

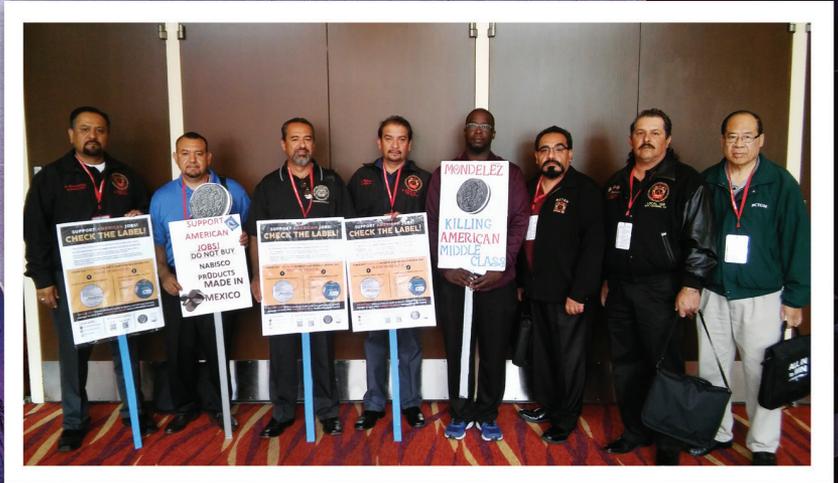
BCTGM *News*

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ON THE ROAD: THE NABISCO 600 **NATIONAL TOUR**





the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have **THE FACTS** Before Voting

Elections have consequences. And those consequences, for better or worse, usually have their greatest impact on working families and the middle class. This year's elections will be no different.

The next president and Congress will shape America's economic future in profound ways at a time when working people are fed up with a corporate/Wall Street-driven economic system that, for decades, has made it harder and harder for middle-class families to make ends meet and provide for our families.

This year, the American people can elect candidates who will put in place policies that improve the lives of working men and women and our families. Or, we can elect candidates who will hand over even more economic power to Wall Street and the big banks.

The American people can elect candidates who will champion a common sense economic agenda that will create good middle-class jobs and preserve and expand this nation's manufacturing sector. Or, we can elect candidates hell bent on implementing the economic and workplace agenda of multinational corporations; an agenda that destroys manufacturing jobs and punishes workers.

The American people can elect a President who will continue President Obama's effective policy of appointing individuals to the National Labor Relations Board who believe in robust collective bargaining and the right of workers to organize, a policy that has greatly benefited the BCTGM and our members. Or, we can elect a President who appoints people directly from corporations and union-busting law firms who will do the bidding of the National Right-To-Work for Less Committee in every case that comes before the Board.

The American people can elect a President who will appoint to the Supreme Court, and other federal courts, individuals who support workers' rights on the job; or a President whose judicial appointments will vote to strengthen even further the heavy hand of employers over workers.

As Union members, we have an opportunity to impact, in a powerful way, the outcome of these crucial elections. Comprehensive analysis done by the AFL-CIO of voting results in recent election cycles shows that voters from Union households consistently comprise a substantial portion of the overall electorate. In the last several election cycles, the Union vote was critical in securing victory in the presidential and U.S. Senate races in battleground states. Union members and their families will no doubt play a pivotal role again this year.

Of course, voting is a personal decision. Because the stakes are so high for working people in the outcome of this year's elections, it is important that the information upon which we base our vote is accurate and reliable; that we assess the candidates' actual records; that we support candidates who have comprehensive, legitimate plans to strengthen the middle class and defend and expand workers' rights and protections on the job.

Because of the internet and social media, voters have greater access to political information than ever before. The

"You are entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts."

— The late U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

problem is, much of what is out there is erroneous, biased or flat out lies.

The challenge of cutting through the misinformation and getting to the facts was brought home to me in a recent conversation I had with one of our stewards, a long-time, proud BCTGM member.

During the course of our discussion about this year's presidential race, it became readily apparent that the information he was citing was extremely inaccurate. As it turns out, his source was a cleverly-disguised, but highly discredited, far right-wing website that peddles distortions, lies and unsubstantiated claims. When provided with the actual facts, this Brother reassessed his views.

In order to help our members make informed voting decisions, the BCTGM will continue to work closely with the AFL-CIO, state and local labor federations and our local union officers to provide the most reliable and accurate information about candidates, their records and policy proposals on the economic issues that matter most to you and your family.

Working men and women are frustrated with the current state of politics and government in the United States. And rightly so! But, we must fight through the cynicism and disillusionment. If union members don't vote or are swayed by the empty rhetoric, hollow promises and simplistic solutions to complex problems put forth by candidates who have never been on the side of workers and the middle class, then corporations and Wall Street bankers will continue to gain power.

Important and substantive improvements in the lives of middle-class families are possible, but only if working people, led by well-informed Union members, are fully engaged in the electoral process. Only then can we secure a better future for our families.

— **David B. Durkee**, BCTGM International President



BCTGM

News



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UNIONISM

Made Nabisco Great.

CORPORATE GREED

Is Tearing Us Down.

by Local 364 (Portland, Ore.) Fin. Secy.-Treas. Victor Weekes

At 4 a.m., the bridge from Washington to Oregon is gray and quiet. The seasons pass quickly after 41 years, but every morning the drive is just a little different. You've got to pay attention to the details. Otherwise, life just passes you by.

I get to the facility at 5:15 a.m., hit the clock at six and punch out at two. Like many of us, I pride myself on my professionalism and work ethic. We make Oreos, Ritz crackers, Chicken-in-a-Biskit, Chips Ahoy! and Wheat Thins. Good stuff.

We set a high bar, but managers aren't keeping up. You wouldn't believe the kind of insults and bullying we deal with daily. It's not a reflection on us, but it says everything about Mondelez International. You probably know Mondelez owns Nabisco and many of our popular American snack brands.

So here's the deal: We're a good group of people. We work hard and produce value for Nabisco over the long-term. We have a union, too, so some of that value comes back to us. I've got a home, and my four kids have been able to get a good education and good jobs. We bargained hard for retirement security, and gave up a lot to get it. I sure hope it's there for me. I'm counting on it. Too many of our new managers are ignorant of Nabisco's history, what this company has been to so many of us and what it can still be.

I'll tell you about it. I'm a 71-year-old black man from Barbados. I'm proud of my heritage, and I'm proud to work at this plant. We have folks from all around the

world. We used to say we're like the United Nations. We all get along.

America needs places like this, where folks can get ahead by working hard and playing by the rules.

But the cooperative union culture we built here with Nabisco is in danger. The young people are scared.

Every day we go to work and wonder if today is the day they'll announce our jobs are going to Mexico. They've been chipping away at us in every Mondelez plant across the country. There's always that threat over your head, and it's real.

Already, hundreds of jobs have left Chicago. Other plants have closed as jobs have been shipped to Mexico. And our union contract has expired here in Portland.

When I was a kid in Barbados, my dad joined the U.S. Coast Guard. I followed in his footsteps by becoming a merchant seaman for a British company, and after I got laid off I started working ships up and down the West Coast. That's how I fell in love with Oregon and Washington, and with my wife.

Work comes and work goes. You know how it is. I ended up working for Boise Cascade, a lumber company, until I got laid off in 1975.

I came over to Nabisco, because I heard I wouldn't be discriminated against. And I wasn't.

I was treated fairly. I started off



in the mixing department. Back then, it was hard, physical work. We'd cut open the 150-pound bags of flour and cocoa and mix in the oil and water. Since then, I've held about every job in the plant. These days I'm the floor supplier—which means I supply all the raw materials to all six lines in the packing department.

We've had a parade of corporate owners over the years, but Mondelez is the worst. They don't give a damn about customers, and they don't give a damn about the people who make the products.

They tell us, I'm not kidding, to get the hell out.

They literally harass me to quit, because they don't think I'm worth my wage. They tell that to all the old-timers. It's disrespectful. But I'm staying, because I won't let them push us around. Our jobs are important, not just for ourselves and our families, but for America. Unionism makes us strong, and makes America a better place. And we're going to show the American public how to use unity to turn bad jobs into good jobs, and how to beat back every executive who wants to turn every job into a bad job.

PORTLAND SPECIALTY BAKING WORKERS

FIGHT BACK

In the beginning, workers were not afraid.

On the morning of January 11, sick of unsafe working conditions and unfair pay, dozens of workers at Portland Specialty Baking marched into the company president's office and asked for voluntary union recognition.

It was early 2015 that BCTGM Local 114 (Portland, Ore), with assistance from the BCTGM International Union and the AFL-CIO, launched an extraordinary campaign to help organize workers at the bakery.

Organizers met with workers for nearly a year, listening to their stories, while uncovering the major issues workers in the bakery faced. Workers in the plant complained of unsafe working conditions, the need for safer and more modern equipment, scheduling issues, and below average pay and benefits for the industry in the Northwest.

Workers and union organizers march to the company office after more than 60 percent of the workers signed union authorization cards.



On Feb. 4, workers voted in a NLRB union election. Despite 102 workers having signed union authorization cards a few weeks prior, the election was lost. The vote came after two weeks of an intense anti-union campaign led by the company.

Initially, communication was a challenge for the organizers as Portland Specialty Baking's workforce is overwhelmingly comprised of immigrants and refugees, divided into pockets of different nationalities and language groups. NLRB election notices, for example, were translated into Arabic, Burmese, Chukkese, Khmer, Laotian, Nepalese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. However, through perseverance and the help of interpreters, inroads were made.

Despite a majority of workers having signed union recognition cards, the company brought in a professional union-buster, who led presentations

at the beginning of nearly every shift, for two weeks. Workers were then called in one by one for individual meetings with two or three managers at a time, and most workers were called in multiple times. When the election took place in early February, a majority of workers were afraid of company backlash and voted against union representation.

Meanwhile, the company aggressively cut union access to the workers. Not only were union organizers not allowed into the plant to talk to workers, but they were ordered off the property.

In a meeting with company President Josh Richardson, Local 114 Financial Secretary-Treasurer Terry Lansing asked if Richardson would allow a union representative on site so that employees could hear both sides.

He refused.

“I asked him, ‘Have you been inside the homes of your workers and seen their children huddled in their coats because they can’t afford heat? We have,’” recalls Lansing.

BCTGM International Director of Organization John Price reflects on the effort noting that it is a key example of why American workers need card check recognition. “In January, a large majority of the workers here wanted to join the BCTGM. They were excited to become union members and begin bargaining a first contract. And yet, after an alarming anti-union campaign that focused on fear and intimidation, many of those workers reluctantly changed their support.”

According to Lansing, the union had more than 60 percent support among the workforce going in to the election. “There was a lot of fear in the plant, even among those in favor of joining the union. At the end of the day, the constant harassment, surveillance, threats and promises were too much to



Current and former workers at Portland Specialty Baking, together with attorneys and supporters, announced a class action wage theft lawsuit on Aug. 8.

overcome,” recalls Lansing.

Despite the union election loss, workers at Portland Specialty Baking have not stopped fighting for their rights on the job. Working with the non-profit group Northwest Workers’ Justice Project, six months after the election, seven workers filed a class action lawsuit against the company.

According to the lawsuit, Portland Specialty Baking has neglected to pay workers the proper overtime wages. Oregon law states that workers in manufacturing facilities must be

paid overtime after ten hours (in a day) and cannot work more than 13 hours a day. The lawsuit also charges the company of illegally discouraging workers from using sick leave they’re entitled to under Oregon law.

As early as this summer, the same workers who voted the union down in February are fighting to organize support for another representation election.

“They can see that things in the plant have not changed and in some cases have only gotten worse. So, we’ll continue to support and organize until these workers have dignity and respect on the job,” says Price.

In July, the company settled all NLRB charges but Local 114 has subsequently filed two additional federal charges against the company for wrongfully terminating two union supporters.

Specialty Baking makes pretzels, cakes, bagels and muffins for Starbucks, Franz (US Bakery), Safeway, Costco and Winco.

The photos included here were taken by Don McIntosh of the NW Labor Press. McIntosh published several stories about Portland Specialty Baking. Visit www.nwlabormpress.org to read the full series.

On Jan. 11, workers at Portland Specialty Baking filled the hall outside the company president’s office to demand union recognition.



130 Years of FIGHTING for

Safe Workplaces

On the 13th day of January 1886 the words: “Organize, Slaves of the Bake Shops!” echoed through the Pittsburgh convention hall. “Awaken! Come forth

from your dungeons of slavery! Come out into the sunshine and broad daylight!” were first broadcast with the birth of our Union.

BREAD BAKING SUICIDES: A LETTER FROM A BROOKLYN BAKER

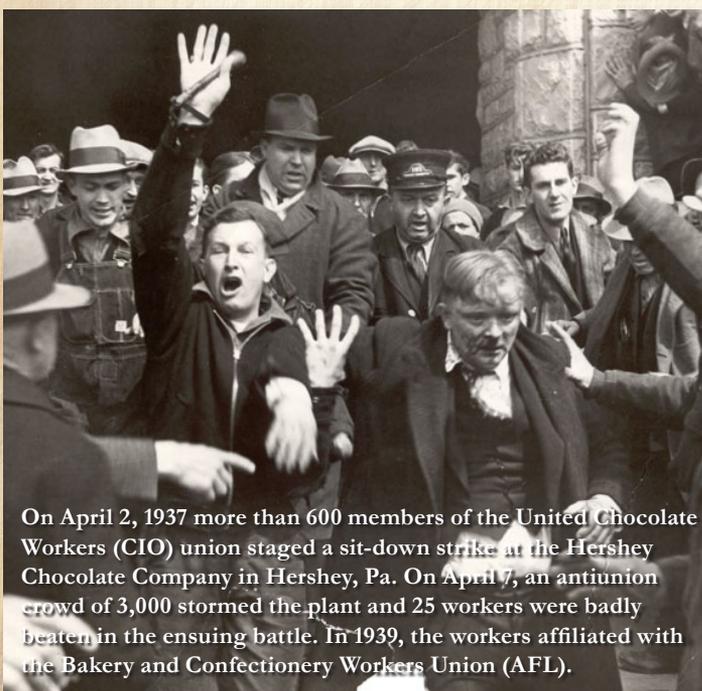
“They are compelled to sleep in the bake shop where as a general thing there is leakage, or sewer-pipes, or bad plumbing, filling the air with foul, unhealthy odors, which with the gas coming out of the oven and the steam of the hot bread, will break down the strongest constitution of the strongest man after a time. The long hours must also be taken into consideration. These men have to work on average sixteen hours per day down in these poisonous cellars, breathing that foul air, and it is nothing unusual to look around our beds and see that rats running about too as it were of our miserable surroundings.

So do not wonder if some of our people fall by the wayside. They are pounded down to the grave in order that some selfish men may become rich – yes, rich at a terrible cost – this cost of the life of their fellowmen. Is it any wonder they commit suicide?”

- John Swinton's Paper, New York, N.Y., August 31, 1884



Bakers' Journal, January 12, 1946.



On April 2, 1937 more than 600 members of the United Chocolate Workers (CIO) union staged a sit-down strike at the Hershey Chocolate Company in Hershey, Pa. On April 7, an antiunion crowd of 3,000 stormed the plant and 25 workers were badly beaten in the ensuing battle. In 1939, the workers affiliated with the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union (AFL).

“In many plants of the candy industry conditions of work resemble chattel slavery of olden days. Knowing this and realizing that such miserable conditions should not and cannot be permitted to continue, our International Union will make every possible effort to line up the workers employed in all branches of the bakery and confectionery industries as integral part of our organization and bring about humane conditions of work and living among this great army of workers.” – Bakers' Journal, April 12, 1941



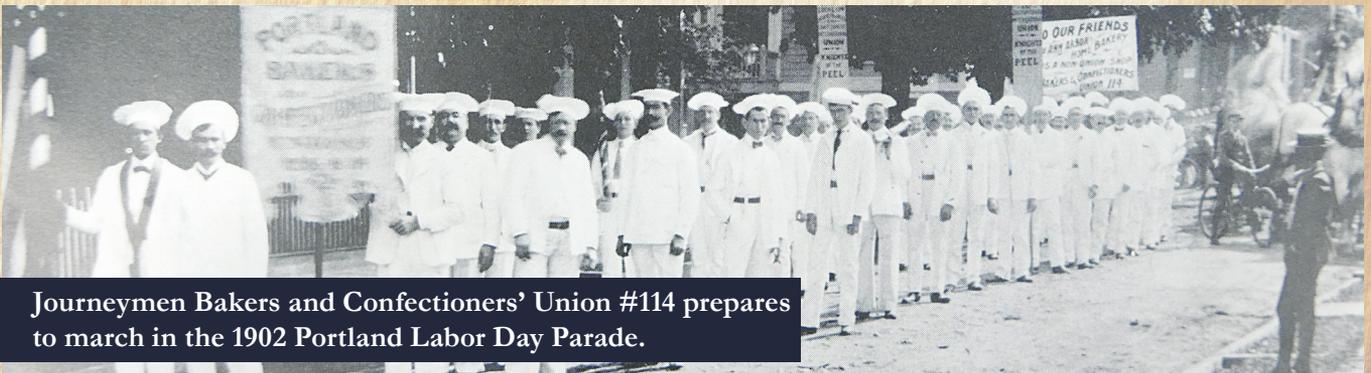
Employees of the Consumers Bake Plant in Kansas City, Mo., June 1927.

In the early days of the National Union, the value of having a sick and death benefit system in connection with the proposed Bakery Workers' National Union was recognized by many of our pioneers and emphatically advocated by them. The main causes for favoring such a benefit arrangement was the miserable conditions of work and wages of "slaves of the bakeshop" who in cases of sickness were without the means of securing the necessary the medical attention and in cases of death, found the relatives poverty-stricken and helpless when it came time to provide proper burial service. It was the great and pressing work and the many serious problems confronting the organizations work that required immediate attention in order that the young national union could proceed with the historical struggle for the economic and social improvement of the conditions of bakery workers all over the country, and to successfully resist the general opposition which employers demonstrated against the Union movement.

— *Bakers' Journal*, April 26, 1941

In an interesting communication to a New York paper, Henry Weissman, secretary of the Bakers and Confectioners' International Union and one of the clearest thinkers of the American labor movement said: Little by little things will change. Step by step the evolution of co-operation will advance, and by and by the world will look back on the present and wonder how it was that in the nineteenth century there could have been so much distress and poverty, so many persons toiling for so little and such a concentration of prosperity among the few. I do not believe of course that there will ever be a time when there will be no poverty and no misery. But I do believe the future will be far brighter than the present, and that the coming improvement will largely wrought out through co-operation.

— *The Labor Leader (Boston)*, November 16, 1895



Journeymen Bakers and Confectioners' Union #114 prepares to march in the 1902 Portland Labor Day Parade.

Nabisco 600 Carries Message COAST TO COAST

BCTGM members from the South-side Chicago Nabisco bakery have traversed the country educating union leaders, union members, families, politicians and community activists about the company's outsourcing of production from Chicago to Salinas, Mexico.

At the heart of the Nabisco 600, are laid-off Local 300 members who are touring the country educating groups about BCTGM's "Check the Label" campaign, which encourages consumers to boycott Mexican-made Nabisco products, and instead, support American jobs buying only

those that are produced in America.

Since June 1, more than 65 events have been attended by the Nabisco 600. The union members have addressed the Labor Committee of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, national retiree organizations, AFL-CIO National, State and Central Labor Council meetings, and AFL-CIO affiliated International Union Conventions with collective memberships totaling nearly 15 million workers.

These efforts have significantly intensified the breadth and depth of the boycott and, at the same time, expanded its coalition of those who seek to keep companies like Nabisco/Mondelez from outsourcing American jobs to lightly-regulated areas of the world with labor forces that



AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka (L) and Nabisco 600 member Michael Smith (R) at the DNC Convention in Philadelphia.



Nabisco 600 member Michael Smith poses with a banner made by L. 358 (Richmond, Va.) outside the union office. Smith was invited to address the Local's regular membership meeting.



BCTGM L. 114 Fin. Secy.-Treas./GEB member Terry Lansing (L) poses with Nabisco 600 member Anthony Jackson (R) during his visit to Portland.



Nabisco 600 member Anthony Jackson addressed "Rock Against The TPP" events in Portland, Ore., Seattle and Denver.

ST: BOYCOTT Made-in-Mexico Nabisco!

work for poverty wages.

“With the help of an aggressive social media and public relations campaign and the extended outreach of these organizations, it is a conservative estimate that our boycott of Mexican-made Nabisco products has reached more than 100 million people across the country,” reflects BCTGM International President David Durkee.

“We will continue these efforts for as long as it takes to fully educate the American consumer on the egregious job-killing, greed-laden business model employed by Mondelez,” adds Durkee. “If they want to use their business economics as an excuse to move work to Mexico, then this union and our extended support networks will continue giving them a lesson in consumer economics.”



Nabisco 600 member Michael Smith addressed about 300 AFL-CIO labor delegates during the DNC Labor Council meeting before the Convention opened.



At the Maine AFL-CIO COPE Convention, L.334 (Portland, Maine) made a \$1000 contribution to the Nabisco 600 Solidarity Fund. Pictured from left to right are BCTGM Community Organizer Nate Zeff, L. 334 Fin. Secy. Jim Anderschat, Nabisco 600 member Anthony Jackson, and L. 334 Bus. Agt. John Jordan.



Nabisco 600 member Anthony Jackson is interviewed by Fiftywards.com in the union's Chicago Nabisco campaign office.



At the DNC Convention, Michael Smith (right) discussed the campaign with U.S. Representative Keith Ellison (D. - Minn.).



At the N.J. AFL-CIO Convention, Nabisco 600 representatives addressed hundreds of union delegates and distributed Check the Label fliers. Pictured here, left to right, is L. 53 Pres./GEB member Joyce Alston, N.J. AFL-CIO Secy.-Treas. Laurel Brennan, BCTGM Community Organizer Nate Zeff, BCTGM Strategic Campaign Coordinator Ron Baker, Nabisco 600 member Anthony Jackson and N.J. AFL-CIO Pres. Charles Wowkanech.



CLINTON vs. TRUMP

Trade, Manufacturing, Jobs, Wages:

Who Supports Working Families?

TRADE DEALS

CLINTON OPPOSES TPP. Clinton has listened to workers and opposes TPP, a job-killing trade deal that would benefit corporations and CEOs at the expense of working people. (The New York Times, 2/22/16)

TRUMP WANTS CEOS TO NEGOTIATE TRADE DEALS. Trump says he opposes TPP but promises to put union-busting corporate CEOs in charge of trade negotiations. (cnsnews.com, 8/4/15; Newsweek, 10/21/15)

OUTSOURCING

CLINTON CRACKS DOWN ON COUNTRIES THAT CHEAT. Clinton will crack down on countries like China when they cheat on trade rules and hurt American workers. (TIME, 12/8/15)

TRUMP PRODUCES TRUMP PRODUCTS OVERSEAS. Trump talks a good game, but he produces his Trump-branded products overseas, in low-wage countries like Bangladesh. (Yahoo! Politics, 3/8/16; ABC News, 4/28/11)

FAIR TAXES

CLINTON WANTS AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE. Clinton is committed to fixing our out-of-balance economy, raising incomes for hardworking people, and making the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share in taxes. (The New York Times, 7/13/15)

TRUMP WANTS AN ECONOMY RIGGED FOR THOSE AT THE TOP. Trump proposes cutting taxes for the wealthy, giving billions to CEOs and saving his own family more than \$3 billion dollars. (The Wall Street Journal, 9/29/15; Donald J. Trump, accessed 12/17/15; Center for American Progress, 9/28/15)

MANUFACTURING

CLINTON INVESTS IN AMERICAN MANUFACTURING. Clinton will strengthen investments in domestic manufacturing to create good-paying jobs here in America. (The Washington Post, 12/8/15; TIME, 12/8/15)

TRUMP SAYS WAGES ARE TOO HIGH. Trump complains that wages in America are “too high” and thinks manufacturers should threaten to move operations in order to force workers to take pay cuts. (Boston.com, 11/10/15; The Detroit News, 8/12/15)

EMPLOYMENT

CLINTON PLANS TO INVEST IN GOOD JOBS. Clinton will create good union jobs by investing in manufacturing across the country, and in infrastructure to rebuild our roads, bridges and public water systems. (Hillaryclinton.com, 4/1/16)

TRUMP DOESN'T PAY WORKERS. There have been at least 60 lawsuits which document workers who have accused Donald Trump and his businesses of failing to pay them. Trump's companies have been cited for 24 violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act since 2005 for failing to pay overtime or minimum wage, according to U.S. Department of Labor data. (USA TODAY, 6/16/16)

WORKERS' RIGHTS

CLINTON BELIEVES IN PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS. Clinton believes in the fundamental right of working people to organize and negotiate for better wages and working conditions, and she opposes "right to work" and other corporate attacks on workers' rights. (Washington Examiner, 9/16/15)

TRUMP WANTS TO ELIMINATE WORKERS' RIGHTS. Trump has said he would do without unions completely and that he 100% supports "right to work" laws that weaken unions, drive down wages and take power away from working people. (The Guardian, 11/19/15; South Carolina Radio Network, 2/17/16)

Hillary Clinton Thanks BCTGM for Endorsement

On June 16, the BCTGM International announced its endorsement of Hillary Clinton for President of the United States. BCTGM International President David Durkee made the following statement in declaring the union's endorsement:

"During her career, Hillary Clinton has had a solid record of support on those issues most important to working families and union members, including workers' rights and organizing, workplace health and safety, health care, progressive tax policy and retirement security.

"Further, we are confident that Secretary Clinton will continue to seek the input and counsel of the AFL-CIO and its affiliates in developing her policy positions and priorities for our country.

"While Donald Trump talks a good game on maintaining American jobs, his companies have a notorious history of outsourcing work to low-wage countries such as Mexico and China. Beyond his advocacy of policies that are against the interests of working people and organized labor, Donald Trump's vile bigotry towards Latinos and other ethnic groups is deplorable and antithetical to the principles and values upon which this Union was built and to which we will always adhere," concluded Durkee.

Immediately following the BCTGM's endorsement, Clinton issued a statement thanking the Union for its support saying, "Members of the BCTGM don't just help feed America—they helped

build the greatest middle class in history. Members of the BCTGM know, as I do, that we are stronger together, when we are investing in our people and in the future. That's why I have a comprehensive manufacturing agenda to create good-paying jobs and spur new industries—because we can and we will "make it in America."

"I was honored to meet with BCTGM members in Chicago earlier this year who had been trying to work with Nabisco to keep good-paying jobs in America. For years, Nabisco had received tax breaks and investments from the people of Chicago and the people of Illinois to expand production—only to turn their backs on their workers and on the community by announcing plans to shut down the long-standing factory and move production to Mexico. That's wrong. And that's why I have called for creating a "clawback"—if a company turns its back on America, they should have to pay back every penny of the tax breaks they have received, and we'll use that money to reinvest in affected workers and communities.

"As President, I will always have workers' backs. I will stand with the BCTGM to fight for workers' rights to organize, to bargain collectively, to be safe on the job, and to retire with dignity and security after years of hard work. Workers will always have a seat at the table and a champion in the White House—because when workers are strong, America is strong."

Expand Social Security, Not Cut Benefits

Social Security, the most universal, efficient, secure and fair retirement income program in the nation, is a vital working families issue going into the 2016 elections. The BCTGM, together with the entire labor movement, believes Social Security benefits need to be expanded, not cut.

Where do the candidates stand? Well, the Democratic Party strongly favors expanding, not cutting Social Security. At this moment, the growing movement to expand, not cut, Social Security includes President Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton, approximately 95 percent of the Democratic Senators and about 80 percent of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives. In stark contrast, virtually no Republican elected official — or Presidential candidate — has advocated expanding Social Security.

In July, the Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report to Congress. It shows that Social Security has a large and growing surplus, and its future cost is fully affordable. Indeed, a greatly expanded Social Security is fully affordable.

This year’s report projects that in 2016 Social Security will run an annual surplus of roughly \$15.7 billion, bringing the accumulated surplus to about roughly \$2.8 trillion by the end of the year. It projects that, even if Congress took no action whatsoever, there is sufficient revenue to pay for all benefits and associated administrative costs until 2034, and 79 percent of those costs thereafter. It once again shows that Social Security is fully affordable. At its most expensive, at the end of the 21st century, Social Security will cost just 6.1 percent of GDP.

The progressive advocacy group Social Security Works has a helpful translation of the

Republican platform’s plans for cutting benefits. The group, which advocates benefits expansion, recently released a red-pen markup of the GOP’s stance on Social Security. Grading it as if it were a high school paper, Social Security Works gave the Republican Social Security platform an “F” grade for “failing to listen to the American people.”

Nancy Altman, President of Social Security Works and Chair of the Strengthen Social Security Coalition, notes, “Social Security is a solution to our looming retirement income crisis, the increasing economic squeeze on middle-class families, and the perilous and growing income and wealth inequality. In light of these challenges and Social Security’s important role in addressing them, the right question is not how can we afford to expand Social Security, but, rather, how can we afford not to expand it.”

The report provides reassuring news for retired and disabled workers, their families and all Americans working toward a secure retirement. But fully funding Social Security’s modest benefits into the indefinite future in the face of a growing retirement income crisis is not enough. Expanding Social Security benefits represents one of the most important issues at stake for working people in this election.



My Vote, My Right

On August 5, the U.S. marked the 51st anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. One of the most

sweeping civil rights laws of the 20th century, the Voting Rights Act was designed to combat discrimination in voting. The law outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many states after the Civil War.

Because of a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning a key portion of the Voting Rights Act, 20 states will have restrictions in place this November making it harder for residents to vote. These new laws range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks and registration restrictions.

We are entering our first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Act, and, what's worse, Congress has failed to act to restore the Voting Rights Act.

Working people cannot build a better life without a fair democracy. The economic rules are written by the men and women we elect. If elections are rigged in favor of those who champion inequality and trickle-down economics, we will never have an economy of broadly shared prosperity.

That's why the labor movement is fighting to make sure every vote counts — irrespective of socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. In that spirit, we are pushing for policies that increase participation in our democracy.

There is reason to be optimistic. In

recent months, federal and state courts have struck down voting restrictions in North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, Kansas and North Dakota.

Texas officials have been forced to scale back a voter ID law that discriminated against African Americans and Hispanics. And in Virginia, Gov. Terry McAuliffe is working to restore voting rights to 200,000 people who were formerly incarcerated and have paid their debt to society.

My Vote, My Right, the AFL-CIO's voter protection and education program, is a nonpartisan effort to raise awareness on voting rights, educate voters on new voting laws, and ensure voters are able

to vote fairly and without intimidation—and that those votes are counted.



MyVoteMyRight
AFL-CIO

Find resources to
PROTECT YOUR RIGHT

MyVoteMyRight.org

or call the **ELECTION
PROTECTION HOTLINE**

1.866.our.vote

LOCAL *View*

50 Years Strong



BCTGM Local 4 (St. Louis) Fin. Secy./Bus. Agt. Josh Camden (left) presents Bill French with a 50-year membership certificate marking his many years with the Union. French served as a full-time Local 4 officer for many years. He became a member of the Union in November 1965.

40 Years Proud



Safeway member Richard Pulizzano (left) receives his 40-year membership award outside his home in Petaluma, Calif. from BCTGM Local 24 (San Francisco) Business Agent Oscar Hernandez (right). Pulizzano, who recently retired, has been an active member of Local 24 since 1973.

Supporting Nurses



On June 19 when 4,800 Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) nurses went on strike at four Allina hospitals and the Phillips Eye Institute in the Twin Cities, Local 22 (Minneapolis) wanted to help. The BCTGM International Union sent a strike donation and Local 22 officers proudly delivered the funds to the MNA headquarters. Pictured here, left to right, are Local 22 Vice President Wally Borgan, President Bruce Peglow, and MNA President Mary Turner and Financial Secretary Corey Mortensen.

Va. AFL-CIO Convention



Pictured here are BCTGM members and officers of Local 203T (Richmond, Va.) who served as delegates to the 39th Constitutional Convention of the Virginia AFL-CIO in Williamsburg, Va. August 11-13. According to Local 203T President and General Exec. Board member Butch Henley (pictured second from left), Virginia unionists pledged to help defeat a Right-to-Work (for less) state constitutional amendment referendum known as ballot number 1.



BCTGM Daughter Wins Union Plus Scholarship

Brooke Meckley of Denver, Pa., the daughter of BCTGM Local 374G (Lancaster, Pa.) member Brett Meckley, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Union Plus.

Meckley, a 2016 high school graduate, plans to major in athletic training at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. and go on to study to become a physical therapist.

Meckley comes from four generations of union members and says she is particularly thankful for the comprehensive medical coverage afforded her family through her father's union job at Kellogg's. "I hope that I will be able to keep our family tradition of union membership alive since unions have had such a profound effect on our economy and American history," she said.

2017 Scholarship Applications Now Available

Since its inception in 1991, Union Plus has awarded more than \$4 million in educational funding to more than 2,700 union members, spouses and dependent children.

The 2017 online application is now available! You can complete the application in stages and save your answers before you submit.

Who can apply:

Current and retired participating union members, their spouses and their children.

What kind of school is eligible:

The scholarship is open to students who attend or plan to attend a U.S. college, university, community college, or a technical/trade school. Students attending undergraduate or graduate schools are eligible.

Scholarship amounts:

Recipients will receive \$500 to \$4,000.

Deadline to apply:

January 31, 2017 12p.m. (noon), Eastern Time

Scholarship recipients announced:

May 31

Details and online application available at:

UnionPlus.org/Scholarships

Mobile Alerts:

To receive mobile text alerts about education-related deadlines and information, text STUDENT to 22555.

Msg&Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt-out. Reply HELP or contact info@unionplus.org for help. Expect no more than 2msg/s/mo.



Visit UnionPlus.org/Scholarships for applications and benefit eligibility.

Celebrating

130 Years

2016 marks the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Union. To celebrate our long and proud history of service to union members and the protection of worker rights in the U.S. and Canada, the Union has designed a special 130th Anniversary ring.

Also available in French:



10K GOLD
Men: \$965
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ALLURA GOLD
Men: \$609
Women: \$282



STERLING
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Men's Sizes: Half sizes 8-14 • **Women's Sizes:** Half sizes 4-9

BCTGM 130th Anniversary Ring Order Form

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