



The United Worker

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Executive Board Salutes Mike Sacco's Visionary Leadership



UIW/SIU Secretary Treasurer David Heindel (third from left) presents UIW/SIU President Michael Sacco (fifth from left) with a replica of the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy. The presentation was made June 9 during the annual Greater New York/New Jersey Maritime Port Council Dinner-Dance in New York. The SIU Executive Board, which is comprised of several individuals who hold office in the SIU and the UIW, took over the stage to make the special presentation. SIU Executive Vice President Augie Tellez (seventh from left) told the more than 300 in the audience that the union was celebrating several milestones. Tellez also announced that the UIW-affiliated SIU is celebrating its 80th anniversary. "For the last 30 years, we have had an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity," Tellez stated. "We have enjoyed a piece of the American Dream. This comes as no accident. This is the 30th anniversary of our leader – Mike Sacco (being in office). His vision and his tremendous drive motivate us to do what we do." Sacco has been president of the UIW for the same period of time. As he accepted the lookalike trophy, Sacco said it has been "a wonderful 30 years. Coaches don't win games; players win games. These are the players. These are the guys who get it done." Joining President Sacco during the presentation are members of his administration, including his executive vice president, regional UIW/SIU vice presidents and UIW National Director Kate Hunt (second from right).

AFL-CIO Launches Ad Blitz, Urges Organizing

The AFL-CIO in late May announced a major, national print and digital ad campaign calling on workers to join together in the face of what the federation described as continued corporate assaults on the freedom to join together in union.

An open letter to working people, penned by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, ran in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post* and regional newspapers in nine states, including Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Massachusetts.

Trumka's letter offers an urgent call to action: "If you want a raise, better benefits and the dignity of having a voice on the job, we're saving a seat for you," he wrote. "Join us – be a part of the fight to build a brighter future for you, your family and working people everywhere."

An accompanying digital ad campaign targets workers online and directs them to FreedomToJoin.org, a new

website "that outlines efforts by wealthy corporate interests to take away the freedoms of working people."

Additionally, the website offers background on *Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31*, a Supreme Court case funded by the Koch brothers to "deprive teachers, firefighters and other public-sector workers of their freedom to join together," the AFL-CIO noted. (A ruling was expected around press time.) It also offers resources for forming a union and information about ongoing organizing campaigns.

"This comes as a wave of collective action has continued to sweep the country," the federation said in announcing the ad campaign. "As striking teachers march and secure raises even in anti-labor states, working people from all backgrounds are embracing the power of solidarity. Unions' approval rating has broken above 60 percent, while dissatisfaction with corporations has risen to similarly high levels.

"Young people, who are disproportionately impacted by corporate-driven policy decisions, have been leading the most recent surge in unionization," the announcement continued. "Of the 262,000 new union members last year, more than three-quarters were under the age of 35."

This trend has continued steadily into 2018. In April, nearly 15,000 workers organized unions in a single week, ranging from nurses and flight attendants to Harvard graduate workers.

"From the boardroom to the steps of the Supreme Court, a dark web of corporate interests is trying to stop us with everything it has," Trumka concluded. "But no matter what any CEO or lobbyist does, we're standing up for the freedom to join together in a union."

In a communication specifically about the *Janus* decision, the AFL-CIO said, "The Supreme Court case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* is nothing more than a political attack that aims to fur-

ther rig our economy and democracy against working people. It's an attempt to divide us and limit our power in numbers because unions give workers a powerful voice in speaking up for themselves, their families and their communities. When teachers, nurses, firefighters and other public service workers are free to come together in unions, they win benefits like better working conditions, better wages, health care, clean and safe environments and retirement security that benefit non-union members as well. But the CEOs and corporate special interests behind this case simply do not believe that working people should have the same freedoms and opportunities as they do: to negotiate a fair return on our work so that we can provide for ourselves and our families. They are funding this case through organizations like the National Right to Work Foundation because they view unions as a threat to their power and greed."

From the President

Solidarity Needed Now More Than Ever

While there's plenty of reason for optimism about the future of organized labor, there are also some undeniable challenges faced by not only the union movement but by all workers across the country. These are tough times for America's working families, and that's mostly due to an accumulation of decades' worth of governmental policies that favor the rich and encourage the export of U.S. jobs. It's also due to prolonged attacks on unions — attacks which are designed to weaken the entire working class.



Michael Sacco

Nevertheless, union membership in America grew last year, and non-partisan polling shows that more people in the U.S. have a favorable view of unions today than they have in many, many years. Brothers and sisters, that data reflects an opportunity to grow our movement and to increase our collective effectiveness for promoting and protecting workers' rights.

It'll take a lot to fully revitalize our movement, but we can start by calling on our state, local and federal lawmakers to step up to the plate and join our cause.

We must demand that they do everything in their power to protect and strengthen the freedom of American workers by making it easier for working people to join together in unions.

When working people have the freedom to speak up together through unions, progress is made that benefits all Americans. We saw the power unions give working people most recently in West Virginia, where tens of thousands of teachers stood their ground to win changes for themselves and their students and their communities.

Today, despite unprecedented attacks from so-called "right-to-work" legislation and other political scams, people in unions continue to win rights, benefits and protections not only for themselves, but also for fellow citizens everywhere. When nurses, firefighters, 911 dispatchers and EMS workers belong to unions, they fight for staffing levels, equipment and training that save lives. When educators join together in a union, they advocate for better learning opportunities for students, like small class sizes and modern textbooks.

When union membership is high, entire communities enjoy wages that represent a fair return on their work and greater social and economic mobility. And unions use our collective voice to advocate for policies that benefit all working people — like increases to the minimum wage, affordable health care, and great public schools.

When the freedom to join together in unions is secure, other freedoms are also likely to be safe as well. As examples, think about the freedom to attend a parent-teacher conference or to take off work when your kids are sick without fear of losing our jobs or pay for the day. Or the freedom to choose where to live because high-quality public schools are available to all communities, not just to those who are wealthy. Or the freedom to retire with dignity.

Unions fight for these freedoms for everyone, and that's why they are the target of the powerful CEOs who have used their wealth and power to rig our country's economic rules against working people. And now they have brought a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, that threatens to rig the economy even further.

By their own admission, their intent is to "defund and defang" unions so that they can try to drive down wages, kill jobs, defund our public schools and services, silence working people at the ballot box and cripple our fundamental values.

Don't be fooled brothers and sisters; labor unions are now more critical to America's success than ever before. You don't have to be a union member to know that freedom is not given, it is fought for — and it must be protected. By continuing to stand up for labor rights, we'll be able to fix this rigged system once and for all. In this regard, I again encourage all of you to invite your elected officials to stand with us to make the fight to protect our freedoms easier, not harder.

Register and Vote

And speaking of elected officials, it's almost election time again. In November, the entire U.S. House of Representatives will be up for election, along with 35 U.S. Senate seats and 39 state and territorial governorships. Many other state and local elections also will take place. With that in mind, it's definitely not too soon to make sure you're registered to vote. Just go online to Vote.org and take it from there. The site is run by a non-profit organization and it's very user-friendly.

CEO Pay Soars to 361 Times That of the Average Worker

Average CEO pay for major U.S. companies has risen more than 6 percent, as income inequality and outsourcing of good-paying American jobs have increased. According to the new AFL-CIO Executive Paywatch, the average CEO of an S&P 500 Index company made \$13.94 million in 2017—361 times more money than the average rank-and-file worker.

The Executive Paywatch website (<https://aflcio.org/paywatch>) the most comprehensive searchable online database tracking CEO pay, showed that in 2017, the average production and nonsupervisory worker earned some \$38,613 per year. When adjusted for inflation, the average wage has remained stagnant for more than 50 years.

"This year's report provides further proof of America's income inequality crisis," said AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler. "Too many working people are struggling to get by, to afford the basics, to save for college, to retire with dignity, while CEOs are paying themselves more and more. Our economy works best when consumers have money to spend. That means raising wages for workers and reining in out-of-control executive pay."

For the first time, companies must disclose the ratio of their own CEO's pay to the pay of the company's median employee. The AFL-CIO's newly updated Executive Paywatch website now includes company-specific pay ratio data and median worker pay, in addition to CEO pay levels. Pay ratio disclosure provides important information about companies' compensation strategies and allows shareholders to determine whether CEO pay is out of balance in comparison to what a company pays its workers.

Mondelez International continues to represent one of the most egregious examples of CEO-to-worker pay inequality. The company, which makes Nabisco products, including Oreos, Chips Ahoy and Ritz Crackers, is leading the race to the bottom and continuing to embrace inequal-



AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler addresses delegates and guests during the 2017 UIW Convention at the union-affiliated Paul Hall Center in Piney Point Maryland.

ity. In its SEC disclosure, Mondelez lists former CEO Irene Rosenfeld who received \$17.3 million in 2017, 403 times its median employee's pay. Mondelez also had a new CEO start in 2017. Dirk Van de Put made more than \$42.4 million in total compensation in 2017—more than 989 times the company's median employee pay. Last week, A majority of Mondelez shareholders in mid-May voted against the company's advisory vote on executive compensation.

The toy-maker Mattel had the highest pay ratio of any S&P 500 company. Mattel's median employee is a manufacturing worker in Malaysia who made \$6,271, resulting in a CEO-to-employee pay ratio of 4,987:1. Warren Buffett's company Berkshire Hathaway Inc. had the lowest pay ratio of all S&P 500 companies, just 2:1.

National Unemployment Rate Hits 3.8 Percent Mark

The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said. Businesses claimed to create 218,000 new jobs that month, while governments added another 5,000, all in local governments and schools, a separate survey showed. There were 6.065 million unemployed in May, 281,000 fewer than in April.

"Here's a summary of today's jobs report: The jobs numbers are good, BUT WAGES ARE NOT," Economic Policy Institute senior analyst Heidi Shierholz tweeted. Her colleague, Elise Gould, tweeted: "Wages grew 2.7 percent over the year. Wage growth has been remarkably flat since the end of 2015... In a full employment economy, wages should rise much faster — closer to 3.5 percent and above — to claw back losses to labor (wage) share in the aftermath of the GR." GR stands for the Great Recession, the 2008 crash financiers caused.

BLS said the average hourly wage rose by eight cents, to \$26.92. Utility workers actually lost money: Wages

dropped 20 cents an hour and their hourly workweek, including overtime, dropped by six minutes. Utilities shed 1,100 workers in May, down to 554,400.

Factories added 18,000 jobs in May, to 12.673 million. The one big gainer was machinery (+5,800) and the one big loser was cars (-4,400). Some 546,000 factory workers (3.4 percent) were jobless. Construction added 25,000 jobs, to 7.21 million. All new construction jobs were at specialty trade contractors (+20,500) and in heavy and civil engineering (+5,000). There were 415,000 jobless construction workers (4.4 percent).

As usual, the lowest-paying areas of the service sector led the way in job gains, with health care adding 17,900 jobs, bars and restaurants 17,600 and retail trade 31,100. Higher-paying services were mixed. Most were flat, but telecommunications lost 1,900 jobs, while trucking firms added 6,600. Overall, service firms claimed to add 171,000 jobs in May.



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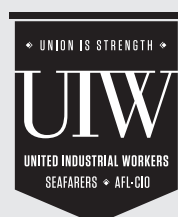




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What Janus Case Means To Labor Unions in U.S.

Editor's note: The following article, provided by the AFL-CIO, gives union members important insights regarding what's truly on the line for organized labor when the U.S. Supreme Court releases its ruling in the Janus v AFSCME District Council 31 case.

What Is Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31, and Why Is It Important?

Unions are required by law to represent and negotiate on the behalf of all workers in a bargaining unit, regardless of whether the individuals they represent are dues-paying members. This case, if decided in favor of the corporate special interests, would prevent public-sector unions from collecting fair share fees from workers they represent who choose not to join the union, which in turn makes it more difficult for working people to negotiate better wages and benefits, and the kind of working conditions that set standards for everyone.

The fact is no one is ever forced to join a union and no one is forced to pay anything to support the political activity designed to advance the rights of working people. This already is the law of the land—and this case, under the guise of freedom of speech, wouldn't change that.

So What Is This Case Really About?

This case is a bald-faced attack on working people. When our dedicated public servants are free to come together and negotiate for better wages, working condi-

tions, health care, retirement security, and clean and safe environments, all working people benefit. But the greedy CEOs and corporate special interests behind this case want to weaken and restrict the voices of working people so they can grab even more wealth and even more power.

Who Is Mark Janus and What Is AFSCME, Council 31?

AFSCME Council 31 is a local union that represents 75,000 of Illinois' public-sector workers. It makes sure the nurses and EMS workers and 911 dispatchers and security personnel who keep our communities clean and safe can negotiate for better working conditions and a fair return on their work. Mark Janus was an Illinois public employee who wanted all the benefits of a union contract without contributing anything in return.

But Mark Janus is just a name. It's not even clear if he is all that invested in this case. But corporate-funded organizations such as the National Right to Work Foundation and the State Policy Network are certainly invested. These organizations are part of a network funded by corporate billionaires who want to use the courts to rig the rules against working people. They want to strike a "mortal blow" and "defund and defang" unions, and they fund politicians who carry their water.

In fact, this case originated from a political scheme by the governor of Illinois—and billionaire—Bruce Rauner, to advance an agenda that benefits cor-



porations and the wealthy at the expense of working people. As soon as he took office, Rauner launched a political attack on public service workers and filed a lawsuit in his own name to bar the collection of fair share fees by public service unions. The case was dismissed, but the Right to Work Foundation stepped in on behalf of Janus to get the case before the Supreme Court.

What Happens if the Court Sides with Corporate Interests Instead of Working People?

If the court rules that workers can receive all the benefits of a union contract without contributing anything in return, then the unions that represent the interests of working people will be facing stiff headwinds. When corporate interests make it

more difficult for working people to come together to negotiate for better wages and benefits, and safer working conditions, then all working people suffer through depressed wages, insufficient benefits and substandard working conditions. When working people don't have the strength in numbers to advocate on their own behalf, then greedy CEOs and their toady politicians reward themselves at the expense of working people.

The United States already is facing an economic inequality crisis and a ruling against working people would only make matters worse. Wages would stagnate or depress, health care and retirement benefits would weaken, public schools and vital public services would be defunded, and laws that level the playing field would tilt in the favor of corporate interests.

AFL-CIO Exec. VP Shares Views on Supreme Court Case

Editor's note: The following article was provided by Press Associates News Service. It was written by Mark Gruenberg.

All workers, union and non-union, public and private, have their workplace rights up for grabs, says AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre.

Sometime this month (June), the U.S. Supreme Court will decide if workers still have a right to a voice in the workplace," he told the American Constitution Society, a coalition of progressive attorneys and jurists, including pro-worker labor lawyers. He did not differentiate between classes or types of workers.

The way Gebre and many union leaders see it, the answer to that question will be "no."

Gebre's assertion came during a June 9 panel discussion on "Reclaiming the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.," 50 years after the famed civil rights leader was assassinated while leading marches and mobilization for sanitation workers forced to strike in Memphis, Tenn.

The workers, in the original "I am a man" movement there, wanted recognition of their union, the State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and negotiation of a contract with decent wages and safer working conditions.

The High Court ruling by the end of the month in *Janus v AFSCME District Council 31* is expected to make the current unionized Memphis sanitation workers, and every single other state and local government worker nationwide, a potential "free rider," able to use union benefits and services without paying one red cent for them.

National "free ridership," turning every state and local governing body into in essence a "right to work" site, would cost unions around the country millions of dollars in so-called "fair share" fees and, one study from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign says, 726,000 members combined over time.

Gebre said the impact goes beyond just the state and local government workers. That's because it would lessen worker power nationwide to campaign for – and win

– decent working conditions for themselves, public or private.

Just over half of U.S. unionized workers are in private industry, while other non-union workplaces sometimes match their unionized counterparts in wages, to keep pace and keep their people.

"If you want equality in the workplace, there is no better solution than a collective bargaining agreement, which is color-blind," Gebre told the crowd. Quoting King, Gebre added: "If democracy does not start at the workplace, then it is not a real democracy. If equality does not start at the workplace, then it is not real equality."

If he was advising King today on priorities to push, "I would remind Dr. King of Memphis," Gebre said. "This is not the time to be patient, when the 'working class' is defined as 'the white working class' and the rest of us are written off," the former Teamster and current AFSCME member said.

Until the U.S. finds a solution to problems of job and income inequality, "we're dancing around the issue, when we have to be out in the streets" campaigning against it, Gebre said.

The other panelists agreed with Gebre, but advanced other priorities modern Kings – including the Black Lives Matter movement and the New Poor People's Campaign – have adopted. Those other priorities, which Gebre and the other panelists said all interlock, include:

■ Environmental justice. Yale law pro-

fessor Marianne Lado cited the lead poisoning of drinking water in minority-majority Flint, Mich., by a white-named, state-named financial czar who switched the city's water source to save money, as a prime – but not the only example.

■ Criminal justice reform. Former D.C. prosecutor Paul Butler, now a Georgetown University law professor, pointed out that African-Americans allegedly commit 13 percent of the nation's crimes, but comprise 60 percent of its jail inmates.

"When prisons become privatized, there are more laws to lock up more poor people," Gebre added. He did not mention that GOP-run states and GOP-run federal agencies instituted much of the privatization.

■ Voter suppression. Panelists said that goes far beyond the Supreme Court's ruling several years ago effectively gutting enforcement of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. That law was one of the civil rights movements, and King's, signal achievements. Voter suppression, including restrictions on polling places and times, demands for "voter ID," closure of polling places in minority neighborhoods and disenfranchisement at college campuses, has spread far beyond the states of the Old South which the Voting Rights Act initially targeted, the panelists said.

Though the panel did not say so, the "Voter ID" law the U.S. Supreme Court upheld years ago – a model for others since – was from GOP-dominated Indiana, a northern state.

■ The separation of race from class. Concentration on race has produced a massive backlash, led by, as one panelist put it, "an openly racist president." That includes backlash from those who should be class allies, the white poor, the other panelists said.

■ Official surveillance and crackdowns on mass movements. The panelists said current movements, like King's civil rights movements, should hit the streets against all the inequalities of U.S. society, despite such official responses. One noted that as U.S. Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy – also, when later running for president, murdered in 1968 – authorized FBI surveillance of King, his Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the civil rights movement in general. The movement marched anyway.

Another panelist noted an insidious form of surveillance in "police protection" legislation for mass protests, just signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, D-N.Y.

■ Inequalities in education, and not just in the nation's colleges. Indeed, said Century Foundation fellow Robert Kaltenberg, the most-elite university of all, Harvard, is now majority-minority – including women, African-Americans, Latinos, Latinas and others. But most of its students are from the top 1 percent in family income.

Gebre said it's not just colleges. "I went to high school in downtown L.A." after entering the U.S. as a political refugee from war-torn Ethiopia, he explained. "My books were stamped 'Grenada High School' and they were from five years before. We never had the access to resources at the ground level" that schools in richer neighborhoods, even in the Los Angeles Unified School District, had.

"We need to go back and produce economic justice, environmental justice and educational justice in our neighborhoods," Gebre said.

But that still leaves one big problem, of attitude and indifference, said the moderator, U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves of Mississippi. "America has always been very good at demonizing 'The other.' How can we get voters to not think of 'The other'?" he asked.



Tefere Gebre
AFL-CIO Executive Vice President

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TSA Releases Summer Travel Tips

Summertime is here! Union members planning to travel via the friendly skies this year should take advantage of the following travel tips from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in order to sail smoothly past TSA on their way to boarding gates:

■ **Stay Hydrated** – It's going to be hot out and you'll need to stay hydrated. You've also got to make your vacation dollars last, so you don't want to buy \$4 bottles of water in the gate area. Did you know you can bring your empty favorite water bottles and fill them up in the gate area? They don't need to be clear and they can be metal, plastic, etc.

***What to expect:** You'll need to put your water bottle through the X-ray for screening. Just make sure it's completely empty when going through the TSA checkpoint.*

■ **Don't Get Hungry, Pack Wisely** – Whether you're eating it at your gate, snacking on the plane, or saving it for your destination, know you can bring solid food items along with your carry-on items. We're talking burgers, chicken, pizza, pies, cakes, bread, donuts, fruits, vegetables, etc.

***What to expect:** In standard lanes, TSA officers may ask you to separate items from carry-on bags such as foods, powders, and any materials that can clutter bags and obstruct clear images on the X-ray machine. That's in addition to screening personal electronic devices separately in bins, such as laptops, tablets, e-readers and handheld game consoles. So be sure to listen and follow the instructions of the TSA officer.*

■ **Know the Rules for Flying with Beverages, Sunscreen**

and Deodorant – The three essential items you just have to pack for summer travel consist of deodorant, beverages and sunscreen.

■ **Deodorant:** Flying with deodorant isn't a sticky situation. Stick deodorant is not limited to 3.4 oz. or less, but gel or spray deodorant is.

■ **Beverages: Wine, liquor, beer** and all of your favorite beverages are permitted in your checked baggage. You can also bring beverages packaged in 3.4 oz. or less bottles in your carry-on liquids bag. But just because you can pack alcohol doesn't mean that you can drink it on the flight. FAA regulations state that "No person may drink any alcoholic beverage aboard an aircraft unless the certificate holder operating the aircraft has served that beverage."

■ **Sunscreen:** Sunscreen and tanning lotions must also adhere to the TSA liquids policy.

***What to expect:** For all gels, liquids, pastes and aerosols, be sure to follow the 3-1-1 liquids rule. Essentially, this rule states that you are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes in your carry-on bag and through the checkpoint. These are limited to travel-sized containers that are 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. Placing these items in the small bag and separating from your carry-on baggage facilitates the screening process. Pack items that are in containers larger than 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters in checked baggage.*

***What to expect:** In standard lanes, make sure you take the zip-top bag out of your carry-on prior to sending it through the X-ray. If you're checking a bag, make your life easier by packing liquids in your checked baggage. That way, you don't have to worry about the liquids rule.*

Medications as well as infant and child nourishments are exempted from the 3-1-1 rule. In addition, passengers on inbound international flights may carry duty free liquids in secure, tamper-evident bags, more than 3.4 oz or 100 ml in their carry-on bag if:

1. The duty free liquids were purchased internationally and you are traveling to the United States with a connecting flight.

2. The liquids are packed in a transparent, secure, tamper-evident bag by the retailer and do not show signs of tampering when presented to TSA for screening.

3. The original receipt for the liquids is present and the purchase was made within 48 hours.

4. Liquids more than 3.4 oz or 100 ml not in a secure, tamper-evident bag must be packed in checked baggage. Any liquid, aerosol, gel, cream or paste that alarms during screening will require additional screening.

■ **Get Through the Line Faster with TSA Pre✓®** – What is TSA Pre✓®? In a nutshell, it allows eligible travelers to receive expedited screening. In layman's terms, it means you get through security really fast. Even if a TSA Pre✓® line looks longer, it moves much faster than a standard lane.

***What to expect:** Did you know the average wait time in TSA Pre✓® lanes nationwide is under 5 minutes? For TSA Pre✓® travelers, there is no need to remove shoes, laptops, liquids, belts and light jackets. If you haven't already, apply for TSA Pre✓® now by visiting www.tsa.gov/precheck*

■ **Know What's in Your Bag** – Be sure your souvenir is safe to travel in your bag. TSA officers sometimes find the strangest things. If you're not sure whether an item is allowed in your bag, check out the "What can I bring?" feature on tsa.gov or the MyTSA app.

***What to expect:** If the item alarms during screening, TSA officers will need to conduct additional screening. Items that cannot be resolved will not be allowed through the checkpoint and onto the plane. If the item is illegal, TSA officers will refer it to local law enforcement to handle.*

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6/18
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Illnesses from Mosquito, Tick, and Flea Bites Increase

Illnesses from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have tripled in the U.S., with more than 640,000 cases reported during the 13 years from 2004 through 2016. Nine new germs spread by mosquitoes and ticks were discovered or introduced into the United States during this time.

These findings are in the latest *Vital Signs* report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This narrative is CDC's first summary collectively examining data trends for all nationally notifiable diseases caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea. It provides detailed information on the growing burden of mosquito-borne and tickborne illnesses in the U.S.

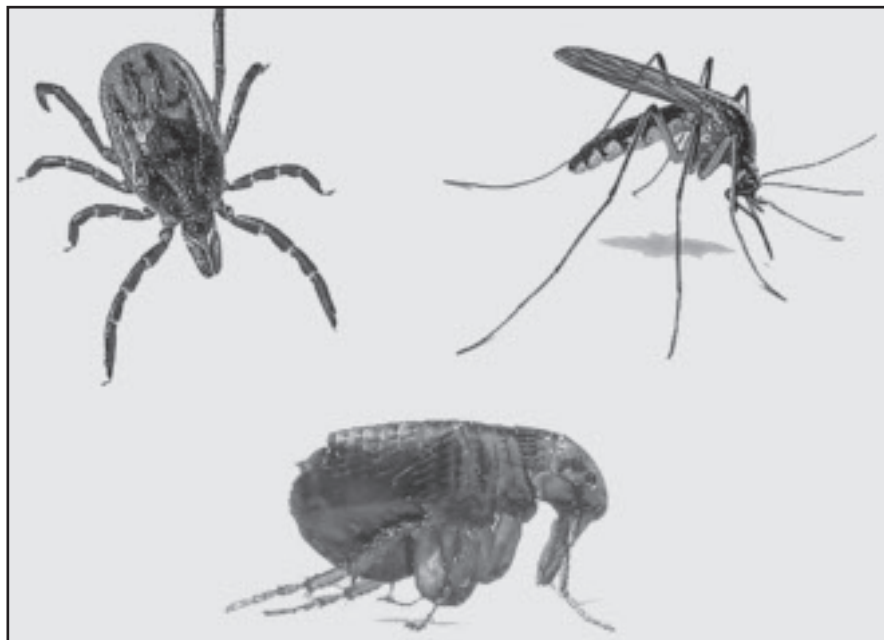
"Zika, West Nile, Lyme, and chikungunya—a growing list of diseases caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea—have confronted the U.S. in recent years, making a lot of people sick. And we don't know what will threaten Americans next," said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D. "Our Nation's first lines of defense are state and local health departments and vector control organizations, and we must continue to enhance our investment in their ability to fight against these diseases."

U.S. not fully prepared

Widespread and difficult to control, diseases from mosquito, tick, and flea bites are major causes of sickness and death worldwide. The growing number and spread of these diseases pose an increasing risk in the U.S. The report found that the nation needs to be better prepared to face this public health threat.

CDC scientists analyzed data reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System for 16 notifiable vector-borne diseases from 2004 through 2016 to identify trends. Many infections are not reported or recognized, so it is difficult to truly estimate the overall cost and burden of these diseases. In 2016, the most common tickborne diseases in the U.S. were Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis. The most common mosquito-borne viruses were West Nile, dengue, and Zika. Though rare, plague was the most common disease resulting from the bite of an infected flea.

The increase in diseases caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea in the U.S. is likely due to many fac-



tors. Mosquitoes and ticks and the germs they spread are increasing in number and moving into new areas. As a result, more people are at risk for infection. Overseas travel and commerce are more common than ever before. A traveler can be infected with a mosquito-borne disease, like Zika, in one country, and then unknowingly transport it home. Finally, new germs spread by mosquito and tick bites have been discovered and the list of nationally notifiable diseases has grown.

Key findings

- A total of 642,602 cases of disease caused by the bite of an infected mosquito, tick, or flea were reported in the U.S. and its territories from 2004 through 2016.

- The number of reported tickborne diseases more than doubled in 13 years and accounted for more than 60 percent of all reported mosquito-, tick-, and flea-borne disease cases. Diseases from ticks vary from region to region across the U.S. and those regions are expanding.

- From 2004 through 2016, seven new germs spread through the bite of an infected tick were discovered or recognized in the U.S. as being able to infect people.

- Reducing the spread of these diseases and responding to outbreaks effectively will require additional capacity

at the state and local level for tracking, diagnosing, and reporting cases; controlling mosquitoes and ticks; and preventing new infections; and for the public and private sector to develop new diagnostic and vector control tools.

"The data show that we're seeing a steady increase and spread of tickborne diseases, and an accelerating trend of mosquito-borne diseases introduced from other parts of the world," said Lyle Petersen, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases in the CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. "We need to support state and local health agencies responsible for detecting and responding to these diseases and controlling the mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas that spread them."

How can state and local public health agencies help?

- Build and sustain public health programs that test for and track diseases and the mosquitoes and ticks that spread them.

- Train vector control staff on five core competencies for conducting prevention and control activities.

- Educate the public about how to prevent bites and control germs spread by mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas in their communities.

What can everyone do to protect themselves from mosquito, tick, and flea bites?

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellent. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

- Treat items, such as boots, pants, socks, and tents, with permethrin or use permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

- Take steps to control ticks and fleas on pets.

- Find and remove ticks daily from family and pets. Take steps to control mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas inside and outside your home.

CDC's efforts to prevent diseases from mosquitoes and ticks

- Funding states and territories to detect and respond to infections from mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas and report cases to CDC.

- Partnering with local and tribal health departments, industry, universities, and international groups to detect and respond to these diseases.

- Supporting five regional centers of excellence to address emerging diseases from mosquitoes and ticks.

- Developing and improving laboratory tests for these diseases.

- Educating the public about protecting themselves from diseases caused by the bite of an infective mosquito, tick, or flea bite.

To read the entire *Vital Signs* report, visit: www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/vector-borne/.

For more information about CDC's work on vector-borne diseases, visit: www.cdc.gov/vector

Gone But Not Forgotten

VIRGINIA BISHOP

Pensioner Virginia Bishop, 91, passed away January 26. Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, she joined the UIW in 1970. Sister Bishop spent her entire union career employed by Bron-Shoe. She began receiving pension stipends in 1988. Sister Bishop resided in Grove City, Ohio.

EDWARD BOYLE

Pensioner Edward Boyle, 80, died January 30. A native of New Jersey, Brother Boyle signed on with the UIW in 1960 while working at Victory Refrigeration. He resided in his native state in the city of Woodbury. Brother Boyle became a pensioner in 2002.

THOMAS CHAPMAN

Pensioner Thomas Chapman, 61, passed away March 24. Born in Camden, New Jersey, Brother Chapman came under the union umbrella on 1975. He worked at Victory Refrigeration and began receiving pension stipends in 2001. Brother Chapman resided in his native state in Voorhees Township.

JACK DUDRA

Pensioner Jack Dudra, 83, died May 21. Born in Pennsylvania, Brother Dudra joined the UIW in 1965 while working at Paulsen Wire Rope. He started receiving stipends for his retirement in 1997. Brother Dudra resided in his native state in the city of Sunbury.

DONALD FRISBY

Pensioner Donald Frisby, 80, died January 8. Brother Frisby became a UIW member in 1973 while working at Church & Dwight. Born in Ashland, Kentucky, he went on pension on 1999. Brother Frisby made his home in Fort Pierce, Florida.

KENNETH HELLER

Brother Kenneth Heller, 65, passed away October 7. A native of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, Brother Heller signed on with the UIW in 1978. He spent his entire union career working at Paulsen Wire Rope. Brother Heller resided in his native city and state.

ROSE MONFORD

Pensioner Rose Monford, 70, died April 30. Sister Monford donned the UIW colors in 1980 while working at Franklin International. She retired and went on pension in 2011. Sister Monford was born in Columbus, Ohio and was a resident of Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

CELIA PAGINAG

Pensioner Celia Paginag, 66, died February 5. Sister Paginag joined the union in 1995 and worked at Save The Queen. She was born in the Republic of the Philippines and went on pension in 2017. Sister Paginag made her home in Long Beach, California.

DANIEL WALKER

Pensioner Daniel Walker, 80, passed away March 28. A military veteran, Brother Walker was born in Springfield, Ohio. He donned the UIW colors in 1980 and worked at Church & Dwight. Brother Walker began receiving stipends for his retirement in 2003 and was a resident of Enon, Ohio.

UIW Pensioners

Jacqueline Boone
Plymkraft
Newport News, Virginia

Perry Cantrell
Bron Shoe
Chillicothe, Ohio

Larry Dettery
A&E Products
Ringtown, Pennsylvania

Grady Fetterman
Paulsen Wire Rope
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Jerald James
Juanita's Foods
Compton, California

Dorothy Kattick
Pralex Corporation
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Edna Lawhun
Bron-Shoe
Ashville, Ohio

Rosie Maynor
Plymkraft, Inc.
Hampton, Virginia

Bertha Patrick
Bron-Shoe
Columbus, Ohio

Glenn Peidi
Victory Refrigeration
Pennsauken, New Jersey

Gladys Reyes
Victory Refrigeration
Clementon, New Jersey

Victoria Siapno
Save The Queen
Long Beach, California

Allen Tunnell
Armaly Brands
London, Ohio



Death on the Job Numbers Increase

According to a report released April 26 by the AFL-CIO, 5,190 American workers died on the job in 2016, an increase from 4,836 deaths the previous year. Another estimated 50,000 to 60,000 died from occupational diseases, meaning approximately 150 workers died on the job each day from preventable, hazardous workplace conditions. Overall, the national job fatality rate increased to 3.6 per 100,000 workers from 3.4 in 2015, the federation reported.

“We deserve to walk out the front door in the morning knowing we’ll return home safe and healthy after a full day’s work,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “It’s a travesty that working people continue to lose their lives to corporate greed. The selfish and reckless decisions being made in boardrooms and in Washington are killing the very people who built this country. This is officially a national crisis, and it’s only getting worse.”

The report, titled “Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect,” marks the 27th year the AFL-CIO has produced its findings on the state of safety and health protections for workers within the United States. The report shows the highest workplace fatality rates are in Wyoming (12.3 per 100,000 workers), Alaska (10.6), Montana (7.9), South Dakota (7.5) and North Dakota (7.0).

Startlingly, workplace violence is now the second-leading cause of death on the job, accounting for 866 workplace deaths.

Other report highlights show that the construction, transportation and agriculture industries remain among the most dangerous. In 2016, some 991 construction workers were killed – the highest



total of any sector. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was the most dangerous industry sector, with a fatality rate of 23.2 per 100,000 workers.

Despite these alarming findings, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) continues to face a desperate dearth of resources. Responsible for regulating 9 million workplaces, the agency’s 764 federal inspectors would need 158 years to visit each site just once.

The annual report features state and national information on workplace fatalities, injuries, illnesses, the number and frequency of workplace inspections, penalties, funding, staffing and public employee coverage under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. It also includes information on the state of mine safety and health.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act was signed into law in 1970, sig-

naling a promise to American workers for safe jobs. The federation estimates that more than 579,000 workers “now can say their lives have been saved since the passage of the act. “Since that time, workplace safety and health conditions have improved,” the AFL-CIO said when announcing the latest report. “But too many workers remain at serious risk of injury, illness or death as chemical plant explosions, major fires, construction collapses and other preventable workplace tragedies continue to occur. Workplace violence is a growing threat. Many other workplace hazards kill and disable thousands of workers each year.”

Moreover, the federation asserted that chronic occupational diseases “receive less attention because most are not detected for years after workers are exposed to toxic chemicals, and occupational illnesses often are

misdiagnosed and poorly tracked.”

In 2016, nearly 3.7 million workers across all industries, including state and local government, had work-related injuries and illnesses that were reported by employers, with 2.9 million injuries and illnesses reported in private industry. Due to limitations in the current injury reporting system and widespread underreporting of workplace injuries, this number understates the problem, the AFL-CIO reported. “The true toll is estimated to be two to three times greater – or 7.4 million to 11.1 million injuries and illnesses a year,” the federation said. “The cost of these injuries and illnesses is enormous – estimated at \$250 billion to \$360 billion a year.”

The report also noted that President Trump ran on a pro-business, deregulatory agenda, promising to cut regulations by 70 percent. Since taking office at the end of January 2017, he has acted on that promise, issuing a number of executive orders to roll back or review existing regulations, including one order that requires that for any new regulatory item issued, an agency must remove two from the books. He signed more than a dozen bills overturning regulations issued by the Obama administration.

In part, the report concluded, “These are challenging times for working people and their unions, and the future prospects for safety and health protections are uncertain. What is clear, however, is that the toll of workplace injury, disease and death remains too high. Workers in the United States need more safety and health protection, not less. More than four decades after the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, there is much more work to be done.”

Know Your Safety Rights

Under federal law, all workers are entitled to a safe workplace. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), employers must provide a workplace free of known health and safety hazards. Those with concerns, have the right to speak up about them without fear of retaliation. Workers also have the right to:

- Be trained in a language you understand;
- Work on machines that are safe;
- Be provided required safety gear, such as gloves or a harness and lifeline for falls;
- Be protected from toxic chemicals;
- Request an OSHA inspection, and speak to the inspector;
- Report an injury or illness, and get copies of your medical records;
- See copies of the workplace injury and illness log;
- Review records of work-related injuries and illnesses, and
- Get copies of test results done to find hazards in the workplace.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 gives employees and their representatives the right to file a complaint and request an OSHA inspection of their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or their employer is not following OSHA standards. Workers do not have to know whether a specific OSHA standard has been violated in order to file a complaint. The complaint should be filed as soon as possible after noticing the hazard or lack of compliance because OSHA citations may only be issued for violations that currently exist or existed in the past 6 months.

It is illegal for an employer to fire, demote, transfer or otherwise retaliate against a worker for using their rights under the law.

To ask about a health and safety issue at your workplace, discuss your rights, find out how to file a complaint or learn more about OSHA, call toll-free 1-800-321-6742 (OSHA). Your information will be kept confidential.

Trumka Calls Workplace Deaths ‘National Crisis’

Editor’s note: AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered the following remarks April 26 during a press call discussing the federation’s annual Death on the Job report:

“Each year on Workers Memorial Day—which we’ll recognize this Saturday (April 28)—working people throughout the world remember those who were hurt or killed on the job and renew our struggle for safe workplaces.

“We’ve made great progress since key job safety laws were passed more than four decades ago. That didn’t happen on its own. It happened because workers and our unions organized, fought and demanded action from our employers and our government. It was working people, through our unions, who demanded and won stronger standards to protect us from dangers in the workplace.

“But now, that progress is under siege. And, this year’s Death on the Job report gives some alarming insight into what’s happening.

“Not a day goes by in Washington where these isn’t a new controversy. Our divided politics tell us everything has two sides—and sometimes more. But one thing that shouldn’t raise a fight: the health and safety of working people. The idea that we have a right to return safe and sound after a full day’s work. There’s no gray area there, no nuance.

“Quite frankly, greed kills. And every day, decisions are being made in boardrooms and the halls of power—by CEOs and their handpicked politicians—to prioritize wealth and self-enrichment over the health and safety of the men and women who made that wealth possible.

“Too often, our constitutional, God-given right to life is being tossed aside for a few extra bucks in the pockets of the richest and most powerful people in this country.

“And, we’re seeing very real consequences in

the workplace.

“5,190 American workers died from injuries on the job in 2016, hundreds more than the year before. Another 50,000 to 60,000 died from occupational diseases. All together, that means about 150 workers died each day from preventable, hazardous workplace conditions.

“Some of the most vulnerable working people are bearing the brunt of this travesty. Latino and immigrant workers continue to account for a disproportionate number of deaths on the job.

“And here’s a scary reality: violence is now the second-leading cause of workplace death, accounting for 866 deaths in 2016—including 500 homicides. And, women are disproportionately the victims.

“I wish we had time to tell the stories of every brother and sister we’ve lost this year. Because numbers alone do not do them justice. They lived and laughed and loved. And they deserved better from their country.

“My point is this: we’re facing a national crisis. And, it’s time that folks in this town start acting like it.

“But instead of launching a massive campaign to reduce workplace injuries and deaths, the Trump administration is gutting the protections already on the books.

“Here’s just one case that really gets me. The administration is considering rolling back MSHA’s coal dust rule at the request of mining executives. Well, NIOSH just reported the largest cluster of black lung in coal miners that we’ve seen in years...My dad died of black lung in 1999. Since then, 9,000 miners have been taken away from their loved ones the same way. Even as we’re being warned that more miners are at risk today, as with so many things under this administration, corporate greed is taking the front seat.

“It’s shameful. It’s unacceptable. And the labor movement is going to use our pro-worker, independent political voice to stop it.”