for regular guard members.

11. California air disaster investigations: The National Transportation Safety Board suspended its investigation into the crash of a private jet in Santa Monica that killed four people.

12. Minnesota Social Security Offices: Offices are closed and residents like Jeff Williams can't get new or replacement Social Security cards or proof of income letters. "I can't shut down and not take care of this little one," he says, referring to his daughter. "I mean, they're the government. They're supposed to be taking care of us." □





## Unit 09

### RSR Quemetco

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here at RSR things are going well. The Company is hiring and work is steady. In some departments there is plenty of overtime.

We made it through our summer of change because we have an outstanding workforce that gets the job done. I'm proud to represent such a diverse & effective group. We have only 1 active grievance that will be settled soon stay tuned for details

In Solidarity,  
Derrick Morris  
Unit President

## Unit 10

### Sumco

Brothers and Sisters

Here at Sumco we are about three and a half months from a new collective bargaining agreement. Business is good with massive amounts of overtime, both daily and weekend.

We had two old jobs added back into inspection on first and third shifts.

New people with less than five years seniority are moving into the union ranks. Darren and myself would like to welcome: Brad Moon, Larry Mintze, Travis Hanger and a fifteen year employee Cheri Garner.

In Solidarity,  
Leo Hedden  
Unit President

## Unit 13

### Diamond Chain

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I first want to say thank you for the best turn out for a contract ratification vote ever, here at Diamond Chain. That shows that the USW members are concerned about their future. I want to thank all the members who came out to the rallies. It was inspiring to see that many members backing up the committee. I am truly proud of our membership that I serve.

I want to thank the negotiating committee for a tremendous job and the long days that went into the process. They are Jim Pennington, Chuck Davis and Gary Davis. Most days we were there by 7 a.m. and most days didn't get out until after 6 p.m. The last day, we finished up around 11:30 p.m.

I want to thank the tellers who volunteered for the voting process last Friday. We were at the Union Hall at 5:30a.m. and didn't leave until around 7 p.m. They are Debbie Lively, Leisa Lawrence and Mark Brada. It was a flawless day do to the hard work and attentiveness from those three.

Last, but not least, there were a few key individuals inside the plant throughout the entire process from start to finish that were very instrumental in making sure that information got into the plant as far as rally days and meetings at the Union Hall. I want to thank those of you who took that responsibility. I never had to worry about a thing.

Now that it is over, maybe things will settle down some and get back to

normal. I want to tell everyone that even though the vote may not have gone your way, at the end of the day, we have it. Let's begin the process of acceptance and continue to have the solidarity that we have shown we do over the last couple of months.

I am proud to be USW president serving the members of Diamond Chain. Please make sure you completely read the new language and ask questions if you don't understand something.

In Solidarity,  
Mike Hensley  
Unit President

## Unit 27

### Air System Components

Brothers and Sisters,

I do not have a lot to report on at the moment. Business seems to be about the same as usual. We have had some grievances filed that relate to temp transfers and insurance. We are still going through the process and the company wants to have some more discussions about the issues. I will keep everyone informed about the issues as we move on. We have a new member, everyone make sure and welcome Joe Glasson into our Union.

In Solidarity,  
Dustin Martin  
Unit President

## Unit 32 Cenveo Envelope

Brothers and Sisters,

Our business is doing extremely well right now. It has actually been fairly difficult to keep up with customer demands. We've been working a lot of Saturdays to try to maintain the workload.

Cenveo recently bought National Envelope for \$20 Million a \$5 million dollars in stock. We acquired 8 new plants with the sale, 3 of which are USW plants. We were worried that our plant here in Indy would be affected by consolidations from the sale, but it seems that it won't be an issue.

We are only short two employees and should see some hiring for those positions in a few weeks.

Our grievance load is a little heavy at the moment. We recently started some new programs to try to boost the morale of all the members. We started our own Facebook page to communicate with the members and a canned food project that is associated with a raffle drawing for everyone who brings something in. We hope that the business will maintain through winter.

In Solidarity,  
Jason Campbell  
Unit President

Jane Hazlett  
Unit Vice President

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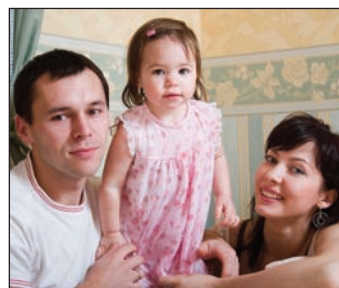
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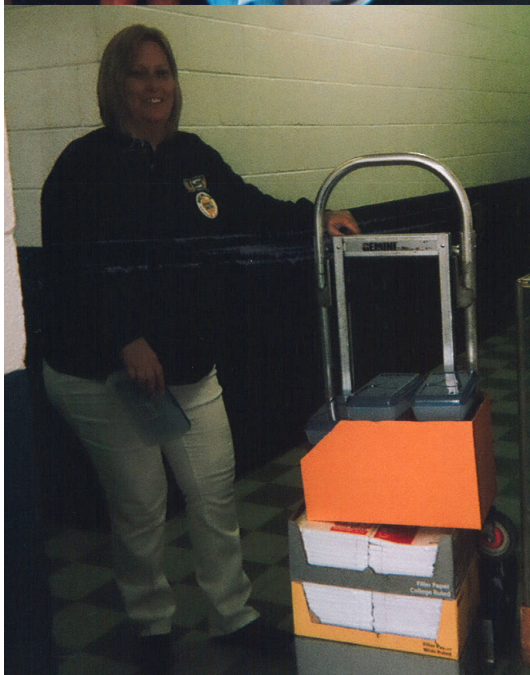
Take the first step: Complete Your Retirement Road Map and receive your action plan by visiting:

# UnionPlusRetirement.org





The Local 1999 Women of Steel Committee would like to thank everyone who made donations to this years Backpack Drive.





# Texas Fertilizer Co. Cited for Safety Violations in Blast that Killed 15

Mike Hall

The company that operated the West, Texas, fertilizer plant where 30 tons of highly explosive ammonia nitrate—stored in wooden sheds without sprinkler systems and near other combustible material—caught fire, exploded and killed 15 people, including 10 firefighters, in April was cited for two dozen serious safety violations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

OSHA issued the citations Wednesday but, because of the Republican government shutdown, the agency was unable to announce the action. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, announced the safety violations Thursday.

Among other violations, West Fertilizer Co. was cited for unsafe handling and storage of the anhydrous ammonia and ammonia nitrate that exploded and leveled large parts of the

town of West. The company also was cited for not having an emergency response plan. OSHA is proposing fines totaling \$118,300.

But investigators have not been able to determine what sparked the explosion of the highly volatile fertilizer. They suspect a problem with one of the plant's electrical systems, a battery-powered golf cart or a criminal act. A state criminal investigation remains open.

Also after the blast, it was revealed that the plant had not been inspected by OSHA since 1985.

Storage of ammonia nitrate is regulated by a "patchwork" of state and federal standards with "many holes," the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) told a Senate hearing earlier this year.

Eleven years ago, the CSB urged

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—which hasn't updated its rules on ammonia nitrate since 1997—to adopt its safety recommendations for storage, handling and use of the chemical.

In August, President Barack Obama issued an executive order for federal agencies, including OSHA and the EPA, to develop new rules to address the handling and storage of industrial chemicals, such as the ammonia nitrate fertilizer in the Texas explosion. Those rules were due by Nov. 1 but, because of the Republican government shutdown, they are likely to be delayed.

Thousands of facilities around the nation store large amounts of ammonia nitrate, especially in rural areas. That's why new rules are desperately needed, said Boxer. □



# Peabody, Patriot Settle with UMWA on Retiree Health Care

Mike Hall

After nearly a year of protests, rallies, marches and court battles demanding "Fairness at Patriot," a settlement has been reached that will help cover future health care benefits for the retired coal miners affected by the bankruptcy of Patriot Coal.

said: "This is a significant amount of money that will help maintain health care for thousands of retirees who earned those benefits through years of labor in America's coal mines. This settlement will also help Patriot emerge from bankruptcy and con-

proceedings.

As part of the recent settlement, the union agreed to halt its months-long public relations and direct action effort related to Peabody in St. Louis and elsewhere regarding the effects of the Patriot Coal bankruptcy. Miners and their allies had held several huge marches and rallies at Peabody's St. Louis headquarters and elsewhere.

Several thousand of Patriot retirees worked for Magnum Coal, a subsidiary of Arch Coal that Patriot acquired in 2008. Arch Coal, like Peabody, was accused of ducking its health care and other obligations of those miners by transferring them to the subsidiary. Arch Coal has yet to settle with the union, and Roberts said: "Arch still can step up and meet its obligation to these retirees. We will continue to encourage them to do so in the coming days."

Roberts said while the settlement with Peabody and Patriot is significant, it does not provide the level of funding needed to maintain health care for these retirees forever. "That is why we are continuing our efforts to pass bipartisan legislation in Congress that will put these retirees under the Coal Act, meaning their long-term health care benefits would be secured at no additional cost to taxpayers."

H.R. 2918, introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-W.Va.), has 24 co-sponsors from both parties; and S. 468, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), has six co-sponsors. □



The Mine Workers (UMWA) yesterday announced that it had reached a global settlement with Peabody Energy and Patriot that will provide more than \$400 million to fund retiree health care costs through the Patriot Retirees Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA). Peabody will pay \$310 million over four years while Patriot will provide the remainder through payments and production-based royalties.

UMWA President Cecil E. Roberts

continue to provide jobs for our members and thousands of others in West Virginia and Kentucky."

Patriot Coal was spun off from Peabody in 2007, and Peabody transferred the health care and other obligations of the former Peabody miners and retirees to Patriot. Patriot filed for bankruptcy in July 2012. In August, the UMWA reached a settlement with Patriot that restored many of the wage and benefit cuts Patriot instituted as part of its bankruptcy



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