

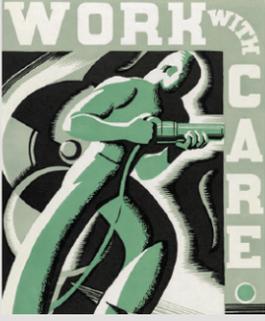
# Graphic Communicator

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**WPA Stamps Hail Nation's Resilience**



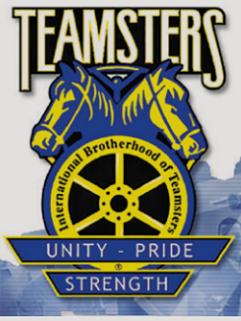
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**'Right Wing Won't Destroy Unions'**



PAGE 10

**TOP STORY**

# Solidarity in the Struggle to Save Planet Earth



**By Fred Bruning**  
*Graphic Communicator*



NEW YORK CITY, TEAMSTERS ARE WORKING WITH A LABOR JUSTICE GROUP TO reduce pollution and protect private sanitation workers. The United Steelworkers back development of wind power and support clean energy legislation. A contingent from the Service Employees International Union joined the massive April climate demonstration in Washington, D. C. "We march because our families, our health, and our future depend on it," said Mary Kay Henry, SEIU international president.

Though occasional disagreement between environmental activists and job-seeking union officials is inevitable, the two camps increasingly find themselves united by commitment to working Americans and concern for the survival of the planet they both share. President Donald Trump's decision to drop out of the Paris climate accord raised the stakes even higher.

"The world is moving on whether we like it or not," said long-time labor leader Joe Uehlein, founding president of the Labor Network for Sustainability. "We're better being part of it than fighting it."

Uehlein, former director of the AFL-CIO Center for Strategic Campaigns and a member of the United Nations commission on global warming from 1988-2003, said he understood why labor leaders put top priority on keeping members employed. When President Donald Trump earlier this year revived the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipeline projects, environmentalists howled but many union officials cheered.

"They want the jobs," said Uehlein. "I totally get that."

*continues on PAGE 5*

**'Important Work' at NANC in Scottsdale**



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Printed in the USA

**Kurt Freeman to Follow Bob Lacey as Secy-Trsr/Veep**



*'Unions face challenges but this is an exciting time.'*

— Kurt Freeman

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## We Can Protect Earth And Boost Jobs, Too

IN THE LAST EDITION OF THE COMMUNICATOR, I SAID PROTECTING the environment was important. I said there were self-interested politicians leading a phony “denial” campaign that we should reject. And I said that while jobs are always a top priority for labor, there is plenty of room for cooperation between unions and environmental groups – the so-called “blue-green alliance.”



At the risk of repeating myself, I’m going to make another pitch for a kind of broad union “awakening” on the subject of climate change and environmental responsibility – especially now that President Trump has dropped out of the Paris climate agreement.

This edition of our paper pays special attention to the surprising– and successful – efforts to form a unified “blue-green” front and dismiss the bogus idea that union members oppose environmental action and that environmentalists see labor as an enemy.

As our “top story” on Page 1 makes clear, the two camps have important overlapping interests and, increasingly, are finding ways to work together.

That’s good.

First, the sustainable energy sector – everything from wind power to advanced battery technology – is a booming area of job growth.

New employment opportunities are vital for an American work force still clawing its way out of the “Great Recession.” And, for labor, there is a great chance to increase our ranks at a time when union membership continues to slip – to aggressively organize in climate-related fields certain to grow and prosper.

But that’s not the only reason to get behind the environmental movement.

Speaking to the Communicator, Joe Uehlein, a long-time labor official at the AFL-CIO who formed a group called Labor Network for Sustainability, said there’s a flip side to the optimistic employment picture.

That is, catastrophic job loss.



Uehlein correctly reminds us that, left unchecked, climate change will pose a serious threat – in the form of severe storms and rising water level – to vital segments of the nation’s economic infrastructure, particularly on the east and west coasts.

If “super storms” like the terrible Hurricane Sandy of 2012 knocks out airports, rail centers and ports, commerce will be socked, too. When Sandy hit New York City, for instance, many businesses never recovered and jobs got washed away.

Big weather events are becoming more common. Perhaps not all are the result of climate change but scientists say the catastrophic potential of a warming planet are undeniable. We can’t afford to ignore the danger.

What about in the short run – the here and now?

Uehlein and others in the blue-green movement say they absolutely respect the need for labor organizations to place priority on keeping members employed – that’s the first responsibility of a union.

“They want the jobs,” said Uehlein. “I totally get that.”

There may always be occasional disagreements between labor and environmentalists. But in the larger scheme of things, the two are not at cross purposes. With mutual respect, “blue” and “green” can go forward together – creating jobs and preserving good, old Planet Earth. Working side by side, we can make a world of difference. There’s no denying that. ■

## OUTLOOK

JAMES P. HOFFA TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

## Washington Must Take Action on Infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE SEEMS LIKE A FORGOTTEN policy issue to many people – for good reason. While much of Washington’s focus has been on matters going nowhere fast, improving the nation’s roads and rails has taken a back seat despite having bipartisan support.

The public is still demanding action. A new poll of swing state voters in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin found infrastructure is the most popular of President Trump’s platform thus far, with 57 percent saying they would be disappointed if no action is taken on it by 2018. Additionally, 26 percent said they wouldn’t support the GOP in the midterm elections if steps aren’t taken to fix the problem.

While some elected officials continue to stick their heads in the sand when it comes to the need for infrastructure investment, there is a real cost to doing nothing.

A survey conducted by the American Automobile Association (AAA) found that more than 35,000 people died in traffic crashes in



2015 and hundreds of thousands were seriously injured. “Highway infrastructure improvements have the potential to reduce both the likelihood and consequences of crashes caused not only by the roadway environment but also by driver error,” the AAA said.

In addition to enhancing safety, beefing up the nation’s transportation networks would create thousands of good-paying construction jobs and allow companies to get goods to market more quickly.

To adequately maintain our transportation systems, the Congressional Budget Office says an additional \$13 billion a year needs to be invested by federal, state and local governments. However, surface transportation investment actually has declined at all levels of government between 2002 and 2012, when adjusted for inflation. Meanwhile, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that \$3.6 trillion should be spent on all infrastructure by 2020 to get the U.S. back on track.

There was a time when building infrastructure and improving job training and education weren’t partisan issues – they were American values, something everyone could support. There needs to be a return to that way of thinking. This country’s future depends on it. ■



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# MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE

FRED BRUNING MANAGING EDITOR

## Labor Becoming Valuable Ally in Climate Change Battle

IN THIS EDITION, OUR PAGE 1 "TOP STORY" CONFRONTS A MYTH BADLY IN NEED of debunking – that labor and environmental activists necessarily are at odds.

The idea gets a lot of circulation, maybe even in your own union hall – you know, the notion that battling climate change and pushing for sustainable energy will kill jobs. It's a bogus concept sold by many – including President Donald Trump who recently took our country out of the Paris climate accord.



While there are apt to be occasional disagreements between environmentalists and labor leaders, the two sides have a host of common interests, says Joe Uehlein, a former AFL-CIO official who founded a group called the Labor Network for Sustainability. In a Guest Spot piece (Page 7), Uehlein says: "Unions in many sectors – building trades, manufacturing, public, and service – see not only the massive ecological benefits of environmental activism, but job benefits as well."

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi echoed the sentiment in his "As I See It" column on Page 2. The time has come, Tedeschi says, for organized labor to support the idea of a "blue-green" alliance – workers and environmentalists, together. "We can make a world of difference," Tedeschi said.

And speaking of making a difference, we want to take note again that GCC/IBT Secretary-Treasurer Robert Lacey is retiring Aug.1 after four decades of union service and 11 years in the union's second highest position. Succeeding Lacey will be Kurt Freeman, a GCC/IBT general board member who led DC9 and Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and who acknowledges he will be filling "very large shoes." Freeman said he was "surprised and honored" to be tapped for the Washington, D.C. job and is dedicated to building the GCC/IBT by tirelessly getting "our message out." (Page 4)

Freeman joined Tedeschi and Lacey at the North American Newspaper Conference meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, last month where emphasis indeed was on increasing membership with resolute and aggressive organizing – at large shops and small. (Pages 8-9)



Providing a model of an effective organizing strategy was Local 3-N, Boston.

Recently, 3-N president Steve Sullivan and his team brought aboard workers in three shops, including The Sun Chronicle, a daily newspaper in Attleboro, Massachusetts. As reporter Dawn Hobbs says in her Page 10 story, "It was a case study in small-scale union organizing and proof that hard work pays off." Recruiting every possible union member is essential, Sullivan said. "It's a moral imperative to organize the unorganized — regardless of the size of the unit."

One more word about the NANC conference in Arizona. You couldn't have attended without feeling a sense of pride and optimism. Like the labor movement in general, the GCC/IBT has been through some tough years. Membership has declined and the political atmosphere become increasingly hostile. But it was clear NANC delegates were going back home with a can-do message – one that says the union will prevail and middle-class values be preserved. Let right-wing politicians and their cronies try to wipe us off the map, was the sentiment. Sooner or later, they'll get the message: We're here to stay. ■

### COMMENTARY

## A Homeless Refuge On Hog Eye Road

By Jim Hightower

The list of progressive innovations at the grassroots level goes on and on, dealing with one big, complex issue after another that small-minded, corporate ideologues refuse to tackle.

For instance, homelessness, which politicians say is impossible to cure. The result: more and more cities are resorting to criminalizing people struggling to live on the streets.

But wait, say proponents of a new way of thinking: Yes, some street people are addicts or mentally ill, but the vast majority are out there because they lost jobs, got hit with major medical bills, suffered family violence, or had other personal crises.

Until the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan reduced tax incentives for developers to create low-income homes, America didn't have mass homelessness. But now we're millions of units short of housing that hard-hit people and families can afford. So why not address the cause?

Follow me from downtown Austin, Texas, to the eastern edge of Travis County, turn onto Hog Eye Road and go a short distance where you'll come on a giant sign saying "WELCOME." It fronts an astounding success named Community First! Village – a 27-acre, master-planned community (as opposed to temporary shelters) for 250 chronically homeless people – about a fourth of Austin's street dwellers.

It's the creation of a small non-profit group, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, that's richly rooted in the religious mission. The Village serves by providing a welcoming community of, by, and for the very people who have previously been publicly disparaged, shoved out of sight, and denied even minimal human dignity.

Here, "home" is a collection of 140 micro-houses, each with a front porch to encourage communication with others. Rents are affordable, and all residents put their skills and



Politicians may say the problem of homelessness can't be fixed but a unique community in Austin, Texas shows that when there's a will, there's often a way.

talents to work. By treating the people as valued assets rather than problems – and by providing a secure and supportive community – the homeless can become their own solution. Imagine that!

And imagine this: Instead of constantly conniving to stop poor people, minorities, students, from voting,

Oregon officials have introduced automatic voter registration and mail-in ballots. And how about the rich, white suburb in New Jersey that merged its school district with a neighboring urban community of mostly poor families in a deliberate attempt to be "a model of diversity and togetherness."

The place to focus our intense activism is where the action is already happening – right in the communities and states where we live.

Yes, we must rally together to resist the worst of Trump administration policies. But our greatest strength is not in Washington rallies and protests – it's in our ability to organize and mobilize masses of local people around issues of populist justice and progressive solutions, mounting campaigns all around the country to elect candidates, pass initiatives, and enact reforms in city halls, school boards, legislatures, and regulatory boards.

If we commit to steadily amassing a people's movement – bigger and bolder than what the corporations deem possible or desirable – that movement can become the government. ■

*Printed with permission of Jim Hightower, national radio commentator and public speaker. With Susan DeMarco, he is author of "Swim Against The Current: Even A Dead Fish Can Go With The Flow" and publishes a monthly populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown (hightowerlowdown.org)*

# In New Union Post, Kurt Freeman Will Put Members First

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator



Kurt Freeman

*A 'level-headed leader' succeeds Bob Lacey as GCC/IBT Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President*

**K**urt Freeman, who began his print industry career as a plate maker in Philadelphia and rose through union ranks to become president of Local 14-M and District Council 9, will assume duties as GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president when the current office holder, Robert Lacey, retires Aug. 1.

Acting on a recommendation by GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi, the union's general board unanimously approved Freeman's appointment on April 19. In a memo to local leaders dated May 11, Tedeschi expressed confidence that Freeman "will work in the best interests of our members to continue the solid foundation that Secretary-Treasurer Lacey has established."

In subsequent remarks, Tedeschi hailed Freeman as a "true trade unionist" with wide experience and a measured approach to problem-solving. "He's a level-headed leader," Tedeschi said.

A similar assessment was offered by Andy Douglas, who, as president of Local 14-M in 1986, helped launch Freeman's union career by urging him to run for secretary-treasurer of the Philadelphia local.

Douglas said he was certain Freeman had the intelligence, determination and "calm" temperament to succeed – a judgment, he said, that has been affirmed by Freeman's "outstanding" performance as an officer in the years that followed. Asked about the decision to elevate Freeman to the union's second most powerful position, Douglas said: "A wonderful choice."

Working at the union's international level, Freeman, 59, said he hoped to build on the record of Lacey, who has held the secretary/treasurer-vice president's job since it was created in 2006, and further President Tedeschi's drive to increase membership and encourage political awareness in the ranks.

"We have to continue on the path President Tedeschi and Secretary-Treasurer Lacey have set us on," said Freeman. "We have to continue organizing shops and growing. Though unions face many obstacles, I look at it as being an exciting time."

As a young man, Freeman learned the importance of unions where it mattered most – at his family's home in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

His father, Elwood "Woody" Freeman, was a press operator who served on the Local 14-M executive board and eventually became a full-time pressroom instructor at the union-backed Andrew J. Gress Graphic Arts Institute in Philadelphia. Woody Freeman's devotion to organized labor made an impact on his son. "It got the juices flowing," Kurt Freeman said.

While in college, Kurt Freeman worked part-time at Local 14-M doing maintenance chores. He met officers, including president Milt Williams, and joined in social activities.

When Williams mentioned the possibility of a union apprenticeship, Freeman, who had earned a degree in criminal justice from Glassboro (New Jersey) State College, now Rowan University, turned his career toward the print industry instead of law enforcement.

Freeman went to work at W. R. Johnston Co. as a plate maker and step-and-repeat operator and volunteered as a shop steward – the first commitment in a career of union service.

In 2002, Freeman became president of 14-M and a member of the GCC/IBT general board. He has led District Council 9 – which includes eight locals in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland representing 1,500 members – since its inception in 2008, and served as a trustee of the Inter-Local Pension Fund and the union's National Pension Fund.

Joe Inemer, president of Local 16-N, Philadelphia, and who, as DC9 executive vice president, works closely with Freeman, cheered his colleague's elevation to national office.

"With all his responsibilities over the years, I think Kurt will serve well," said Inemer, who will assume duties as DC9 president when Freeman leaves the post. "He's never lost an election. Your membership tells you how you're doing and if you're not getting re-elected, that's a signal. Kurt's done a good job."

As a policy maker at the international level, Freeman said he is prepared to diligently address the difficult issues facing unions at a time when powerful forces seek to undermine organized labor and public sentiment often is hostile.

"There is something to be said for working hard and getting the message out," Freeman said. "We might rather have a silver bullet that will save the day but what's most important is hard work and getting our members to speak up for themselves and other people. I really believe that if we continue to get our message out the pendulum will swing back."

Freeman, and his wife of 35 years, Theresa, 55, an associate professor in the department of orthopedic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, will relocate from their home in Haddon Township, New Jersey, to the Washington, D.C. area after Freeman begins duties at GCC/IBT headquarters.

The couple has two sons, Kyle, 28, who is office manager at District Council 9, and Christopher, 31, who works in the telecommunications field.

"Surprised and honored" when offered the international job, Freeman said he consulted colleagues – Inemer and John Potts, DC9 secretary and vice president of 14-M – and his most important adviser, Theresa, to "make sure she was on board."

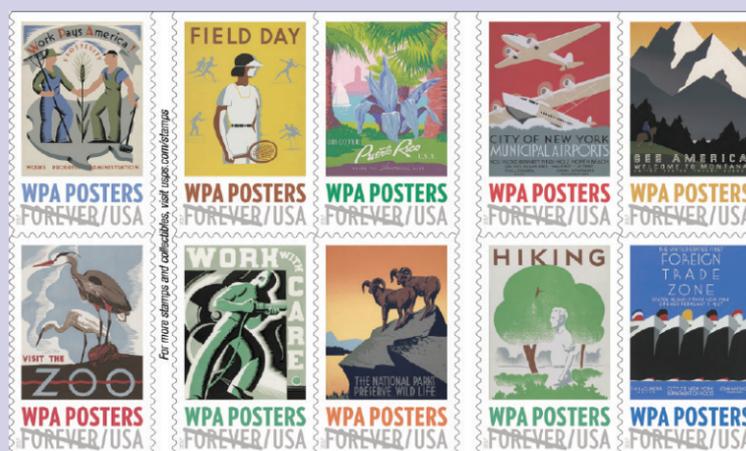
Kurt Freeman begins work as GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president in August. ■

## WPA STAMPS A REMINDER OF TIME WHEN ORGANIZED LABOR WAS HONORED

It was an agonizing period of national crisis – Wall Street crashed, millions lost jobs, half the country's banks failed, bread lines served as stark evidence of grim, everyday hardships – but also a time when public service was revered and government viewed as ally, not enemy.

No single initiative could end the Great Depression but the Works Progress Administration, formed in 1935 as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, ultimately gave work to some 8 million Americans, proved a vital element of economic recovery and helped turn despair to hope.

One of the most memorable projects of the WPA – renamed the Work Project Administration in 1939 – was a series of bold, colorful posters now celebrated in a series of 10 "forever" stamps issued by the United States Postal Service.



Depression-era initiatives like the Works Progress launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt provided jobs for millions and helped rescue the nation from economic disaster. WPA posters from the Library of Congress collection – now a series of postage stamps – served as 'powerful messages of optimism, hope and perseverance.'

Produced by government-supported artists, the posters, from the Library of Congress collection, reflect themes of natural beauty, travel, trade, healthy activity and the nobility of work – "powerful messages of optimism, hope and perseverance," said Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Megan J. Brennan.

For union members, the Depression – and WPA posters memorialized by the Postal Service – are reminders of an era when organized labor was honored and encouraged.

Unions made significant gains thanks to the 1933 National Industrial Recovery Act allowing collective bargaining and the 1935 National Labor Relations Act requiring employers to negotiate in good faith.

"The Great Depression would ultimately be recalled as labor's finest hour," said an appraisal by the University of Washington. "By the end of the 1930s most Americans realized that unions were one of the keys to genuine democracy."

# Labor Joining the Battle To Protect Environment

continued from PAGE 1

But, he added, it is false notion that environmental awareness necessarily is at odds with job creation – or that failure to address pressing issues of climate change is not a labor issue. “If you look at the areas of high economic activity – the major coastal cities – all the airports and transportation hubs are on water.”

Ignoring climate change will lead to economic disruption and the loss of thousands of jobs. “The impact will be greater than the Depression and World War 2 combined,” said Uehlein, who, when not working on the environmental campaign, performs with a band, the U-Liners, that often focuses on social issues (see All the Best, Page 7).

Blue-green discord – that is, tension between labor and environmental forces – threatens both groups, leaders agree, but cooperation promises success.

“We need to make everyone aware that we all need to work on this issue and hold the folks feet to the fire that continue with practices that are profit-driven and convince them that ‘people- driven practices’ need to have at least an equal consideration,” said Mark Cooper, a former GCC/IBT local president who now serves as president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, in Des Moines, Iowa.

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi is among a number of national labor leaders urging that members increase environmental awareness and reject the politically-motivated statements of elected officials – Trump, at times, among them – who deny climate change and oppose efforts to control it.

“Let’s not kid ourselves, this is happening and we have to do something about it,” Tedeschi said. “Of course, we have to protect jobs and the ability of people to feed their families and send their kids to college. But we also have to think about the future – for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Small-minded politicians want to set labor and environmentalists against each other. We have to be smarter than that.”

An example of how environmental consciousness coincides with workplace priorities can be found in the pressroom. GCC/IBT locals have been instrumental in demanding that employers use materials that do not threaten workers – or the atmosphere.

“Over the years, we’ve tried to be responsible in terms of using soy-based inks and chemicals,” said Steve Sullivan, president of Local 3-N, Boston. “We’ve done a good job of getting bad things for our people out of the pressroom.” Overall, Sullivan said, “there should be a phase-down of practices that aren’t good for the environment and a phase-up of good green jobs for the future.”

Attesting to the cooperation between the labor and the environmental movements is the BlueGreen Alliance, a 10-year-old organization dedicated to “creating good jobs, a clean environment, and a fair and thriving economy.”

Most would agree the mission is admirable – but how will it be accomplished?

“Unions are democratic institutions and have to be responsive to their membership and help them keep and get better jobs,” said Michael Williams, vice president for Strategic Development at the BlueGreen Alliance told the Communicator. “We have to continue striving to find common ground. If we can forge a program where everyone is working to rebuild communities, the infrastructure, schools, and freight systems, we will be building a future for unions and their membership.”

In the years leading up to creation of the Alliance, labor leaders found they agreed with environmentalists “90 percent of the time” and found common ground in concerns about international trade agreements, said David Foster,



a former member of the United Steelworkers international board of directors and founding director of the BlueGreen Alliance.

“They wanted enforceable environmental rules, the way we wanted enforceable labor rules,” Foster said in an interview.

Important to note, said Foster, who served as senior advisor to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz during the administration of President Barack Obama, is that millions of jobs already are related to industries that have an impact on the environment.

A government study last year indicated that of the nearly 6.5 million construction jobs in the country – many of them unionized – more than 2 million were at energy or energy efficiency firms. The link between labor and the environmental sector is strong, Foster said. Are there occasional disagreements? Certainly, he acknowledged. “But there is very big agreement, too.”

The link between jobs and environmental awareness is evident in an effort called “Transform Don’t Trash NYC” campaign aimed at reducing pollution in the nation’s largest city.

ALIGN, a New York City alliance of labor and community organizations affiliated with the advocacy group Jobs With Justice is working – with local Teamsters and others – to raise commercial waste standards in order to afford workers protection and save taxpayers money.

“Climate disaster and economic injustice are very much connected,” said Maritza Silva-Farrell, ALIGN executive director. She noted that thousands of working class New Yorkers were devastated by the 2012 “super storm,” Hurricane Sandy. “We have to think about how to live on a planet that is not going to be dead,” Silva-Farrell said. “If you don’t think long-term, this sort of thing will happen more and more.”

Silva-Farrell said a number of encouraging projects were under way, including a push to gain union recognition for workers at city recycling centers. Progress came in March when employees at the Sims Municipal Recycling center in Brooklyn voted to affiliate with Teamsters Local 210. “Our union is working with the environmental justice movement to transform New York’s sanitation industry to protect workers and communities,” said George Miranda, secretary-treasurer of Local 210. “This victory at Sims is one step in that larger fight.”

That battle – to save the environment while protecting jobs – is a challenge that must be met, said Silva-Farrell. “Work is at the intersection of the economy, climate and equity,” she said. The key to the future? “Collaboration.” ■



# Labor Can Help Lead The Nation Toward A Sustainable Future

The American labor movement is not just about labor. It never has been.

The Teamsters, in particular, have been bold advocates for social progress – making certain that women were treated equally in the workplace and proudly joining the civil rights campaigns of the 1960s and 70s.

Now there is another opportunity for union leaders and members to serve their nation, and, in fact, the entire global community.

The issue is climate change.

Clueless politicians – this, sadly, would include President Donald Trump who dragged the United States out of the Paris climate agreement – and a few outlying “experts” may downplay the danger. But, overwhelmingly, the world’s leading scientists say the “deniers” are wrong. There is no doubt that the world is getting hotter and, climatologists say, human activity is a profound contributor. We – all of us – have to do something.



The facts:

- Sea levels rose eight inches in the last century.
- Earth’s surface temperature has advanced two degrees – a big deal – since the late 1800s because of carbon dioxide and other “greenhouse gases” in the atmosphere.
- Oceans are warming.
- Ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic are shrinking.
- Glaciers are retreating.

Why is this happening?

“Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver.”

That is the statement of 18 U.S. scientific societies, not the claim of some loopy contingent of far-out “tree huggers.” And where can you read the statement? On the website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – NASA! Right-wing naysayers may duck the obvious. But our own government knows the truth: Climate change is for real.

It’s time to take action.

Many in the labor movement already are.

Over the last few years labor and environmentalists have been building a “blue-green alliance” – in fact, as our Page 1 Top Story notes there is an organization with exactly that name.

The idea is to keep a conversation going – and get beyond stereotypes that falsely suggest unions are interested only in jobs and environmentalists pursue their goals at any cost.

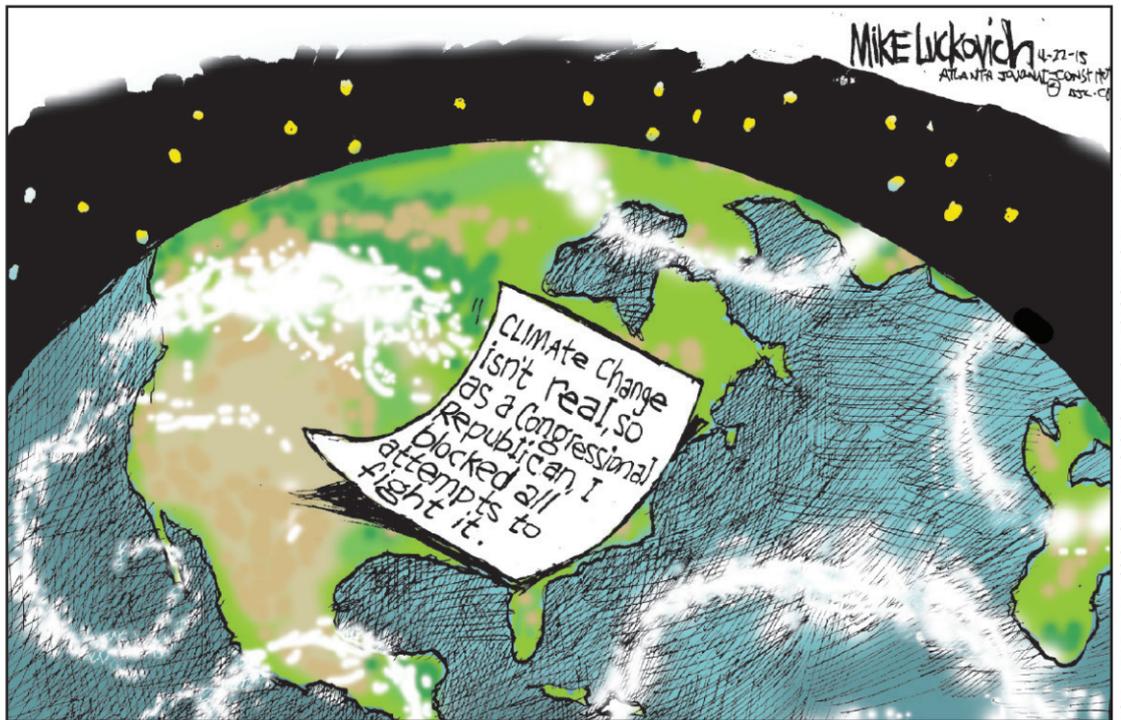
Good-paying 21st Century jobs are apt to be in technology, infrastructure, freight systems and sustainable energy – wind and solar power. That could be good news for unions. Savvy labor organizations will seize the opportunity to build membership and join environmentalists in demanding that elected leaders reverse dangerous climate trends.

In our environmental story, GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi cuts to the bottom line and says union members cannot sit on the sidelines. Too much is at risk.

“We have to think about the future – for the sake of our children and grandchildren,” Tedeschi said.

He’s right.

Labor has a noble history of pressing for equality and essential change. Protecting the environment is the great challenge of our time. On this issue, there is no doubt where unions must stand. We belong out front – again. ■



## Point of View BY ROBERT REICH

# Trump’s Infrastructure Rip-Off

Our country is in dire need of massive investments in infrastructure, but what Donald Trump is proposing is nothing more than a huge tax giveaway for the rich.

1. It’s a giant public subsidy to developers and investors. Rather than taxing the wealthy and then using the money to fix our dangerously outdated roads, bridges, airports and water systems, Trump wants to give rich developers and Wall Street investors tax credits to encourage them to do it. That means that for every dollar they put into a project, they’d actually pay only 18 cents and we would contribute the other 82 cents through our tax dollars.

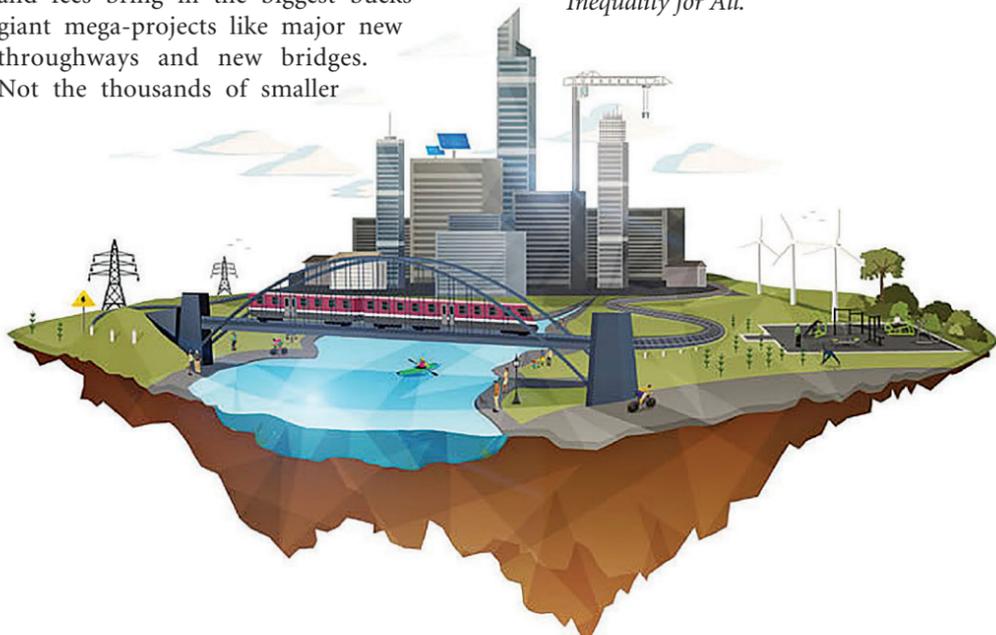
2. We’d be turning over public roads and bridges to private corporations who will charge us expensive tolls and earn big profits. These tolls will be set high in order to satisfy the profit margins demanded by elite Wall Street investors. So—essentially—we pay twice – once when we subsidize the developers and investors with our tax dollars, and then secondly when we pay the tolls and user fees that also go into their pockets.

3. We get the wrong kind of infrastructure. Projects that will be most attractive to Wall Street investors are those whose tolls and fees bring in the biggest bucks – giant mega-projects like major new thoroughways and new bridges. Not the thousands of smaller

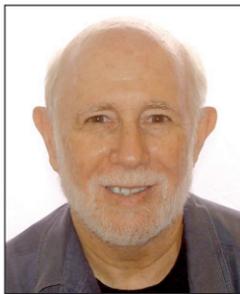
bridges, airports, pipes, and water treatment facilities most in need of repair. Not the needs of rural communities and smaller cities and towns too small to generate the tolls and other user fees equity investors want. Not clean energy.

To really make America great again we need more and better infrastructure that’s for the public – not for big developers and investors. And the only way we get that is if corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes. ■

*Robert B. Reich is Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration, for which Time Magazine named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the 20th Century. He has written 14 books, including the best sellers “Aftershock,” “The Work of Nations,” “Beyond Outrage,” and, his most recent, “Saving Capitalism.” He is a founding editor of the American Prospect magazine, chairman of Common Cause, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and co-creator of the award-winning documentary, “Inequality for All.”*



# EPA: Damaging Evidence



All you really need to know about President Trump's concern for the environment is that the fellow he appointed to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, sued the agency more than a dozen times in his former job as Oklahoma attorney general.

But there is much more damage Trump has done under the guise of providing jobs.

One of his first executive orders rescinded a coal mining regulation so now mining companies can dump their slag – highly toxic refuse from mining – into rivers and streams where it can pollute ground water.

And, because Trump considers climate change a Chinese hoax, the President signed another order to gut the Clean Power Plan, which means millions of tons of polluting emissions will enter the atmosphere, according to the World Resources Institute, a non-governmental group that monitors global use of natural resources.

More important, the WRI says, the Trump edict will do nothing to increase those coal industry jobs Trump promised miners when campaigning. Automation, not environmental laws, killed their jobs. We are producing 50 percent more coal now than in the 1940s with one-eighth the work force.

Meanwhile, the field of sustainable energy is growing. There are 102,000 jobs in wind energy and only 160,000 in coal, according to WRI. And how's this for irony? A Chinese company is installing wind turbines in Wyoming – the

nation's largest coal-producing state – and offering to train, and hire, coal industry workers who have lost their jobs. In other words, China is showing the sort of initiative the White House lacks.

Trump may have more success in the oil sector, especially if he can get Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to sign off on plans to open offshore sites and federal monument areas like national parks to oil exploration. President Barack Obama put such areas off limits. Trump wants to drill, baby, drill.

A brief history lesson: Republican President Teddy Roosevelt created the national parks system that Trump wants to plunder, and an offshore oil spill in 1969 in Santa Barbara, California, prompted Richard Nixon to support creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Off-shore drilling, which Trump said, would create "countless" jobs, could boost employment – albeit at environmental risk – but probably not while Trump is president.

It can cost billions to put oil rigs in the Atlantic off the East Coast and take eight to 10 years to bring them on line. A project of that size makes sense only if the price of oil warrants the investment and right now, it doesn't. Trump's environmental policies don't add up today – and won't look any better tomorrow. ■

# Guest Spot

BY JOE UEHLEIN

# Undeniably, This is Real



Growing up in the 1950's and 60's along the banks of Lake Erie in the Cleveland-Lorain area of Ohio, I recall my Dad, a steelworker and union man, saying the smoke coming from the mill meant bread on the table. And he was correct. Because of his union – the United Steelworkers – we achieved a middle-class standard of living.

But by the mid-60's, signs went up along the lake warning that the perch weren't safe to eat and swimming no longer was permitted. It was a harsh wake-up call. The USW quickly got behind environmental legislation intended to reverse the damage and, in the 21st Century, remains a leader in forming labor-environmental coalitions.

This "blue-green" movement is building. Last year, more than 100 labor organizations supported a massive climate march in New York City and there was an equally impressive union presence at a huge Washington, D.C. demonstration after the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

Yup, labor is catching on – big time. Unions in many sectors – building trades, manufacturing, public, and service – see not only the massive ecological benefits of environmental activism, but job benefits as well.

Huge numbers of jobs are being created in the renewable energy industries – far greater than in the fossil fuels sector. Solar power, wind power, tidal power, geothermal, and the related technologies are advancing in leaps and bounds. This is the future.

Union members – and all working people

in the United States – must be on the front lines of environmental action. We have to realize that climate change is the enemy – not regulations intended to save the environment. Experts say – convincingly – that the economic impact of climate chaos will dwarf that of the Great Depression. Jobs by the thousands will be lost. Let's not kid ourselves or look the other way: This is real.

If labor gets aboard, it can become a central player in building a movement for a sustainable future for the planet and its people – and for generations to come.

When not working on environmental issues, I play guitar with my Washington, D.C.-based band, the U-Liners. In the words of "Morning Song," one of our latest tunes: "The world can be just as we want it to be. When we stand, hand in hand, Solidarity!" ■

*Joe Uehlein is founding president of the Labor Network for Sustainability and former director of the AFL-CIO Center for Strategic Campaigns. He served as a member of the United Nations commission on global warming from 1988-2003. Uehlein's band, the U-Liners, often perform material related to labor and environmental themes. The U-Liners new album, "Sweet Lorain," is reviewed in "All the Best," on this page.*

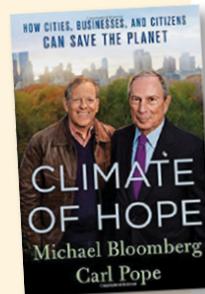
# All the Best

## Print

### Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet

Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope

Michael Bloomberg, the former enviro-friendly New York mayor and Carl Pope, who served as Sierra Club executive director until 2010, have written a book so wise and insightful that New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman urged it be read by President Donald Trump, who once claimed global warming was a Chinese plot. Bloomberg and Pope say it is possible to meet energy demands while protecting the environment – and that local action makes a difference. Let's hope someone slips a copy on the presidential nightstand – just in case the denier-in-chief is looking for real news, not fake. *St. Martin's Press, from \$13.49, Amazon.com*



## Music

### Sweet Lorain

The U-Liners

Joe Uehlein, leader of this spunky Washington, D.C.-area, country-folk-blues band, is an impatient guy. A former AFL-CIO official who serves as founding president of the Labor Network for Sustainability, Uehlein knows it's time to tackle climate change now – and that union people have to get involved, pronto. The rollicking first tune, "You Can't Giddyup by Saying Whoa!" captures his activist enthusiasm just as the soulful title tune, "Sweet Lorain," summons the Ohio industrial town near Uehlein's boyhood home. Other songs pay tribute to unionists, coal miners and immigrants. We share one world, is Uehlein's message. The only way forward is together. *Azalea City Recordings, \$15, cdbaby.com*

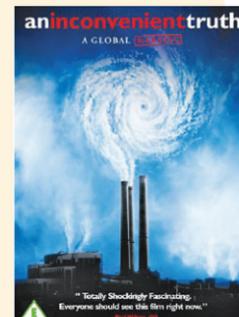


## Video

### An Inconvenient Truth

Davis Guggenheim, director

Not new but still essential, this disturbing 2006 movie adaptation of Al Gore's cautionary book brought environmental awareness to millions of Americans. Gore, who served as Bill Clinton's vice president and then lost in the disputed 2000 presidential race to George W. Bush, studied climate change issues with rare intensity for a public figure and his conclusion was unequivocal: Planet Earth and its inhabitants are in trouble. Though self-interested elected officials are apt to continue ignoring established science, truth is certain to prevail – inconvenient or not. *Paramount, various prices, Amazon.com*



## Internet

### BlueGreen Alliance

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

The BlueGreen Alliance is a 10-year-old organization that brings together labor and environmental campaigners to protect the planet and create jobs. Sometimes the two objectives – a healthy environment and steady job growth – may seem at odds but, as this engaging website makes clear, employment in sustainable industries is expanding quickly while opportunities are retreating in traditional sectors. Americans can no longer presume the choice is between jobs and environment, the Alliances says. "We believe we can and must choose both."



# NANC Delegates Continue 'Important Work' of Rallying

By Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

**S**COTTSDALE, ARIZONA – The theme was set in the early moments of the North American Newspaper Conference when retired GCC/IBT organizer Tom Jolley offered an invocation.

“This is important work,” Jolley said as part of his opening prayer. “When no one comes to the rescue, labor fills the gap.”

As though to amplify Jolley’s message, the Glendale Pipes and Drums, a local musical contingent invited to the meeting, played, “Amazing Grace,” drawing an appreciative round of applause.

Throughout the June 5-7 conference at the Embassy Suites hotel here, speakers urged delegates to renew their commitment to union principles by organizing and defend those who cannot always speak for themselves.

“You are the last bastion of hope for the middle class,” said Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Robert Lacey who will retire Aug. 1 after 40 years of union service. “I have confidence that you will continue the good fight.”

Lacey’s successor, Kurt Freeman, president of Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and leader of DC9, echoed the sentiment and urged local leaders to become politically active.

“Hold politicians responsible – they should be helping working families,” Freeman said.

At a time when union membership is declining and powerful forces in Washington, the corporate world and right-wing media seek to gut the labor movement, a sense of determination prevailed among delegates and speakers.

“Organize, organize, organize and never give up,” said Rick Street who, with fellow organizer, Rickey Putman, outlined strategies for building the union’s base.

Putman told delegates: “Meet new workers as they are coming in the door. Get to them before the company does.”



Glendale Pipes and Drums, a local ensemble, set an inspirational tone with a moving version of ‘Amazing Grace’ that drew an enthusiastic response from delegates.

Street and Putman urged delegates to take advantage of “the magic weapon” – modern media applications like smartphones, websites, texting and videos that can be used to reach potential members.

And said Street, organizers must spread the word widely. They should build rapport with all workers, focus on diversity, approach “everyone in the workplace.”

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi added his voice to the call for intensified organizing efforts.

“Numbers are very important, and the only way to get them is to organize,” Tedeschi said. “Do what’s necessary. Do what’s right.”

Tedeschi also urged NANC delegates and their counterparts in the IBT newspaper division to join forces when possible. “We have to work together,” he said.

In remarks to NANC members, Tedeschi referred to the political uncertainty in Washington under President Donald Trump whose first six months in office often have been marked by controversy.



Tedeschi noted that many union members voted for Trump. While he respected individual political preferences, Tedeschi said, he had serious questions about Trump’s views on organized labor.

The new president is on record backing national right-to-work legislation, for instance, and favors widespread privatization of public services and utilities. “Who’s going to pay for that?” asked Tedeschi, glancing at the delegates seated before him. “I’m looking at them.”

The challenges facing unions were made amply clear at NANC sessions.

## FREEMAN PLEDGES TO CONTINUE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE SET BY BOB LACEY

By Zachary Dowdy  
Special to the Communicator

**G**CC/IBT Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Robert Lacey offered an encouraging financial assessment at the North American Newspaper Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona – for the last time.

Scheduled to retire Aug. 1, Lacey bid good-bye to cherished friends and colleagues who responded with a words of gratitude and a touching gesture of appreciation.

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi said Lacey had done an outstanding job handling union finances and helping the GCC/IBT, which now has 28,000 members, achieve financial stability.

Lacey said he was moved by the tribute.

“I can’t say how much gratitude I have for your expression of thanks,” Lacey said, adding that the moment was “bittersweet” because he cherished his union role and considered it important. “This will be the last time I’ll have the honor of addressing this body as an officer,” he said.

Succeeding Lacey in the union’s second-highest job will be Kurt Freeman, president of Local 14-M, Philadelphia, and leader of DC9. In brief remarks, Freeman hailed Lacey as a gifted leader and said he was being asked to fill “a very large void.”

In an emotional moment, NANC President Joe Inemer presented Lacey with a large plaque as testament to the respect and affection of NANC delegates.



Kurt Freeman, left, said he will dedicate himself to filling the ‘very large void’ created when Bob Lacey, center, retires Aug.1 as GCC Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President, and will work closely with union president George Tedeschi, right, ‘to advance this union.’

“Robert Lacey, in appreciation and with the warmest fraternal greetings, gratitude for your many years of service to the GCC/IBT and its predecessor organizations, best of luck on your retirement from your brothers and sisters of the North American Newspaper Conference,” it read.

Lacey urged members to keep up the fight to increase the union’s ranks and urged local leaders gathered at the conference to make organizing a core activity.

“A lot of you have stepped up to the plate,” he said. “That is your job. That is responsibility. . . We have to somehow move organizing to the number one priority. You don’t want to be in the situation where you’re saying you’re too busy and the next thing you know you’ll be turning the lights out.”

Addressing NANC delegates after Lacey’s farewell address, Freeman said he knew meeting the high standards set by Lacey would not be easy.

But, Freeman said, he would dedicate himself to maintaining the same level of excellence.

“I look forward to working with President Tedeschi to continue to advance this union and keep the conference financially responsible,” Freeman said.

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

# Union Pride and Protecting the Middle Class

Marty Callaghan, former president of Local 3-N, Boston, who now serves as a commissioner of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, cited a Gallup study showing that many workers feel dispirited and neglected by employers.

“There is apathy in the workplace and management that doesn’t manage,” Callaghan said. “That’s when unions have to step up their game.”

Callaghan urged his old comrades to prevail even when the odds seem daunting. “This is not the best time to be in the news business but I know you will rise to the occasion,” he said.

Without question, officials said, the print industry continues under pressure and the effects can weigh heavily on union members and their support systems – pension plans, included.

Larry Mitchell, executive director of the Inter-Local Pension Fund, was among several speakers addressing difficulties related to shrinking membership. Like many pension funds, the ILPF must contend with fewer participants and a rising number of retirees.

Several delegates expressed concern about the ILPF. Mitchell said that while the worries were understandable the fund’s trustees recently had taken steps to “make sure this plan stays solvent.” (See Page 10 for a letter from the ILPF Board of Trustees.)

Tedeschi, Lacey and Freeman urged delegates to “market” the plan aggressively at the local level and to Teamster colleagues.

“Without participants, any plan will die,” Lacey said. “We in the GCC have to lead.”

Despite an unsettled future, delegates pledged to redouble their efforts and in one upbeat bit of



Keeping records straight at the delegate registration desk were NANC secretary-treasurer Kevin Toomey, right, recording secretary Jim Earley and Maureen Schindle, benefits manager, DC9.

news, NANC vice president John Heffernan noted increased opportunities for newspaper press operators. “I believe that is an opportunity for us,” said Heffernan, who also is president of Local 2-N, New York.

Frequently applauded at the conference was the spirit of solidarity that prevails at NANC sessions – “the best conference anywhere,” said sergeant-at-arms Matthew Larsen of Local 28-N, Salt Lake City.

An emotional show of fellowship came on the second day of a conference that drew 42 delegates, seven international officers and 35 guests representing 27 locals and district councils.

Heading to the dais to make the final annual report of his career, Lacey earned a standing ovation. Momentarily speechless, Lacey looked over the crowd and said: “You really know how to make it hard on a guy.”

Earlier, Tedeschi noted that Lacey’s diligence and wise policy initiatives had helped the GCC/IBT overcome financial difficulties at one point. “He will surely be missed.”

When Lacey concluded his report, NANC president Joe Inemer presented a plaque to the outgoing secretary-treasurer/vice president. “Warmest fraternal gratitude for your many years of service...from your brothers and sisters of the North American Newspaper Conference,” it said in part.

Lacey said he looked forward to retirement but would miss GCC/IBT friends and the satisfaction of helping carry out the mission of organized labor.

“We do God’s work,” he said. ■

## NANC OFFICERS

**Elected by acclamation at the NANC meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, were:**

President: **Joseph Inemer**,  
*Local 16-N, Philadelphia*

Vice president: **John Heffernan**,  
*Local 2-N, New York*

Secretary-treasurer: **Kevin Toomey**,  
*Local 3-N, Boston*

Recording secretary: **James Earley**,  
*Local 13-N, Detroit*

Sergeant-at-arms: **Matt Larsen**,  
*Local 28-N, Salt Lake City*

### EASTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVES:

**Louis Nicosia**, *Local 406-C, Long Island*

**Michael LaSpina**, *Local 406-C, Long Island*

**Patrick Sullivan**, *Local 3-N, Boston*

### WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVES:

**Richard Montesano**, *Local 432-M, San Diego*

**Steve Ryan**, *Local 543-M, Omaha*

### CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE:

**Chris Rotchill**, *Local 100-M, Toronto*

**ORGANIZE**  
This is a Union Made t-shirt,  
printed by Union Workers and  
proudly worn by a Union Member.  
Be a part of the solution

The key to union survival is organizing – a message sent often by officials at the NANC conference and highlighted on a shirt worn by Chris Lang, president of 24-M/9-N, Pittsburgh.



# Small Shop Victories a Big Deal for Boston Local 3-N

By Dawn Hobbs  
Special to the Communicator

It was a case study in small-scale union organizing and proof that hard work pays off. Following a growing labor movement trend toward small-scale organizing, leaders from GCC/IBT Local 3-N, Boston, recently brought aboard workers at three shops, including The Sun Chronicle, a daily newspaper in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

“It’s a moral imperative to organize the unorganized — regardless of size of the unit,” said Steve Sullivan, president of Local 3-N who also leads the Boston Allied Printing Trades Council.

Sullivan added that there is a valuable “cumulative” effect to organizing small shops.

“Local 3 has organized three facilities over the past 10 months — that’s 20 new members under contract who are out there spreading the word about becoming and remaining union,” Sullivan said.

Success came first at Millennium Press in Agawam, Massachusetts. Shortly after, workers at Seacoast Printing in Newmarket, New Hampshire, joined Local 3-N. The final win was at The Sun Chronicle.

“These men and women are union proud because they wanted it and they fought for it,” Sullivan said.

GCC/IBT leaders nationwide agree that unionizing small shops pays off.

New members become enthusiastic recruiting agents — spreading the news of union protection to friends and colleagues at shops not yet covered by collective bargaining agreements.

“We need to develop an attitude that ‘every member counts,’” said organizer Rick Street, who with colleague, Rickey Putman, conduct training sessions aimed at increasing solidarity at the local level and recruiting new members, especially at smaller businesses.

“Remember, our union originally grew from organizing these small shops,” Street said. “Additionally, most of the small shops are interested in union labeling licenses — which basically amounts to free advertising for us.”

Putman agreed: “Don’t overlook the small shops — they have great growth potential and they are usually looking for the union bug which makes getting a first-time contract easier on the locals.”

The 3-N victories are the latest in a string of productive small-scale GCC/IBT organizing efforts nationwide.

“This is a basic idea,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. “No shop is too small, or too large, for organizing. We must take advantage of every opportunity and always be on the lookout for new members. Victories of the sort scored recently by Local 3-N amount to a case study in the way to build a union — and a model for our locals, everywhere.”



PHOTO COURTESY LOCAL 3-N

Union members join Local 3-N president Steve Sullivan, second from right, and secretary-treasurer Kevin Toomey, far right, as pressroom workers at The Sun Chronicle, a daily in Attleboro, Massachusetts, voted in favor of affiliation. Also in the group was Robert Cosgrove, third from left, a Sun Chronicle press operator. “It’s a moral imperative to organize the unorganized,” said Sullivan.

Organizing at The Sun Chronicle began when workers at the Attleboro paper learned of the benefits of GCC/IBT representation from associates at nearby shops.

“We heard nothing but good reviews about the Teamsters,” said Jason Scanlon, who has worked in the Sun Chronicle pressroom for 16 years. “When a few pressmen from other shops told us about them, we decided that’s what we needed to do.”

Local 3-N leaders took advantage of streamlined NLRB organizing procedures implemented under the Obama administration that allow for speedy elections.

After getting authorization cards signed in Attleboro, 3-N officials filed for an election and won three weeks later. Contract negotiations at The Sun Chronicle were expected to begin promptly and proceed smoothly as was the case at Millennium Press and Seacoast Printing where first contracts already have been achieved.

But, say union leaders, NLRB provisions that aid organizing are in jeopardy with Republicans holding both houses and Donald Trump — who, as a real estate developer and casino owner had an uneven record with organized labor — in the White House.

“The more we improve standards across our industry, the better off all of our union shops will be,” Sullivan said.

Following the Attleboro victory, Sullivan put a call out to local leaders nationwide: “Let’s put all employers on notice that they can’t pull out of our union shops and run from scab pressroom to pressroom, scab factory to factory — because the union is going to be everywhere, even in the small shops.”

## Foes Will Not ‘Kill’ Unions

Unions are built on a sense of common purpose and commitment to high ideals — principles amply demonstrated at the Teamsters Unity Conference in Las Vegas where 1,600 IBT members gathered to pledge solidarity and mutual support.

“No question, the labor movement is under pressure from the extreme right wing and Tea Party types in Washington,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. “But the enthusiasm shown at meetings like the Unity Conference puts those who want to destroy us on notice — we’re not going anywhere and they will not kill American unions.”



Tedeschi, an IBT international vice president-at large, was joined at the Unity Conference by outgoing Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Robert Lacey, who will retire Aug. 1, and GCC/IBT general board members Eddie Williams of the Southern Region, and Clark Ritchey of the Pacific Region.

Also attending were a number of GCC/IBT local officers from around the country.

GCC delegates discussed common concerns with Teamster colleagues representing various IBT segments and took part in a lengthy and productive meeting with members of the Teamsters newspaper division.

Michael LaSpina, president of Local 406-C, Long Island, said the opportunity to exchange information with IBT delegates was of significant benefit.

Many locals are contending with a tightening job market caused by corporate consolidation, technological change and downsizing, LaSpina noted. “It’s good to hear the stories even if some are horror stories,” he said. “It’s not just on Long Island. It’s all over the country.”

Like GCC/IBT leaders, Teamster officials at the local level place high priority on organizing and remain alert to new opportunities for increasing membership. “It’s the same thing we’re doing,” LaSpina said.

A persistent worry for American labor is the push for right-to-work laws. Congressional Republicans favor national legislation and President Donald J. Trump has indicated he would favor such a move — widely condemned by labor leaders — despite the unexpected support he received from union households in the 2016 election.

“We face plenty of challenges — on Capitol Hill and in the White House,” said Tedeschi. “But Republicans, and the President, would be foolish to underestimate the power of organized labor. As the Unity Conference proved, we are strong, united and determined to make sure our members prosper and the American middle class survives.”

## Letter from ILPF Board of Trustees

The following is an update from the trustees of the Inter-Local Pension Fund pertaining to recent steps intended to protect the fund’s subscribers.

The Inter-Local Pension Fund (ILPF) began in 1950, long before the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974, which guarantees benefit payments through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) if a pension plan is terminated. Our fund is not covered by the PBGC but the PBGC only provides minimal benefits for the plans it does cover—it does not fully replace pension benefits that have been lost.

In the past, when the ILPF’s investments performed well, both active and retired participants benefitted through pension increases. In fact, since the fund’s inception in 1950, the fund has increased pension benefits by a total of 33 percent and has paid out several billion dollars in benefits over the past 67 years.

When the fund’s assets unfortunately dropped below the projected amount needed to pay pension benefits over the long term, like after the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008, many of you voted to make some changes to the fund and reduce your pension benefits to improve the fund’s financial situation. One of the changes was to suspend the Withdrawal Benefit Option, in order to avoid depleting the reserves of the fund.

What about protection against loss? The ILPF has been asked by union leaders and members how existing and new contributors can be confident that they will not lose money since the Withdrawal Option has been suspended? What would happen to a member who is not on pension, but has money invested in the fund?

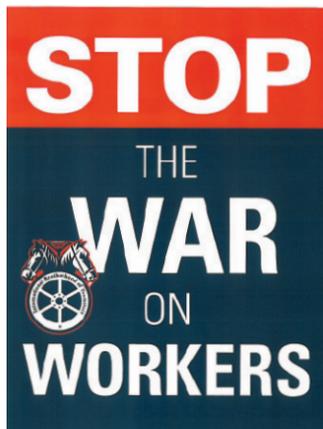
In order to safeguard against this scenario, the board of trustees of the Inter-Local Pension Fund have adopted a policy that, in the event of the fund’s assets are ever reduced to an amount equal to the amount of member’s contributions that have not yet been distributed back to them, the fund will be terminated and such monies returned to all participants.

Chairman Patrick LoPresti from Local 1-L, New York, explained this new policy: “The simple fact is that for the ILPF to continue as a source of retirement benefits for our members, we need to be able to attract new participants from our brother Teamsters as well as the GCC. This new policy gives us the ability to assure participants that they can be confident that their contributions will be safeguarded and, if necessary, returned to them.”

Board of Trustees, Inter-Local Pension Fund

## POLITICAL AWARENESS – IT'S IMPORTANT

Concerned that the administration of President Donald Trump will advance hardline Republican policy initiatives and push an anti-labor agenda, speakers at the North American Eastern Conference stressed the importance of organizing and political awareness.



GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi, retiring Secretary-Treasurer /Vice President Bob Lacey, incoming Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Kurt Freeman and international organizer Rickey Putman called for members to join forces and continue the fight for workers' rights.

"We have a lot of work to do and face many obstacles," Freeman told delegates. "We need to grow the GCC through organizing. This will provide strong contracts and better protections for members."

Freeman will assume duties Aug. 1 at the GCC/IBT's Washington, D.C. office after serving as president of District Council 9 and Local 14-M, Philadelphia. He is eager to begin work as

the union's second-highest official, Freeman said, and thanked Tedeschi, Lacey and the GCC board "for having the confidence in me to fill very large shoes."

The North American Eastern Conference, cancelled its meeting last year in order to avoid conflict with the GCC/IBT International Convention in Las Vegas and returned to Atlantic City April 23-25.

Other conference highlights included addresses by representatives of the Inter-Local Pension Fund and federal mediation service.

"It's always a learning experience," said Harry Selnow, Eastern Conference vice president and president of GCC/IBT Local 612-M, Caldwell, New Jersey.

"We like to inform our delegates and officers of what's going on," Selnow said.

The conference also provided an opportunity, he said, "for old friends to meet up and to make new friends."

## MIDWESTERN REGIONAL: 'DOING OUR BEST FOR WORKERS'

Tips for organizing and political awareness led the Midwestern States Regional Conference recently held in Hudson, Ohio.

Organizers of the conference, now in its 73rd year, touted the educational component of the three-day event.

"Politicians and employers fear educated workers," said Steve Nobles, president of GCC/IBT District Council 3, which assisted hosting the conference with Local 546-M, Cleveland, Ohio.



"And we are doing our best to make sure workers are educated on all facets of everything," Nobles said.

GCC/IBT organizer Rick Street, international representative Phil Roberts and the Teamster's political coordinator, Christy Bailey, headlined the June conference, attended by approximately 30 delegates from 12 locals.

Organizing techniques were emphasized on the first two days of the conference. The third highlighted political action.

Instructional sessions provided participants with techniques they can use to build solidarity and gain new members, both in and outside of the shop.

"Both Rick and Phil really zeroed in on one-on-one communication and how to get members to listen to prospective members and how to use this for internal organizing as well," Nobles said.

The political action segment of the program, led by Bailey, highlighted the strength of unions and political climate under President Donald Trump. Bailey told delegates to remain keenly "aware" of political developments that could impact labor – particularly any move toward a national right-to-work law endorsed by Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Insights offered by Bailey prepared leaders to return home with increased understanding of vital labor issues and difficulties faced by unions at the national level, Nobles said.

"We make sure people leave here with information they wouldn't have otherwise," he said. "The education at this conference is phenomenal. We are really proud of that fact."

## SEPTEMBER SPECIALTY CONFERENCE

The North American Specialty Conference will be held Sept. 21-23 in Atlanta where labor leaders aim to celebrate union solidarity in a part of the country saddled with right-to-work laws and stubborn anti-union attitudes.

Georgia state Rep. Dewey McClain, a former linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons professional football team who also serves as president of the North Georgia Labor Council, will talk about the importance of strong unions during the time of GOP political dominance and the challenging presidency of Donald J. Trump.

McClain will be joined by president Charlie Flemming and secretary-treasurer Yvonne Robinson of the Georgia AFL-CIO and Atlanta mayoral candidate Vincent Fort, a Democratic state senator.

Randy Brown, president of Teamsters Local 728, Atlanta, which has 8,000 members, also will be a guest speaker, according to Ralph Meers, president emeritus of the Specialty Conference, and president of GCC/IBT Local 527-S, Atlanta.

Meers, who has the longest tenure as a local president in the history of the GCC/IBT or its predecessor union, the GCIU, said he hoped for high attendance at the conference.

"It's important because it's not only educational, but it's about maintaining the camaraderie between local leadership across the country," Meers said. "It's about being able to know that you can pick up the phone and call other union leaders about issues you're having with employers."

Communication is key, Meers said: "It's all about our ability to do a better job in representing our membership. Whether a new local leader or a senior leader, you can't ever underestimate the importance of developing a good relationship with each other in order to do the best job for the membership that you can do."

For more information about the conference, contact Meers or Specialty Conference president Eddie Williams at 770-944-7348.



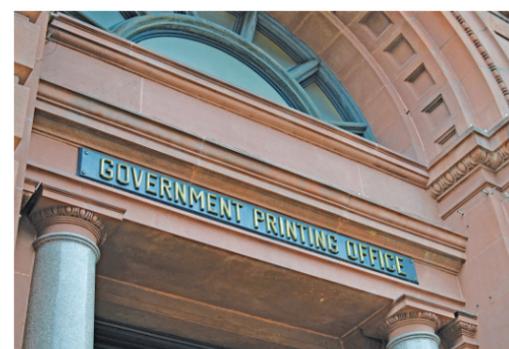
## LOCAL 1-C SCORES PAY INCREASE

Press operators at the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. won a four-year wage increase after six months of negotiations with the federal agency that prints and binds a variety of essential documents, including passports and immigration forms.

"It was tiered to the cost of living and locality pay," said Howard Brown, president of GCC/IBT Local 1-C.

The remaining issues in the contract will be dealt with in sidebar before the end of the year, Brown said.

"We're very satisfied working with the agency," he noted. "They've been fair. We have very few labor disputes that we can't resolve with them."



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

## Le mouvement syndical et les environnementalistes « cherchent un terrain d'entente »

Par Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

À New York, les Teamsters collaborent avec une organisation syndicale qui milite en faveur de la justice afin de réduire la pollution et de protéger les travailleurs de la santé dans le secteur privé. Le Syndicat des métaux est favorable au développement de l'énergie éolienne et soutient la législation de l'énergie propre. Un groupe de l'Union internationale des employés des services (SEIU) a pris part à la vaste marche pour le climat qui s'est déroulée en avril à Washington. « Nous marchons parce que nos familles, notre santé et notre avenir en dépendent », a déclaré Mary Kay Henry, présidente internationale de la SEIU.

Même si des désaccords occasionnels sont inévitables entre activistes environnementaux et dirigeants syndicaux en quête d'emplois, les deux camps partagent de plus en plus leur engagement envers les travailleurs américains et leur préoccupation pour la survie de la planète.

« Le monde bouge, qu'on le veuille ou non, a indiqué Joe Uehlein, leader syndical de longue date et président fondateur du Labor Network for Sustainability. Mieux vaut en faire partie que de le combattre. »

Ancien directeur du Center for Strategic Campaigns du FAT-COI et membre de la commission des Nations Unies sur le réchauffement climatique de 1988 à 2003, Uehlein a expliqué qu'il comprenait pourquoi les travailleurs syndiqués avaient pour priorité de conserver les emplois de leurs membres. Quand le président Donald Trump a relancé les controversés projets d'oléoducs Keystone XL

et Dakota Access, les environnementalistes ont protesté, mais de nombreux dirigeants syndicaux s'en sont réjouis.

« Ils veulent les emplois, a expliqué Uehlein. Je les comprends parfaitement. »

Mais il a ajouté qu'il est faux de croire que la conscience environnementale est nécessairement contraire à la création d'emplois – ou que le fait de ne pas s'occuper des enjeux du changement climatique ne concerne pas les travailleurs syndiqués.

« Là où il y a une forte activité économique – les grandes villes côtières – tous les aéroports et axes de transport se trouvent sur l'eau. »

Le fait d'ignorer le changement climatique entraînera des bouleversements climatiques et la perte de milliers d'emplois. « Les conséquences seront plus sérieuses que la Dépression et la Seconde Guerre mondiale mises ensemble », a fait remarquer Uehlein.

Les leaders s'entendent pour dire qu'une discordance bleu-vert – autrement dit entre les forces syndicales et environnementales – menace les deux groupes, mais la collaboration promet d'être un succès.

« Il faut tout le monde sache que nous devons tous nous occuper de cette question, acculer ceux qui maintiennent des pratiques dictées sur la quête du profit et les convaincre d'accorder à tout le moins la même considération aux « pratiques axées sur les personnes », a précisé Mark Cooper, un ancien président de section locale de la CCG-FIT qui est maintenant président de la South Central Iowa Federation of Labor de la FAT-COI à Des Moines, Iowa.

George Tedeschi, président de la CCG-FIT, fait partie des leaders syndicaux nationaux qui

exhortent leurs membres à une plus grande sensibilité environnementale et à rejeter les déclarations des élus motivées par la politique – Trump est parfois de ceux-là – qui nient le changement climatique et s'opposent aux efforts pour le contrôler.

« C'est évident que nous devons protéger les emplois et la capacité qu'ont les gens de nourrir leur famille et d'envoyer leurs enfants à l'université, a déclaré Tedeschi. Mais nous devons penser à l'avenir. Les politiciens aux courtes vues veulent monter les syndicats et les environnementalistes les uns contre les autres. Mais nous devons être plus intelligents que ça. »

Les salles de presse illustrent la façon dont la conscience environnementale cadre avec les priorités au travail. Les sections locales de la CCG-FIT ont joué un rôle déterminant en exigeant que les employeurs utilisent des matériaux qui ne menacent pas les travailleurs – ni l'atmosphère.

« Au fil des ans, nous avons essayé d'être responsables en utilisant des encres et des produits chimiques à base de soya, indique Steve Sullivan, président de la section locale 3-N de Boston. Nous avons fait un bon travail en libérant la salle de presse de ce qui était mauvais pour les gens. »

La BlueGreen Alliance, une organisation fondée il y a 10 ans pour « créer de bons emplois, un environnement propre, et une économie équitable et florissante, atteste de la coopération entre les mouvements syndical et environnemental.

La plupart conviendront que sa mission est admirable – mais comment va-t-elle la mener à bien?

« Les syndicats sont des institutions démocratiques qui doivent être à l'écoute de leurs mem-

bres, et les aider à garder leurs emplois et en trouver des meilleurs, a indiqué Michael Williams, vice-président au développement stratégique de la BlueGreen Alliance, au Communicator. Nous devons continuer à nous efforcer de trouver un terrain d'entente. »

Au cours des années ayant précédé la création de l'Alliance, les leaders syndicaux ont découvert qu'ils étaient d'accord avec les environnementalistes « 90 pour cent du temps » et ont trouvé des points communs en ce qui concerne les préoccupations suscitées par les accords commerciaux, a indiqué David Foster, ancien membre du conseil d'administration international du Syndicat des métaux et directeur fondateur de la BlueGreen Alliance.

« Ils voulaient des règles environnementales qui puissent être mises en application et nous voulions des règles du travail pouvant être mises en application. »

C'est important de souligner, a précisé Foster, qui a été conseiller principal auprès d'Ernest Moniz, secrétaire à l'Énergie sous l'administration du président Barack Obama, qu'il y a déjà des millions d'emplois qui sont rattachés à des industries ayant un impact sur l'environnement.

Selon une étude gouvernementale menée l'an dernier, sur les quelque 6,5 millions d'emplois dans la construction qui existent actuellement au pays – dont beaucoup sont syndiqués – plus de deux millions sont rattachés à des sociétés dans le domaine de l'énergie ou de l'efficacité énergétique. Selon Foster, le lien entre les syndicats et le secteur environnemental est fort. Y a-t-il des désaccords occasionnels? « Bien sûr, a-t-il reconnu, mais il existe aussi une nette entente. »

## Las fuerzas laborales y ambientalistas 'se esfuerzan por encontrar terreno común'

Por Fred Bruning  
Graphic Communicator

En la Ciudad de Nueva York, los Teamsters colaboran con un grupo dedicado a la justicia laboral para reducir la contaminación y proteger a los trabajadores de empresas privadas de recolección de basuras. United Steelworkers apoyan el desarrollo de la energía eólica, obtenida a partir del viento, así como de legislación que promueva la energía limpia. Un grupo de miembros del Service Employees International Union se unió a la manifestación masiva por el clima convocada en abril en Washington, D.C. « Marchamos porque están en juego nuestras familias, nuestra salud y nuestro futuro », dijo Mary Kay Henry, presidenta internacional de SEIU.

Aunque es inevitable que de cuando en cuando haya desacuerdos entre los activistas medioambientales y los dirigentes sindicales interesados en conseguir empleos, los dos campos están cada vez más unidos por su compromiso con los trabajadores y porque les preocupa la supervivencia del planeta que comparten.

« El mundo evoluciona nos guste o no nos guste », dijo Joe Uehlein, veterano dirigente laborista y presidente fundador del Labor Network for Sustainability (Red Laboral por la Sostenibilidad). « Nos conviene más ser parte de ello que combatirlo. »

Uehlein, que anteriormente fue director del Centro para Campañas Estratégicas de AFL-CIO y miembro de la comisión sobre calentamiento global de las Naciones Unidas desde 1988 hasta 2003, dijo que comprendía que los líderes sindicales tuvieran como primera prioridad el que sus miembros continuar-

an empleados. Cuando el presidente Donald Trump revivió los controvertidos oleoductos de Keystone XL y Dakota Access, los ambientalistas pusieron el grito en el cielo, pero los dirigentes sindicales aplaudieron.

« Quieren los puestos de trabajo », dijo Uehlein. « Lo comprendo perfectamente. »

Pero añadió que es equivocado pensar que la concienciación sobre el medio ambiente tenga que estar necesariamente reñida con la creación de empleo, o que la necesidad de abordar los acuciantes problemas suscitados por el cambio climático sea una cuestión ajena al mundo laboral. « Si nos fijamos en las zonas de elevada actividad económica (las grandes ciudades costeras), todos los aeropuertos y centros de transporte se encuentran cerca del agua. » Ignorar el cambio climático producirá perturbaciones económicas y la pérdida de miles de trabajos. « El impacto será mayor que la Depresión y la II Guerra Mundial juntas », dijo Uehlein.

El desacuerdo entre los « azules » y los « verdes », es decir la tensión entre las fuerzas laborales y ambientales, es una amenaza para los dos grupos, según reconocen sus mismos líderes, pero si cooperan podrán lograr el éxito.

« Necesitamos convencer a todos de que esto va a requerir la colaboración de todos, de que tenemos que presionar a los que siguen prácticas orientadas al beneficio y hacerles ver que las prácticas orientadas al bien de las personas merecen al menos la misma consideración », dijo Mark Cooper, anterior presidente de la local GCC/IBT que actualmente preside la South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, en Des Moines, Iowa.

El presidente de GCC/IBT, George Tedeschi, es uno de los líderes del mov-

imiento sindical a nivel nacional que insisten en que los afiliados deben sensibilizarse más sobre las cuestiones ambientales y rechazar las declaraciones con motivaciones políticas de funcionarios elegidos, entre ellos Trump algunas veces, que niegan el cambio climático y se oponen a los esfuerzos por controlarlo.

« Por supuesto, tenemos que proteger el trabajo para que la gente pueda sustentar a sus familias y enviar a los hijos a la universidad », dijo Tedeschi. « Pero también tenemos que pensar en el futuro. Los políticos de mira estrecha quieren enfrentar al movimiento laboral con los ambientalistas. Tenemos que ser más listos que ellos. »

En la sala de imprenta podemos encontrar un ejemplo de como la sensibilización ambiental coincide con las prioridades laborales. Las locales de GCC/IBT han desempeñado un papel decisivo a la hora de exigir que los empleadores usen materiales que no sean peligrosos para los trabajadores, ni para la atmósfera.

« Año tras año, hemos tratado de ser responsables en la utilización de productos químicos y tintas a base de soja », dijo Steve Sullivan, presidente de la local 3-N, Boston. « Hemos conseguido sacar de la sala de imprenta cosas que eran malas para nuestros trabajadores. »

Un buen testimonio de cooperación entre los movimientos laboral y ambientalista lo ofrece la BlueGreen Alliance, una organización fundada hace 10 años que se dedica a la « creación de buenos trabajos, un medioambiente limpio y una economía justa y próspera ».

La mayoría de la gente estaría de acuerdo en que es una misión admirable, pero no es fácil de llevar a cabo.

« Los sindicatos son instituciones democráticas y tienen que velar por sus miembros y ayudarles a mantenerse en su trabajo y a encontrar mejores empleos », dijo Michael Williams, vicepresidente de Desarrollo Estratégico de BlueGreen Alliance, hablando con The Communicator. « Tenemos que seguir esforzándonos para encontrar terreno común. »

En los años anteriores a la fundación de la BlueGreen Alliance, los líderes sindicales vieron que estaban de acuerdo con los ambientalistas el « 90 por ciento del tiempo » y encontraron terreno común en las preocupaciones suscitadas por los acuerdos de comercio, dijo David Foster, anterior miembro de la junta directiva internacional de United Steelworkers y director fundador de la BlueGreen Alliance.

« Querían normas de aplicación obligada sobre el ambiente lo mismo que nosotros queríamos normas de aplicación obligada en el campo laboral », dijo Foster.

Es importante observar, dijo Foster, quien anteriormente fue un alto asesor del Secretario de Energía Ernest Moniz durante la administración del presidente Barack Obama, que hay ya millones de trabajos relacionados con sectores que impactan al medioambiente.

Un estudio realizado por el gobierno el año pasado indicó que de los casi 6.5 millones de puestos de trabajo en la construcción que hay en el país, muchos de ellos sindicalizados, más de dos millones correspondían a empresas del campo de la energía o la eficiencia energética. Hay una fuerte vinculación entre los sectores laboral y ambiental, dijo Foster. ¿Que algunas veces hay desacuerdos? Por supuesto que sí, reconoció. « Pero también estamos de acuerdo en muchas cosas. »

# In Memoriam

Listed here are GCC/IBT members for whom death benefits were paid, according to the Membership Department of the office of the GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer. Locals wishing to list members who died but did not participate in the death benefits program should contact the Graphic Communicator.

Local	Date of Death	Local	Date of Death	Local	Date of Death	Local	Date of Death	Local	Date of Death			
<b>Death Benefit Claims Paid December 2015</b>												
1B	Dennis C Mitchell	10-29-15	546M	Robert E Courtade, Sr	10-08-15	458M	Michael J May	11-20-15	508M	Paul K Garrison	12-16-15	
1L	Esther Dileonardo	04-18-02	546M	John S Wojton	10-24-15	458M	Orville E Urban	10-31-15	508M	Raymond L Helferich	01-10-16	
1L	Salvatore W Fandale	10-26-15	555M	Andre Leduc, Sr	10-11-15	508M	Michael L Williams	09-12-15	508M	Ralph E Williams	07-05-12	
1L	Stephen Regulski	04-30-14	555M	Gerald Robert	10-23-15	514M	Bessie M Barrett	10-28-14	518M	James L Quinn	12-11-15	
1L	Bartholomew Sportelli	05-21-14	572T	Robert J Mcdonough	07-27-10	527S	Patrick P Molloy	01-01-09	518M	John C Sherer	01-09-16	
1L	Samuel E Waxman	08-01-12	577M	Kathleen M Ambrose	09-02-15	527S	Fred G Watson	04-14-13	524M	Benoit Desilets	01-23-15	
1L	Frank H Weimer	05-30-07	577M	Joseph Earl Denning	06-19-13	546M	William Ferrara	11-11-15	527S	Peggy C Baggett	11-06-15	
1M	Charles E Bense	09-16-15	577M	Bernard L Luedtke	07-30-01	546M	Michael D Pullman	11-15-15	527S	Charles L Bailey	12-31-15	
1M	Bernard D Starr	09-17-15	577M	Richard R Michael	06-09-09	555M	Jeannine Boivin	10-21-15	543M	Ronnie L Faust, Sr	02-09-13	
1M	Heber J Stephens	09-06-15	600M	Leo J Hilchey	10-29-15	571M	William M Dickinson	09-14-15	546M	Jerry J Misch	11-27-15	
1M	Kenneth R Whitwam	10-22-15	600M	Edward F Mcdonough	09-12-02	572T	John D Mchugh	04-27-02	555M	Ireneee Bannon	11-21-15	
4B	Marvin E Horton	03-01-14	600M	John A Polimeno	11-06-15	572T	Louis G Sasso	10-22-15	555M	Denise Ladouceur	09-29-14	
8N	Robert Licht, Sr	11-06-15	625S	Dorothy R Petrick	08-17-13	747M	Jack L Dauenroth	04-22-14	555M	Maurice J Sweeney	12-25-15	
8N	John A Neals, Jr	03-22-15	999ML	Mae F Allmon	06-16-14	747M	Fred F Gorton	10-25-95	555M	Francois Vaillancourt	11-16-15	
13N	William H Schoewe, III	04-18-05	999ML	Dewey N Barth	08-12-01	853T	Don G Athens	10-14-15	568M	Thomas R Jennings	01-01-16	
13N	Adam J Scott	10-20-15	999ML	Stanley G Carlson	11-18-15	853T	Clayton P Madden, Sr	12-12-06	568M	Richard G Schultz	12-27-12	
16N	Edward J Milano, Sr	11-10-15	999ML	Eugene W Davis	07-08-14	853T	Kenneth R Yeager	11-19-15	571M	John J Otto	11-16-15	
17M	Wilbur D Lehman	12-21-12	999ML	Roger A Elfert	01-22-13	999ML	Monte A Mars	11-08-15	572T	Ralph G Norton	12-17-13	
17M	Alvin W Spears	05-22-14	999ML	Gerald M Johnson	01-03-13	999ML	Kenneth R Owen	12-04-15	575M	John D Woollems	10-29-15	
17M	Jerry L Whitcomb	11-25-15	999ML	Agnes F Murawski	04-26-08	999ML	Gary D Steele	04-26-13	577M	Viggo C Andersen	06-03-13	
24M	Floyd L Davis Jr	09-17-07	999ML	Joanne R Simia	05-22-14	999ML	Helen M Sudol	11-19-15	577M	Eugene B Brehm	02-16-13	
24M	John A Sznajder	09-12-15	2289M	Robert D Jankowski	10-01-15	6505M	Clarence V Frenzel	11-30-15	577M	Stanley R Drida	11-28-15	
72C	George E Mondell	10-17-15	2289M	Mary E Keane	02-14-13	6505M	William O Lockett	11-07-15	577M	Gilbert J Ecks, Jr	10-19-15	
77P	Kathleen M Peterson	11-05-15	6505M	Jake L Jatho Jr	10-23-15							
77P	David P Versteegen	09-30-15	<b>Death Benefit Claims Paid January 2016</b>									
100M	Charles M Noble	10-28-15	1L	Robert E Barbour	10-14-08							
100M	John R Seal	11-03-15	1L	Arthur R Perez	10-10-15							
119B	Angel M Gazmey	09-29-15	1L	Nathaniel Phifer	11-23-15							
119B	Albert Matos	04-24-15	1L	Peter M Winter	09-30-13							
128N	Kenneth R Jeffries	01-28-01	1M	Robert D Wesley	07-31-06							
235M	Jaunita A Edwards	10-24-15	2N	Francis L Higgins	11-13-15							
285M	Carl C Peterson, Jr	10-06-15	4C	Warren E Gross	11-23-15							
355T	Daniel M Martin Jr	07-22-13	8N	Leonard Romeo	12-27-14							
388M	Juan E Arellanes	09-14-99	14M	Robert E Bergstrom	11-17-15							
444C	Claude E Evans	10-05-15	14M	Hieu Van Le	10-31-15							
458M	Carl R Baumhardt	10-17-15	14M	Theresa Saulin	04-25-12							
458M	Frank Calozzo	10-30-15	24M	Catherine V Reihl	11-02-15							
458M	Leonard N Casimer	11-07-15	77P	Donald S Osowski	04-02-15							
458M	Joseph R Mandile	10-02-15	119B	Lawrence R Dyson	09-01-15							
458M	Leonard F Marschall	12-20-12	119B	Katherine Picataggio	08-27-15							
458M	Raymond J Soprych	05-31-07	119B	Willie Smith	05-12-14							
507S	Timothy C House	03-24-10	197M	Robert D Newsham	08-16-15							
508M	Janet M Higginbotham	11-08-15	241M	Daniel Knoch	09-24-97							
508M	Paul S Spitzer	12-07-00	241M	Gustave F Roesch	01-16-05							
514M	Frances E Varga	10-22-15	285M	Lloyd L Loos	10-05-15							
518M	Dorothy A Johnson	03-09-12										
<b>Death Benefit Claims Paid February 2016</b>												
1B	Raymond J Godbout	11-16-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1B	Marcella A Herrin	11-23-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1B	Marcella L Mcfee	11-14-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1B	Leo F Olson	11-25-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Earle F Aschenbach	01-14-84								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Raymond E Backo	01-03-16								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Charles J Bird, Jr	11-11-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Cosmo Campana	08-01-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Stephen Cherishian	11-22-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Lino L Constantino	11-07-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Pauline Fox	06-08-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Arem Z Kayen	04-14-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	James Kennedy	12-05-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	William H Nelson	11-18-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Eric G Pedersen	03-07-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Carl R Stover	11-18-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Raymond A Vermilyea	05-10-07								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Walter J Wettje	12-26-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1L	Bernard P Zipprich	01-23-15								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15
1M	Donald E Anderson	12-02-13								508M	James C Cowan	12-03-15

## MURRAY L. MCKENZIE, FORMER GCIU VEEP, 'ALWAYS WENT THE EXTRA MILE'

Murray L. McKenzie, a widely admired union organizer and executive who served as vice president of the Graphic Arts International Union and, later, the Graphic Communications International Union, died March 11 at his home in Springfield, Tennessee. He was 87.

Death was related to Parkinson's Disease, according to his daughter, Kathleen Jenkins of Gallatin, Tennessee.

Though struggling with health issues in later years, McKenzie stayed informed on current events and union developments, Jenkins said. "He kept up with everything," she said.

McKenzie went to work at Rich Printing, Nashville, after four years in the Navy and pursued a career in bookbinding.

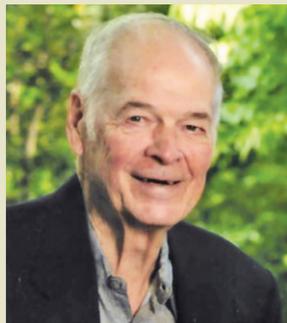
He became active in the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders (IBB) and served as president of Bookbinders Local 83, Nashville, for 15 years. During McKenzie's tenure, local membership more than tripled.

In 1972, bookbinders and lithographers merged to form the Graphic Arts International Union (GAIU) – predecessor of the GCIU and GCC/IBT – and the next year McKenzie was elected a GAIU vice president.

A steadfast advocate of working people with a zeal for building union membership, McKenzie chaired the organizing committee of the GAIU's International Council and the union's organizing planning committee. At two GAIU conventions, he presided over organizing committee proceedings.

Following a 1983 merger between the GAIU and the International Printing and Graphic Communications Union (IPGCU) that formed the GCIU, McKenzie was elected – and, subsequently, re-elected – a GCIU vice president.

He served as chairman of the GCIU general board's subsidy committee, which provided union locals financial assistance for organizing efforts and served on a committee aimed at helping locals eliminate discrimination in the graphic communications industry.



Murray L. McKenzie

On May 31, 1991, McKenzie retired. Born in Nashville, he said he was returning to Tennessee to "just enjoy life."

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi said McKenzie's career was a model for union officers.

"Murray McKenzie was widely respected – intelligent, resourceful and always prepared to go the extra mile," Tedeschi said. "He is the kind of selfless individual who helped our union grow and develop into a labor organization with national influence. We remember him with respect and gratitude."

Kathleen Jenkins said her father's success was notable because he had only a 10th grade education. "I'm very proud of him," she said. "He was a firm believer in what he did and... in the value of people who did an honest day's work." She said

McKenzie also was admired by management personnel as well as union members. "One employer sent a Christmas present every year after Dad retired," she recalled.

Along with his passion for the labor movement, McKenzie was a devoted Democrat, as was his wife of 64 years, Dorothy, who died in 2015 at age 82. On questions of party politics, her father was immovable, said Jenkins who said she tilts conservative.

"You couldn't talk politics with them, because they thought the Republican Party was in conflict with labor." Jenkins said her father voted faithfully but missed the 2016 election because of illness. "If he had voted, it would have been for Hillary," Jenkins said.

In addition to Kathleen Jenkins, Murray Lynn McKenzie is survived by sons, Thomas of Hendersonville, Tennessee and Kenneth of Frederick, Maryland; daughter, Sherry Harrison of Gallatin; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Alive Hospice, 1718 Patterson St., Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

# Walker Continues Attack on Unions

Scott Walker, the Republican governor of Wisconsin who championed an attack on collective bargaining rights in 2011, showed his anti-labor zeal again by dealing a blow to union construction workers.

Senate Bill 3, signed by Walker at the plant of a construction materials distributor, forbids local governments from requiring that public works contractors enter agreements with labor organizations.

Walker said the legislation assured “neutrality” and promoted “healthy competition.” Democrats, local leaders and labor officials said the governor was misleading voters with what Milwaukee mayor Tom Barrett called an “unproven assertion,” according to the Milwaukee Journal.

Not in question is Walker’s determination to cripple organized labor.

Six years ago Walker and Wisconsin’s GOP legislature passed a measure limiting the negotiating rights of public sector employees and the governor gained enough fame to enter the 2016 GOP presidential primaries where he fared poorly.

“Scott walker has proved time and again that he is trying to attack the labor movement on every front possible and eliminate it,” said Perry Kettner, president of GCC/IBT Local 577-M, Milwaukee-Madison.

Kettner said Walker takes orders from his “puppet masters” – the billionaire right-wing industrialists Charles and David Koch – but that local union leaders are responding with increased determination and solidarity. “We are finding ways to fight back,” Kettner said.



## Europe’s Labor ‘Secrets’

Unions are struggling in the United States. Does Europe have an answer?

“For eight years, we had a labor-friendly White House with President Barack Obama but union membership hasn’t grown,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “Now Republicans are in charge. We have to be open to fresh ideas.”

They may come from across the Atlantic.

In a piece called “Europe Could Have the Secret to Saving America’s Unions,” the online publication Vox notes that more than two-thirds of Scandinavian workers are unionized and in France and Austria 98 percent are covered by contracts even if employees are not necessarily union members.

The situation in the United States is far different. Once a third of the labor force was unionized. Now fewer than 11 percent of workers enjoy collective bargaining.

Why is labor doing better in Europe?

Because, says Vox, overseas labor organizations do not bargain with companies but whole industry sectors. A contract for restaurant employees, for instance, covers all eating establishments, not just one.

What works overseas, may not here, the Vox story acknowledges. But, David Madland, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, told the publication interest is growing in the sector bargaining approach. “This feels like an idea whose time has come.”



## GOP Plotting a Workplace Heist?

It has a swell name – the Working Families Flexibility Act – but secret agenda.

Congress is considering a bill introduced by Rep. Martha Roby (R-Alabama) who says her measure would offer employees “more choices with their time at work and more balance with the demands of family life.”

Critics say Roby’s law – Republican Mike Lee of Utah is pushing similar legislation in the Senate – amounts to a workplace heist.

“Employers currently steal billions of dollars annually from workers in unpaid overtime compensation,” said Linda Meric, national executive director of the advocacy group 9to5 in comments on the Huffington Post website. “This proposal would make this problem even worse...”

Under terms of the bill, private-sector employers would be allowed to offer comp time instead of pay without guaranteeing workers the right to use the accrued time when they need it – even in cases of illness or family emergency.

Liz Rose of the Economic Policy Institute said the Act “would erode worker protections and give working people a false choice between time off and overtime pay.”

The true intent is clear, Rose said. “What it really does is create a new employer right to borrow their employees’ overtime pay interest free.”



## UNIONS MUST MONITOR TRUMP LABOR POLICY

Thousands of union members voted for Donald Trump in the fall elections – a factor that likely played heavily in the victory of the Republican billionaire developer – and, early in his presidency, Trump has gained the praise of several union leaders for a pro-growth policy they hope will create jobs.

But experts urge that union members and labor officials keep tabs on White House policies that jeopardize workers – particularly in the area of plant safety.

Worries increased when the Republican Congress and President Trump quietly pushed through repeal of the Fair Pay, Safe Workplace executive order signed by President Barack Obama mandating that federal contractors disclose past violations of wage and hour laws and workplace safety standards.

“President Trump had a choice...to either back the rights of workers employed by federal contractors to safe and fair workplaces, or to side with corporations that steal workers’ wages and cut corners on safety,” said Christine Owens, executive director of the National Employment Law Project. “By repealing the rule, “Mr. Trump cast his vote for big business.”

## Road Map to a Long Life

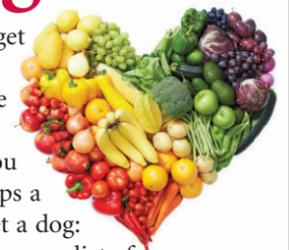
Want to live longer? Here is the “road map you need to get to 80, 90, 100 or beyond,” according to AARP.

The organization published 50 tips for staying this side of the hereafter.

A sampler: Sleep 6-8 hours. Put some cash away so you don’t worry. Green tea has antioxidants – drink several cups a day. Chile peppers help reduce pain and inflammation. Get a dog: guaranteed love – and long, healthy walks. Enjoy a Mediterranean diet of veggies, olive oil, fish and nuts. But, in general, eat less – too much weight is dangerous. Explore nature. Socialize. Read more.

The full “road map” can be found at: <http://www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/info-2017/50-ways-to-live-longer.html>

Keep it handy. And...no u-turns!



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# 'We've Been There From Start' of ULLICO

Ninety years ago, the first insurance plan specifically for union members was launched – a significant moment in labor history with special relevance to the GCC/IBT.

Creating the Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO) in 1927 were Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Matthew Woll, president of the Photo Engravers Union.

"We were there at the start," said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi.

Over the decades and as a result of several mergers, Tedeschi noted, the Photo Engravers Union became part of the powerful print industry labor alliance ultimately known as the Graphic Communications International Union, now the Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

"Our history is rich and varied," said Tedeschi. "We should be proud of that heritage."



When Gompers and Woll established ULLICO, few union workers – especially those with jobs considered hazardous – had access to group life insurance, according to the ULLICO Bulletin, a publication of the company. "Union Labor Life successfully provided American union workers a new level of protection," the publication said.

Woll, who became the first ULLICO president, offered a simple lesson on insurance in an annual report written in the 1930s. "There is nothing new in the statement that if I put \$10 in a bank and die tomorrow my family will get \$10, while if I put the same money in a life insurance company and die tomorrow my family may get as much as \$2,000."

In 2017, a ULLICO subscriber who pays \$100 annually toward a 10-year term life insurance policy may receive a death benefit as large as \$25,000 to \$50,000, depending on age and other factors, the company said.

The role of a GCC/IBT predecessor – the Photo Engravers – in affording reliable insurance coverage to members underscores the union's tradition of service, Tedeschi said. "Just as ULLICO puts customers first, our highest priority is protecting every GCC/IBT member," he added. "Nothing is more important."



Teamster Brother Philando Castile in his School Uniform



## OFFICER CLEARED OF CHARGES IN CASTILE CASE

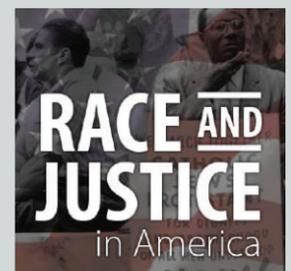
A Minnesota police officer was cleared of all charges last month in the fatal 2016 traffic stop shooting of 32-year-old Teamster member Philando Castile.

Acquitted last month of second-degree manslaughter and endangering safety was Officer Jeronimo Yanez, 29, who said he shot Castile, a school cafeteria supervisor belonging to IBT Local 320, Minneapolis, when he feared Castile was reaching for a gun.

Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, posted a portion of the encounter online and the case quickly drew wide attention. Reynolds said Castile was intending only to comply with Yanez's instructions when the officer pulled them over in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights.

Demonstrations calling into question police treatment of minority citizens followed the shooting and protesters gathered again after the jury verdict was announced, according to news reports.

Castile was known as a popular worker and union member. In the aftermath of the shooting last July, Sami Gabriel, Teamsters Local 320 president, called Castile an "amazing person" who loved working with children. "He will be deeply missed by his colleagues and his community," she said.



## Funny Business

