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### Swift Action Softens Blow Of Newsday Plant Closing



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# Numbers Up But Plenty Work to Do

By Zachary Dowdy  
Special to the Communicator



GCC/IBT LEADERS REACTED WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM TO THE LATEST Bureau of Labor Statistics report showing union membership improved by a respectable 262,000 in 2017 over the year before.

"I think any time we have an increase in union membership it's a very good and positive thing," said Garry Foreman, president of GCC/IBT Local 17-M, Indianapolis.

The BLS report showed the nation's 14.8 million union members comprise 10.7 percent of all wage and salary workers.

That increase, though, was not matched by a rise in the percentage of workers who are in unions – it remained 10.7 percent – and the 2017 figures are far below the numbers the BLS recorded a few decades ago. In 1983, the first year of comparable data, there were 17.7 million unionized workers, a full 20 percent of the workforce.

GCC/IBT leaders said the modest increase posted last year is worth noting but shows much work must be done to keep unions viable – especially in the printing trade where corporate cutbacks and job losses have been severe.

Membership numbers for the GCC/IBT tell the story. There were approximately 128,000 members in the GCIU, the organization's predecessor union, in 1992 and 69,000 at the time of the 2005 merger with the Teamsters. Active GCC/IBT membership as of December, 2017 was just under 27,000.

Leaders reason that, with the nation nearing full employment and the job market tight, workers may be less fearful about seeking union representation.

"When we went through the recession people were afraid for their jobs," Foreman

*continues on PAGE 8*

### After 50 Years, Teamsters Still Carrying On MLK Legacy



PHOTO COURTESY BUILDER LEVY

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Printed in the USA

### Florida School Shooting Prompts Tedeschi Call For 'Political Courage'

PAGE 4



Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School



## A Bit of Good News— Let's Keep it Going

WE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR Statistics at the beginning of the year: The number of union members increased by more than a quarter million men and women in 2017.

The percent of union membership in the overall workforce remained steady at 10.7, however, so we shouldn't kid ourselves into thinking organized labor is reversing its troubling decline.



Union membership was 20.1 percent in 1983 when comparable figures first became available and 17.7 million workers were covered by contracts. There are 14.8 million union workers now.

Researchers at the Economic Policy Institute found that most of the recent membership gain – 76 percent – was among workers under the age of 35. That's a good thing. We need young people in the labor movement to bring new ideas and spread the word of unionism with energy and

enthusiasm.

Unions make a difference – a big difference. We guarantee the sort of quality jobs and respectable pay that support families and strengthen the middle class.

It's a shame the message hasn't reached more Americans.

For decades, conservatives in Washington and their corporate allies have been hammering away at unions and claiming workers can best protect themselves.

They're wrong – union workers consistently make more than other employees in the same jobs – but too often the phony claims get through.

We have to do better at arguing our side – the truthful side.

Here's an example of what unions can accomplish:

Recently, officials at Newsday, the Long Island daily, announced they are not renewing the lease on the paper's Melville, New York, headquarters where office space and production facilities are located. When the plant closes, production and delivery work will be outsourced. More than 225 full-time and 300 part-time jobs will vanish.



For this to happen at a major publication is a tragedy – another setback in a newspaper industry under tremendous pressure.

The announcement hit me hard, personally.

I was the president of Local 406-C for years. Newsday no longer printing its own product? Hundreds of people losing jobs? I could hardly believe it.

But this was not the time for regret or recrimination. It was time for action.

Quickly, the union went to work to help affected members.

We wanted to assure income while they were out of work and get them new jobs.

We needed to lessen the impact and provide a financial bridge for them and their families.

With the outstanding effort of Local 406 President Mike LaSpina and his officers, I helped negotiate a deal that assured all affected employees a severance package of three weeks' pay for each year worked. For most people, that will mean a payment equal to approximately two years in wages. In addition, many laid-off Newsday workers will find jobs at the union plant Newsday selected to take over production of the paper. (See story, Page 4)

If Newsday's workers hadn't been organized would they have been able to get this kind of agreement? In my opinion, not a chance.

It's the sort of story organized labor has to get out to the public.

Then maybe BLS will tell us membership numbers are up again next year, and the year after that. With determination and aggressive organizing, we can rebuild the American labor movement.

Now is the time. ■

## OUTLOOK

JAMES P. HOFFA TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

## Our Battle for Justice Must be Worldwide

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND Canada, the Teamsters union is growing. But no union can rest on its laurels. Labor is increasingly up against anti-union forces who want to knock us down.

That's why organizing is so essential. Worker advocates can stand up against corporations and their cronies in elected office by building union density and fighting for good paying jobs with solid health care and retirement benefits.

When faced with an untenable political climate, unions must push back by increasing membership. Organized labor can make its voice heard in the fight against globalization and unfair trade agreements. We can partner with unions around the world to stand up against injustice in the workplace as we fight for fairness in the global supply chain and elsewhere.

There are a lot of good reasons to join a union like the Teamsters, and the American public is increasingly recognizing it. In fact, a



recent Gallup Poll found that 61 percent of those polled approved of unions, the highest level since 2003. More people also want unions to have greater influence in this country than ever before.

Why is that?

Because unions lead the way in things like offering health care benefits. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics unveiled numbers last month showing that 94 percent of private sector union workers have access to employer-provided health care benefits as of this March, compared to only 67 percent of non-union workers.

It also pays to be in a union.

The median union worker earns an additional \$10,000 a year more than the median non-union worker nationwide. That can make a big difference for a family trying to keep a roof over its head and food on the table. And at a time when women and people of color are fighting for fair pay, only union jobs ensure pay equity and fair treatment on the job.

The Teamsters will fight every step of the way to protect workers. There are many challenges and this union is devoted to tackling them. By organizing workers, we improve lives and protect the middle class. That is the mission of the union movement going forward. ■



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## Seize Moment and ‘Capitalize on Every Opportunity’

MEMBERSHIP IS THE HEART OF UNIONISM. NO members, no union movement.

So latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing an increase of more than a quarter-million in the number of union members last year – overall, the percentage of unionization remained 10.7 – drew guarded optimism from GCC/IBT leaders, as our **Page 1** Top Story by Zachary Dowdy indicates. One local leader called the news “a very good and positive thing,” but officials are anything but over confident.



President George Tedeschi said the real takeaway from the BLS analysis is that unions must redouble organizing efforts in order to build membership at a time when public opinion is shifting positively toward labor and younger, more activist, people are entering the workforce. At the GCC/IBT, he said, “We have to capitalize on every opportunity,” Tedeschi said.

Nowhere is that more true than in the print industry, where consolidation and plant closings continue to deplete membership ranks. A **Page 4** story deals with the decision of Newsday on Long Island to outsource production and delivery – jobs held by GCC/IBT workers – and a Local Stops item on **Page 11** tells of a LSC Communications plant closing in Long Prairie, Minnesota, that will put more union members out of work.

Meanwhile, right-wing foes of labor are up to their usual tricks.



We report on a prominent example in our brief **Page 10** review of the controversial “Janus case” now before the U.S. Supreme Court. “Janus” is the culmination of long-standing efforts to prevent public sector unions from charging “agency fees” to non-union members covered by a collective bargaining agreement and who enjoy union protection and

services. A ruling favoring these “free riders” by the conservative-dominated court would threaten public employee unions – and likely encourage similar suits in the private sector, experts say.

On another front, anti-union activists continue their push for right-to-work laws.

An item in the Press Run news roundup on **Page 14** notes that Ohio, Illinois and Missouri could be the next states to pass anti-union legislation. Conservatives claim right-to-work measures assure a competitive edge but as one analyst says, “the evidence is slim that it works.” Now, says the New York Times, the labor movement and its Democratic allies must rally to “stop the next domino from falling” – a tough challenge, no doubt.

But on basic issues of workers’ rights, we will give no ground.

Unions like the GCC/IBT have long and honorable histories – take a look at the story about vintage union dues stamps on **Page 5** to get a sense of our rich past – and are committed to a future of fair play and prosperity for members. Two obituaries on **Page 13** – recalling organizer Rickey Putman and Leon Wickersham, a former executive assistant to GCIU president Kenneth Brown – attest to the dedication of union professionals battling on behalf of working people. Their sense of decency and duty will serve as inspiration for all who follow.

As President Tedeschi said in our Top Story, this is a time for renewed commitment. Government figures on membership are encouraging but there is no room for complacency. “We just have to keep doing our job” – be informed, get involved, organize at every opportunity. ■

### COMMENTARY

## Corporate Collusion Makes Workers Pay

Inequality doesn’t just come out of the blue. It’s intentionally created by corporate and government elites – usually behind closed doors, so those knocked down don’t know what (or who) hit them.

Take America’s 4 million fast-food workers, whose average pay hovers around a miserly \$300 a week before taxes.

With the labor market tightening, why don’t they just hop down the street to another franchise offering a better deal?

Many try, only to be rejected again and again, unaware that most fast-food chains have hidden within their franchising contracts “no-hire agreements,” prohibiting one franchisee from hiring another’s employees.

In a landmark study last year, two prominent labor economists at Princeton found that these secret bans on wage competition are used by more than 70,000 chain restaurants.

By colluding to prevent millions of Americans from switching jobs to increase their incomes and opportunities, these giants have artificially kept the pay of fast-food workers and many other franchise employees stuck at poverty levels.

That’s one place inequality comes from – and it’s downright un-American. A class-action lawsuit recently filed on behalf of thousands of workers asserts that it’s also illegal.

And what about the people who actually grow the food we eat?

Migrant farm workers are still being miserably paid and despicably treated by the industry profiting from their labor. Stories run in the press, the public is outraged, asserted officials pledge action, then ... nothing. No change takes place.

Several news reports in recent months have documented the ongoing, shameful abuse of these hard-working, hard-traveling families.



Even if they receive the legal minimum wage, many farm laborers earn less than \$17,500 a year because of their poverty-level paychecks and the seasonal nature of their work, according to a Los Angeles Times report.

Workers often are housed in shacks, old chicken coops, shipping containers, and squalid motels. Yet, in my state of Texas, the agency responsible for safe and sanitary migrant

housing has imposed zero fines for housing violations since 2005.

“As a result,” the Austin American-Statesman reported, “an estimated nine in 10 Texas migrant farm workers lack access to licensed housing that meets minimum health and safety standards required by state and federal law.”

This year, though, agribusiness interests from Florida to California are uniting in a push for new assistance – not for laborers though, for themselves.

Agribusiness interests were big Trump backers – their PACs gave more money to Trump than any other candidate – but now worry the President will cut off the flow of undocumented immigrants who make up as much as 70 percent of the industry’s workforce.

So they’ve rushed to Washington, frantically demanding a special exemption. In the process, corporate executives suddenly re-characterized the very migrants they’ve been so callously mistreating as noble employees essential to the nation’s food security.

If Trump and Congress grant relief, growers – at the very least – should be required to pay a living wage, provide decent family housing and health care, and treat farm workers with the respect owed people who put the food on America’s tables. ■

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes *The Hightower Lowdown*, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America’s ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at [HightowerLowdown.org](http://HightowerLowdown.org).

# Union Still Standing With King

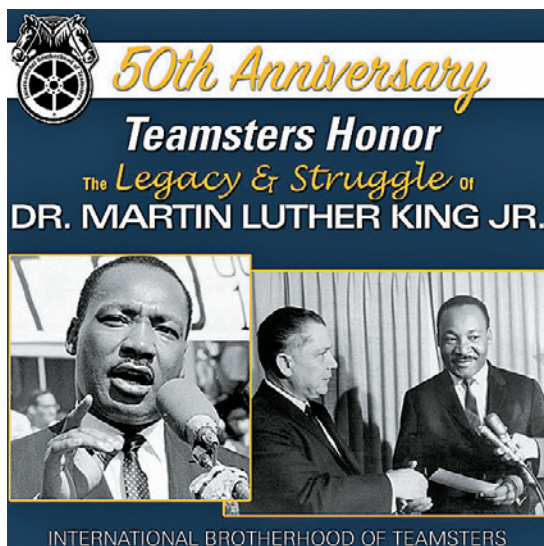
At 6:01 p.m., April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, was hit in the right cheek with a single .30-06 round from a Remington Model 760 rifle. The bullet broke King's jaw, sliced through vertebrae and severed his jugular vein. Little more than an hour later, the civil rights leader was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Hospital.

King was in Memphis to support black sanitation workers who had walked off the job to protest poor pay, unequal treatment, dangerous work conditions – and demand union recognition.

His death – at the hand of James Earl Ray, who subsequently was captured, charged and sentenced to 99 years after pleading guilty – stunned the nation and galvanized the civil rights movement. In Memphis, recalcitrant city leaders finally were forced to recognize the workers' union bid and improve pay and conditions.

Fifty years later, GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi joined Teamster officials in honoring King's legacy and reaffirming the support for equality and racial justice.

"The Teamsters union was an early supporter of King, donating money to his cause and sending supplies to marchers and other civil rights workers," the IBT said in a statement. "Today, Teamsters across the country are committed to the union's tradition of standing up for social justice. Through organizations like the Teamsters Human



Rights Commission, Teamsters are able to carry on the legacy of King."

Echoing the theme, Tedeschi said the GCC/IBT and Teamsters will continue fighting for equality, fair play and workers' rights even when loud voices send a contrary message.

"It is sad these days that we often hear divisive talk at the highest places of government – words that seem intended to drive Americans apart," Tedeschi said. "We can't let that happen."



Marchers in Memphis demanded justice for black Americans and union workers after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King.

National leaders should draw a lesson from the union movement, Tedeschi said.

"When we say 'brother' and 'sister,' we mean it," he said. "That's the sort of solidarity the country needs – and what Martin Luther King worked so hard to achieve."

An IBT podcast on Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement can be found at: <https://teamster.org/news/2018/02/episode-163-teamsters-and-mlk-labor-connection>

# Swift Action Eases Newsday Move

Newsday, the Long Island daily, is in the process of closing its Melville, New York, headquarters and outsourcing production as part of an economy move that will cost 225 full-time union jobs and put 300 part-timers out of work.

Softening the blow for affected members of Local 406-C was swift action by local officers and GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi who negotiated severance packages granting full-time workers three weeks' pay for every year of service.

Tedeschi and 406 officials also succeeded in gaining new contracts that increase wages by 10 percent over four years for union members remaining at the paper.

Production of Newsday and the commuter newspaper, amNewYork, will be handled by the unionized New York Times at its facility in the College Point section of Queens in New York City. The Times also will take over distribution responsibilities.

"We're confident that this new arrangement will uphold Newsday's long-standing commitment to the highest quality production and distribution" said Newsday co-publishers Debby Krenek and Edward Bushey in an email to employees.

GCC/IBT officials said most laid off Newsday production and transportation members seeking employment would find union jobs at the Times. Unaffected by the company's downsizing plans will be approximately 300 union members in editorial, electronic pre-press and maintenance sectors.

By outsourcing production and distribution work – and moving from its 300,000-square-foot headquarters to a smaller office – Newsday expects to save approximately \$20 million a year, according to Michael LaSpina, president of Local 406-C.

LaSpina praised Newsday Media Group executives for working with the union during negotiations to reach an amicable agreement. Most union members will receive severance pay amounting to two years' pay or more, LaSpina said. "I think we set the standard for the industry going forward," he said.

Union members backed the settlement with a 262-19 ratification vote.

"We're doing better than inflation," said Joan Gralla, a general assignment reporter. "That probably accounts for the quite astonishingly high vote in favor" of the contract.

While hailing the Newsday settlement, Tedeschi – who for years served as president of Local 406-C – called the loss of jobs at Newsday a "tragedy" and the latest sign that hard-copy newspapers are being threatened by digital products. "Another setback for an industry under tremendous pressure" Tedeschi said in his "As I See It" column (Page 2).

Newsday's daily circulation last year was approximately 216,000, according to company figures cited in an online "media kit." In the early 1990s, circulation was more than 700,000.

"On the one hand, it's a very sad situation," said Tedeschi. "On the other, it is a reminder that we must organize aggressively and in many new areas to make certain our union stays alive and our members prosper."

Tedeschi noted that earlier this year, LSC Communications, a spinoff of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Inc., announced it was closing a plant in Long Prairie, Minnesota, resulting in approximately 200 layoffs of GCC/IBT workers. (See Local Stops, Page 11.)

"For some, the economy may be on the upswing but the unionized print industry continues to face major challenges," Tedeschi said.



NEWSDAY.COM VIA GOOGLE IMAGES



## 'POLITICAL COURAGE' NEEDED AFTER TRAGEDY AT FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL

It happened – again.

On Feb. 14, 17 Americans died in another mass shooting.

Killed this time were 14 students and three adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Florida. They were shot by a gunman carrying an AR-15-style assault weapon.

In light of the latest gun-related tragedy, GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi issued this statement:

"I don't have all the answers, but I do know this: As a country, we cannot allow these terrible events to keep happening. We have to seek solutions and stop pretending nothing can be done. We have to demand that political leaders show courage and not simply follow the orders of big-money contributors. We can make sure our children are safe without weakening the Second Amendment. Anybody who says otherwise is not telling the truth."

Tedeschi continued: "The high school students in Florida have appealed to the nation's conscience and are pushing for political action. It is time for all of us – and especially our elected leaders – to show the same bravery and determination. The slaughter cannot continue. Enough is enough."

A fund to aid victims and families of the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has been established. Information can be found at: [www.gofundme.com/stonemandouglasvictimsfund](http://www.gofundme.com/stonemandouglasvictimsfund)

# Dues Stamps Are Reminders of Union History

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

**M**arc Silberman collects stamps that weren't stuck on envelopes or smothered in mail sacks.

They're not from the post office but the union hall.

Silberman, 66, a retired GCC/IBT platemaker with a passion for union memorabilia, owns an extensive assortment of old-timey dues stamps – evidence that members had met their monthly obligation – in more than 100 vintage dues books.

A source of particular pride are collectibles from the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union (IPPAU), a forerunner of today's GCC/IBT.

But Silberman, a New Jersey native who lives in Sheridan, Colorado, outside Denver, also has classic stamps from the Teamsters, jewelry workers, metal polishers, ironworkers, longshoremen and blacksmiths.

"If it's a U.S. trade union stamp, there's a good chance I have it," he said.

Silberman, who worked at the Rocky Mountain News and was a member of Local 440-M before it transferred to 625-S, is always looking for union "ephemera" – artifacts of the labor movement that attest to its importance and impact on working Americans.

He will follow a lead anywhere. "I've climbed into Dumpsters," Silberman admitted.

He surfs eBay, the online shopping site, haunts antique stores and attends paper and postcard specialty shows. Silberman also makes it known that he's willing to buy. "Word is out that I collect dues stamps and I'll pay – up to \$200 a book," he said.

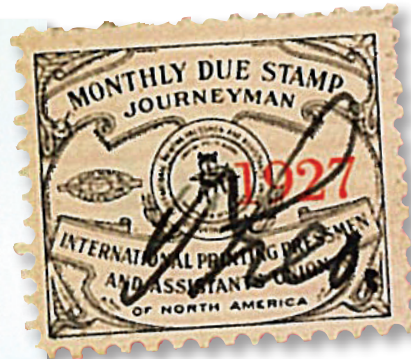
Sometimes, friends are his best source.

Ellengail Beuthel, librarian at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver, gave Silberman dues books owned by her father who was a pressman and print shop owner. "Anyone interested in history at all – it's important to know about the pressman's union," Beuthel said.

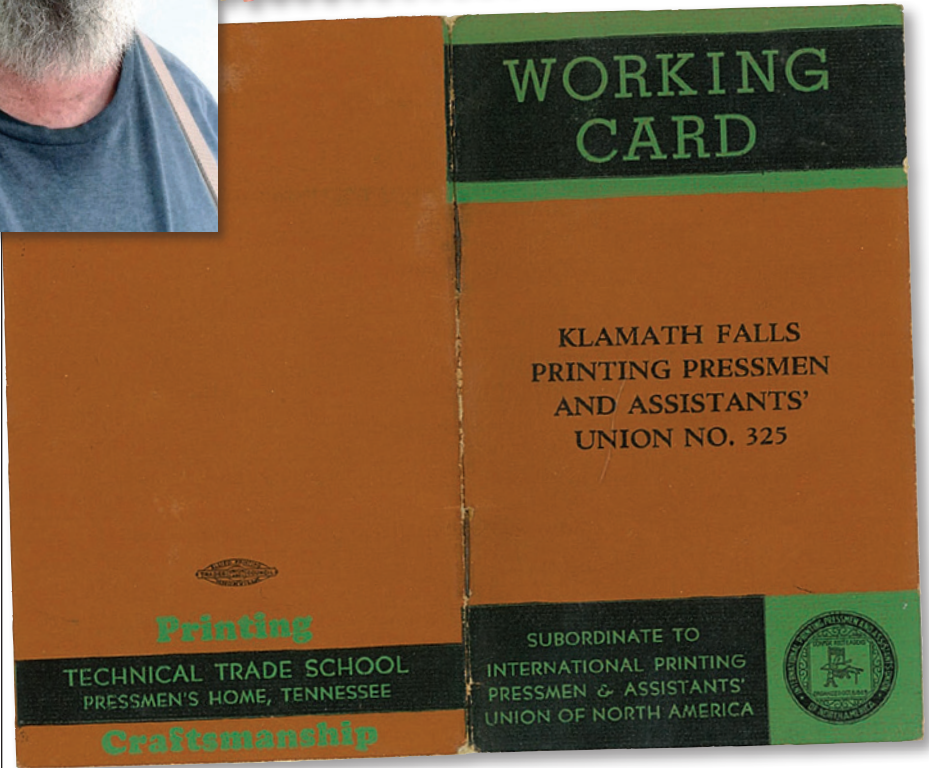
Silberman's collection – so voluminous that he is running out of shelf space in his five bedroom house – spans the years 1915-68.

Found in his IPPAU books are stamps for tuberculosis assessments in the 1920s – there was a TB sanitarium at the union's Pressmen's Home in Tennessee – and proof of fees paid to help veterans returning from World War 1.

One stamp shows per capita increases to aid striking union members in the South, Silberman said. Another was issued by a local representing cigarette workers in New York City – all immigrant women from eastern Europe.



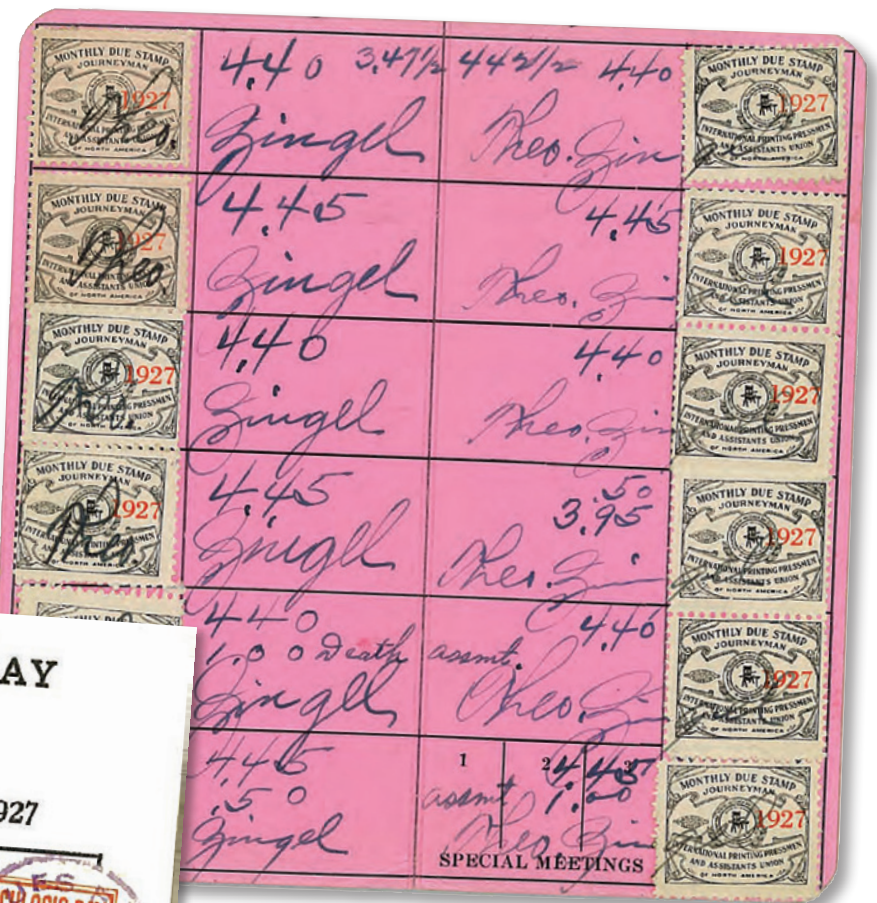
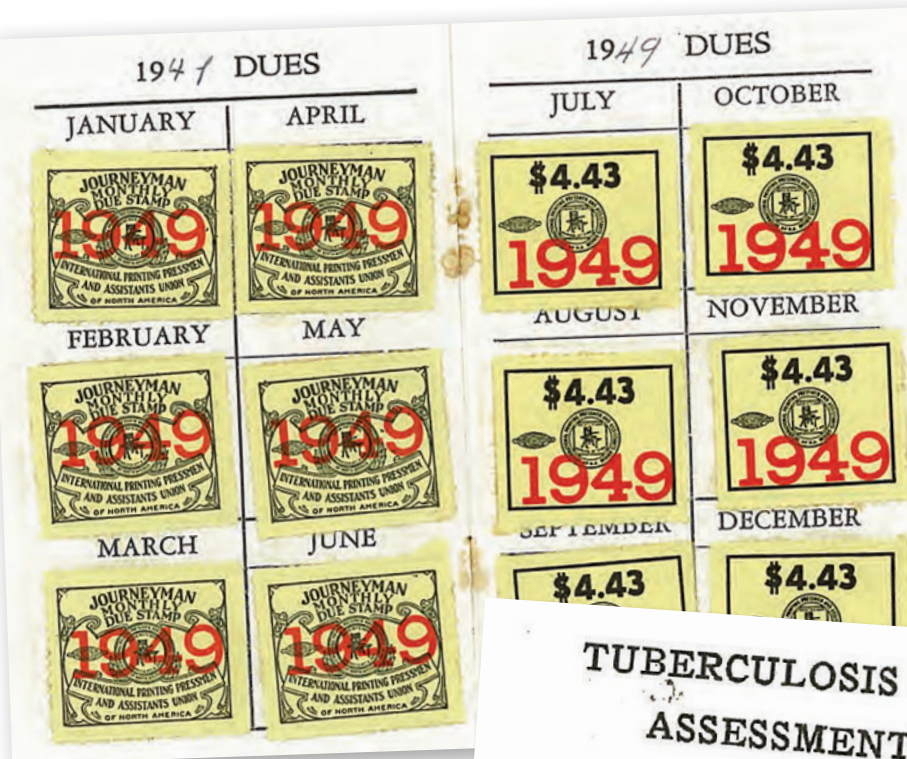
Marc Silberman, left, a retired GCC/IBT platemaker living in Denver, has collected a wide variety of vintage union dues stamps. "If it's a U.S. trade union stamp, there's a good chance I've got it," Silberman says.



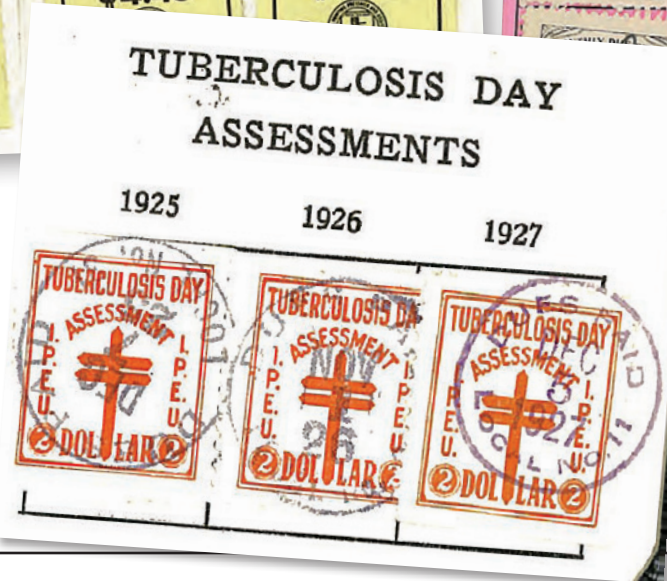
Thanks to his unusual hobby, Silberman says he has learned plenty about unions – and the nation.

"It's amazing how this part of history is so tied to the struggle of workers," he said.

At some point, Silberman says, he will donate his union stamp books to the Denver philatelic library. It will be a unique addition, he is sure. "No one, so far as I know, collects this stuff," Silberman said.



Stamps showed that members had met their monthly dues obligations. Special fees sometimes were assessed to aid causes like providing assistance to returning World War 1 veterans or fighting tuberculosis in the 1920s and indicated the social outreach of organized labor.



# Democracy Depends On Unions and a Free Press

Two issues that appear unconnected – a free press and union membership – may have a significant bearing on this moment in American history.

Despite unrelenting criticism from the most powerful people in the country, the nation’s mainstream media – newspapers, in particular – are carrying out their watchdog duties with integrity and vigor. Fury from the White House has done nothing to deter reporters. Nothing will.

In the realm of organized labor, government statisticians reported a modest increase in the number of union members in 2017. The percentage of the American work force covered by collective bargaining contracts remained 10.7 – the same as 2016 – but there was an uptick in membership rolls to 17.7 million.

What does one have to do with the other?

A free press is fundamental to democracy and so is an economic system that allows everyone who works hard the opportunity to get ahead – and better themselves by joining a union, if they choose.

The principles are fundamental to the very idea of America.

A vibrant press is the bulwark against autocratic rule. That is why attempts by President Donald Trump – and his enablers – to dismiss contrary reporting as “fake news” mock First Amendment guarantees and should shock every American.

Under the headline, “A Love Letter to Journalism,” reporter Jennifer Peters noted that in many parts of the world, news-gathering is a dangerous business.

“The idea of a free press is an unknown concept in some countries whose governments seek to control the flow of information. Reporters from every country in the world put their



safety, and sometimes even their lives, at risk every time they go out to report a story.”

White House personnel – top guy, included – should keep in mind that the United States is not “some country” owing blind obedience to an all-powerful leader. That’s not the way it works here. That’s not America.

While demeaning the press, the White House also is showing its stripes in terms of organized labor.

Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama, advanced a number of measures to aid union organizing and enhance workers’ rights. One was the so-called “persuader rule” limiting the reach of anti-union lawyers during organizing drives. Another demanded that federal contractors acknowledge violations of labor laws. Trump snuffed both.

At the NLRB, Trump installed a feared anti-labor operative, Peter B. Robb, as general counsel – Robb was Ronald Reagan’s lead attorney in the notorious 1981 case that broke the air traffic controllers’ union – and now has another worrisome move in mind.

According to news reports, the Administration now wants to diminish the role of the labor board by downsizing its 26 regional offices and giving more power to the agency’s Washington office – a move that would allow anti-union Republicans greater clout.

But the union movement is resilient, and, hopefully, becoming more so. The number of members is up. Young people are showing renewed interest. A tight job market is giving employees clout and, perhaps, renewed courage to organize.

Likewise, the American press is proving every day that it remains true to its mission and that no amount of partisan bluster will stop the flow of news.

These are challenging times, no question. But in the pages of the nation’s newspapers, and the presence of the union movement, there are signs of hope. Political power fades. American workers and the free press carry on. ■



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## Point of View BY SAM PIZZIGATI

# GOP’s ‘Bargaining’ Over Taxes Was For Benefit of the Wealthy

Late last year, Republican House and Senate negotiators produced a tax cut “compromise” – which Republican President Donald Trump eagerly pushed for and signed – that defied humankind’s most ancient negotiating norms.

Guess who made them do it. Hint: It wasn’t you and me.

Why did these GOP lawmakers need to “bargain?”

In a country like ours where wealth earns influence, lawmakers don’t “bargain” with each other. They bargain with the rich. And the rich – the nation’s plutocrats – are never satisfied. They always want more.

When the Senate and House versions of the GOP tax cut measure went to conference for shaping into a joint proposal, the result was an even better deal for corporations and top-earning Americans. No real negotiating went on.

During conference committee deliberations on the GOP tax plan, the Washington Post reported, America’s super rich — the donor class that funds political campaigns — “demanded” an even greater top marginal tax rate giveaway than the House or the Senate legislated.

And the Republican House and Senate conferees obliged.

An analyst for the publication, Business Insider, found the House-passed plan saves a taxpayer reporting \$10 million in income an estimated \$116,972. The Senate-passed legislation saves this same taxpayer \$222,004.

On provision after provision, the House-Senate conference committee gave away more to the rich than either the House or the Senate originally voted. The most glaring example was seen in cuts that took the top marginal tax rate from 39.6 to 37 percent – a windfall for the wealthy.

Don’t you wish you could benefit from “compromises” like that?

Meanwhile, Republicans already are talking about another “grand bargain” that – hold on to your wallets – would slash Social Security and Medicare to pay for tax cuts.

We need leaders who look out for everyone – not just the wealthy 1 percent – and stand unwavering against the insatiable American plutocracy. ■

*Veteran labor writer Sam Pizzigati, an Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, co-edits Too Much, a publication of Inequality.org This column was distributed by Press Associates Union News Service.*



## Big Promises but Little Payoff



The 1954 Broadway show, “Pajama Game,” about a union fight for higher wages in a pajama factory, had a song that resonates today.

“Seven-and-a-half cents doesn’t mean a helluva lot. Seven-and a half cents doesn’t mean a thing, but give it to me every hour, 40 hours every week, and then I’ll be living like a king.”

Seven-and a-half cents an hour may have seemed quaintly obsolete until a Pennsylvania secretary thanked House Speaker Paul Ryan for the extra \$1.50 a week she found in her paycheck thanks to the new GOP tax plan.

Ryan tweeted triumphantly about the woman’s meager increase but withdrew the message when critics howled. Republicans bragging about an extra \$1.50 a week? Really? Seven-and-a-half cents of additional pay in 1954 totaled \$3 a week – twice what the Pennsylvania worker gained in 2018.

Some tax break.

A broader look shows the GOP plan promising more than it ever can deliver.

Republicans like to say the average family with a \$75,000 income will do well. But that is misleading. Median income in America – half the people make more, half less – was \$56,619 in 2016, not \$75k.

But the really cynical thing about the tax cut is that most people will do slightly better in 2018 only because it is an election year and the GOP is worried about losing control of Congress.

And the bonuses and small raises being handed out by big business amount to a publicity stunt to

make the Republican plan seem worker-friendly.

Starting in 2019, the bill begins to hurt.

Writing off business expenses, including union dues – forget it.

Ditto medical expenses and moving costs.

The exemption for mortgage interest and state and local taxes has been greatly reduced, which hurts major Democratic states.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin crowed that an extra \$20 a week for ordinary taxpayers should enable them to buy a new car. I’m in, Steve. Point me to the showroom where I can get behind the wheel for 20 bucks a week.

Let’s get real: The Economic Policy Institute said 83 percent of the benefits of the GOP tax cut go to the 1 percent while raising taxes on half the working class.

Businesses make out like bandits with most of the savings on lower tax rates beefing up salaries and bonuses for the bosses.

President Donald Trump claims he won’t benefit. Tax analysts say otherwise. We’ll never know for sure, of course, because Trump won’t release his IRS returns. The GOP plan was made for guys like Trump. No wonder he looked so happy signing the bill. ■

## Guest Spot

BY SIDNEY SCHAEER

## Media Shifts, Truth Stays the Same

The news in the newspaper business is not so good: circulation is off, advertising is down and the Internet --once viewed as a new-fangled ally has turned everything topsy-turvy.

More than 16 years have passed since I retired from Newsday. And while the paper still lands on the driveway, the news that truly hit home occurred when my old employer, announced it was leaving its Melville, New York, headquarters, moving to a smaller office and outsourcing production.

Newsday staffers will continue writing and editing the paper, but it will now be printed and delivered by the New York Times.

This is culture shock. When you can no longer anticipate the floor vibrating because the presses are rolling, it may be a time to look back.

In the summer of 1969 – the day man set foot on the moon – I tried out for a job at the paper.

I was 25 years old, with almost four years experience at the Wilmington (Delaware) News Journal. Over the next 33 years at Newsday, I had a myriad of assignments – straight news, investigations, TV coverage, feature writing, obituaries, even a column that required a weekly “Happy Ending.”

Newsday became home. I met my wife there, made enduring friendships and was lucky to be represented by a union – Local 406-C – that provided job security, decent pay, and dignity.

We had a major league staff, accomplished, colorful and at times, wacky.

Bob Greene the blustery former state inves-

tigator who shaped Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage; a feisty reporter named Joey Demma who let nothing, including the police, stand between him and a story; Les Payne who lived as a migrant worker to expose woeful conditions; the rambunctious crew that collaborated on the 1969 sex spoof, “Naked Came the Stranger.”

By the time I retired, drastic changes brought about by the Internet were underway. Instead of updating stories once or twice a day, reporters were hustling to add new information on what seemed a minute-to-minute basis. The paper had a website, and customers were beginning to read the news on digital devices – not the paper product that was a mainstay of Long Island Rail Road commuters.

Changes yes, but here is the main thing:

It doesn’t matter where the company has its offices, or even whose presses churn out the daily product. What matters is that Newsday, and other publications, endure at a time when even the notion of “truth” is under attack.

I had some wonderful times, and to those who have come after: Keep on. ■

*Sidney Schaer is a former Newsday reporter and member of Local 406-C.*



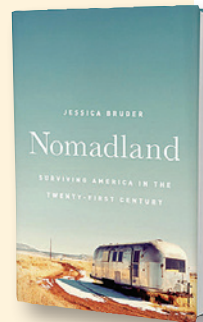
## All the Best

### Print

#### Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century

Jessica Bruder

While Republicans fashion tax plans that wildly favor corporations and the ultra-rich, millions of Americans struggle to survive day to day. Many are older folks who, without hope of retirement, travel endlessly through a tough-luck realm described by author Jessica Bruder as “Nomadland.” These are the “Okies of the Recession,” as Bruder says – senior citizens going place to place in hopes of finding temporary work picking blueberries or processing sugar beets, or whatever turns up. Bruder’s account has depth and soul – she spent three years on the road, herself – and serves as reminder that beyond the big talk of a booming economy, thousands of older Americans are checking their maps and praying for a break. *W.W. Norton & Company, \$26.95*



### Music

#### Joan Shelley

Joan Shelley

There are performers who bring you close in the first few moments of a song, make their claim and don’t let go. It’s a rare quality and Joan Shelley, whose Kentucky roots are evident in every phrase, is as tenacious as they come. Songs on this album – Shelley’s fifth – have the illusion of simplicity but, like Shelley’s shimmering voice, the tunes reach emotional depth that at first bring surprise and then the reassurance of a late-night conversation with an old friend. Even a song titled, “Go Wild,” is a moody testament to restraint and introspection. Wrapping up this wistful collection, Shelley sings, “Isn’t That Enough?” To which the listener is apt to answer, “Not by a long shot. Keep ‘em coming.”



### Video

#### I, Daniel Blake

Ken Loach, director

It’s bad enough being broke but enduring high-handed bureaucrats who treat you like a loser is too much for Daniel Blake, a 60-something carpenter sidelined by poor health and struggling to cope with Britain’s social welfare system. Indignities pile up for Blake (Dave Johns) and the impoverished single mother he befriends (Hayley Squires) until he takes matters into his own hands – a final stand in Blake’s one-man campaign for justice and respect. Director Ken Loach is a master of the working class drama and in this touching film again establishes what ought to be obvious: Decency should not be a matter of income eligibility. Everyone deserves a share. *Criterion Collection, 14.99, Amazon.com*



### Internet

#### Procon.org: Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues

[www.procon.org](http://www.procon.org)

Has there been a more contentious time? With political warfare raging in Washington and social media on fire with bombast and partisan brawling, it’s hard to think of a moment when there was so much heat and so little light. For those still interested in civilized discussion based on facts not phony claims, Procon.org is a valuable tool. On almost every imaginable controversial subject – gun control, immigration, assisted suicide, you name it – the site briefly outlines essential points, for and against, and, without partiality or put-down, allows readers to make up their minds. Common courtesy. Nice idea. Pass it on.



# 'We have to keep thinking creatively'

Continued from page 1

said. "That's understandable, and so they don't want to reach out to the union. But I think when things loosen up that's when they start reaching out again."

In February, Foreman said, he made contact with two potential organizing targets in the space of a week – evidence, he said, of a more assertive workforce and promising circumstances for organizing.

"We just have to keep doing our job – and that means expanding our reach and thinking creatively," said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. "Conditions now are far better for organizing than during the recession. We have to capitalize on every opportunity."

A Bloomberg News commentary noted recently that many industries are facing a shortage of workers that could give an advantage to organized labor.

"The weakening of labor unions worked out for employers over the past several decades, as workers lost bargaining power and wage growth stagnated," said columnist Conor Sen. "So companies got used to a plentiful supply of on-demand labor at low wages. But that's over."

Despite optimistic signs, union leaders urged caution. Janice Bort, secretary-treasurer of Local 72-C, Washington, D.C. said too many jobs have been lost in the print industry – largely because of automation – to be cheered by the latest BLS numbers.

Two plants closed last year, Bort said, eliminating 65 jobs held by Local 72-C members. "The printing trade is going down because of technology."

Nevertheless, Steve Sullivan, president of Local 3-N, Boston, said an increase in the number of union members should not be discounted and could affect crucial 2018 midterm elections.



Union members abandoned labor-friendly Democratic candidates in 2016 voting in large part, analysts say, because of the unexpected blue-collar appeal of Donald Trump. But, Sullivan said, most union members still are liable to cast ballots for candidates representing working class interests.

"There's no better person than a labor person who understands our values and what we're going through," he said.

Sullivan and Foreman said that despite brash promises, Trump has done little for labor since becoming President. Experts point to White House support of a lawsuit now before the U.S. Supreme Court that seeks to prohibit "agency fees" for public employees who decline to join the unions that protect their jobs and benefits.

The 2018 mid-terms will provide an opportunity for labor to return to its roots, the union leaders said.

Low unemployment – achieved in large measure thanks to the financial policies of former President Barack Obama, according to many economists – may have diminished some of the fears motivating voters two years ago. "Politics are very important," Sullivan said. "When people are afraid you can get them to do anything."

Foreman said union members who voted Republican in 2016 have had time to reassess their decision.

"A lot of people have to learn the hard way," Foreman said. "And it's unfortunate that some union members don't realize the impact of politics on their livelihoods."

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



**UNION LABOR  
BUILT THE  
AMERICAN DREAM**

## BENEFITS OF UNION MEMBERSHIP

*Union membership gives you better pay, better benefits and a voice on the job.*

### Union Membership Gives Strength in Numbers

All workers benefit from unions because unions set pay standards and workplace protections. Union members benefit most from the union's collective bargaining power to negotiate with employers on their behalf. This basic right gives union members more power than if they tried to negotiate as individuals.

### More benefits of union membership

- Union employees make an average of 30 percent more than non-union workers.
- 92 percent of union workers have job-related health coverage versus 68 percent of non-union workers.
- Union workers are more likely to have guaranteed pensions than non-union employees.

Unions help protect employees from unjust dismissal through collective bargaining agreements. Because of contractual safeguards, most unionized employees cannot be fired without "just cause." Many non-union workers are considered "at will" employees and can be fired at any time and for almost any reason.

### Unions are good for America and all Americans

Unions are associated with higher productivity, lower employee turnover, improved workplace communication, and a better-trained workforce.

### Benefits of unions and unionization to employers and the economy

- Economic growth and development
- Productivity
- Competitiveness
- Product or service delivery and quality
- Training
- Workplace health and safety

– SOURCE: UNION PLUS



# Warren: Right-wing ‘Trying to Sink’ Unions

**W**hat is the value of a union job? Plenty, according to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat and long-time supporter of organized labor.

In a Boston Globe opinion piece under the headline, “America Needs Union Jobs,” Warren points out that union workers consistently make more than their non-union counterparts and that organized labor has been pivotal in the campaign to win economic equality for women and minorities.

Non-union women make 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man, Warren points out in an op-ed written with Steven A. Tolman, president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

In union shops, the differential is far less. Union women make 94 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

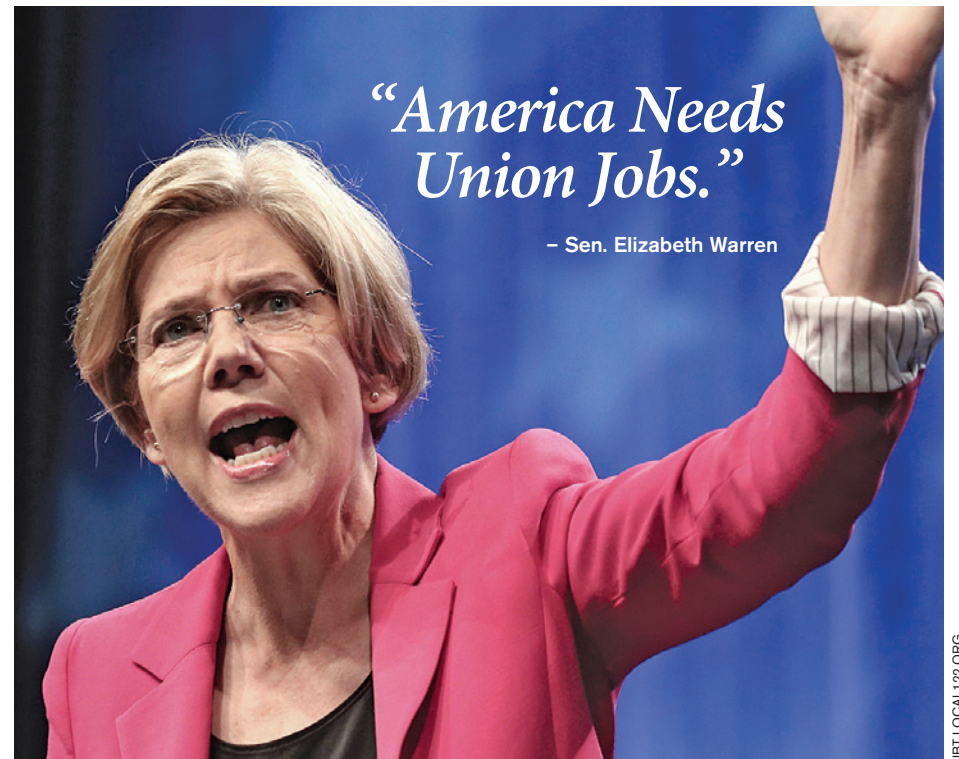
For minority workers, the advantage of union employment is clear, Warren and Tolman say.

African-American union members earn approximately 16 percent more than black non-union workers, and Latino union members enjoy paychecks 25 percent more than Latino employees in non-union shops.

Warren and Tolman caution that right-wing billionaires are “trying to sink” the labor movement and undermine union efforts to help hard-working Americans “build opportunity for themselves and their families.”

Protecting unions is the best way to preserve the middle class, they insist.

“The fight to protect and grow the labor movement is about strengthening America’s middle class and building opportunities for all our families – and we will not back down from that fight.” ■



## Unions Notch Gains as Public Sentiment Swings Back to Labor

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

**U**nion membership in the United States remained at 10.7 percent of the workforce last year but the number of members increased by 262,000, according to a government report. What’s behind the statistics?

Any increase in union ranks is apt to be greeted as good news by labor leaders battling to halt a decades-long membership decline.

“Every member matters,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “We take nothing for granted. Our job is to build the union movement – shop to shop, one person at a time. More than a quarter-million new members shows labor is making progress.”

Here are highlights of the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics analysis:

- The union membership rate of public-sector workers (34.4 percent) continued to be more than five times higher than that of private-sector workers (6.5 percent).
- Men have a higher union membership rate (11.4 percent) than women (10 percent).
- Black workers remained more likely to be union members than white, Asian, or Hispanic employees.
- The median weekly earnings of nonunion workers were 20 percent less than those of union members (\$829 versus \$1,041).
- New York continued to have the highest union membership rate (23.8 percent). South Carolina had the lowest (2.6 percent).

What now?

In the mid-20th Century, approximately one-third of workers in the United States were unionized. As noted by the Washington Post after release of the BLS report, various factors led to a perilous loss of membership in the years that followed.

They include a steep decline in U.S. manufacturing, outsourcing of jobs traditionally filled by union workers and a hostile corporate environment for organizing, among others.

With a diminished union presence in the workplace, the Post noted, wages for millions of American workers suffered.

“...research has shown that declining union membership is one key factor in stagnating wages for middle-class workers,” the Post said. The paper cited a study by researchers at Harvard and the University of Washington that found “robust union membership helps set norms for pay across the economy...”

Renewed optimism in the U.S. economy – thanks in large part to economic policies put into place by President Barack Obama that, in the opinion of many experts, saved the nation from economic disaster during years of punishing recession and set the stage for a rebound – and a tightening job market has prompted hope that unions also may rally.

“With a labor shortage unlikely to go away any time soon, companies should consider embracing organizations they’ve shunned – labor unions – to guarantee themselves the workers they’ll need,” said a column on the Bloomberg View website by Conor Sen.



Unions serve “the needs both of employers and workers,” Sen wrote. For workers, he said, unions ensure “higher pay, benefits and employment predictability.” For employers, a unionized shop guarantees “an adequate supply of labor and cost certainty.”

There are indications that – despite anti-union attacks by right-wing politicians and broadcast commentators – public sentiment is swinging back to a pro-labor point of view.

Researchers found that 61 percent of Americans approve of labor unions, an increase of five percentage points from 2016.

Perhaps most surprising, pro-union sentiment increased even among Republicans. But as Republican voters were showing increased support for unions – organized labor earned a 42 percent approval rating from those favoring the GOP, a 10 point jump from the year before – Democrats were struggling to win back blue collar Americans who abandoned the party and voted for Donald Trump in 2016.

In a New York magazine piece, political writer Eric Levitz faults Democrats for failing to pass pro-labor reform measures when they had the chance – increased penalties for labor law violations, “card check” organizing provisions, mandatory arbitration if a company refuses to bargain for a first contract – and notes the destructive effect of right-to-work laws that “undermine organized labor.”

When Democrats released their “Better Deal” plan last year, leaders acknowledged the party must do more to win back labor. “Democrats will show the country we are the party on the side of the working people,” said Senate minority leader Charles Schumer of New York.

Encouraging developments on the labor front – including the increase in the number of union members – have brought guarded optimism from union leaders.

“No one is saying we have turned the corner – far from it,” said Tedeschi. “If organized labor is to regain prominence, we have plenty of work to do in terms of organizing and outreach.”

But, he said, unions represent the “best hope” for preserving and protecting the American middle class. “There are hopeful signs the message is getting through,” he said.

# High Court Hears Crucial Case on 'Agency Fees'



PHOTO BY CHRIS GARLOCK OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL VIA PAM PHOTO SERVICE

Union demonstrators outside U.S. Supreme Court expressed views on a 'free rider' case that represents 'the greatest immediate threat to workers' meaningful participation in our democracy,' according to one report.

**A** right-wing campaign to sabotage the union dues system has reached the U.S. Supreme Court and experts say a contrary ruling could cripple the labor movement, provide corporations enormous advantage and deprive workers a voice in matters related to their own safety and welfare.

"You're basically arguing, 'Do away with unions,'" Justice Sonia Sotomayor told attorney William Messenger of the conservative National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund during oral presentations.

The high court's nine justices heard arguments Feb. 26 in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME* that goes to the heart of union financing and "agency fees."

Mark Janus, a state worker in Illinois who is not a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees but covered by the union contract, claims the fees deprive him of freedom of speech because he disagrees with positions taken by the union.

Union officials argue that they are legally bound to represent all employees in a collective bargaining unit and

that "free riders" enjoy the benefits of contract protection without paying a fair share for costs associated with securing workplace guarantees.

The agency fee – or "fair share" – system long has been a target of far-right activists and anti-union billionaire backers like Charles and David Koch. A win in the Supreme Court could do great damage, analysts say.

"If unions are prohibited from collecting fees from workers they are required to represent, they will be forced to operate with fewer and fewer resources," said a report by the Economic Policy Institute. "This will lead to reduced power...at the bargaining table..."

Though the *Janus* case – backed by the Trump Administration – relates only to public service unions, there is fear that an anti-labor ruling by the conservative-dominated Supreme Court could encourage similar efforts against unions representing private sector employees.

"Any attempt to undermine agency fees is an attack on all unions," said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi.

Two years ago, the court deadlocked, 4-4, on the question of agency fees after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, who was expected to cast a fifth vote and deciding vote against unions. The confirmation last year of Neil Gorsuch, another conservative, to fill the seat left empty by Scalia, causes many to fear that, this time, right-wing forces will prevail.

EPI said the Supreme Court decision in *Janus* "will determine the future of effective unions, democratic decision-making in the workplace" and "preservation" of good public sector jobs.

"The legal attack on public-sector unions 'fair share' or 'agency' fees poses the greatest immediate threat to workers' meaningful participation in our democracy," EPI concluded.

## SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND, (Employer Identification No. 52-1632857, Plan No. 502) for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

### BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$52,236,918 as of June 30, 2017 compared to \$51,356,308 as of July 1, 2016. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$880,610. This increase includes unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year, or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$5,241,813. This income included employee contributions of \$213,664, realized gains of \$1,843,772 from the sale of assets and earnings from investments of \$3,233,808. Plan expenses were \$4,361,203. These expenses included \$597,148 in administrative expenses and \$3,764,055 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries.

### YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

1. An accountant's report;
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers;
3. Assets held for investment; and
4. Transactions in excess of 5 percent of the plan assets.
5. Information regarding any common or collective trust, pooled separate accounts, master trusts or 103-12 investment entities in which the plan vparticipates

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of  
Kurt Freeman  
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-508-6660

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

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan:  
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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

## FEW OPTIONS FOR WORKERS AFTER LSC CLOSES MINNESOTA PLANT

**L**SC Communications, a spinoff of R.R. Donnelley, is closing its plant in Long Prairie, Minnesota, leaving 198 GCC/IBT members without jobs and few options in a town of 4,000 where quality employment is hard to find.

The company cited economics as reason for the move that affects members of Local 1-B and Local 1-M, both in St. Paul.

LSC claimed it was too costly to ship products from the small community of Long Prairie to metropolitan areas like St. Louis and Chicago.

"We asked what could be done to keep the facility open," said Marty Hallberg, president of Local 1-B and District Council 1. "The response was that nothing could be done."

The size of Long Prairie makes an already dire situation even worse.

"A small rural town has no capacity to absorb 198 jobs," Hallberg said. "Some members will retire, some will take advantage of retraining programs or move out of the print industry" and find jobs in larger communities.

Irreparable harm also could be done to a town of mom-and-pop stores, gas stations and restaurants dependent upon local clientele, Hallberg said.

"When you are in a rural area, then there's mothers, sons, daughters working in the facility," Hallberg said. "There are a few situations where both the husband and wife were employed by this company and now they don't have jobs."



The closure comes at a time when the printing industry faces an uphill battle to survive in a digital age. "The printing industry began taking a hit in 2008 – and numerous plants have since closed around the country," Hallberg said.

During the last three rounds of negotiations with LSC, management claimed the plant was "barely hanging on" but many workers still were stunned when management announced on Jan. 15 that the plant would close, Hallberg said.

"There were a lot of teary-eyed people that day," said Wade Skilling, who has worked for the company for 30 years and was on the negotiations committee. "We walked in thinking we were going in to negotiate a contract – and we ended up negotiating severance packages. That was a shock."

Now, he said, everyone must figure out what to do.

"We've done these jobs and we're good at these jobs," Skilling said. "Where do we fit in the rest of the world besides the printing industry?"

Under R.R. Donnelley, the plant was the largest employer in the area with a 600-plus workforce as recently as 10 years ago. Now, the two largest companies are packing plants.

Workers must deal not only with job loss but possible separation from friends and colleagues.

"I'm as close to my co-workers as I am my own family," Skilling said. "Now I may not ever see some of these people again."

## NANC: 'NOW MORE THAN EVER'

**T**he North American Newspaper Conference will be held June 4-6 with an agenda emphasizing strategies for keeping the print industry viable in a time of technological change and battling conservative forces seeking to undercut organized labor and workers' rights.

"Now, more than ever, attendance at the NANC is vital to keep your membership informed on important issues facing all of us," said Kevin Toomey, secretary-treasurer of GCC/IBT Local 3-N, Quincy, Massachusetts.

He said GCC/IBT officers and guest speakers will address a wide range of topics including pension reform, the threat of right-to-work legislation and the pivotal Janus "agency fee" case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Conference participants will be "sharing strategy dealing with common issues in the newspaper industry," Toomey said, and emphasize "the betterment of our membership through collective and collaborative negotiations with newspaper management throughout the GCC/IBT."

The 60th annual NANC event – hosted this year by DC9 and Local 16-N, Philadelphia – will be at the Embassy Suites Resort Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona. Room rates will be \$104 plus tax and fees and includes breakfast and a nightly reception. Deadline for reservations is May 1. Registration will be June 3.

Funded solely through the host local, NANC does not rely on financial assistance from the international union or members' dues. To help offset costs, Toomey asked that GCC/IBT locals consider purchasing ad space in the conference program book.

Reservations for the Scottsdale conference may be secured online through Local 16-N's webpage at [www.local16n.com](http://www.local16n.com) or by contacting Embassy Suites at 480-949-1414. Delegates and guests should mention the 2018 North American Newspaper Conference to assure the group rate.



## FOCUS ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

**W**ith mass shootings dominating the headlines, GCC/IBT leaders will focus on workplace violence at the Midwestern States Conference, April 26-28, in Altoona, Iowa.

Marty Hallberg, president of District Council 1, said recent episodes of gun violence in schools and other locations have workplace implications.

"We need to bring attention to warning signs and mental health issues," Hallberg said.

Job uncertainty also remains a significant concern. In the last couple of years, plant closures have killed approximately 200 jobs held by DC1 members, Hallberg said.

"We've had closures at Bemis, West Rock and Graphic Packaging," Hallberg said. "Locals will be sharing information on how they are dealing with contract negotiations and severance packages."

GCC/IBT representative Rick Street will conduct the workplace violence presentation. Larry Mitchell will discuss changes in the Inter-Local Pension Fund. And GCC/IBT Representative Phil Roberts will lead a training session on grievance issues.

The conference will be held at Prairie Meadows hotel and casino in Altoona. For more information, contact Steve Nobles, conference secretary-treasurer, at 586-755-8041.



**Another important meeting will take place May 6-8 when delegates to the GCC/IBT Eastern Conference gather at Harrah's hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Scheduled are speakers from the Inter-Local Pension Fund and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. For information, contact Harry Selnow, conference vice president, at 973-227-6801.**

## NLRB SLAPS MULLIGAN PRINTING

**V**eteran GCC/IBT Local 6505-M, St. Louis, recently won a National Labor Relations Board ruling against James Mulligan Printing Company.

The NLRB ruling ordered the company to bargain in good faith and provide material the union has requested regarding employment and termination dates, among other basic information.

The local has been at odds with the St. Louis company for a couple of years, said Mike Congemi, 6505-M president.

Negotiations were going so poorly in the summer of 2016 that the union twice pulled the company's authorization to use the union label, Congemi said.

"The union label contract says the local union has the authority to withdraw the company's label license agreement if it feels a resolution of a contract dispute is not imminent," Congemi said.

Negotiations have been renewed but Congemi said the company still is not fully complying with the NLRB order.

"The judge has ordered them to provide us with all of the information we requested but we're still waiting," Congemi said. "They've provided some of it, but not all of it."

*Local Stops wants to hear from you. If your GCC/IBT local has been involved in organizing efforts, community outreach or volunteer work, e-mail a brief summary to reporter Dawn Hobbs at [dawnhobbs@cox.net](mailto:dawnhobbs@cox.net) or call 805-284-5351.*

## Le dernier rapport sur le taux de syndicalisation est encourageant

Par Zachary Dowdy  
Collaboration spéciale au  
Communicator

Les dirigeants de la CCG-FIT ont réagi avec un optimisme prudent au dernier rapport du Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) selon il y a eu une hausse respectable de 262 000 travailleurs syndiqués en 2017 par rapport à l'année d'avant.

« Je pense qu'une augmentation du taux de syndicalisation est toujours quelque chose de très bon et positif », a affirmé Garry Foreman, président de la section locale 17-M de la CCG-FIT à Indianapolis.

Selon le rapport du BLS, les 14,8 millions de personnes syndiquées au pays représentent 10,7 pour cent de tous les travailleurs salariés.

Mais cette augmentation n'a pas été assortie d'une hausse du pourcentage de travailleurs affiliés à des syndicats – il s'est maintenu à 10,7 pour cent – et les chiffres de 2017 sont nettement inférieurs à ceux que le BLS a enregistré il y a quelques décennies. En 1983, la première année avec des données permettant de faire des comparaisons, il y avait 17,7 millions de travailleurs syndiqués, soit 20 pour cent de la main-d'œuvre.

Pour les dirigeants de la CCG-FIT, la modeste progression de l'an dernier ne vaut rien mais indique qu'il faut faire beaucoup d'efforts pour garder les syndicats viables – surtout dans le secteur de l'imprimerie

qui a eu d'importantes compressions d'entreprises et pertes d'emplois.

Maintenant que la nation flirte avec le plein emploi et que le marché du travail est saturé, les travailleurs pourraient être moins réticents à solliciter une représentation syndicale, estiment-ils.

« Il y a sûrement assez d'enjeux pour inciter les travailleurs à s'organiser, a déclaré G. Foreman. Pendant la récession, les gens craignaient pour leurs emplois. Cela se comprend et c'est pourquoi ils ne voulaient pas à se syndiquer. Mais je pense qu'ils recommencent à y penser une fois que la situation est moins tendue. »

G. Foreman a pris contact en février avec deux cibles de recrutement potentielles en l'espace d'une semaine – la preuve, selon lui, qu'il existe une main-d'œuvre plus déterminée et des circonstances propices pour la syndicalisation.

« Nous devons simplement continuer à faire notre travail – autrement dit, étendre notre rayonnement et penser d'une façon créative, a indiqué George Tedeschi, président de la CCG-FIT. Les conditions de recrutement sont bien meilleures que pendant la récession. Nous devons saisir la moindre occasion. »

Malgré des signes optimistes, les dirigeants du syndicat ont exhorté à la prudence.

Janice Bort, secrétaire-trésorière de la section locale 72-C de Washington, D.C. a déclaré qu'il y avait eu trop de

perdes d'emplois dans le secteur de l'imprimerie – surtout en raison de l'automatisation – pour se réjouir des derniers chiffres du BLS.

Deux usines ont fermé leurs portes l'an dernier, explique-t-elle, ce qui a éliminé 65 emplois parmi les membres de la section locale 72-C. « Le secteur de l'imprimerie est en déclin à cause de la technologie. »

Steve Sullivan, président de la section locale 3-N de Boston, a néanmoins indiqué que cette augmentation du taux de syndicalisation ne doit pas être négligée pour autant et qu'elle pourrait être déterminante pour le scrutin crucial de mi-mandat 2018.

Selon les analystes, les travailleurs syndiqués ont laissé tomber les candidats démocratiques qui leur étaient favorables lors des élections de 2016, surtout en raison de l'attrait inattendu que Donald Trump a exercé sur les cols bleus. Mais comme l'a affirmé S. Sullivan, la plupart des syndiqués risquent encore de voter pour des candidats qui représentent les intérêts de la classe ouvrière.

« Il n'y a personne de mieux placé qu'un ouvrier pour comprendre nos valeurs et ce que nous traversons. »

Selon un sondage mené par la FAT-CIO après l'élection présidentielle, 51 pour cent des ménages syndiqués ont voté pour la démocrate Hillary Clinton et 43 pour cent pour Donald Trump.

Comme l'ont souligné S. Sullivan et G. Foreman, Trump a très peu

fait pour les travailleurs depuis qu'il est président, malgré ses promesses impétueuses. Selon les experts, la Maison-Blanche soutient une cause dont la Cour suprême des États-Unis a été saisie et qui vise à interdire les « cotisations obligatoires » imposées aux fonctionnaires qui refusent de rejoindre les rangs des syndicats qui protègent leurs emplois et leurs avantages sociaux.

Les élections de mi-mandat de 2018 vont donner l'occasion au mouvement syndical de renouer avec ses racines, estiment-ils.

Le faible taux de chômage – que de nombreux économistes imputent surtout aux politiques financières de l'ancien président Barack Obama – pourrait avoir apaisé un peu les craintes qui ont influencé les électeurs il y a deux ans. « La politique est très importante, affirme S. Sullivan. Quand les gens ont peur, on peut leur faire faire n'importe quoi. »

Selon G. Foreman, les travailleurs syndiqués qui ont voté pour les républicains en 2016 ont eu le temps de repenser à leur décision.

« Beaucoup de gens l'ont appris à leurs dépens. Et c'est malheureux que certains travailleurs syndiqués ne réalisent pas l'importance de la politique dans leur vie. »

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

## El último informe sobre la afiliación sindical trae buenas esperanzas

Por Zachary Dowdy  
Especial para The Communicator

Los líderes de GCC/IBT reaccionaron con cauteloso optimismo ante el último informe de la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales (Bureau of Labor Statistics; BLS), según el cual el número de afiliados aumentó en 2017 en la respetable cantidad de 262,000 con respecto al año anterior.

«Cada vez que aumenta la membresía me parece una cosa muy buena y positiva», dijo Garry Foreman, presidente de la Local 17-M de GCC/IBT en Indianápolis.

El informe de la BLS indicaba que los 14.8 millones de afiliados a los sindicatos representan un 10.7 por ciento de todos los trabajadores asalariados.

Sin embargo, este crecimiento no iba acompañado de un aumento en el porcentaje de trabajadores sindicalizados, el cual seguía siendo del 10.7 por ciento, y las cifras de 2017 son muy inferiores a las registradas por la BLS hace algunas décadas. En 1983, el primer año para el que se dispone de datos comparables, había 17.7 millones de trabajadores sindicalizados, equivalente al 20 por ciento de la fuerza laboral.

Los líderes de GCC/IBT dijeron que el modesto aumento registrado el año pasado merece atención pero demuestra que queda mucho trabajo por hacer para que los sindicatos puedan ser viables, particularmente en el sector imprenta, donde ha habido

importantes reducciones y despidos de personal.

Los líderes consideran que, con el país a punto de alcanzar el pleno empleo y la consiguiente escasez de trabajadores, estos pueden tener menos recelos para buscar la representación sindical.

«No faltan razones para que a los trabajadores les convenga organizarse», dijo Foreman. «Durante la recesión la gente temía por sus puestos de trabajo. Eso se comprende y explica que se resistieran a acercarse a los sindicatos. Pero creo que cuando mejoran las cosas entonces comienzan otra vez a aproximarse».

En febrero, Foreman estableció contacto con dos posibles empresas candidatas a la sindicalización en el curso de una semana. Esto es señal, nos dice, de una fuerza laboral más asertiva y de circunstancias más prometedoras para la organización sindical.

«Solo tenemos que seguir haciendo nuestro trabajo, lo que significa aumentar nuestro radio de acción y pensar con creatividad», dijo George Tedeschi, presidente de GCC/IBT. «Se dan mucho mejores condiciones para la organización que durante la recesión. Tenemos que capitalizar todas las oportunidades».

A pesar del optimismo, los líderes recomendaron precaución.

Janice Bort, secretaria-tesorera de la Local 72-C, en Washington, D.C., dijo que se han perdido demasiados puestos

de trabajo en el sector imprenta, en su mayor parte debido a la automatización, para poder alegrarse por las últimas cifras de la BLS.

El año pasado cerraron dos plantas, dijo Bort, y 65 miembros de la Local 72-C perdieron su trabajo. «El sector imprenta está viniéndose abajo por causa de la tecnología».

No obstante, Steve Sullivan, Presidente de la Local 3-N, de Boston, dijo que no debe ignorarse el aumento de la membresía, que podría ser crucial en las elecciones a mitad de mandato de 2018.

Los trabajadores afiliados abandonaron en la votación de 2016 a los candidatos demócratas más cercanos al sindicalismo debido, según los analistas, al inesperado llamamiento de Donald Trump a la clase trabajadora. Pero, dijo Sullivan, en la mayoría de los casos, todavía es más probable que los afiliados voten por candidatos que representen los intereses de los trabajadores.

«No hay nadie mejor que una persona sindicalista que entienda nuestros valores y sepa por lo que estamos pasando», dijo.

Una encuesta realizada por AFL-CIO tras las elecciones presidenciales entre las personas que acababan de votar indicó que en las casas de los trabajadores sindicalizados el 51 por ciento votó por la demócrata Hillary Clinton y el 43 por ciento lo hizo por Donald Trump.

Sullivan y Foreman dijeron que, a

pesar de sus agresivas promesas, Trump ha hecho muy poco por el movimiento laboral desde que es presidente. Los expertos apuntan al apoyo de la Casa Blanca a un juicio que se encuentra ahora en la Suprema Corte de Estados Unidos, el cual busca la prohibición del cobro de «comisiones de agencia» a los empleados públicos que se nieguen a hacerse miembros de los sindicatos que protegen sus empleos y beneficios.

Las elecciones de mitad de mandato en 2018 ofrecerán una oportunidad a los trabajadores para retornar a sus raíces, dijeron los líderes sindicales.

El descenso del desempleo, conseguido en gran medida gracias a las políticas financieras del anterior presidente Barack Obama según muchos economistas, puede haber disipado algunos de los temores que motivaron a los votantes hace dos años. «La política es muy importante», dijo Sullivan. «Cuando la gente tiene miedo puedes conseguir que hagan cualquier cosa».

Foreman dijo que los miembros de sindicatos que votaron al candidato republicano en 2016 han tenido tiempo de reconsiderar su decisión.

«Mucha gente tiene que aprender a la fuerza», dijo Foreman. «Y es triste que muchos de nuestros miembros no se den cuenta de la importancia de la política para su supervivencia».

*Zachary Dowdy es reportero de Newsday y vicepresidente editorial de la local 406-C, Long Island.*

# Rickey Putman, Talented Organizer with Generous Heart

On a family camping trip near St. Clair, Missouri last summer, Rickey Putman was chatting with another vacationer. When the fellow voiced support for a right-to-work measure being pushed by state Republicans, Putman responded without hesitation.

“You don’t know who you’re talking to,” Putman told the other camper. “I’m a union organizer.”

Putman outlined labor’s position on right-to-work and explained that the legislation would harm the state’s economy – and the welfare of all working people in Missouri.

“He was always a driven person,” said Putman’s sister, Robin Cottner, who recalled the episode. “He always fought for the underdog.”

The camp ground story would surprise no one familiar with Putman and his dedication to the labor movement and union members.

Putman, who died in December at the age of 47 at his home in Cedar Hill, Missouri, was known widely as a tireless and resourceful union professional – and one with a big heart and generous spirit.

Rick Street, a GCC/IBT organizer who often joined Putman on unionizing drives, said the two were “knocking on doors” to round up support for a campaign at a Quebecor plant in Versailles, Kentucky, when they met a worker in bad financial shape.

“This was a young guy in an entry level position,” Street recalled. “He had a special needs kid who required medication and the man’s insurance was not worth a damn. It was a question of paying for groceries – or the medicine.”

Street said Putman “took money out of his own pocket for the man and got people to contribute groceries so there was enough money to get the prescriptions filled.” It was the way Putman operated, Street said. “He did the same thing in his own community. He was an all-round great dude.”

That also was the assessment of another friend, John Bielicki, secretary-treasurer of 6-505-M, St. Louis, Putman’s home local.

“He was caring, energetic – a doer,” said Bielicki. “Rickey would do anything for people. He was a very generous person.”

Rickey Joe Putman was born March 25, 1970 in Festus, Missouri, the first of three children of William and Glenda Putman.

A friend of his father helped Putman find employment in the print industry, according to his sister, Robin. “He sort of hounded the guy until he found a job,” she said.

He worked at Graphic Packaging International in Pacific, Missouri, according to John Bielicki, and also at St. Louis Lithographing Co. Putman was in pre-press and went on to be a journeyman plate decker, Bielicki said.



Rickey Joe Putman

In 2003, George Tedeschi, then president of the GCIU, and now of the GCC/IBT, hired Putman as a full-time organizer.

“He was a talented man and well-suited for the job,” said Tedeschi. “Rickey had a common touch – a rare ability to connect with people, explain the value of union membership and show that he cared.”

Tedeschi said he met Putman at a GCIU training program in 1998 and quickly realized the younger man “had the potential to be a great organizer.” Putman more than lived up to expectations, Tedeschi said. “He could have been president of the union one day.”

At union conferences, Putman and Rick Street offered tightly-run tutorials on organizing – alternating turns with a microphone and encouraging audience involvement. “We might not have been together for six months

but it was like we were reading each other’s minds in those presentations,” said Street. “It was a joy to work with him.”

Robin Cottner, Putman’s sister, said her brother seemed content – energized by his union assignments and happy with his personal life.

Last May, he married Ginger Hughes – his second wife – and was taking online college courses, Cottner said. “His daughter, Cheyenne, was going to college and Rickey said ‘You’re not going to one-up me!’”

In his spare time, Putman enjoyed camping, fishing, kayaking, karaoke and gardening. To honor his father, a Korean War veteran who died in 2012, Putman joined the men’s auxiliary of VFW Post 5331 in Cedar Hill and became a lifetime member in 2016.

Cottner said the family will miss his “Rickey’s charm, smile and generous heart.”

Putman’s loss is profound – in professional and personal terms, said those who knew him.

Marty Keegan, a former GCC/IBT organizer, said Putman “gave us strength and friendship and a lot of very funny times.” He added: “You will never be forgotten.” Teamwork was important to Putman, said Rick Street. Over the years, he said, they developed a special bond as organizers. “He was my brother.”

In addition to his wife, Ginger, daughter, Cheyenne, mother, Glenda and sister, Robin, Putman is survived by a stepson, Nathaniel Moman; brother, Kevin; half-sister, Elaine Gorman; half-brother, Bill Putman; and five nieces and nephews.

# Leon M. Wickersham Known as Innovative Policy Expert

Leon M. Wickersham, a World War 2 Navy veteran who, as longtime executive assistant to GCIU president Kenneth Brown, earned a reputation as an innovative labor policy expert with abiding concern for union members at the local level, died Feb. 7 in Jamesville, New York. He was 95.

Family members said Wickersham – known in union ranks as “Wick” – had suffered for several years from Alzheimer’s Disease and was a resident of The Nottingham Residential Health Care Facility.

Despite illness, Wickersham maintained his pleasant disposition and high-spirited nature, said a son, James Wickersham, of Syracuse. “Alzheimer’s never took away his sense of humor, which endeared him to the nursing home staff.”

As a union professional, Wickersham combined an even temperament with a strong sense of purpose.

A story in the Graphic Communicator prior to Wickersham’s retirement from the GCIU in 1986, called him one of the union’s “most effective” policy coordinators.

“He has served as the link between officer decisions and representative staff actions, between established bargaining policies and negotiations in the trenches,” the paper said.

Born to Leon and Winifred Wickersham on Dec. 28, 1922, Wickersham grew up in Wilmington, Delaware and attended Pierre S. DuPont High School.

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and trained in aviation medicine as a pharmacist’s mate 2nd class. Wickersham was attached to air wings at Ottumwa, Iowa, Philadelphia, Fort Worth and the Naval Air Station Corpus Christie, Texas.

In the service, Wickersham met Lois Nelson, a Navy nurse. The couple married in 1945 and, after the war, settled in Wilmington and then moved to Racine, Wisconsin, Lois Wickersham’s hometown. Both went to work at Western Publishing, printer of the Little Golden Book series.

Leon Wickersham, a lithographic stripper, became active in union affairs at Local 54 of the Amalgamated Lithographers of America. He was a shop steward, served on the union’s council board and was tapped by Local 54 president George Canary for the representative staff.

In 1960, the new ALA president, Kenneth J. Brown, recruited Wickersham as



Leon M. Wickersham

his executive assistant – a post that Wickersham held for more than a quarter-century. Brown and Wickersham became trusted colleagues and good friends, James Wickersham said.

He recalled a Christmas phone conversation between the two men in recent years. “It was like they were the same guys” who worked together for so long, James Wickersham said. “It was precious.”

As Brown’s executive assistant, Wickersham oversaw the union’s Contract and Research Department and in that role launched a major effort to “coordinate bargaining among U.S. locals,” according to the Communicator story.

Wickersham was a pioneer in the area of accessible health care coverage. He launched a plan that allowed locals to pool resources and purchase insurance at lower costs providing what the Communicator described as coverage for thousands “at rates they otherwise could not enjoy.”

A long-time friend, John “Jack” Greer, former president of Local 285-M, Washington, and an international GCIU vice president, said Wickersham was a “a fair and decent guy and helpful to anyone who had a problem.”

Among Wickersham’s responsibilities, Greer recalled, was directing the union’s representatives. “Over the years, I never heard one say a negative thing about Wick.”

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi also praised Wickersham as a “dedicated union officer known for his decency and fairness.” Tedeschi added: “He was a great asset to the union at the local and international levels. We are grateful for his service.”

James Wickersham, a former local union president for the New York State United Teachers/AFT, said his father was an exceptionally well-rounded person – Boy Scout leader, stained glass artist, photographer, and diligent worker in Lutheran churches attended by the family – with a keen sense of mission.

“He was always pushing for the underdog,” Wickersham said. “His theme was, you look out for the common man who carries his lunch to the job and works hard every day.” His father, Wickersham said, “believed with indomitable spirit that unions were the saving grace of the middle class.”

In addition to James, Leon Wickersham is survived by another son, Michael of San Antonio, Texas; daughters, Sharon Carson of Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania, and Patti Wickersham of Springfield, Vermont; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. His wife, Lois, died in 2001 at the age of 78.

Contributions in Leon Wickersham’s memory may be sent to The Resident Forum for the benefit of the staff at Nottingham Residential Health Care facility, 1305 Nottingham Rd., Jamesville, New York 13078.

## Amid Turmoil at Los Angeles Times, Editorial Staff Organizes

Amid turmoil at the newspaper, Los Angeles Times editorial employees voted to affiliate with the NewsGuild-Communications Workers of America.

With their 248-44 unionization vote, employees sent an emphatic signal to ownership at Tronc Inc., as the Tribune Publishing of Chicago now prefers to be known, staff members said.

"The newsroom has put up with so much disruption and mismanagement, and this vote just underscores how much of a say we need to have in the decision-making process," Kristina Bui, a copy editor at the Times, told the online publication Deadline Hollywood. "The newsroom is demanding a seat at the bargaining table."

It has been a tumultuous time for the 136-year-old newspaper.

National Public Radio reported that publisher Ross Levinsohn had been sued over sexual



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

harassment allegations and alleged use of homophobic slurs while chief executive of Guggenheim Digital Media. After an investigation, Tronc cleared Levinsohn and made him chief of the Tribune Interactive business unit.

Newsroom staff members also have questioned

the leadership of editor-in-chief Lewis D'Vorkin, who was the subject of an unflattering appraisal in the highly respected Columbia Journalism Review, and, most recently, it became clear that Tronc was keen on selling the Times.

Tribune found a buyer when Patrick Soon-Shiong, a billionaire doctor and major Tronc shareholder, offered \$500 million cash for the L.A. Times and allied publications, the San Diego Union and Hoy, a Spanish language paper. Soon-Shiong's editorial priorities are not known but the physician, who made a fortune in biotech research, told the New York Times in an interview that he considers newspapers "a public trust."

Commenting on the upheaval at the Los Angeles Times, USC journalism professor Gabriel Kahn told the entertainment newspaper, Variety, "It's no minor miracle that they put out a paper every day."

### Solidarity Forever with Silent Partners

San Francisco Teamsters are in solidarity with a crew of silent partners – delivery robots.

Legislation passed by the city board of supervisors allows companies to deploy human-operated robots for delivery of essentials – including groceries and meals – and operate a limited number of the machines on sidewalks.



WWW.MARBLE.IO VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

Marble, a San Francisco-based company, will employ Teamsters in the manufacture and operations of robots – an "innovation that helps workers, instead of displacing them," said Rome Aloise, president of Teamsters Joint Council 7.

The arrangement shows how the IBT keeps pace with changing times, Aloise said.

"Teamsters started out driving teams of horses, and now San Francisco's robots will be manufactured and driven by Teamsters."

### More States Eye RTW Laws

Keep your eye on Ohio, Illinois and Missouri. They aren't right-to-work states – yet.

But the holdouts are under pressure because nearby states – Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky – have right-to-work laws that give them a competitive edge, according to backers, even though experts say there is little proof.



"The evidence is slim that it helps," Roland Zullo, a University of Michigan labor relations professor, told the New York Times.

Nevertheless, said the Times, Missouri will vote on a right-to-work law in November and Republicans in Ohio want to put a measure on the ballot before the end of the year. Illinois might

be safe – for now – because Democrats dominate the state legislature, the Times notes.

Halting the spread of right-to-work laws will be a test for organized labor, said the Times. It remains to be seen if unions and Democratic allies can "stop the next domino from falling," the paper said.



### New Twists on Old Schemes

Tired of phone scams – the endless attempts by sleazy operators to sell something you don't want, steal your identity or sneak into your wallet by claiming you owe the Internal Revenue Service a bundle?

This sort of stuff is rampant, say experts.

"Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year," warns the Federal Trade Commission. "They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. They add new twists to old schemes and pressure people to make important decisions on the spot."

According to an article in the AARP Bulletin, phone-related crimes doubled in 2017.

Here – from AARP – are a few ways to stump the scammers:

- Be on alert when caller ID shows a number you don't know even if it looks local. Crooks know people are apt to answer calls that seem to be from the neighborhood. If you pick up, don't drop your guard.
- Same goes for a call from your own number. Who wouldn't wonder how that happened? Be careful – something fishy may be in the works.
- Also be wary of one-ring calls. A favorite ploy of cheaters is to hang up and tempt the would-be victim to call back. Don't fall for it.
- Under no circumstances – ever! – give your bank account PIN to an unknown party. With your the number, swindlers "immediately log in as you, change your PIN and take over your account." Ken Schuman, an anti-fraud expert, told AARP.
- Getting text messages on your Smartphone offering credit cards or gifts? Don't respond. More than likely it's yet another stab at separating you from your money.

Bottom line: Stay alert. It can be wild out there.

STORY OF

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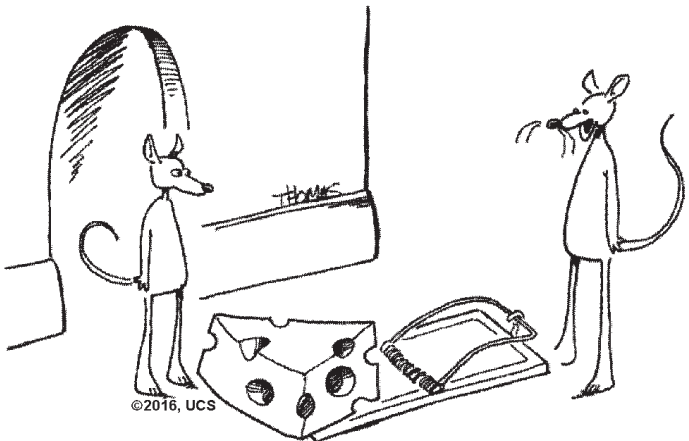


## LONG ISLAND 'WINTER WONDERLAND' A WAY TO 'GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY'

GCC/IBT members are good citizens – and John Tedeschi proves it. Two years ago, Tedeschi, of Local 406-C, had an idea for a holiday event in the school district of his two children on the south shore of Long Island – a happy occasion that would recreate the family-oriented “small town” atmosphere often depicted on greeting cards and in movies. The result was a sparkling one-night festival of food, gifts and good times that transformed the Oakwood-Bohemia Middle School into a “Winter Wonderland.” With enthusiastic help from devoted administrators, the Parent-Teachers Association – which sponsored the event – and student volunteers, Tedeschi, son of GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi, launched a seasonal spectacular that drew a crowd of more than 2,000 last December. Response has been so positive that Tedeschi, 50, a paper handler at Newsday, expects “Winter Wonderland” to expand and continue as an annual affair. “The event is a giveback to the community,” Tedeschi said – and evidence of the civic engagement GCC/IBT members demonstrate nationwide.



## Funny Business



“I don't get paid enough to do this job.”



“If we cancel their eyeglass benefits, the union won't be able to read the fine print.”



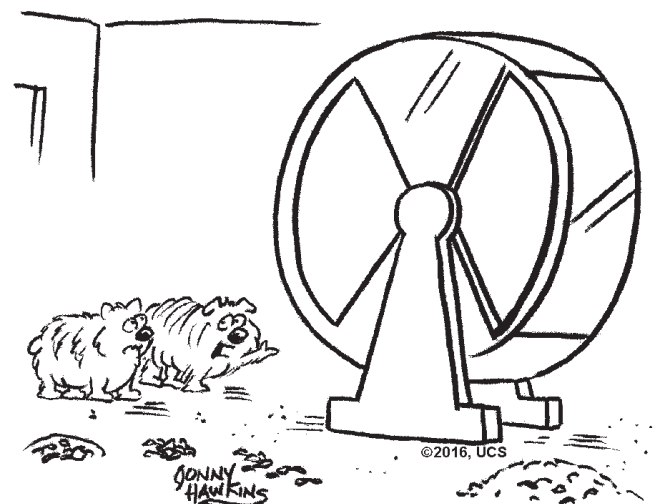
campbell.



“I told my boss there weren't enough hours in my day. He said that's why they invented the night.”



Schwappan



“This will be your work station.”