

STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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Lessons from 20 Years of NAFTA

Stan Sorscher

The NAFTA model has failed.

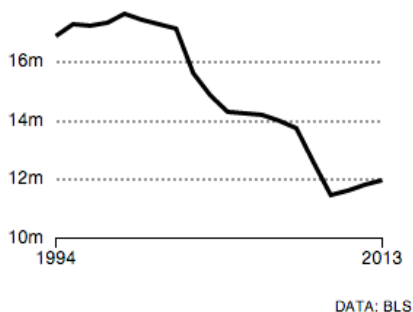
When NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) took effect 20 years ago, we were promised mutual gain.

To be clear, everyone I know wants good trade policies that raise living standards at home and abroad. The question is not trade versus protectionism. It's good trade policy versus bad trade policy.

NAFTA and numerous subsequent trade deals perform very well for investors and global businesses, while leaving most workers and communities at a disadvantage.

Since NAFTA, our trade deficits totaled over \$8 trillion. We've lost millions of good manufacturing jobs and de-industrialized our economy.

U.S. Manufacturing Jobs



Workers have lost bargaining power and wages stagnated. We see more part-time precarious work and a decline in job security. Walmart is the dominant domestic employer, becoming the face of new 21st century jobs. Inequality is arguably the defining challenge of our time.

We did trade wrong.

We could have had a good trade policy that increased trade and raised living standards. We could export more soybeans, airplanes and software and protect the environment around the world. We could have low-cost goods and

encourage democracy, respect for human rights and improved working conditions.

The "deal" in a trade agreement is that other countries want access to our markets—to sell their products to us. We expect something of value in return. We could have asked for very basic enforceable labor protections: no child labor, no slave labor, the right to organize and protections from discrimination. We did not.

We could have asked for basic

⇒ See NAFTA Page 3.

My View

Kelly Ray Hugunin,
Local Union Representative



Brothers and Sisters:

In November the election for our International Officers was held. The only contested race for us to vote on was for District 7 Director between the incumbent Jim Robinson and Sub District 5 Director Mike Millsap.

For Local 1999 the election was conducted by mail in ballots. Every dues paying member should have received a ballot mailed from the International in Pittsburgh. To me this was one of the easiest ways that our members could have voted. It would appear that I was mistaken.

Out of approximately 2800 members eligible to vote only 174 ballots were received back to the Local be tallied. That is a little over 6% of the membership that returned their ballots. Is the membership of this local that disengaged that they do not care who is elected to the upper leadership of this union?

The District Director sits on the International Executive Board which directs the affairs of the International Union in accordance with the Constitution and policies of the

International Union. The Executive Board manages, invests and expends to the funds and property of the International Union. In other words the board is in charge of managing the union and deciding how and where the union's funds will be spent in accordance with the International Constitution. Because of this I feel that who we elect as our District Director is very important and all members of our union should make sure that they have their say in who is elected. It is just too important to let someone else decide for you.

I know that some members made an issue of the fact that the return envelopes for the ballots did not have return postage on them. That meant that members had to put postage them themselves. Now in my opinion there should not have been any cost to our members to vote in this election. It is also my opinion that the cost of forty six cents for a postage stamp should not have been a factor in my decision to vote. If forty six cents was going to break me I wasn't going to make it anyway. If that was your excuse for not voting I think it was a poor excuse.

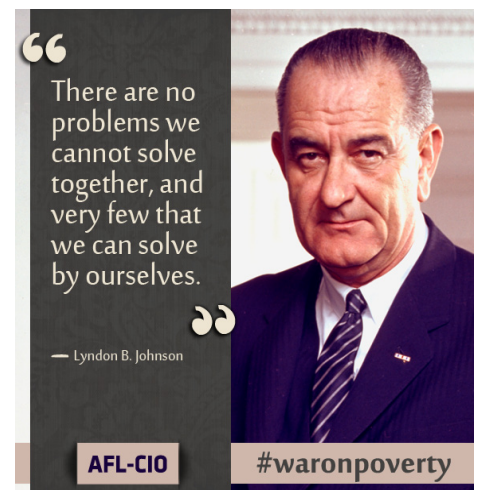
Mike Millsap is the unofficial winner of the election. The International Tellers are in the process of investigating the election protests that were submitted to them. This is part of the process that the Tellers go through to certify the election results. The Tellers will issue their report in February with the official results.

I would like to congratulate Brett Voorhies on his election to President of the Indiana AFL-CIO. Brett is a member of Local 1999. He has been on staff for the Steelworkers for many years serving as Rapid Response and Political Coordinator for District 7. Brett will be stepping down as

President of the Indiana Central Labor Council to devote his time to his new duties. Brett led the way to establish a successful political program for the Labor Council and was instrumental in developing and organizing the Indianapolis Laborfest last year.

I would also like to thank outgoing Indiana AFL-CIO President Nancy Guyott for her service. Nancy, also a member of Local 1999, worked hard and put in countless hours for the benefit of the working men and women of Indiana. During her term as President she was a fixture at the Indiana State House lobbying on labor issues anytime that the legislature was in session.

I will be conducting grievance training at the Union Hall on Wednesday, February 26th and Saturday, March 1st. There will be two training sessions on the 26th at 12:30pm and at 5:00pm. There will be one training session on March 1st starting at 12:00pm. The training sessions will last approximately three hours. All members of Local 1999 are welcome to attend the training. Everyone who completes the training will receive a certificate of completion. Since I will need to know how many are attending so I can have materials prepared for everyone, please RSVP by calling the hall at 317-639-1479. □



↳ NAFTA From Page 1.

enforceable environmental protections for forests, clean air and clean water. We did not.

We could have insisted on access to medicines, food security, sanctions against currency manipulators, internet freedom and prudent financial regulations to prevent extraordinary damage from repeated financial market failures. We did the opposite.

Let's step back.

Our Constitution grants extensive political and social protections to people and communities. The Constitution never mentions corporations—not once. It has its flaws, but at its core, the Constitution balances political power. Our courts balance public interests with private property interests.

Trade agreements take the opposite approach to global governance. These deals look like a corporate Bill of Rights, full of protections for global investors and corporations, enforced by special courts or tribunals. The shadowy trade tribunals are fundamentally different from courts and legal principles we expect in modern democracies. They are completely one-sided—favorable to global corporations but closed to citizens. Trade tribunals seek maximum possible trade and maximum opportunities for investors. They are indifferent to public good or public interest.

This looks more like the East India Company, which administered a century of corporate rule in India during an earlier age of globalization. The East India Company ran its

own courts under its own authority, for its own interests. That was great for British colonialists. Not so good for India.

Since NAFTA, tribunals have heard over 500 challenges to various national policies. Trade sanctions threaten public health policies approved by Australia's High Court and environmental decisions from courts in Canada and Ecuador. Trade sanctions can thwart actions of our own Congress and Supreme Court.

Last year, a trade ambassador predicted that trade deals would set the Gold Standard for global governance. They would facilitate the life of global business for a generation. These agreements would determine the way life is organized in 2050.

Trade agreements go far beyond tariffs and import duties. Trade deals are political, economic, social and moral documents. They define how we divide gains and how we determine winners and losers. They set rules at a global scale, bypassing the normal democratic processes that we used for generations to build a strong middle class in America.

Very soon, Congress will take up the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and a similar deal with Europe, known as TTIP. These two huge NAFTA-style trade deals will consolidate the failed NAFTA-style trade policy as a global standard. Collectively, trade deals define global power relationships

in manufacturing, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, public health, patents, Internet freedom, food safety, immigration, financial regulation, labor rights and environmental protection.

Those power relationships will determine how we divide future gains from productivity and trade. Those with dominant economic, political, social and moral power will extract gains for themselves, and those without power will be fortunate to cling to what they have. No wonder that inequality is the defining challenge of our time.

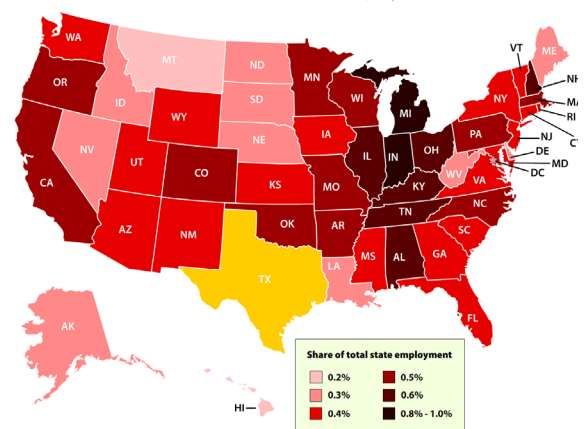
"Free trade" failed. It's not free—it will cost us our future.

It's not trade—it's about the power to divide gains.

It doesn't work—the historical trajectory from NAFTA to TPP to TTIP leads to a lesser America.

We can have a good trade policy. It will look a lot more like our Constitution than NAFTA.

Jobs displaced due to trade deficits with Mexico, 2010
(as a share of total state employment)



Indiana		
Total jobs displaced		
Net job change	Total employment	Share of total state employment in 2005-07
24,400	3,000,700	0.8%

Source: EPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, United States International Trade Commission, and Bureau of Labor Statistics data.



54th Annual Rexnord Gift Lift benefiting the children at Larue Carter Hospital.

Photos by Jeff Harris & Kelly Ray Hugunin

We Are the Union!

Chuck Jones, President

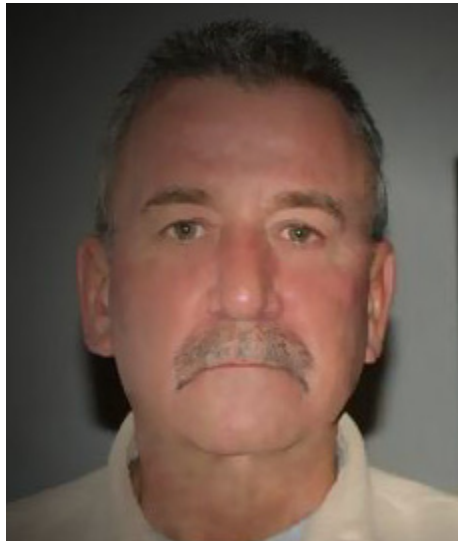
There have been letters written expressing our opinions and reactions to the choices that some of your fellow union brothers and sisters have made in opting not to pay union dues. With that being said, we have failed to acknowledge those of you that have made the right choice by supporting and standing with your union brothers and sisters.

We all know these companies did not just decide to give us the rights we have today. We had to bargain and fight for them internally at the facilities and in negotiations. Every dues paying member needs to be proud of the fact that they are union and that we stick together to make our workplace a better environment for all.

I just want to say thank you for the support you show for our union. You should be proud of what you have accomplished. The union is not a third party. We are the union. We are the ones who have control over our future and the environment we work in. We should always thank one

another any time an issue is resolved at work because it is the solidarity that we show that drives us forward to be successful so we may come out on top.

The Right to Work laws are there in order to try and break our Unions.



If unions weren't a powerful tool for the working men and women of this country, then why are certain politicians so bound and determined to destroy them? They think by making it possible for scabs to work in our

facilities that we will fight amongst ourselves until we eventually destroy everything we have. We will always have issues, but when we do think about the positive things we have acquired through solidarity, the things we enjoy everyday.

The relationship between a union and those it represents is the same as between a nation and it's citizens. Unions exist because employees see that dealing with an employer only as individuals ultimately puts each of us in a weaker position. So we make the decision to work together as a group, and to have our elected union representatives implement decisions on behalf of the group. Will you agree with every single decision made by your union? Not a chance. But just the same, you and every other represented employee in your workplace benefits overall from the group decisions and actions.

We are responsible for making our facility a better workplace!! We are Union! We are One! And we are Proud!

Extending Unemployment Benefits

Robert James, Vice President

Would someone please help me understand the political process? Why is it wrong to extend unemployment benefits? I don't see anything wrong with it. I just don't get it. People cannot find jobs. Extending unemployment benefits would be good for the people with families who are struggling. That would not only benefit them, but would also help to further benefit the economy by those who are spending to provide their needs.



It is sad to watch and listen to certain members of the Republican Party cry about extending unemployment benefits, saying that extending unemployment benefits will cause people to stop looking for a job, and it needs to be paid for so that it does not add to the national debt. I don't have a problem with it being paid for and I am quite sure a lot of

⇒ See **BENEFITS** Page 16.



Photos by Pam Presley

VOORHIES ELECTED INDIANA AFL-CIO PRESIDENT, BREEDLOVE RE-ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER

Following a vote of delegates to its state convention in Terre Haute, Dec. 2-4, Brett Voorhies was elected as the Indiana AFL-CIO's new president and Joe Breedlove was re-elected as secretary-treasurer. Brett is a member of Local 1999.

"As someone who grew up in this movement and spent my entire career working on its behalf, I'm humbled to be given this responsibility by my union brothers and sisters," said Voorhies, a member of the United Steelworkers Union. "I look forward to working with Secretary-Treasurer Breedlove, our affiliates and each and every one of our members to find new ways to strengthen this federation and to grow the voice of working people across this state."

Born and raised in a labor family, Voorhies started his career working on the shop floor at Rexnord/Link-Belt in Indianapolis. He served as shop steward, on numerous committees including the safety and legislative

committees. For the past 13 years he has been on staff working in various capacities for the United Steelworkers International Union. Most recently he has been the District 7 Rapid response Coordinator and Political Coordinator for Indiana and Illinois.

Additionally, Voorhies has served as the president of the Central Indiana Labor Council since 2011. Under his leadership, the organization increased its membership, posted record high voter turnout numbers amongst its members in 2012 and launched the popular Labor Fest Labor Day celebration in downtown Indianapolis.

"I'm humbled to be given this responsibility by my union brothers and sisters,"

Joe Breedlove, who was elected to his third term as secretary-treasurer, began his career as an apprentice

lineman in 1977 for the Boone County REMC. A member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 481, he studied as an apprentice, served as journeyman wireman, a foreman, as the business representative and referral agent before joining the Indiana State AFL-CIO. He is a graduate of Antioch University.

Along with Voorhies and Breedlove, 20 vice presidents were elected to serve on the Indiana AFL-CIO Executive Council. The four year terms began immediately.

Local 1999 delegates to the convention were Chuck Jones, Kelly Ray Hugunin, Robert James, Allen Johnson, Peggy Scotten, Vickie Burrus, Derrick Morris, Edwin Johnson, Pam Presley, Dustin Martin, Robbie Henderson and Don Zering. District 7 paid for the hotel accommodations and provided the local with \$500 per delegate to offset lost time. □



From Left: Brett Voorhies Indiana Afl-CIO President and Joe Breedlove Indiana AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer

Photos by Pam Presley

Workers At Warehouse Used For Wal-Mart Goods Share \$4.68m In Class Action Settlement

MIRA LOMA, Calif. (PAI)—Some 568 workers who toiled in a Mira Loma, Calif., warehouse for Schneider Logistics, a subcontractor that handles Wal-Mart's goods, will share in a \$4.68 million class action settlement of their claims for unpaid wages for meal times, break times and denied overtime, a federal judge ruled on Dec. 4.

U.S. District Judge Christina Snyder decided that Schneider, the warehouse owner, will pay the workers \$3.03 million. The rest goes to attorney's fees and to reimburse California for its probes into the wage-and-hour violations at the warehouse.

"Over five years workers were shorted overtime and regular pay, they were denied rest breaks and meal breaks as required by the law and the company failed to keep accurate records or to provide itemized wage statements," said Warehouse Workers United, the union-supported organization of warehouse workers nationwide that handled the case. The settlement also orders Schneider to obey the

federal law.

Schneider even forced workers to sign waivers promising not to complain about the shorted overtime meal and rest breaks. The settlement kills the waivers, too.

The Schneider case is the latest win for warehouse workers in their multi-state campaign to force Wal-Mart and its contractors to obey labor law, and provide decent wages and working conditions. The Wal-Mart workers' drive in turn is part of a larger nationwide effort by low-wage workers to achieve living wages and the right to organize.

Wal-Mart was not a part of this case, even though Schneider's warehouse complex exclusively handles goods for the retail mega-monster, known for its low wages, lousy benefits and rampant labor law-breaking. Wal-Mart itself has had to repay thousands of store workers for unpaid overtime and break time in many states.

And the retailer is not out of the

woods yet with its warehouse workers. A federal judge handling a pending case against Wal-Mart involving another California complex ruled in Jan. 2013 Wal-Mart is a joint employer there and can be liable for violations.

"The brave workers who came forward to expose a deep pattern of abuse and fraud in Wal-Mart's contracted facility risked their jobs and their livelihoods, but today they are vindicated," said Warehouse Workers United Director Guadalupe Palma.

"Like courageous warehouse workers across Southern California's Inland Empire ...plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit helped end a years-long practice by Schneider, one of Wal-Mart's largest contractors, of shorting pay checks of hundreds of workers," Palma said. Schneider also must change its employment practices, starting with "a normal schedule of five 8-hour workdays." And workers will get final OK of their time records. □



Survey: 1 Of Every 11 Workers Don't Report On-The-Job Injury For Fear Of Retaliation

EAGAN, Minn. (PAI)—One of every 11 workers, or 9%, do not report an on-the-job injury for fear of retaliation and harassment by his or her supervisors, a new survey shows. The proportions rise to one of every six – 15% – of Hispanic workers and one of every seven, or 14%, of workers with kids in the house.

The fear occurs even though federal law bars firms “from discriminating against an employee because the employee reports an injury or illness,” Stephanie Rahlfs, an attorney-editor at Findlaw.com, an Eagan, Minn.-based legal research service, told survey researcher Alex Cook. The survey talked to 1,000 workers.

Some states also bar employer retaliation against workers who get workers’ comp benefits, Rahlfs said.

Nevertheless, she said, workers are scared, and employers put pressure on them to not report injuries. “The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) may cite employers who offer rate-based safety incentive programs – such as

those that give bonuses or prizes if no one from a team is injured over a given period of time – if that program discourages workers from reporting accidents or injuries,” Rahlfs added.



“But if a worker is injured on the job, they should immediately notify a supervisor, and if appropriate, a union safety representative,” Rahlfs stated.

The Findlaw survey is in line with anecdotal reports from workers and data unions compiled over the years about workers being intimidated into not reporting job injuries. That under reporting is one reason that organized labor says OSHA’s calculation of 3 million job injuries annually is too low.

Indeed, the intimidation is prevalent enough that 3% of workers Cook surveyed reported concealing more than one job injury for fear of retaliation. The other 6% concealed just one injury, the workers told the survey researchers.

Hispanic-named workers have often told unionists and their allies they fear to report on-the-job injuries because employers would retaliate by summoning immigration inspectors to question and inspect the workers’ papers, even if the workers are legal.

Falls and slips accounted for 49% of the unreported on-the-job injuries, with repetitive motion – ergonomic – injuries accounting for 22%. Business lobbying, in the first months of the GOP George W. Bush regime, led to congressional repeal of an OSHA rule, more than a decade in the making, to regulate the ergonomic injuries. The Obama administration has refused to revive that effort, despite labor lobbying for it. □



Boeing's Hollow Victory

Op-Ed by Hedrick Smith

The narrowly approved contract agreement between Boeing and its Washington state workforce will be hailed by some as a victory for the canny, hardball brinkmanship of Boeing's management and the knuckle-under economic pragmatism of the International Machinists Union.

But the steep cutbacks in retirement and health benefits that tens of thousands of Boeing workers were forced to swallow have far larger implications for middle-class America. Boeing's stingy treatment of its highly skilled workforce offers a vivid example of how America's new economy has created gaping economic inequalities and steadily squeezed the economic life out of the U.S. middle class over the last three decades, even as corporate profits and CEO pay have skyrocketed.

Boeing's case epitomizes that sharp economic divide. For just as the company was wringing concessions from its workers, its board of directors approved a 50% increase in the company's stock dividend and a

\$10-billion stock buyback that will richly reward investors and executives who get paid in Boeing shares.

Boeing contends that it is not the first to impose such concessions but that it is merely following the market.

True enough. In 1980, 84% of American workers at companies with 100 or more employees received lifetime pensions from their companies, and 70% got health insurance fully paid for by their employers. Today, fewer than 30% have lifetime pensions and only 18% have fully employer-paid health insurance.

What these numbers mean is that every year hundreds of billions of dollars in benefit costs have been shifted from company books to the pocketbooks and checkbooks of average Americans, helping to boost corporate profits and to leave roughly half of the baby boom generation facing near poverty in retirement.

Boeing's new contract will accelerate

that trend. And it's not as if hard economic times forced Boeing to slash labor costs. Its profits and demand for its planes are at record levels.

Over the last decade, Boeing rolled up more than \$35 billion in profits and paid no federal corporate taxes. In fact, Boeing reaped about \$2 billion in federal tax rebates from 2003 to 2012, as well as the most generous long-term state tax subsidy in U.S. history from Washington state.

For President Obama and others who advocate a fairer, faster-growing economy, it is instructive to understand how Boeing put the screws to its 56,000 workers around Seattle and Everett, Wash.

In a take-it-or-lose-your-jobs ultimatum last November, Boeing declared that if its current workforce wanted to build the next generation of 777X airliners, it would have to agree to about \$1 billion of cuts in previously promised pay increases for younger workers, to sharp increases in employee contributions to healthcare, and to a massive restructuring of Boeing's retirement plans. Boeing said it was freezing its pension plan, shifting tens of thousands of machinists into a far less generous 401(k)-type plan, and would then steadily reduce company contributions, year after year.

When that formula was put to a vote in November, the company's 31,000 rank-and-file machinists rejected Boeing's terms by a vote of 2 to 1. Boeing was ready, perhaps even eager, for that outcome, and despite Washington state's offer of \$8.7



⇒ See **BOEING**, Page 12.



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.
GARY TACKETT – CENVEO	BRIAN HACKERED – DIAM CHAIN
MARK HOLLAND – CENVEO	ALAN HICKS – DIAM CHAIN
FREDDY COOK – CENVEO	DEREK JOHNSON – DIAM CHAIN
STANLEY NIX – PEPSICO	GARY MATTINGLY – DIAM CHAIN
JAMES GREEN – PEPSICO	LUIS ORTIZ – DIAM CHAIN
COREY BERNSTEIN – COLORS	EDGUR SUBRIS – DIAM CHAIN
MELISSA BERNSTEIN – COLORS	MATT TOWNSEND – DIAM CHAIN
MICHAEL BOHANNON – ALEX. IND.	ERNEST WATERMAN – DIAM CHAIN
ROBERT COLE – ALEX.IND.	TODD WAGONER – DIAM CHAIN
ROOSEVELT GILBERT – ALEX.IND.	CHESTER BOHANNON – COLORS
JEFFERY GREG – ALEX. IND.	LINDA BOHANNON – COLORS
JEFFERY HARRISON – ALEX. IND.	KATIE GILLIN – COLORS
JAMES HASTINGS – ALEX. IND.	BYRON MONDAY – COLORS
EDDIE HILL – ALEX. IND.	SHARON SLAYTON – COLORS
ROBERT IVY – ALEX. IND.	JESSICA STEPHENS – COLORS
WILLIE JONES, JR. – ALEX. IND.	DAROL THOMAS – COLORS
ANTHONY KING – ALEX. IND.	JON TRUETT – COLORS
CHARLES McCOY – ALEX. IND.	MONTE ERIC WALKER – COLORS
ROY MORTON – ALEX. IND.	STEVEN FITZPATRICK – DIAMOND CHAIN
MARTEL RICHARDSON – ALEX. IND.	

THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO MORALS!

Chuck

↳ BOEING From Page 10.

billion in tax concessions, Boeing invited other states to bid on hosting the 777X production.

By Christmas, Boeing had lured 22 states into a massive job auction, ready to reward the lowest bidder – the state offering the lowest tax rate, lowest worker benefits and wages, and lowest cost to Boeing (i.e., largest state subsidy) to finance the \$10-billion cost of new aircraft plants. Some experts questioned the wisdom of Boeing's tactics. After all, making modern airliners requires thousands of skilled, well-trained engineers and machinists, experienced at designing and weaving together the most advanced materials and complex engineering of the 21st century.

Boeing said it had to cut costs to meet "aggressive international competition." But Boeing's sole major global competitor is Airbus, based in highly unionized Germany and

France, and Airbus puts a premium on maintaining its high-quality workforce and treating its workers generously.

German companies over the last 25 years have raised the pay and benefits of middle-class workers five times faster than U.S. companies. And German corporations have kept high-tech jobs at home, so that today 21% of Germany's workforce is in manufacturing versus 9% in the U.S. What's more, the German strategy has rolled up \$2 trillion in export surpluses while the U.S. has suffered \$6 trillion in trade deficits.

Inside Boeing, some people must have had some second thoughts. Even while noisily threatening to move out of state, Boeing sweetened its offer to its Washington workforce. In late December, it added an estimated \$1 billion in value, restoring previous pay scales for newer workers and upping the contract-signing bonus to \$15,000 per worker. But Boeing still insisted on steep retirement and

health benefit cuts.

Local union leaders opposed the new package. National union leaders called for a second vote last Friday, and the Boeing contract passed narrowly, by 51%. Some union leaders hope to gain leverage and better terms once the 777X goes into production.

But rolling back the clock on the shrinking middle-class share of America's economic pie has proved virtually impossible lately. For now, the Boeing formula represents the kind of successful corporate power play that prompted Pope Francis recently to chastise modern capitalism for imposing "the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose." □

Hedrick Smith is the author of "Who Stole the American Dream?" and former Washington bureau chief of the New York Times.



Darrell Issa's Cruellest Cut: A Seriously Cynical Attack on the Postal Service

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-California, has made no secret of his desire to diminish and dismantle the United States Postal Service.

Issa has for some time now peddled plans to end Saturday deliveries by the USPS—which continues to perform with more agility than private firms, as holiday delivery patterns illustrated—in ways that are all but certain to make the postal service vulnerable to privatization.

Issa has a right to his opinion.

But the cynical determination with which he is now advancing it is jarring.

Issa has proposed legislation to address one of the many flaws in the budget agreement that was cobbled together in December by House Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, and Senate Budget Committee chair Patty Murray, D-Washington: a cut to military retirement benefits for veterans under



Darrell Issa Chairman House Oversight and Government Reform Committee



the age of 62.

Eliminating the benefit cut is a good idea, as it is part of an austerity agreement that seeks to balance budgets by placing more of the burden on government workers and military personnel—rather than multimillionaires like Issa.

But Issa is not proposing to offset the restoration of benefits by taxing the wealthy or closing loopholes.

Rather, he wants to do so by ending Saturday mail delivery.

Ending mail delivery on the weekend would dramatically undermine the ability of the postal service to meet the demands of modern shipping and communications. The likely result would be a rapid shift of traffic to private firms, which contribute heavily to politicians but which do not provide the universal, low-cost service that is the hallmark of the postal service.

And it has the potential to do something else: harm the employment prospects of veterans.

The USPS has historically been one of the nation's largest employers of veterans—second only to the US Department of Defense, according to USPS figures. Roughly 120,000 postal service employees—more than 20 percent of the total workforce—have records of service in the military. Roughly a third of those employees are rated as 30 percent or more disabled, a reflection of the fact that the postal service goes out of its way to provide an array of employment services and options for veterans.

Cuts to the postal service threaten an institution that provides jobs to veterans and that—thanks to its own practices and strong commitments from postal unions—respects them once they are in those jobs.

Instead of embracing Issa's latest and most cynical assault on a necessary service, Congress should do right by veterans. It can move to strengthen the USPS, along lines proposed by Senator Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, Congressmen Peter DeFazio,

⇒ See **POSTAL**, Page 16.

Unit 00 Rexnord

Hello Union Brothers and Sisters;

I hope everyone had a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a happy NEW YEAR. I want to wish everybody and their families the best in the upcoming year.

I wanted to give everybody an update on where we are at on the grievance load. We have 3 grievances that are slated to go to arbitration. We are currently in the process of getting arbitrators selected and times reserved to have these grievances heard. The grievance load is rather high right now because of our negotiations and other negotiations in the local, which makes scheduling rather difficult. I apologize for not getting them done before now. We haven't forgot about your grievance. If you want to know where we are at with your grievance come down and see me and I will update you on it.

The work load as of this time is still looking good. Most all of the departments are still working overtime.

I would like to give everybody a heads up if you are on any kind of leave or getting ready to go on any kind of leave. Please make sure that you follow the orders of the doctor. Recently the company has had people out filming different people on leave; this is something they have the right to do. PLEASE FOLLOW THE DOCTORS ORDERS.

I also want to thank everyone that participated in the GIFT LIFT. Thanks to all for their help and their

contributions. This was the 54th year for the Union and the Company's participation for the children at Christmas time.

I will be having a UNIT MEETING some time on the third week of January. Please watch for the flyers. I would like to see everyone there at one of the meetings if possible.

I would like to thank everyone for all your hard work, if you need anything come see me in my office or most all stewards have my number, just give me a call.

At this time I would like to congratulate Danny Hampton's daughter Taneisha Ralshelle Hampton on her graduation from Kentucky State University. Taneisha graduated with Cum laude honors in the field of Psychology on December 14th, 2013.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST REMEMBER TOGETHER WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL. WE ARE UNION.

In Solidarity,
Don Zering
Unit President

Unit 09 RSR Quemetco

Welcome to the new year my fellow Union Brothers & Sisters.

Here at RSR work is steady and overtime is plentiful in a couple of the departments. The grievance load is very light.

As a union worker here at RSR let's make our union stronger, let's show up too unit meetings, let's vote when we have union elections. It all affects

us. 1999-09 is only going to be heard when all of its members decide to get active. Think about what you have done to make your union stronger

In Solidarity,
Derrick Morris
Unit President

Unit 10 Sumco

Hope everyone had great holidays.

We had a small layoff the last week of December and the 1st week of January, everyone is now back to work.

We are getting ready for a new contract. Jan. 31 is deadline. We might need to ask the other the local to help walk the line if needed, we believe that all of our proposals are fair and needed.

The Union isn't one person or a group of officers, its all the members, Managers will start asking how the talks going, just tell them that everything is good. Managers will telling there group everything you tell them.

We have a lot of new hires that have never been at a union shop. So if we have a deal each one of you will get a copy of the proposed contract to read and vote at a latter day.

Say something good about your union, you will be talking about yourself.

In Solidarity,
Leo Hedden
Unit President

Unit 32 Alexandria Extrusions Mid America

Business is slow here at AEM as we have condensed our workforce to two shifts.

We had our Christmas luncheon last month. We ate and a good time was had by all.

The recent cold temperatures caused our power to go out causing frozen water pipes, pumps, and lots of other mechanical issues. We got through that and are looking forward to better weather and business.

The Safety Committee will meet on January 13. I would like to remind everyone to be safe and wear your PPE.

In Solidarity,
Howard Davis
Unit President

Unit 32 Cenveo Envelope

Cenveo is a plant that specializes in many different shapes and styles of envelopes. We have 23 machines that average between 200,000 to 500,000 envelopes a shift. We work 3 shifts, 5 days a week, Monday through Friday with required Saturdays when needed. Our plant has been in business for over 50



Charles J. Jones
President USW - Local 1999
Robert James
Vice - President USW - Local 1999

Grievance Training

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
12:30pm – 3:30pm &
5:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 1, 2013
12:00pm – 3:00pm
USW Local 1999 Union Hall
218 South Addison St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222

I will be conducting grievance training at the Union Hall at the above dates and times. The training sessions will be approximately three (3) hours long. Those completing the training will receive a certificate of completion from the local.

Kelly Ray Hugunin
Local Union Representative

**Please RSVP at 317-639-1479 no later
than February 19.**

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union
218 South Addison Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222 • 317-639-1479 • 317-639-1138 (FAX) • local1999usw@att.net

years with different owners through the years.

Our business seems to remain steady, even with the decline in the envelope market. We currently have close to 145 members with half the plant having at least 20 years or more and a few members with 40 plus years of service.

Our grievance load has slowed down a lot since our last plant manager. We will have a few openings coming up here in the near future.

1999-32 would like to welcome

back Dennis Lewis and Jerry Tyler who have recently decided to rejoin the union. Solidarity is key in having a strong union plant. We would like to encourage the five remaining employees to rejoin as well.

On behalf of Cenveo members we would like to wish all the other locals in 1999 to have a happy new year and keep the faith that better days will come.

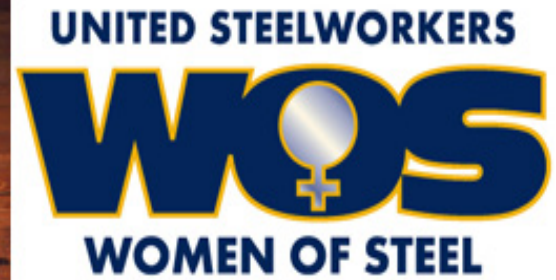
In Solidarity,
Jason Campbell
Unit President

↳ BENEFITS From Page 5.

people don't have a problem with that either. But I do have a problem with where they will want to make those cuts to pay for it. Congress seems to be forgetting how we got into this mess, two wars on a credit card and rebuilding Iraq. The often cited phrase by politicians is "income disparity" - the gap between the rich and the economically squeezed. These are people who want to work, but they need some help. Many are middle class, middle aged people who never thought they would wind up in this situation; these are the victims of the Wall Street created recession.



Extending unemployment benefits would restore 14 weeks of benefits averaging about \$256 a week to an estimated 1.3 million long term jobless who were affected when the program expired on December 28 of last year. Without action by Congress thousands more each week will be impacted as benefits expire, generally after 26 weeks. An additional 14 weeks is available in states where unemployment is 6% or higher, 9 more weeks of benefits are available in states where the rate is 7% or higher, States with unemployment 9% or higher qualify for another 10 weeks of benefits. This helps to stimulate the economy as the unemployed spend the funds they receive. The overall economy grows by \$1.50 for every dollar in benefits. □



Local 1999 Women of Steel Coordinator Julie Heaton would like to thank everyone for their donations for Christmas presents for the women at the Wailing Women's Shelter.

↳ POSTAL From Page 13.

D-Oregon, and Mark Pocan, D-Wisconsin. And it can address the benefits issue by enacting the Military Retirement Restoration Act, which has been introduced by Senator Jeanne Shaheen, D-New Hampshire.

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Shaheen's legislation would repeal the provision in the budget agreement that cuts benefits for military retirees, including disabled veterans who are eligible for retirement benefits. It would offset the estimated \$6 billion cost of doing so by ending the abuse of so-called "tax havens" by US-controlled corporations that

incorporate offshore and claim "foreign" status in order to avoid paying taxes in the United States.

As US Senator Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat who is a key co-sponsor of the legislation, notes, this provision is identical to Section 103 of the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act and is expected to raise over \$6.6 billion over ten years.

"This is a common sense measure built on the idea that everyone needs to pay their fair share," explains Baldwin. "By closing this one corporate tax loophole, we can ensure our military veterans receive the benefits they've earned and deserve." □



Invest in America Infrastructure Series - Bridges

January 8, 2014

Two Ways to Build a Bridge

Each day in the United States, we take over 200 million trips across deficient bridges, and that's just in the nation's 102 largest metropolitan regions. Taking on this challenge means significant opportunities for investing in our nation, while supporting and creating jobs – if we do it right.

In August 2007, the I-35 W bridge in Minneapolis collapsed. Tragically, 13 people were killed and many more suffered injuries.



When the bridge was rebuilt, the Steelworkers of Local 7263 at Gerdaу were proud to produce the 63mm anchor bars that secured the new bridge to bedrock. These Steelworkers and other U.S. workers benefitted from our government spending taxpayer dollars wisely when we make investments in infrastructure.

However, the opposite played out in California over the past few years during construction of the Bay Bridge. The critical center span work was outsourced to a state-owned company in China.



This kind of short-term thinking on infrastructure leads to long-term economic loss for America in terms of squandered tax dollars, lost jobs, and the shoring up of a strategic manufacturing competitor.

Help us push for jobs, invest in our safety and build a stronger economic future. Please ensure that your local is participating in our Invest in America postcard action and thank you drawing. Cards were mailed to local union presidents last year and should be circulating now.



CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

THINK CUTTING TAXES ON CORPORATE PROFITS CREATES JOBS?

THINK AGAIN.

Over a recent five year period...



30 firms that paid the highest tax rate grew

+200,000 jobs

30 firms that paid little or no taxes shed

-51,000 jobs



PROFITABLE CORPORATIONS SHOULD PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE. OUR PUBLIC SYSTEMS ENABLE THEIR SUCCESS.

OurGovernmentMatters.org

BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

October 26, 2013 - Geist Reservoir, IN

PLACE	LOCAL	TEAM CAPTAIN	2ND MEMBER	WEIGHT
1st	1999	Ernest Bennett	Jason Bennett	13.80
2nd	1999	Clinton McClure	Gary McClure	7.55
3rd	1999	Rick Burba	Justin Burba	6.95
4th	1999	Josh Jenkins	Bryan Jenkins	6.55
5th	2958	Cory Lorts	Jim Lorts	5.65
6th	1999	Robert Curtis	Dwight Curtis	5.10
6th	1999	Cecil Lillard	Ron Daws	5.10
7th	1999	David Mills	Mike Stevens	4.25
8th	Workers	Tim Reynolds	Herb Coffey	3.80
9th	1999	Mike McDonald	Joel Jeschue	3.00
10th	3875	Doug Pence	Sandra Booher	-
10th	1999	James Edwards	Roger Cherry	-
10th	1999	Joe DeWitt	David DeWitt	-
10th	1999	Roy Beatty	Charles Beatty	-
10th	1999	Kelly Scigliano	Draper Alumbaugh	-
10th	1999	Wayne Ross	Tim Barkley	-
10th	1999	Mark Rowe	Gary Rowe	-

1st Place -Bennett/Bennett - Paid Out \$930.00

2nd Place - McClure/McClure - Paid Out \$620.00

Big Bass - Ernest Bennett - 6 lbs - \$50.00

2014 BASS TOURNAMENT DATES:*(Applications will be sent to Locals in Spring 2014)***GEIST RESERVOIR - INDIANA**

May 17th - One Day - Safe Light til 4:00 pm

September 20th - One Day - Safe Light til 4:00 pm

STEEL VOICE

Kelly Ray Hugunin
Editor

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are always welcome.

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