

The United Worker

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Building Dedication, Bronze Bust Honor Mike Sacco's Sterling Legacy



The above left photo shows the bronze bust of Mike Sacco, which will remain on the campus of a school he helped establish and lead in Piney Point, Maryland. In the top right photo, the newly named Michael J. Sacco Media Center is unveiled. In the bottom right photo, attendees, which included members of the Sacco family and other guests converge to honor the late UIW president for the June 17 dedication at the UIW-contracted Paul Hall Center.

The longest-serving president in Seafarers International Union history - and the first UIW President - often described the organization as feeling "more like a family than a union."

That sentiment seemed palpable June 17 in Piney Point, Maryland, as union officials and employees, Seafarers Plans representatives, Paul Hall Center (PHC) personnel, employer trustees, officials from other maritime unions - and numerous family members - gathered to warmly and respectfully honor Sacco, who passed away in December 2023, at age 86 (nearly a year after retirement). The ceremony featured two main components: naming the school's most modern building in his memory, and unveiling a bronze bust universally regarded as a remarkably accurate depiction of him.

As a result, the campus now boasts the Michael J Sacco Media Center, and that building houses the bronze bust. (Sacco's middle name was John.)

Later in the day, family and executive board members travelled to the nearby Seafarers Haven Cemetery for the blessing of a

marble monument honoring Sacco.

The events kicked off with a gathering outside the media center, a building that houses state-of-the-art classrooms, meeting facilities, touchscreen videos, union artifacts, and more. UIW Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski served as emcee; his opening remarks were followed by brief speeches from UIW President David Heindel, PHC Trustee Tony Naccarato, and American Maritime Association Chairman Capt. Robert Johnston.

Sacco's widow, Sophie, and daughter Valerie Moore then did the honors of removing a cover to unveil the newly affixed moniker Michael J Sacco. Moore wrapped up the outdoor portion of the ceremony with heart-rending remarks.

Immediately thereafter, attendees moved inside the building, where SIU Vice President Pat Vandegrift introduced sculpture artist Kelly Micca. Sophie Sacco then unveiled the bust, to widespread applause. The family also received a miniature version.

The speakers all worked with Sacco for decades. During the outdoor ceremony, Orzechowski recalled discussions with Sacco many years ago aimed at modernizing what was then the library (now the media center).

"Mike was a huge advocate for education and making sure our members had the right tools to succeed.... Today, this building exemplifies everything that Mike was about," Orzechowski said.

Heindel noted that he first met Sacco as a trainee in the early 1970s.

"From the beginning, he was an inspiration to me and of course to countless others," Heindel said. "Mike had a way of motivating people to learn and grow and to push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of."

Reflecting on the planning that led to the building dedication, Heindel said, "When

Mike passed back in 2023, one of the first things the executive board and the trustees started talking about was how to honor his legacy. We were eager to demonstrate our appreciation and respect for him, but we also didn't want to rush.

"I think we nailed it with this building dedication. The media center is our most modern facility. It's essential in helping the apprentices and the rank-and-file members continue their education and advance their careers. That's why I think it's fitting that we're naming it after Mike. He was old school in the very best sense of the term, but he also pushed us to plan for the future, to better ourselves, and to be aggressive when it came to staying one step ahead of the industry's needs. He always emphasized that this school is the key to our future, and that's why he spared no effort in making sure it remained state-of-the-art."

Naccarato described Sacco as "a force of nature. When I spoke to him, I always learned something new. Ideas flowed out of him like water out of a faucet. Over time, these ideas, strung together, were instrumental in building one of the strongest unions in America."

A longtime labor relations specialist in addition to his work as a trustee, Naccarato credited Sacco with "intrinsic understanding that in order for any union to survive and thrive, it was essential that it cultivated a close and respectful relationship with his contracted companies.... Mike was an expert at being at the right place at the right time. He had the foresight to see far into the future to see any storms coming our way and preparing to deal with them. His knowledge of the Washington scene and his personal relationships with influential politicians, all the way to the president, was extremely valuable in keeping our industry well-protected."

He concluded, "This bust will stand in

this beautiful media center as a brilliant reminder to future generations of Seafarers that in life you will not be judged by where you start, but where you finish. Mike will be an inspiration to all - he started as an entry-level sailor in Brooklyn and finished leading one of the most respected unions in America, with a benefit fund that is the envy of all."

Moore captivated the crowd with the last of the formal remarks. She stated, "We gather not merely to reflect on the accomplishments of our late father, but to celebrate the profound impact he had on our lives, the SIU and the maritime industry. We honor his legacy to ensure that his spirit lives on in the union he loved so dearly. We recognize the unwavering commitment, dedication and passion he brought, not just to his role as president of the SIU, but to every single person he interacted with...."

"Our father believed in the power of unity," she continued. "His team was not just a collective voice. They were his family. He worked tirelessly to foster strong employer partnerships. These partnerships have not just benefited our current members, but have also paved the way for future generations of Seafarers, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in an ever-evolving shipping industry."

Moore concluded, "Throughout his tenure as president, my father exemplified what it means to be a leader. He faced challenges with courage and resilience, always prioritizing the needs of the SIU and the maritime industry. He touched the lives of countless members.... As you dedicate this building, let it serve as a symbol of my father's enduring legacy. May it stand as a reminder of his commitment to education. Every time students walk through these doors, may they feel the spirit of encouragement and inspiration that my father instilled in all of us."



Sculpture Artist, Kelly Micca, says a few words about the sculpture before the bust is unveiled.

From the President

Solidarity and Strength



David Heindel

This edition of our newsletter includes coverage from the most recent meeting of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD) Executive Board. In addition to serving as president of our union, I am honored to also lead the MTD, which is a constitutional department of the AFL-CIO.

In our previous issue, I very briefly touched on our affiliation with the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest federation of unions. That connection and others are worth a deeper dive.

As you know, the labor movement's core tenets include strength in numbers, solidarity, and the unwavering belief that an injury to one is an injury to all. I experienced welcome reminders of those bonds in late June, as a guest speaker at the Machinists conference. It's always good to interact with our brothers and sisters from throughout the movement, but the timing of this particular gathering proved most welcome, as we in organized labor navigate some turbulent waters.

Using the Machinists as an example, our unions share affiliations through both the MTD and the AFL-CIO. The MTD consists of 25 affiliated unions a network of 21 port maritime councils in the U.S. and Canada, collectively representing around five million workers. The AFL-CIO, meanwhile, features 63 national and international labor unions that represent nearly 15 million working people.

Staying active with those organizations helps give us strength far beyond our own membership numbers. When issues of particular importance to our union surface, we amplify them through the MTD or the AFL-CIO or both. We use additional channels, too, including state labor federations and central labor councils (some of which have been renamed as area labor federations).

Solidarity isn't a one-way street, of course. When our sisters and brothers from other unions need our help, we're there, whether as an individual organization or via one of the aforementioned groups.

The bottom line: Our union is well-served by being part of the larger structure of organized labor. We're also fortunate to have developed longstanding and excellent working relationships with AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, two people whom I'm proud to work with and to call friends. We face no shortage of challenges these days, but we've got the right people at the helm.

As we move forward in promoting and protecting workers' rights, remember that we're far from alone in the fight. Whether it's through our parent union, the Seafarers, or any combination of the labor organizations mentioned above, we're part of a strong team that knows how to survive and advance. We do have our work cut out for us, but I'm confident about our future.

The labor movement wasn't built on comfort. It was built in struggle, and it was built to last. We've never had anything handed to us.

It's also worth noting that union approval is the highest it's been in decades. Not coincidentally, union workers consistently earn more money, have better benefits, and enjoy greater protections than their unrepresented counterparts.

From factory floors to federal agencies, unions have always stood as the frontline advocates for working families. And through our persistence and unity, we'll remain a cornerstone of the American workforce.

AFL-CIO President Shuler Shows the Way Forward



Liz Shuler speaks to attendees at the MTD meeting held at the AFL-CIO H.Q. in D.C.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler is realistic about the challenges facing the labor movement – and she's also determined to help lead a strong recovery as the federation battles against a number of recent anti-worker developments.

Shuler spoke to the Maritime Trades Department Executive Board on May 7 at AFL-CIO headquarters, located in the nation's capital. She thanked President David Heindel for his leadership and reiterated the federation's unwavering support.

Shuler pointed to the MTD's decades of solidarity as a guide for overcoming current challenges.

"Solidarity is a word that really means something with the Maritime Trades," she said. "You show up. You show up for those who aren't even necessarily adjacent to your industry.... The OPEIU was born out of the solidarity you showed. In the 1960s and 1970s, when the public sector was trying to organize, you showed up.... We could use that solidarity more than ever."

The federation president described some recent executive orders as "a full-frontal assault on our labor movement writ large. With the stroke of a pen, eliminating collective bargaining rights for federal union members.... It is the biggest attack on our labor movement in our history. People like to point back to PATCO, the air traffic controllers, which was a moment in time that was seminal. This is that moment on steroids."

She continued, "No matter what industry you're in, there's an executive order for you, and it's coming a mile a minute. But we've been here before. The labor movement endures. It's a matter of the fierceness and the speed we probably haven't dealt with before, but we have definitely been here before and gone through hard times and come back stronger. So that's our objective. We're going to continue to organize. We're going to continue to fight back, make our voices heard."

Shuler has been traveling across the country, mobilizing for various grassroots outreach. Among other messages, she has used the meetings and rallies to promote the AFL-CIO's Department of People Who Work for a Living – a resource aimed at countering misinformation from the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

In starting the mobilization, "we said, we'll tell you from our perspective what efficiency looks like, but we also use it as a platform to show the impacts of what these (DOGE) cuts look like on real people. The hearings we did were all across the country, and mainly purple districts.... We invited workers to come in and testify, and we invited small-business people. We invited farmers, we invited veterans to talk about what these cuts mean. And it was so compelling."

A lifelong trade unionist and long-time backer of the SIU, Shuler said that during her travels, "What I heard was that people want common sense. No matter if you're Democrat, Independent, Republican, people want common sense. And what they're starting to see (from the administration) is not that."

She pointed out that income disparity remains a significant issue in the U.S. For example, a CEO rakes in an average of 238 times more money than a worker at their company.

Shuler also said the many people who attended those meetings expressed fear about potential cuts to Social Security and Medicaid.

"It's up to us as a labor movement to be that place where you connect that anger and that frustration to action," Shuler said. "Now is our time, and unions have never been more popular.... We have a real opportunity for organizing and to continue to stay on that front foot."

During a question-and-answer session at the MTD meeting, Shuler pointed out that the labor movement, through its state federations and central labor councils, has "a unique infrastructure. We can activate people in pretty much every town and city across this country and reach real working people all across this country on a moment's notice. But if we're not all using those hubs, then we're less effective."

Moreover, Shuler said that the AFL-CIO is planning additional outreach centered around Labor Day.

"That's when everybody is paying attention to labor," she noted. "We are planning, with all of you, to make this a Labor Day like no other. We want it to be different this year. We want it to be action-focused."



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ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

Introduction

This notice provides key details about your multiemployer pension plan (the "Plan") for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 ("Plan Year").

This is an informational notice. You do not need to respond or take any action. This notice includes:

- Information about your Plan's funding status.
- Details on your benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal insurance agency.

What if I have questions about this notice, my Plan, or my benefits?

Contact your plan administrator at:

- Margaret Bowen
- **Phone:** 301.899.0675
- **Address:** 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746
- **Email:** map@seafarers.org

To better assist you, provide your plan administrator with the following information when you contact them:

- **Plan Number:** 001
- **Plan Sponsor Name:** United Industrial Workers Pension Plan
- **Employer Identification Number:** 11-6106805

1) What if I have questions about PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees?

Visit www.pb.gc.gov/prac/multiemployer for more information. For specific information about your pension plan or pension benefits, you should contact your employer or plan administrator as PBGC does not have that information. Federal law requires all traditional pension plans, also known as defined benefit pension plans, to provide this notice every year regardless of funding status. This notice does not mean your Plan is terminating.

2) How Well Funded Is Your Plan?

The law requires the Plan's administrator to explain how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the "funded percentage." The funded percentage is calculated by dividing Plan assets by Plan liabilities. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The chart below shows the Plan's funded percentage for the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. It also lists the value of the Plan's assets and liabilities for those years.

	Funded Percentage		
	2024	2023	2022
Valuation Date	January 1, 2024	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2022
Funded Percentage	116.3%	108.3%	131.3%
Value of Assets	\$131,807,004	\$121,534,222	\$144,556,378
Value of Liabilities	\$113,338,359	\$112,226,634	\$110,057,946

3) Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

To provide further insight into the Plan's financial position, the chart below shows the fair market value of the Plan's assets on the last day of the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years. Market values fluctuate based on investment performance, providing a more immediate snapshot of the plan's funding status.

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$143,384,000	\$131,807,004	\$121,534,222

4) Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law, a plan's funding status determines the steps a plan must take to strengthen its finances and continue paying benefits:

- **Endangered:** The plan's funded percentage drops below 80 percent. The plan's trustees must adopt a funding improvement plan.
 - **Critical:** The plan's funded percentage falls below 65 percent or meets other financial distress criteria. The plan's trustees must implement a rehabilitation plan.
 - **Critical and Declining:** A plan in critical status is also designated as critical and declining if projected to become insolvent—meaning it will no longer have enough assets to pay out benefits—within 15 years (or within 20 years under a special rule). The plan's trustees must continue to implement the rehabilitation plan. The plan's sponsor may seek approval to amend the plan, including reducing current and future benefits. The Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.
- If the Plan is in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the plan year ending December 31, 2025, a separate notification of that status has or will be provided.

5) Participant and Beneficiary Information

The following chart shows the number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the last day of the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. The numbers for the latest Plan Year reflect the plan administrator's reasonable, good faith estimate. The table reflects actual year-end demographic data for the preceding two plan years.

Number of participants and beneficiaries on last day of relevant plan year	2024	2023	2022
1. Last day of plan year	31-Dec	31-Dec	31-Dec
2. Participants currently employed	1,200	914	906
3. Participants and beneficiaries receiving benefits	1,000	981	1,102
4. Participants and beneficiaries entitled to future benefits (but not receiving benefits)	950	1,315	1,453
5. Total number of covered participants and beneficiaries (Lines 2 + 3 + 4 = 5)	3,150	3,210	3,461

6) Funding & Investment Policies

Funding Policy

Every pension plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to provide benefits from contributions by signatory employers under the terms of collective bargaining agreements between the United Industrial Service, Transportation, Professional and Government Workers of North America and the employers.

Investment Policy

Pension plans also have investment policies that provide guidelines for making investment management decisions. The Plan's investment policy is as follows:

Investment objectives:

Assets of the Plan shall be invested with sufficient diversification so as to minimize the risk of large losses unless it is clearly prudent under the then current circumstances not to do so. Plan assets shall be invested in a manner consistent with the fiduciary standards of ERISA and supporting regulations, and all transactions will be undertaken on behalf of the Plan in the sole interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries. Assets of the Plan shall be invested to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet benefit payment obligations and other Plan expenses.

Investment Guidelines:

With respect to any Investment Manager who is appointed by the Trustees to manage as Plan Asset Manager, such Plan Asset Manager will discharge its responsibilities with respect to the Plan's assets in accordance with the fiduciary responsibilities under ERISA and all regulations thereunder and shall not violate any of ERISA's "prohibited transaction" rules. The Plan Asset Manager shall be a bank (trust company), insurance company, or a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Plan Asset Manager shall acknowledge in writing that it is a fiduciary of the Plan within the meaning of Section 3(21)(A) of ERISA and an "investment manager" within the meaning of Section 3(38) of ERISA.

Asset Allocation:

The Fund's assets are invested in the following asset classes and maintained within the corresponding ranges. The Trustees make appropriate adjustments if one or more of the limits are breached.

Asset Class	Target	Range
Domestic Equities	50%	35% - 60%
Fixed Income	50%	40% - 65%

Standards of Investment Performance:

Each Investment Manager is reviewed regularly regarding performance, personnel, strategy, research capabilities, organizational and business matters and other qualitative factors that may affect its ability to achieve the desired investment results. Consideration will be given to the extent to which performance results are consistent with the goals and objectives set forth in the Investment Policy and/or individual guidelines provided to an Investment Manager. The Plan's investment policy outlines prohibited investments as well as limits regarding the percentage of the fund that may be invested in any one company and industry. Minimum credit quality guidelines are established and provided to investment managers. No investment may be made which violates the provisions of ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code.

The Trustees review the Plan's investment policy on a regular basis and make periodic changes when, based on all available information, it is prudent to do so.

As of the end of the Plan Year, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following investment categories as percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
1. Cash (Interest-bearing and non-interest bearing)	1
2. U.S. Government securities	31
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	15
a. Preferred	
b. All other	
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	37
a. Preferred	
b. Common	
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	
7. Loans (other than to participants)	
8. Participant loans	
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	
11. Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	
12. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	
13. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	16
14. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	
15. Employer-related investments:	
a. Employer Securities	
b. Employer real property	
16. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	
17. Other	

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments common-/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, or 103-12 investment entities - contact Margaret Bowen, Plan Administrator, at 301-899-0675, or by writing to: UIWPP Administrator, 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746.

The average return on assets for the Plan Year was 13.6%.

7) Events Having a Material Effect on Assets or Liabilities

By law, this notice must include an explanation of any new events that materially affect the Plan's liabilities or assets. These events could affect the Plan's financial health or its ability to meet its obligations.

For the plan year beginning on January 1, 2025 (i.e., the year after the notice year) and ending on December 31, 2025, there was no amendment, scheduled benefit increase or reduction, or other known event taking effect in the current plan year and expected to have a material effect on plan liabilities or assets for the current plan year.

8) Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file an annual report, called the Form 5500, with the U.S. Department of Labor. The Form 5500 includes financial and other information about these pension plans.

You can get a copy of your Plan's Form 5500:

- **Online:** Visit www.efast.dol.gov to search for your Plan's Form 5500.
- **By Mail:** Submit a written request to your plan administrator.
- **By Phone:** Call (202) 693-8673 to speak with a representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room.

The Form 5500 does not include personal information, such as your accrued benefits. For details about your accrued benefits, contact your plan administrator.

9) Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC, below), the plan must apply to PBGC for financial assistance. PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

10) Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC

Only vested benefits—those that you've earned and cannot forfeit—are guaranteed.

What PBGC Guarantees

PBGC guarantees "basic benefits" including:

- Pension benefits at normal retirement age.
- Most early retirement benefits.
- Annuity benefits for survivors of plan participants.
- Disability benefits for disabilities that occurred before the earlier of the date the plan terminated or the sponsor's bankruptcy date.

What PBGC Does Not Guarantee

PBGC does not guarantee certain types of benefits, including:

- A participant's pension benefit or benefit increase until it has been part of the plan for 60 full months.
- Disability benefits in non-pay status.
- Non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, or death benefits.

Determining Guarantee Amounts

The maximum benefit PBGC guarantees is set by law. Your plan is covered by PBGC's multiemployer program. The maximum PBGC guarantee is \$35.75 per month, multiplied by a participant's years of credited service. PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit based on the plan's monthly benefit accrual rate and your years of credited service. The guarantee is calculated as follows:

1. Take 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate.
2. Take 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate.
3. Add both amounts together.

4. Multiply the total by your years of credited service to determine your guaranteed monthly benefit.

Example 1: Participant with a Monthly \$600 Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

1. Find the accrual rate: \$600/10 = \$60 accrual rate.
 2. Apply PBGC formula:
 - a. Take 100 percent of the first \$11 = \$11
 - b. Take 75 percent of the next \$33 = \$24.75
 3. Add the two amounts together: \$11 + \$24.75 = \$35.75
 4. Multiply by years of credited service: \$35.75 x 10 years = \$357.50
- In this example, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50.

Example 2: Participant with a \$200 Monthly Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

1. Find the accrual rate: \$200/10 = \$20 accrual rate.
2. Apply PBGC formula:
 - a. Take 100 percent of the first \$11 = \$11
 - b. Take 75 percent of the next \$9 = \$6.75
3. Add the two amounts together: \$11 + \$6.75 = \$17.75
4. Multiply by years of credited service: \$17.75 x 10 years = \$177.50

Philadelphia Union Hall Relocates to New Building

As of June 13, 2025, the Philadelphia hiring hall has temporarily relocated to 2800 S. 20th Street, Building 12B, Suite A, Philadelphia, PA 19145. The phone and fax numbers remain the same (phone 215-336-3818, fax 215-271-5127). The union anticipates utilizing the new office space for a year or so, while plans are finalized for permanent relocation. The building at 2800 S. 20th Street – depending on the route chosen – is located approximately 1.6 to 2 miles from the old hall. The new facility is in a complex featuring plentiful parking. “This is an upgrade in every way,” said SIU Philadelphia Port Agent Joe Baselice. “I’m confident the new location will serve the membership well, while we continue investigating our options for a permanent home.” Below from left to right are photos of UIW Representative Andre MacCray and Baselice (left to right), and a photo of the inside of the new hall location.



Congressman Suozzi Urges Pro-Worker Platforms and Cooperative Dialogue

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-New York) firmly reiterated his complete support for the U.S. maritime industry during his May 7 address to the Maritime Trades Department Executive Board in the nation’s capital.

Most of his remarks, however, focused on bigger-picture issues facing America’s working families as well as the Democratic Party.

Suozzi stated, “If you’re in a union, thank God; you’re doing good. You’ve got a good wage and good health benefits. You have good pensions. But the rest of the country, the people who aren’t in unions are in a lot of trouble.”

Suozzi said one of the nation’s goals should be “to get back to a place in our country where the American Dream is a real thing for everybody. I’ll work hard and in return for working hard, I make enough money so I have a good life. That’s it. I work hard, I make enough money, I can buy a house, I can educate my kids, I can pay for health insurance. I can retire without being scared. Too many Americans don’t have that anymore, and that’s why they’re [upset].”

After touching on last year’s election results and current messaging that seems well-received by working families, Suozzi stated, “My party has got to get back to a place where working men and women say, those are the guys looking out for me. Those are the people looking out for my interests.”

He credited the labor movement for helping build the foundation of

the American Dream, then offered a brief history lesson beginning in the 1970s. Suozzi gave examples of how, starting during that period, ownership management in numerous industries began prioritizing shareholder profits far more than employee or community wellbeing.

In terms of generating income, “it worked. We made a ton of money in America from the end of the 70s to now,” he said. “The Dow Jones has gone up 2,500%, the GDP has gone up – but workers wages have not gone up (correspondingly). They’ve been stuck. So, we made all this money, but it was only for a certain group of people.”

Looking ahead, Suozzi said that Democratic legislators and candidates “have to lay out our platform that says very clearly our main focus is raising people’s wages and benefits and retirement security. That’s our number one priority. We’ve got to get back to that basic message, and then we have to have the vehicles to communicate the message.”

The congressman concluded by appealing for more open communication between people and organizations at every level, from individuals to legislators to businesses and more.

“People are just fighting with each other, and you can’t solve complicated problems with everybody yelling and screaming at each other,” he said. “You can’t do it in your family. You can’t do it in your business. Can’t do it in negotiating a contract. You need people



Congressman Suozzi (D-NY) addresses MTD meeting guests during his speech.

who may disagree with each other to sit down across from each other and say, I think this. Well, I think that. Well, how about this? Well, how about that? And you try and find some common ground so you can move us all forward together. That’s not happening in an environment where everything’s attack and counter-attack, punch and counter-punch.

“One of the things I’m doing is, I’m the co-chair of a group called The Problem Solvers Caucus,” he continued.

“We just had a meeting today... Fifty members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans. The Republican co-chair is going to be Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennsylvania), who’s a pro-labor Republican. We’re working to try and find common ground... If you agree with what I’m saying, tell people the same thing and encourage this. Spread the word with your friends and your neighbors and your colleagues.”

Unions Regain Contracts For 1M Workers

Editor's note: The following article was written by PAI staff writer Mark Gruenberg. It has been edited to conform to our paper's style.

SAN FRANCISCO (PAI)—Government worker unions, led by the Government Employees (AFGE), beat President Donald Trump again in court, as U.S. District Judge James Donato in San Francisco restored collective bargaining rights—which Trump had unilaterally taken away—for a million workers.

The judge, appointed by former Democratic President Barack Obama, had issued a temporary order against Trump and justified it then by saying AFGE and the other unions challenging Trump were likely to win on the merits. On June 24, he ruled they did and issued a permanent national injunction.

The union leaders, plus AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, cheered on behalf of their members.

“President Trump revoked our members’ union rights in retaliation for our advocacy on behalf of federal workers and the American people, and we are grateful Judge Donato saw through his disingenuous ‘national security’ justification and has ordered the immediate restoration of their rights,” said AFGE President Everett Kelley.

AFGE members took the brunt of Trump’s attack, and his union led the lawsuit.

“Federal employees have had the right to join a union and bargain collectively for decades...At no time have employees’ union rights caused concern for our national security. Revoking these rights was clearly a retaliatory attempt to bust federal unions and wreak havoc on our nation’s workforce and the services they provide to the American people,” Kelley, a veteran, declared.

“We are thrilled to see the court block Trump’s executive order—an action that was in explicit retaliation against federal workers’ unions exercising their First Amendment rights to challenge the administration’s attacks on their members. This fight is far from over, but federal workers, the labor movement and our allies have notched an essential victory,” Shuler said.

Leaders of other affected public worker unions echoed Shuler’s words.

By killing the contracts, Trump opened the way for a return to the 1880s-era “spoils system” where workers could be hired and fired based on party ties—and, in cases of rampant graft, on kickbacks.

And by removing union protections from formerly non-partisan federal workers, Trump also raised the specter that future federal workers’ decisions affecting you, on everything from a federal construction contract to getting your Social Security disability check, could be based on your politics.

The non-partisan civil service, with the nation’s two million federal workers taking oaths to uphold the laws and the Constitution, was established precisely to avoid such a tilt.

Trump’s staffers repeatedly say that after wrecking federal worker unions, private-sector unions and workers would be their next victims.

Judge Donato pulled no punches in stopping Trump in his anti-union tracks. He wrote Trump issued the order, challenged by the six unions led by AFGE, because the unions “appear to have been deemed hostile to the president.”

The judge also said Trump’s order “had a chilling effect” on the right to free speech by both the unions and their members. That violates the First Amendment.

And the order was in retaliation for the unions expressing their free speech rights, Judge Donato said. He cited an accompanying White House fact sheet which “expressed a clear point of view that is hostile to federal labor unions and their First Amendment activities.

“All of this is solid evidence of a tie between the exercise of First Amendment rights and a government sanction,” Judge Donato wrote.

Judge Donato noted Trump applied the national security label “to an unprecedented swath of federal agencies, including whole cabinet departments for the first time in history.”

His order restores the AFGE contracts covering the workers in the departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Justice, Health and Human Services, Treasury, Agriculture, State and others.

“Collective bargaining rights are critical for union nurses so we can advocate for our veterans and ensure they get the care they deserve,” said Irma Westmoreland, RN, chair of National Nurses United’s VA nurses division. “We will fight for our veterans who put their lives on the line for us. All federal workers deserve collective bargaining rights.”

“The right of federal employees to join a union is protected by the Constitution and has been supported by presidents of both parties for decades,” said National Federation of Federal Employees/IAM President Randy Erwin.

Trump “is blatantly violating both the Constitution and federal law in a misguided attempt to bust federal unions. This is the most anti-worker and anti-union action this country has ever seen. NFFE and our allies are pleased to see the rule of law upheld and the critical rights of working people protected by Judge Donato.”

“This is justice for federal workers who were unfairly retaliated against and had their freedom to collectively bargain ripped away for standing up to illegal executive actions,” said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. Trump’s “executive order is a direct effort to silence federal workers’ voice on the job—an essential freedom that helps maintain the integrity of our democracy...Targeting them through political retribution threatens the freedom of all working people to fight for fair treatment.”

National Association of Government Employees President David Holway called Judge Donato’s ruling “a resounding rejection of the Trump administration’s authoritarian tactics and its sham invocation of national security as a cover for union busting... The court made it clear: national security cannot be used as a smokescreen to silence federal workers. No president is above the law.”

“America’s public service workers don’t work for profits, politics, or for glory. They serve our nation,” said Service Employees President April Verrett. “The president’s unlawful executive order attacking federal unions is not an attack on a million federal workers, but is a direct attack on all workers who seek a collective voice to bargain for a better future” and an “authoritarian overreach... We will not let this administration’s union-busting tactics silence us.”

New UIW Pensioners

Donna Barber
Franklin International Inc.
Grove City, OH

James Cook
Crown, Cork & Seal
Cherokee Village, AR

Marvin McDaniels
Soda Rental Service
Philadelphia, PA

Ruben Lerebours
Seatrains Ship Building
New York, NY

Paul Thibault
Rossmoor Community Association
Inc.
Jamesburg, NJ

Rigo Perez
Authentic Specialty Foods (La Victoria)
Long Beach, CA

William King
Portus
Fernandina Beach, FL

James Stevens
Victory Refrigeration
Blackwood, NJ

David Atherton
Crown, Cork & Seal
Conroe, TX

Sherry Jarrett
PlymKraft Inc.
Newport News, VA

Kim Vu
Victory Refrigeration
Philadelphia, PA

Horace Moore
Kingsford Products
Somerset, OH

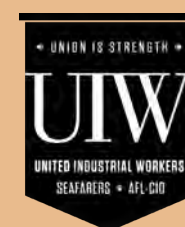
Eldridge Seria
Crown, Cork & Seal
Spring, TX

Francisca Johnson Molina
Urban Commons Queensway, LLC
Norwalk, CA

Jose Soto
ATC Management Inc.
Jamaica, NY

Gregory Scarlett
Crown, Cork & Seal
Abilene, TX

Beverly King
Armaly Brands
London, OH



Gone But Not Forgotten

MIGUEL ROSA

Pensioner Miguel Rosa, 69, passed away on January 27. Brother Rosa was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. He joined the union in 2003 and worked for Victory Refrigeration until he began receiving his pension in 2012. Brother Rosa made his residence in Camden, New Jersey.

HAGDU ABRAHAM

Brother Hagdu Abraham, 63, passed away. Brother Abraham was born in Eritrea. He joined the union in 2006 and worked for Superior Services Inc. until 2012. Brother Abraham resided in Twentynine Palms, California.

JOHN BATTLE

Brother John Battle, 61, passed away. Brother Battle was born in Virginia. He became a member of the UIW in 1989 while working with PlymKraft Inc, where he remained employed until 1999. Brother Battle made his residence in Hampton, Virginia.

JUAN CONTRERAS QUIROGA

Pensioner Juan Contreras Quiroga, 75,

passed away on February 25. He was born in Mexico. Brother Contreras Quiroga joined the UIW in 1996 and worked at Del Monte Corporation until he began receiving retirement stipends in 2009. He resided in South Gate, California.

TRESSA ALLEN

Pensioner Tressa Allen, 70, passed away on March 25. She was born in Franklin County, Ohio. Sister Allen became a member of the union in 1978 and was employed at Church & Dwight Company Inc. until she began receiving her pension in 2002. She resided in London, Ohio.

VIRGINIA COOK

Pensioner Virginia Cook, 79, passed away on April 2. Sister Cook was born in Crum, West Virginia. She joined the UIW in 1972 and worked at Bron-Shoe Company until she began receiving retirement stipends in 2007. Sister Cook made her residence in Galloway, Ohio.

PEDRO PEREZ JR.

Pensioner Pedro Perez Jr., 68, passed

away on January 23. He was born in New York and joined the union in 1988. Brother Perez was employed at American Casting & Manufacturing Corp. and worked there until he began receiving his pension in 2023. He made his residence in the Bronx, New York.

JULIO DI CRESCENZO

Pensioner Julio Di Crescenzo, 90, passed away on March 26. Brother Di Crescenzo was born in Camden, New Jersey. He joined the union in 1992 and worked for Victory Refrigeration until he began receiving retirement stipends in 2005. Brother Di Crescenzo made his residence in Camden, New Jersey.

JOHN WISELY

Pensioner John Wisely, 73, passed away on April 17. Brother Wisely was born in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. He joined the union in 1988 and worked for Contanda Terminals LLC until he began receiving retirement stipends in 2017. Brother Wisely made his residence in Norwood, Pennsylvania.

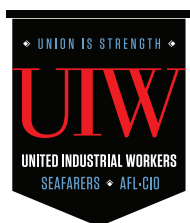
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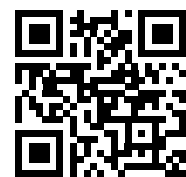


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Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Restore Collective Bargaining Rights for Federal Workers

U.S. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pennsylvania) and Jared Golden (D-Maine) on April 1 joined together to introduce the Protect America's Workforce Act, bipartisan legislation aimed at restoring collective bargaining rights for unionized federal employees.

The legislation would reverse the executive order titled "Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs," which aimed to eliminate collective bargaining rights across multiple federal agencies. Specifically, the order targeted employees in the Departments of Defense, State, Veterans Affairs, Justice, and Energy, as well as certain employees in the Departments of Homeland Security, Treasury, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Agriculture. In total, the order impacted roughly 67% of the federal workforce, according to independent reports.

"Improving government efficiency is essential – but sweeping exclusions from collective bargaining are a blunt instrument that risk weakening the very stability and performance we aim to strengthen," Fitzpatrick said. "The Protect America's Workforce Act restores a balanced, targeted approach – protecting bargaining rights where they pose no threat to national security and reinforcing their proven role in supporting morale, accountability, and effective governance. We can defend our national security without silencing those who serve it. Efficiency and fairness are not mutually exclusive, and this legislation ensures we uphold both."

Golden stated, "In his order, President Trump said that federal workers' rights are incompatible with national security. He is wrong. Union workers make America stronger every single day, including more than 6,000 federal workers in Maine. Throughout our history, unions have ensured workers got their fair share of this nation's prosperity. Unions built our middle class, and are key to strengthening its future. We cannot have a government that undermines workers' rights."

Reacting to the executive order, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said, "Donald Trump is trying to end collective

bargaining for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, silencing their voices and ripping up their contracts. This order would strike a blow to every American's fundamental right of freedom of speech and association. More than 70 percent of Americans and nearly nine in 10 young people support unions; no one voted to attack the freedom to organize with our co-workers for a better life. We commend the leadership of Reps. Jared Golden and Brian Fitzpatrick for using Congress' power to reverse this executive order. The labor movement is 100 percent behind this bill and we call on every member of Congress, Democrat and Republican, to take a stand in support of our fundamental rights by backing this critical legislation."

In addition to the AFL-CIO, the Protect America's Workforce Act has the support of numerous unions representing federal employees, including the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU), the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), according to a joint news release from Golden and Fitzpatrick.

Federal workers already face limitations in some of their labor rights. Unlike their counterparts in the private sector, they are prohibited by law from bargaining over wages, benefits, or job classifications, and are barred from striking. Their collective bargaining rights are restricted to matters related to working conditions. Notably, approximately one-third of unionized federal employees are U.S. military veterans.

The congressmen concluded, "The Protect America's Workforce Act reaffirms a core principle: a government that serves the people must also respect the rights of those who serve within it."

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(510) 444-2360

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(215) 336-3818

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(301) 994-0010

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
659 Hillside St, Summit Hills
San Juan, PR 00920
(939) 204-0337

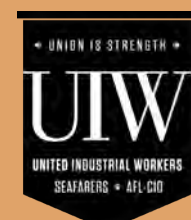
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ST. LOUIS, MO
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(314) 752-6500

ST. THOMAS, USVI
3730 Altona & Welgunst
Suite 101
St. Thomas, USVI 00802
(340) 774-3895

TACOMA, WA
3411 S. Union Ave. 98409
(253) 272-7774

WILMINGTON, CA
510 N. Broad Ave. 90744
(310) 549-3920



Good Catches for Great Causes



UIW officials, their families, friends, and those who just wanted to fish for a good cause gathered in Piney Point, MD in May to participate in a fishing tournament which benefits went toward the Boulder Crest Foundation. In the Above left photo, UIW President David Heindel (right) stands next to Montana Smith and her largest catch. In the right photo, UIW Great Lakes Region vice president Monte Burgett proudly holds his catch of the day, a 4.4lb rockfish.



Juanita's Foods Merges with Apex Capital

On April 25th, Juanita's Foods, a UIW shop based in Wilmington, California, announced their merger with Apex Capital. The photo at right includes all of the long-term employees with more than 10 years with Juanita's Foods who were given a bonus check in appreciation for their dedicated service to the company.

In the next row of photos, starting from the left, is Shop Steward Juan Carlos Guerrero and Chief Executive of Juanita's Foods, Aaron De La Torre. De La Torre's family founded the company in 1946. The recent merger came after the family sold the majority stake of their company to Apex Capital. The center photo includes all employees of Apex Capital with the exception of De La Torre and UIW Representative Lupe Murillo. In the right photo in this row, UIW member Guadalupe Arteaga receives a bonus check and a handshake from De La Torre.

On the bottom row starting from the left, the photo shows the shop's union members waiting to receive their appreciation bonus checks. In the remaining photo, UIW our member Crispina Santacruz hugs De La Torre after receiving her bonus check.

"The UIW has high hopes for this new partnership and is excited to stand with our membership to see where this takes the Juanita's Foods family," says National Director Karen Horton-Gennette.

