



Local 1277

News

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1744 North Main Street • Los Angeles, CA 90031 • (323) 222•1277

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TRUMP PROVING TO BE ANTI-WORKING PEOPLE!

THE CHICKENS ARE ALREADY COMING HOME TO ROOST

By Douglas Kurowski, Board Member-at-Large

It's been less than two months since Donald Trump stunned us all and somehow beat Hillary Clinton for the Presidency. Most of us thought it could never happen; it did. Most of us feared what a disaster a Trump Presidency could be for unions, working men and women, and their families; we're just beginning to see what the consequences might be.

It isn't pretty, brothers and sisters! We all better keep our eyes wide open!

Let's start right at the top, so to speak: Trump's choice for *Secretary of Labor*, the person who oversees the federal Department of Labor (DOL), the individual charged with maintaining and enforcing national policies concerning jobsite safety, wages and benefits, union matters and anti-discrimination statutes, **is a fast-food tycoon (Carl's Jr. and Hardee's, among others), who is against federal-government regulation of the workplace!**

His name is Andy Puzder, and he *opposes* the higher minimum wage because he claims it will force restaurants to close. He is dead set *against* the nationwide effort by mostly non-unionized restaurant employees to set the minimum wage at \$15/hour. *He's also against the concept of overtime pay!* And—as if anything could be possibly worse—the Obama DOL found labor law violations in 60% of its investigations into Carl's Jr. and Hardee's—usually for failure to pay the minimum wage or time and a half for overtime!

This is the man that Trump wants to head up the DOL. This is the anti-working people corporate executive who wants to gut the DOL and roll back years of hard-won progress in wages, safety, benefits, unionization efforts and other pro-worker programs.

Not very good, is it, brothers and sisters? This is why we fought so hard to elect Hillary Clinton, why we strongly urged every ATU Local 1277 active member, retiree and family to get politically involved. *Political elections have consequences and, boy, are we going to see some of them (bad ones!) in the months and years to come.*

Attacking Union Leaders

Trump has already made his attacks on unions a personal vendetta. He sure didn't wait long to do so!

Just a month after he was elected—in early December—Trump used his favorite method of mass communications (Twitter!) to personally and viciously attack Brother Chuck Jones, President of Local 1999 of the United Steelworkers.

After Trump bragged about “saving” jobs at the Carrier plant in Indianapolis, Indiana, Jones, whose local represents workers there, charged that all of Trump's self-congratulations over saving jobs was essentially a smoke screen, a campaign of hype and distortion promoted by *the master* of hype and distortion.

Brother Jones publicly called out the President-elect, stating that Trump had “lied” unnecessarily when talking to his members about “saving” their jobs. Jones noted that Trump used the carrot of tax breaks and other incentives, along with the stick of naked threats against Carrier. The union President also noted that the *actual* number of “saved” jobs is lower than Trump's claim.

Now, while saving *any* number of jobs is both good and important, you have got to ask, will Trump use similar tactics against other big employers? Will he, in essence, “bribe” them to keep jobs here? Can our economy afford to pay off corporation after corporation simply to get them to do the decent thing and keep American jobs here in America? Is this how job-creation *should* be? Is this how it *will* be under Trump?

Will Trump bully and bribe, instead of having coherent, workable policies to bring back lost overseas jobs and create millions of new ones?

The Supreme Court

All through the Presidential campaign, your Union—along with all of organized labor—warned that make-up of the United States Supreme Court was the biggest stake in the election. *It was, it is, and it will be.*

It is dangerously simple: Trump will nominate someone very soon to the Supreme Court. The *Republican*-majority U.S. Senate will confirm that nominee. And then...the court, with the blessings of the new Trump administration, will proceed to **gut** public-employee unions. How? *By bringing a case similar to Friedrichs vs. California back to the high court.*

Last year, in a split 4-4 vote (Justice Antonin Scalia had died) the Supreme Court failed to rule. It returned the case to the Court of Appeals, which had ruled in favor of public-employee unions—saying that they could charge fees for representation at the workplace. *But with a new Trump appointee on the bench, watch for a new challenge to public-employee unions and a legal “victory” that will strip away dues and destroy the unions' ability to function in the workplace. And that, brothers and sisters, means public-employee unions will lose their abilities to bargain collectively and form and maintain any kind of political presence.*

Continued on page 2.

LOCAL 1277 VOLUNTEERS HELP HOMELESS VETS

By Art Aguilar, President, Local 1277

On Saturday, November 19, 2016, 45 ATU members, families and friends united to help homeless veterans get off the streets into homes. By far our largest volunteer group, these public-spirited people raised \$4,125.00 during a 5k walk/run—a small distance for helping our region's homeless vets. Over 12,000 participants came together to support our deserving vets.

Los Angeles County and City political and civic leaders welcomed the participants. Over the past nine years, Home Walk has raised over \$6.5 million, helping to house 17,000 people. This year's event raised more than \$1 million, with help from the Conrad Hilton Foundation, which matched every \$5,000 a person or team raised with another \$5,000.

I warmly thank **Corelette & Dean Boykin (Division 18)**, **D'Lisa Palmer ("The Deuce")**, **Valerie Carter ("The Deuce")**, **Norman Fair (Shop Steward, "The Deuce")** and daughter **Brandace**, **Carlos Leohr (Division 7)**, **Jeff Shaffer (ATU Treasurer)**, **Maurice Strong (Division 7)**, **Anthony Vance ("The Deuce")**, **Cristina Soto (ATU Administrative Assistant)**, **Eugene (Facilities Maintenance)** & **Tiffany Berwager**, **Douglas Kurowski (Board Member at Large)** and

Zigmun Kurowski, **Larry Aguilar**, **Mauro Varela (Division 7 Shop Steward/ATU Chairman for Homeless Heroes)** and **Ben Varela**, **Laura Lopez**, **Danny Alavez (Division 7)**, **Guillermo Diaz (Division 7)**, and **Jose Campos (Division 7)**. See photo.

And a very special thank you to **MTA Senior Executive Officer of Transportation Robert Holland and Special Events Coordinator Emil Guglielmo**. With their assistance, and Divisions 1 and 2, MTA donated transportation from L.A. Trade Tech to the walk. I especially commend **Brother Mauro Varela**, who for the second year was assigned the task of representing our Union at all planning meetings and collecting the money. **Well done every one of you!**

In Los Angeles County, some 47,000 men, women, children (including veterans) live without the safety, comfort and dignity of a home on any given night. Homelessness is a tragedy in all communities within the county. This crisis is a core priority of the United Way. For more information on how you can help, please go to www.homewalkla.org.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Think it can't happen? Watch. Think it *won't* happen? Just wait. And remember, Trump most likely will have the chance to appoint *more than one* new justice to the Supreme Court, in effect shaping its anti-union, anti-working people decisions for years to come!

Use of Executive Power

Outgoing President Barack Obama, a good and compassionate man, used his executive powers to raise pay, expand benefits and improve working conditions at companies that do business with the federal government. His decisions also set examples for private employers to follow. *But executive orders, which do not have to be approved by Congress, can be overturned by an incoming President.*

As President, Trump will have both the power and inclination to do just that. He and his DOL can amend or toss federal guidelines that define the classification of workers as employees or independent contractors. This is important for companies like Uber, which would much prefer to have its workers called independent contractors (responsible for their own health coverage, for example), rather than company employees so they can avoid costs for providing their workers with overtime and paying for basic things like unemployment insurance and business taxes.

And even if Trump follows through on his pledge to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to repair and upgrade our crumbling national infrastructure (roads, bridges, airports, ports, etc.), *how can we be sure he won't try very hard to gut an 85-year-old law requiring that contractors on these federal projects pay union-level wages and provide comparable benefits?*

Trump's choices for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)—and the Supreme Court and, of course, DOL—may well determine the future of union organizing—our lifeblood. He has already shown his hatred for unions by appointing anti-union secretaries of education and transportation—and, of course, labor. *These kind of "leaders"—policy makers!—who want to lower wages and slash benefits in unsafe worksites will likely lead a continuing trend to greater income inequality and tougher, costlier battle for unions to fight—just to hang onto what we have achieved over the years!*

Where Unions Goofed

We all had it wrong, brothers and sisters. Only one major poll—the *Los Angeles Times*/ USC one—pretty much predicted a Trump win. Organized labor, along with the "talking heads" and the Democratic Party brass, *didn't see* the tidal wave coming. *We didn't see* Trump winning heartland, blue-collar states like Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Union leaders, local and national, *didn't see* (or understand or believe) the anger and frustration of millions of (mostly) white working people and families who were upset about falling further behind the "elites" who, they knew in their gut, didn't care a damn about them, if they ever thought about them at all. We overlooked their economic plight, the loss of their jobs, their rising feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

The American union movement created our strong, stable, generally upwardly-mobile middle class—the bedrock of our democracy. We fought for and won the 40-hour week, the end of child labor, health coverage, jobsite safety, pensions, vacations and family leave, educational and social equality, just to name a few major achievements. *Unions invented the weekend!*

And now, President Trump and his cronies are going to try to tear down as much of this as they can, by any means that they can.



GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN SIGNS PRO-WORKER BILLS INTO LAW

By Errol Frazier, Vice President, Local 1277

As we head into the New Year, brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to a few laws that have gone—or will go—into effect during 2017. The world we live in is changing in many ways, and these pieces of legislation reflect that.

AB 2337 (Burke) – Existing laws already *prohibit* an employer from discharging or in any manner discriminating or retaliating against an employee who is the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This new legislation requires employers to inform each employee of his or her rights under those laws by providing *specific information in writing to new employees upon hire and to current employees upon request.*

Employers will not be required to comply with this notice of rights requirement until the State Labor Commission develops an appropriate notification form. An employer may elect to comply with these provisions on his own or wait until the form is posted on the Commission’s web site on or before *July 1, 2017.*

AB 1732 (Ting) – This bill will require all single-user toilets (one toilet, one urinal) in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or government agency to be identified as all-gender toilet facilities, as specified. This legislation, which will go into effect on *March 1, 2017,* will authorize inspectors, building officials, or other local officials responsible for code enforcement to inspect for compliance with these provisions during inspection.

SB 3 (Leno) – *Minimum Wage:* Increases California’s statewide minimum wage from \$10.00/hour to \$15.00/hour over the course of the next six years.

SB 290 (Leno) – *Tenant Notice:* Requires landlords to issue “no-fault” 60-day eviction notices, giving tenants being displaced by no fault of their own more time to find new housing.

SB 612 (Leno) – *Domestic Violence Survivors:* Allows survivors to terminate residential leases without penalty in order to move away from abusers.

SB 703 (Leno) – *Transgender Employees:* Prohibits State of California agencies from doing business with companies that discriminate between benefits offered to transgender employees and other employees.

SB 546 & SB 1163 (Leno) – *Health Insurance Rate Increases:* Increases accountability—to policy holders—for health plans wanting to raise premiums.

SB 1413 (Leno) – *Teacher Housing:* Addresses shortage of affordable housing for K-12 teachers and staff by allowing school districts in California to build employee housing so that teachers will be able to live in the communities in which they teach.

These are sound, progressive, common sense pieces of legislation, designed to help working people and the general public. Once again, we are reminded exactly who our legislative and executive political friends are: Pro-working family legislators who crafted these bills and a sympathetic governor who signed them into law.

This is why your Union, along with organized labor throughout California, actively participates in the electoral/political process and urges you to do so, too!

In Memoriam

During the past year, a number of ATU Local 1277 brothers and sisters passed away. We mourn their passing. The Executive Board and all of our members and retirees offer our condolences to their families and friends. We remember these members now and forever. They will be missed!

George Kuroki, November 15, 2015, retired	Indolfo Gutierrez, January 22, active (LBT)	Dariese Love-Farrow, June 29, retired
Leon Benton, December 15, retired	Ronald Warrior, March 5, retired	Alfredo Huizar, July 2, retired
Edgar Gordillo, December 31, retired	John Carlson, March 23, active (MTA)	David Gomez, August 4, retired
Randy Hodges, January 1, 2016, retired	Armando Romero, March 23, retired	Theodore Hustava Jr., August 18, retired
Jose Ramirez, January 3, active (MTA)	Michael Greer, April 22, active (MTA)	Leslie Duboise, September 28, retired
Douglas Campbell, January 8, retired	Joseph Rost, May 2, active (MTA)	Johnny Caldito, October 11, retired
Gary Phillips, January 15, retired	David Goemaere Sr., June 7, retired	Loc Nguyen November 2, active (MTA)
Andrew Anderson, January 17, retired	Charles Davis, June 19, retired	Jaime Sierra, November 4, retired
Edward Guerra, January 18, retired		Jim Donaghe, November 22, retired

Rest in Peace, brothers and sisters

SEVEN LOCAL 1277 MEMBERS RETIRE FROM MTA

Seven Local 1277 members have retired from MTA after long and productive careers. They all were hard-working employees and loyal members of our Union.

Donald Van Alstine, Mechanic A, RRC, 17 years, September 7, 2016; **Douglas Runyan**, Mechanic A, Division 8, 27 years, September 8; **Robert Ford**, Senior Service Attendant, Blue Line, 15 years, September 13; **Rufino Amparo**, Facilities Systems Technician, Division 3924, Rail, 23 years, October 1; **Bienvenido Bajo**, Facilities Systems Technician, RRC, 12 years, October 1; **Eric Collins**, Service Attendant, Division 7, 11 years, November 8, and **Francisco Hernandez**, Mechanic A, Division 13, 23 years, November 9.

Local 1277's Executive Board and members wish these brothers and sisters long, enjoyable and healthy retirements. They will be missed!

TEN MORE LOCAL 1277 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO VITAL ATU-COPE FUND

Ten members of our Union have generously contributed to the important ATU COPE Fund. As you know, our International Union amasses this war chest in order to support our political friends and causes, and fight the enemies of working people and families. We are proud to present Union pins and jackets to those members who have realized how vital the ATU COPE Fund is for expanding labor's influence in Congress and advancing our agenda.

Michael Aguilar; Barry Brinker; Eduardo Acosta Canchola; Sidney Carr; Abraham Garfias; Jose Guitron; Robert D. Hernandez; Jose R. Pena; Cynthia Rivera, and Marcelo Rubio.

To earn a jacket, one must contribute \$12.50/month, for a total of \$150/year. Congratulations to those members for their public-spirited and timely action. The ATU COPE Fund is very important. Please contribute whatever you can to it! Thank you.

Here are the upcoming Local 1277 membership meetings for January and February. Please make every attempt to attend the meeting for your unit. It's your Union, and we need your participation at our meetings!

Tuesday, January 3:	L.A. Building Trades Council, 1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles.
Tuesday, February 7:	Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. Evening Session: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 4:	1074 E. La Cadena Drive, Riverside.
Wednesday, February 8:	Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session: 1:00 p.m. Evening Session: 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 5:	Cathedral City Branch Library, 33520 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City.
Thursday, February 9:	Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session: 4:00 p.m.
	Machinists Hall, 319 W. Broadway, Long Beach.
	Morning Session: 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Session: 3:00 p.m.