

## NEWS FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL #130 - APWU - AFL-CIO

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor. --- President John F. Kennedy 1962

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK... THE WRIGHT WAY —



bviously, we as postal Workers understand the term Return to Sender. It is paramount that all postal employees involve themselves defeating the pundits

and H.R.2748. Issa's house Oversight Committee recently approved the Postal Reform Act H.R. 2748, this bill passed the House by a 22-17 margin. (strictly a party line vote) As stated by President Guffey, "if it is enacted, this bill will lead to the demise of the Postal Service." And "would punish postal workers and deprive the American people of vital services." These attacks on postal employees follow the same assault which occurred in Indiana and Michigan on all workers rights that were trampled on with the passage of "Right to Work" laws in 2012. The continued attacks on the middle class have equally been the demise of a great Nation! This bill would:

#### **Punish Workers**

- Prohibit postal unions and management from negotiating protections against lay offs
- Increase health insurance costs for employees
- Limit worker's collective bargaining rights
- Reduce compensation for injured workers with dependants and force them to retire.

#### **Deprive Customers of Vital Services**

- Impose a two to three day delivery standard for first class mail
- Close post offices, stations and branches
- Consolidate plants
- Reduce door delivery and end Saturday letter delivery

As I have published before, the GOP and the

corruption that lead to the passage of the PAEA of 2006, is the root of majority of the financial woes the postal service faces today. When the "Silver Spoon" congressmen like Issa, Ross and Farenthold got caught with their hand in the cookie jar. They were using postal funds to support other entities of the government, hence their miss-guided belief that the taxpayers should not have to pay for the postal service because of our financial hardships. The APWU has began airing our television advertisements in an effort to educate the American citizens on the enormous task that postal employees perform. The ad ends with a simple question:

### "ever wonder what this cost you as a taxpayer?" **Not a single cent!**

All postal workers *must* get involved in this battle.

Call the Capitol Switch Board at (202) 224-3121 and urge lawmakers to Co-Sponsor the Postal Service Protection Act House bill H.R.630/ Senate bill S.316 and adamantly oppose Issa and his Henchmen and mark his bill:

## Return to Sender.

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL ANNUAL PICNIC

## AUGUST 11, 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2013

August 10, 2013 General Membership Meeting

10:00 am - 1509 E Prospect St

## August 11, 2013

Annual Membership Picnic Sycamore Shelter Fort Harrison State Park

## August 22-25, 2013

APWU POWER Conference Grand Sierra Resort Reno, NV

September 10, 2013 General Membership Meeting 6:00 pm - 1509 E Prospect St

October 10, 2013 General Membership Meeting 10:00 am - 1509 E Prospect St

For more information on these events go to: www.indyapwu.org

## Inside this issue:

#### MARY HELEN STEWART-BOHANNAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

TARON WHITE'S LABOR UNIONS	Z
SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT	4
50/50 DRAWING	4
ANNUAL PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE	4
LOCAL #130 ANNUAL PICNIC	5
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	6
STEWARDS	6
UNIONS ARE A SIMPLE	8





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Associate Offices	(317) 634-1783
MPA & P-1Steward's Room	(317) 870-8894

NOTE: Stewards are not always in the Steward's Room, your supervisor is responsible to make the appropriate contact to the Union for representation, or call the Union hall.

## ASSOCIATE OFFICES

Beech Grove	Brownsburg	Carmel
Danville	Fishers	Fortville
Franklin	Greenfield	Greenwood
Lebanon	Martinsville	Mooresville
New Palestine	Noblesville	Plainfield
Shelbyville	Westfield	

## **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Don Packwood	Editor
Martha Foote	Associate Editor, Clerk
	Associate Editor, Maintenance
VACANT	Associate Editor, MVS

## **AFFILIATIONS**

American Postal Workers Union Postal Press Association Indiana State AFL-CIO Central Labor Council of Marion County Indiana Postal Workers Union

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## LABOR UNIONS by Taron White

#### by faion

## Labor unions are

nearly as old as America herself. Although primitive unions of carpenters and other tradespeople made an appearance in various cities in colonial America, the first national labor unions didn't gain strength until the 1820s. During this time, workers banded together to reduce the working day

from a grueling 12 hours to a more manageable 1 0 hours. In 1866, the Nation Labor Union persuaded Congress to cut the workday down to today's eight hour standard. As early as 1909 eastern European immigrant steel workers attempted demonstrations of solidarity for humane working conditions; however, due to language barriers they were exploited and easily divided. These early efforts, along with those of washwomen, factory, mill, and postal workers paved the road for labor unions in the United States. According to Merriam Webster's definition, a labor union is an organization of wage earners or salaried employees for mutual aid and protection and for dealing collectively with employers; trade union. While the intent is nearly identical, today's appearance of a labor union is far removed from the original depiction.

Labor organizations or more the more common term, unions are formed by employees who want better wages, benefits, health and working conditions. In recent years, in spite of these benefits, there has been a decline in participation for unions. Some of the decline has to do with companies offering better working conditions, better benefits, higher wages, or the fact that many of the industrial jobs are sent to other countries. There are numerous reasons why the decline in participation and now unions has spilled over into politics.

Because companies are offering better working conditions, higher wages, and better health benefits, some politicians feel there is no need to continue with



labor organization. The current administration Labor unions today compared to in the past have fewer members and are more populated by political parties and public sector employees. President Obama told employees at Daimler's Detroit Diesel in Redford, Mich., "Law makers shouldn't be trying "to take away your right to bargain for better wages."

During the implementation of unions, the labor force consisted heavily of automobile and steel plant workers. This has decreased due to outsourcing these jobs to foreign countries (AFL-CIO, 2004). Americans have also seen a decrease in highly skilled jobs due to outsourcing. The United States Government current push on companies to send these skilled jobs offshore, in return for a tax break, is hurting the economy and trade deficit.

The American Federation of Labor (AFL), formed in 1866, made many contributions to the cause of protecting the rights of American workers. The group was instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Children's Bureau in the 1890s. The AFL also worked to pass the Clayton Act of 1914. This important piece of legislation allowed workers to use boycotts, strikes, and peaceful picketing as negotiation tools.

While jobs are increasing in foreign countries workers' rights are not. Wages



We welcome original articles, stories and artwork from our union members and their families. All opinions expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the editor, officers of the Indianapolis Area Local or the publisher. The editor reserves the right to determine whether the material submitted for this publication shall be printed and may edit letters and articles for length, style, grammar and spelling. Articles submitted must deal with labor issues or related topics, not

personalities. Libelous statements or personal, unwarranted attacks will not be printed. Deadline for submitting material to the editor is by 12:00 Noon on the Wednesday

following the regularly scheduled monthly General Membership meeting. Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted on disk, if possible. All material must have the author's name, address, phone number, and be signed, however anonymity may be requested. All communications concerning the paper should be addressed to:

Indy Info, 1509 E Propect St, Indianapolis, IN 46203



#### Indy Info

are low and employees do not have the respect and healthy work conditions as most American unions. According to a petition filed with the U.S. Trade Representative by the AFL-CIO and Industrial Union Council, the United States has lost more than 1 million jobs because of constant violations of workers' rights in China (AFL-CIO, 2006). Countries with low wages or no minimum wages have the ability to offer low cost product because the labor rates put into producing these items are usually fifty to eighty percent less than the United States or other nations. Under the Trade Act of 1974, the United States has the right to take action against countries who commit unfair trade practices (U.S. Department of Labor, n.d.). The Obama administration has set to address this issue.

The UAW is one of the largest unions on the continent with more than 390,000 active and 600,000 retired members. Members are employed at a variety of organizations including Daimler-Chrysler, MGM Grand, and Columbia University. The structure of labor unions includes executive officers and numerous committees which support a multilevel design. On a local level, central labor councils serve to give workers a voice in their communities. These councils report to state or regional federations who then represent their interests to the national union. UA W member benefits received from collective bargaining include the first employer paid health insurance plan for industrial workers, the first costof-living allowances, a pioneering role in product quality improvements, landmark job and income security provisions, and comprehensive training and educational programs (UAW).

There are several union movement companies across the world that are trying to enforce fair wages and better working conditions for under privileged countries. Two of the organizations that represent union workers are the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Both of these company's stress the importance of human rights, mini-

### mum wages, and healthy workplaces for all employees. The Governments of these low wage countries try their best to ignore and disregard these conditions that are not normal. The benefits of these workers working under these conditions

are too high and production is increasing

in countries such as China and India.

Labor union organizations have helped enforce several workers' rights from sexual discrimination to age discrimination. The AFL-CIO is very adamant about the following: people who want to work should have a job with a living wage, workers are proud of their work and should have the chance to do it right, workers should enjoy the freedom to form a union and bargain collectively, and want to contribute to, and share in, building a world-class economy (AFL-CIO, n.d.). Unions are still very much a part of the current work force and people are serious about their jobs and wellbeing.

Labor unions are seen from conflicting points of view. Members stand firm behind them citing their positive contributions to the higher pay, improved working conditions, better benefits, and overall greater standards achieved through collective bargaining. Solidarity, a motto of unions, keeps members bonded to each other and the union through shared problems and experiences. Some corporations and economists believe that labor unions are cartels that create monopolies and regard them as a detriment to the capitalist vision. Antiunion opinions stem from the seemingly untouchable status of labor unions and the favor and protections given to them by the federal government.

#### References

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, (n.d.). Retrieved on February 4, 2008 from http://www.aflcio.org

International Trade Union Confederation, (n.d.). General Information. Retrieved on February 6, 2008 from http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip. php?rubrique57

United States Department of Labor, (n.d.). Trade Act Programs: Statutes and Regulations. Retrieved on February 6, 2008 from http://www. doleta.gov/tradeact/statutes.cfm#trade\_ac

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-34222\_162-57558290-10391739/obama-takes-on-unionfight-in-michigan/

Editors Note: Taron White graduated High School from the Irvington Preparatory Academy, Class of 2013. Taron plans to attend either Lourdes University or Saint Francis University in the fall. He is the son of Angela Watkins, Administrative Assistant for Finance (Clerk Craft) in the Greater Indiana District Offices in Indianapolis.



## Secretary/Treasurer

## **Martha Foote**

Secretary/Treasurer

## **INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL**

Balance Sheet As of JULY 9, 2013

ASSETS	
Current Assetts	
Checking & Savings	
PETTY CASH	100.00
PNC BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
INTEREST EARNED	
ENTERTAINMENT	8,495.65
EDUCATION	6,642.23
CONVENTION	5,161.53
5% CONTINGENCY	9,330.98

## TOTAL PNC BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT 29,612.39 50/50 DRAWING

Proceeds go to support the Annual Picnic, the Holiday Party and other activities.

## The Guaranteed Jackpot has risen to \$500 Raffle Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5

Raffle ticket sales end on August 10, 2013 at the General Membership Meeting.

As ticket sales grow so does the jackpot.Jackpot is 50% of ticket sales.

winner will be drawn at the Annual Picnic. Need not be present to win.

See an Entertainment Committee Member, Steward or Officer for tickets.



### Last year's final Jackpot was \$1,350.00 !!! The more tickets bought the better your chances and higher the jackpot.

The more tickets bought the better your chances and higher the jackpot. See your Stewards, Officers and Entertainment Committee member to purchase tickets.

ELECTION FUND RESERVE FUND President AL/SL POWER FUNDS GENERAL FUND checking	3,981.45 10,831.98 (1,305.04) 1,029.71
PAYROLL FUND checking	104.99
Total checking & Savings	45,660.52
Total Current Assets	45,660.52
GOLDMAN FUND	2,359.45
RETIREES FUND	25,842.34

Marthe Foote Martha Foote - Secretary/Treasurer

## Indianapolis Area Local #130, APWU, AFL-CIO

Annual Picnic August 11, 2013 Mark your calendar!



## Sycamore Shelter, Ft. Harrison SRA (same locations as last year)

## **Planned Activities:**

Hay Ride, Free Fishing Clinic for the kids, Miles of Hiking Trails, Playgrounds next to the shelter, 50/50 Drawing (see below), Pony Rides, Horseback Rides, Military Museum, Games, Music, FOOD! ...More information to follow.

# Local #130 Annual Picnic August 11, 2013

## Menu:

Chicken Pulled Pork, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Green Beans, Potato Salad, Corn on the Cob

## On your own Activities:

Pony Rides — Horseback Rides

These activities (and the park entrance fee) are independent of the Entertainment Committees involvement. They are park run activities available/charged to the general public.

## FREE!

Hay Ride – Fishing Clinic for the kids – Miles of Hiking Trails Playgrounds next to the shelter – Military Museum – Games, and Music.

The Fishing Clinic is for kids ages 17 and under. Participants must be accompanied by an adult who assumes responsibility. This activity is FREE, but to insure we have enough resources and volunteers available we need an acurate count on how many will be attending. This is why we require a deposit. If you register before the deadline your deposit is refundable, at the picnic only. The deposit is non-refundable for no shows and late registrations.

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**Picnic & Fishing Clinic Reservation Form** 

RSVP Deadline August 2, 2013

Member:\_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 of SS#:\_\_\_\_\_ PL#:\_\_\_\_\_

Members deposit amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_5.00 # of guest:\_\_\_\_\_X \$10.00 Total Guest Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Nonrefundable) Fishing Clinic deposit\*:

# of Kids:\_\_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 Total Fishing Clinic Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

\$

- · Deposit (Membership and Fishing Clinic) will be returned upon check-in at the Picnic registration table only.
- Deposits will not be returned on RSVPs that do not meet the August 2nd deadline.

We try to provide a free rod & reel for every child attending the Fishing Clinic for the first time. If you would beinterested in sponsoring a child at the Fishing clinic please attach your donation and enter the amount here:

## **RSVP Deadline: August 2nd**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Park Entrance Fee:** There is a \$5.00 per car nonrefundable entrance fee to the park. Keep your receipt to leave and reenter the park throughout the day.



www.ial130.org

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

## Loretta Maydwell

Membership/Insurance Coordinator

## **INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL**



## JULY 2013

Clerks	
Mail Handlers	б
Motor Vehicle	124
Maintenance	210
Associate	9
Check Off	1,251
Cash	4
Total	1,255

Non-Pay	80
Cancel	
Death	0
Retired	2

## **NEW MEMBER**

Lawana Begert	
Carlos Snow	
Willa Banks	
Donald Long	
Michael Jones	
Mike Ny	
Gurmeet Singh	(
Debra Wine	(
Gregory Lyons	(

#### EMBER SIGNED BY N. Helms N. Helms

L. Maydwell G. Jones G. Jones W. Wright (transfer from MailHandler) (transfer from MailHandler) (regular transfer)

## Welcome New Members



# TALK TO NON-MEMBERS

## **PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN THE UNION**

## CANCEL Daryl Laker SEPARATED

Tyisha Ellison Crystal George Kimberly Miller Tramaine Ndiaye Tracy Tate Duane Hinkle Anson Thompson Evette Anderson Kristy Kincade Adria McCullough

## RETIRED

Debra Bailey Dennis Burk







## **STEWARDS**

MVS

Tony Moore William Wood Greg Jones, Craft Director

### MAINTENANCE

Phillip Ashby Keith Bornstein Charles Finney Tony Gray Paul Sevenish Steve M Vaughn Steve W Vaughn John (Mike) Hale, Craft Director

## CLERKS

Nancy Helms Tami El Amin Dianna Coleman Loretta Maydwell Lorenzo Tucker April Pryor Floyd Stanley Debra Gilbert, Craft Director

## **CLERKS**, Station & Branches

Chantel Beckwith Linda Daniels Robin Miles Pamela Plummer LaTonia Smith Dianna Coleman Don Packwood Vickie Crouse, Assistant Craft Director

## **CLERKS**, Associate Offices

Helen Scott Tina Haskett Jacqueline D Henson Kathy Miller-Hunt Jeffrey A Moore Suzanne Wiltermood Jackie Williams

#### Continued from page 8

International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers (Ironworkers)

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) (Rushing to rescue those in need or save our homes; 19 of these brave men made the ultimate sacrifice last month)

International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (AWIU)

- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (IBB)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) ( Making electricity safe in every building

you and your family enter) International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) International Longshoremen's Association (ILA)

International Plate Printers, Die Stampers and Engravers Union of North America

International Union of Allied Novelty and Production Workers (Novelty and Production Workers)

International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC)

International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) International Union of Painters and Allied Trades of the United States and Canada (IUPAT)

International Union of Police Associations (IUPA) (Bet you are glad they are around when you need them, never afraid to rush in to trouble)

Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)

National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)

NFL Players Association (NFLPA) (WOW couldn't do without these guys)

National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) (Like these guys when I am traveling on business or pleasure)

National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) (Rain; sleet; Excessive Heat, always there)

National Nurses United (NNU)(You need them when you or a loved one is in the hospital)

National Taxi Workers Alliance (NTWA) Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada (OPCMIA)

Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)(Your favorite movie/TV star's)

Seafarers International Union of North America (SIU) International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)

Transport Workers Union of America (TWU)

Transportation Communications International Union/IAM (TCU/IAM)

UNITE HERE

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA)

United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union (UAW)

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber,

Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial & Service Workers International Union (USW)

United Transportation Union (UTU) ( Operators' of

the trains and buses)
United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers (Roofers and Waterproofers)
Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) (There when your power goes out, in any weather)
Writers Guild of America, East Inc. (WGAE) (They

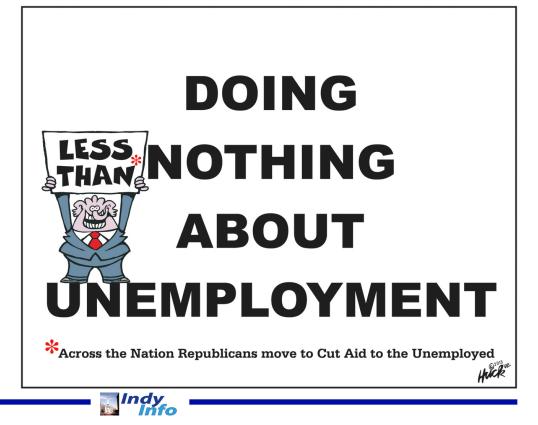
bring you the movies and TV you enjoy so )

I mention these so you will know that union workers bring us enjoyment and safety. They are entwined in our lives in places that we really want in most case's. I think if we could get some sort of "ORGANIZED" structure in Washington D.C. then we could get this great nation back on track to the prosperity we once enjoyed. Oh, but we have a written structure there. The U.S. Constitution, how does that start...humm... oh ya."

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Con-

## stitution for the United States of America.

I think it about time we get re-organized as Americans and enforce our Constitution. I call my Congressman almost weekly as well as e-mail. I am trying to save "MY" job, oh and yours and the PSE's, Mail Handler's, Letter Carrier's as well as managements. Because last week I passed the 25 year mark since I walked into the building on South St. Just think if everyone of us our spouse's, brothers, sisters, even our parents and grown children called every Congressional representative in our respective districts. Bet we get some attention, what do you think. Come join us in the fight. The APWU and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union have announced plans to conduct a nationwide joint lobbying effort over the congressional recess from Aug. 5 to Sept. 6 to urge senators and representatives to co-sponsor the Postal Service Protection Act (H.R. 630 in the House / S. 316 in the Senate) and the Protect Overnight Delivery Act (H.R. 2459). Hope to see you there, if you need information call the union hall or e-mail me swv@ial130.org.





INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL #130 American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO 1509 E Prospect Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46203 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 2204 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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Keeps You Informed

MOVING?? NOTIFY US OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS BY MAIL OR ONLINE AT: http://www.indyapwu.org

## Unions are about a simple proposition:

#### by Steve Vaughn, Exec. Vice President

By joining together, working women and men gain strength in numbers so they can have a voice at work about what they care about. They negotiate a contract with their employer for things like a fair and safe workplace, better wages, a secure retirement and familyfriendly policies such as paid sick leave and scheduling hours. They have a voice in how their jobs get done, creating a more stable, productive workforce that provides better services and products. Always adapting to the challenges of our nation's evolving workforce, unions are meeting the needs of workers in today's flexible and nontraditional work environments. Because no matter what type of job workers are in, by building power in unions, they can speak out for fairness for all working people in their communities and create better standards and a strong middle class across the country.

This is a simple structuralized goal. However the leaders of our corporate world have done everything they can to wipe this away and eliminate the working "Middle" class. They have attacked every level of the blue collar workers and using the stockpiles of cash earned on our backs to BUY congress. With the Koch brothers leading the way they are very brazen and outspoken that their goal is to crush the unions. Well let's look at our union brother's/sister's:

## These are a few of those that are members of the AFL-CIO. I'll bet you know a few as well.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM)

American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) (Preparing our future leader's. Even while under attack from budget cuts or intruders, always there) American Postal Workers Union (APWU) (Oh that's

us. ALL of us)

American Radio Association (ARA) American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA) Associated Actors and Artistes of America (4As) American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)

(Bringing the joy of music to all of us) American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) The Guild of Italian American Actors (GIAA) Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain

Millers International Union (BCTGM) Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS) California School Employees Association (CSEA) Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA) (Making your flight a little more comfortable) Industrial Union of Electronic Workers (IUE-CWA)

National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET-CWA) The Newspaper Guild (TNG-CWA)

Printing, Publishing and Media Workers, CWA Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union (GMP)

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada (IATSE)

Continued on page 7

