

The United Worker

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MTD President Cites Labor's Resurgence

Sacco Lauds Labor's Response During Aftermath of Supreme Court's Ruling in Janus vs. AFSCME

When he opened the winter meeting of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD) executive board, Michael Sacco emphasized two ongoing struggles of paramount importance to working families.

Sacco is president of the UIW, its parent organization the Seafarers International Union and the MTD – the latter a constitutional department of the AFL-CIO. The MTD is composed of 21 international unions and 21 port maritime councils in the United States and Canada representing nearly 5 million working men and women. The board met Feb. 21-22 in Orlando, Florida.

"One of the most positive stories for the MTD and the entire labor movement, I believe, is how we've responded to last summer's Supreme Court ruling in *Janus vs. AFSCME*," Sacco said to the board members and guests. "This was supposed to be the beginning of the end for unions. But as one national columnist recently put it: 'So much for the labor movement's funeral.'"

He pointed out that large unions including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have gained members



UIW/SIU President Michael Sacco, who also serves as president of the Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, addresses the audience during the MTD's Feb. 21-22 meeting in Orlando, Fla.

since the ruling, which allows for free riders.

"The *Janus* ruling is still a farce,

and nobody is pretending it's good news for labor," Sacco continued.

"But you know what? I think it shook

us out of the doldrums in a lot of ways. It made us re-educate people about why unions are so important. It made us ramp up our engagement, and the results have been very positive.... I think we're headed in the right direction."

Sacco wrapped up his opening remarks with a quick reflection on the recent government shutdown. "During that time, our affiliates and port councils really stepped up to support the people who were out of work and those who were forced to work without a paycheck," he recalled. "We collected gift cards and food donations coast to coast and in Hawaii. We rallied in the streets and we marched at airports and elsewhere to stand up for the rank-and-file worker, no matter if they were union members or not."

"There is no doubt that our collective actions and those of the affected workers themselves ended the shutdown," he continued. "We showed our strength, but we also showed solidarity and compassion for our fellow man. That's what the labor movement is all about. That's what the MTD is all about. And that's why I know we'll always have a bright future as long as we're willing to stand together and work for it."



UIW officials and representatives, some of whom are pictured above, made a strong showing during the February 21-22 AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department's Winter Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Joining UIW National Director Karen Horton-Gennette (fourth from right) are (from left) Midwest Region VP Chad Partridge, Great Lakes Region VP Monte Burgett, Caribbean Region VP Eugene Irish, Horton, West Coast Region Rep. Laura Lopez, Tacoma Rep. Joe Vincenzo and former UIW National Director Kate Hunt. Hunt currently serves as VP of Government Services for the UIW's parent organization, the Seafarers International Union.

From the President

Power of Solidarity

During both the recent government shutdown and throughout the teachers' strikes in numerous states across the nation, union members showed the enduring power of collective action and solidarity. Grassroots mobilization, standing up for the truth, and having each other's backs led to positive outcomes.



Michael Sacco

Community outreach across the country also proved very uplifting, and unions were very involved in those efforts as well. Both the successful strikes and the rank-and-file pressure that led to ending the shutdown underscored that when we stick together, we win together, as my good friend, AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, often puts it. That's a valuable lesson to remember as we move forward in protecting workers' rights and reminding folks about the power of collective action. And speaking of collective action as well as the federation and its unflappable leader, I took part in the

AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in New Orleans in mid-March.

As most of you know, one of the UIW's most important affiliations is with the federation. Its executive council is comprised of three top officers (President Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre) and 55 vice presidents who jointly represent the 12.5 million union members that are affiliated with the AFL-CIO. I have the distinct honor of being the longest serving member of the council aside from Brother Trumka. Collectively, we are charged with guiding the work of the federation.

The latest iteration of the council's executive meeting took place March 12-15. In addition to President Trumka, labor leaders representing unions from across the nation took part in the gathering.

Those of us who attended the conference worked diligently in mapping out the path ahead for our movement. And nothing, it seemed, was off-limits for discussion. The council contemplated and addressed the issues that will define working people's fight for economic justice in 2019 and beyond. Included were trade and public education, equal pay and paid leave, back pay for federal contract workers and bargaining power for all.

All of the issues ranked high on the council's list of priorities as evidenced by the amount of time and energy we spent discussing, dissecting and adopting statements on each. One concern, however – trade – truly resonated during the meeting and eventually got the attention of administration officials and lawmakers on Capitol Hill. More specifically, the council adopted a statement titled "Trade Must Build an Inclusive Economy for All," which says the AFL-CIO will not support the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal in its current form if the administration pursues an early Congressional vote to make the pact law. I encourage you to read a story that discusses this issue in detail that appears on Page 8 in this edition of the *United Worker*.

The bottom-line concerning trade is simple: For more than a quarter-century, America's working families have raised our voices for better trade policy. Together with our civil society allies, we have made progress over the years, improving some trade deals at the margins while completely stopping others (including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment). But the plain fact is that administration after administration, and Congress after Congress have clung stubbornly to trade rules that create profits at the expense of good jobs, when the two should go hand in hand.

Working people continue to bear the pain and costs of bad trade deals promoted by global corporations. Instead of advancing good jobs, high wages, a just society and a better life for working people, U.S. trade rules have been one more tool to dismantle the New Deal.

We hope that this administration and Congress will not only listen, but will fight for the changes we have demanded.

Lending a Hand in U.S. Virgin Islands



UIW Rep. Jacqueline Dickerson (left in photo above) and Administrative Assistant Kevin Challenger (right) pose with American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Union Member Lorrie Turnbull-Martin, a school attendance counselor, following an AFT-sponsored event earlier this year on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Specifically, Dickerson and Challenger helped stage and distribute school supplies and other commodities to AFT members that had been sent to St. Thomas by the AFT in the wake of hurricanes that devastated the islands in 2018. The supplies arrived on the islands aboard SIU-contracted and crewed vessels operated by Crowley Maritime. Challenger stages some of the supplies in the photo below. Jessica Smith, AFT chief of staff, lauded the efforts of Dickerson, Challenger and other UIW members recently during her appearance before the 2019 AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department's Executive Board Meeting in Orlando, Florida.



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UIW Rep. Ashley Nelson, left in background, discuss provisions of the new contract with members as they are transported to and from their respective work locations aboard a bus.



Prior to casting their respective votes on the new contract UIW members First Class Mechanic Dudley Potter, right, and Box Shop Foreman Glenn Watson receive a briefing from Nelson, left, on the instrument's contents and possible interpretations.

UIW Members in Jacksonville Ratify New Contract

Labor Agreement Remains in Effect for Three Years, Directly Impacts More Than 100 Workers

More than 100 union members at UIW-contracted Patriot Ports in Jacksonville, Florida late last year ratified a new three-year labor accord.

Among other provisions, according to UIW Rep. Ashley Nelson, the contract boasts a number of new and attractive features including increases in wages and wage-related matters in each year of the agreement. The new pact also calls for additional paid time off for eligible members as well as annual decreases in costs associated with out-of-pocket health care premiums.

Under the old collective bargaining agreement, members were required to pay out-of-pocket fees for medical treatment. Nelson pointed out that under the new accord, language has been incorporated that will not only bring these fees down over time, but ultimately eliminate them altogether by 2021. This will be achieved without any decreases in the services members receive.

Nelson said the contract negotiations, which initially began in mid-November 2018 went surprisingly smooth. "Those representing the company as well as

members of our negotiating team were all business, but nonetheless anxious and determined to come up with a contract that would benefit all involved," he said.

"UIW VP Gulf Coast Dean Corgey did an awesome job as committee chair," Nelson continued. "He, along with AVP Gulf Coast Kris Hopkins, and Shop Stewards **Toney Brown** and **Addison Powell** all played significant roles in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion," Nelson concluded.

The new agreement was ratified overwhelmingly by majority vote.



Cargo Clerk Charles Weatherly, left, congratulates Nelson for his work on the new contract and sends his thanks to members of the UIW negotiating committee for a job well done.



SIU Patrolman Adam Bucalo, left, exchanges information on the new contract with Staker Operator Elvyn Rodriguez.



The Calvert County, Maryland, Board of County Commissioners hosted UIW dependent Raini Thacker and her family Feb. 26 at the county government building for a ceremony in recognition of her community service. Pictured above following an official proclamation ceremony (from left) are Board President Thomas Hutchings, Vice President Kelly McConkey, Mike Hart, Stacy Thacker, Reagan Bentley (Raini's friend), Raini Thacker, Jonathan Thacker, Earl Hance and Steve Weems.

UIW Dependent Sets Bar in School Coat Drive

"Going above and beyond" is a quality normally associated with laudable actions exhibited by people in uniform, i.e. military members, police officers, firefighters and other public servants. As UIW dependent Raini Thacker recently demonstrated—for the second time in as many years—however, exceeding expectations in a high-stakes environment is not confined exclusively to those from whom much is routinely expected.

The 10-year-old fourth grader at Calvert County, Maryland's Dowell Elementary school recently earned praise from the Board of County Commissioners for her efforts in two coat drives conducted under the auspices of the "Be A Hero Coat Drive." She is the daughter of UIW headquarters member **Stacy Thacker**, who works in the Seafarers International Union's Manpower Monitoring Department.

Organized and administered entirely by Raini, the coat drives were part of her 4-H community philanthropic endeavors launched with the goal of improving the quality of life for the residents of Calvert County. Specifically, she wanted to help ensure that Calvert County citizens had the means to stay warm during the frigid days and nights that Southern Marylanders routinely experience during the winter months.

"I wanted to do the coat drive because I felt inspired to help keep

people warm," Raini said.

Her efforts proved nothing short of spectacular. Through her work, the quality of life for nearly 600 Calvert County citizens were improved over two winters.

The 2017 edition of the drive brought in 260 coats while the 2018 iteration netted 311. According to the *Calvert Recorder*, Raini gave speeches about the 2017 coat drive to her 4-H Club group as well as to those who attend the Calvert County, Maryland-based Calvary Baptist Church. In addition to garnering the support from these groups, Raini also received the backing of friends and her parents' co-workers.

Many of those making donations during the 2017 drive dropped them off at the Thacker residence. Others contacted Raini's parents for them to pick up their contributions. The Thacker residence served as the central storage locker.

"I was kind of nervous, and happy at the same time," Raini told *Calvert Recorder* reporter Sarah Fallin of her public presentations during the first coat drive.

"I want to help people in need of coats.... If I didn't do the coat drive, they might get cold," she said.

The second drive was conducted essentially the same as the first, but with one notable difference.

This time around, Raini got area businesses involved. In addition to asking them for donations, she also requested that

some act as collection sites. The Calvert County collection sites for the 2018 drive included Dowell Elementary School, Diane Herbert Dance Studio, Calvary Bible Church, Maryland Extension Office, Lusby Hardware and Ace Hardware.

SIU Headquarters in Camp Springs, Maryland was also a collection site, as was the the UIW-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education in Piney Point, Maryland (St. Mary's County). Members of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners were so impressed by her efforts that they hosted Raini, her family and one of her best friends (Mother Stacy, Father Jonathan, and friend Reagan Bentley) Feb. 26 at the county seat and issued an official county proclamation in her honor. Board Commissioner Thomas Hutchings was overwhelmed by Raini's accomplishment to the extent that he presented her with his county commissioner lapel pin. Other board members present included Vice President Kelly McConkey, Earl Hance, Steven Weems and Mark Hart. Hart gave Raini the proclamation as a keepsake and enduring testament to her community service.

The proclamation read:

"WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County desires to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for citizens of Calvert County; and

"WHEREAS, Raini Thacker, a 10-year-old 4th-grade student at Dowell Elementary School, acknowledged a specific need within Calvert County and began collecting coats to help keep others warm; and

"WHEREAS, always willing to assist in community activities, fundraisers, and other events, Raini participates in chorus and theater in school, is an active member of Awana Christian group, and is learning the art of Taekwondo. She loves helping others and organized the 'Be A Hero — Help Those in Need Stay Warm' coat drive, collecting 260 coats during the first Coat Drive, and 311 coats during the second, overwhelming employees of Southern Community Center where the coats were officially donated; and

"WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to pay tribute to this distinguished and commendable service to our community and are delighted to honor Raini's passionate dedication, philanthropy, and compassion....

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County that sincere appreciation and gratitude of all



Raini Thacker proudly displays the proclamation and lapel pin she received during a ceremony honoring her service to the community.

Calvert Countians is hereby extended to Miss Raini Thacker for her service to the community and many contributions to the citizens of Calvert County.

"BE FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County joins with the community, friends, and family of Raini in extending best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors. Given under our hands and seal this 26th day of February 2019."

All in all, the pair of coat drives provided some very special and lasting memories for the entire Thacker family. Mother Stacy is understandably proud of her daughter and the example of community service she exhibited during the coat drives. She is equally thankful for the overwhelming backing Raini received.

"The support by the community [people and businesses] has been wonderful," she said, "I truly thank the community for helping make what Raini believes in come true."



Raini relaxes in her home on some of the bags that contained coats donated during her 2018 coat drive.

AFL-CIO pushes Lawmakers on Both Sides of Aisle In Congress to Protect ‘Dreamers’, TPS Recipients

Editor's note: The following piece was written by Mark Gruenberg of Peoples World. It has been slightly edited to conform to local style and labor sensitivities.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill are likely to approve labor-backed legislation to keep the Dreamers and beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status rights—two groups of migrants endangered by President Donald Trump's deportations—in the U.S.

So says Bricklayers President Jim Boland, chair of the AFL-CIO's Immigration Committee, in an interview during the federation's Executive Council meeting in New Orleans.

"The prospects look very promising," and not just in the new Democratic-run pro-worker U.S. House, he explained. Boland pointed out that several years ago, a bipartisan coalition of senators crafted a comprehensive immigration reform bill and pushed it through the GOP-run Senate with a large majority.

That measure protected both groups, plus farmworkers, and also provided a path to permanent residency for many of the migrants. But then-House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, responding to the nativists in the ruling GOP, killed the Senate's bill.

"Historically, the Senate has been able to work out bipartisan immigration reform," Boland said, citing that legislation and other attempts. "It's a different world now" with the House changeover.

Keeping those groups of migrants in the U.S. is important for both unions and the workforce in general.

The Dreamers are 700,000-800,000 young people brought to the U.S., without papers, as small children who have since grown up. They, like other undocumented people, had to live in the economic shadows—taking low-wage jobs and often exploited by employers, who also use them as a bargaining chip to repress other workers' wages, working conditions, and organizing drives.

Democratic President Barack Obama brought the Dreamers out of hiding with his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Many now go to high school, college, or have graduated, while others joined the military. But Trump dumped DACA and has tried to throw the Dreamers out of the country before federal judges stopped his evictions.

The 500,000-plus Temporary



"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" (from Emma Lazarus' *The New Colossus*)

Protected Status workers and their families have been in the U.S. for decades. Like the DACA beneficiaries, they come from Latin America, but also from Syria and Libya, among other countries. TPS holders fled wars, gang violence, and natural disasters. But they must periodically reregister with authorities and pay several hundred dollars for permits.

They're also vital in the construction industry, Boland points out. And that led a coalition of 31 unions, led by Painters President Ken Rigmaiden, to tell Congress that the week before the AFL-CIO meeting, in a joint letter to the House Judiciary Committee. The panel listened to Dreamers and TPS beneficiaries in its March 4 hearing on the legislation to keep them here, H.R. 6. Working Families United, a seven-union coalition Rigmaiden formed to specifically save the TPS recipients, joined them.

"As labor organizations representing millions of workers in the U.S., we urge you to renew Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations and pass legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives as

soon as possible...to provide permanent protection and a path to citizenship for Dreamers and individuals with TPS or Deferred Enforced Departure" status, their letter said.

"When TPS holders and Dreamers are at risk, all workers are more vulnerable to employer abuses. However, when workers, including TPS holders and Dreamers, have legal status and rights, all work-places benefit from higher wages, safer workplaces, and the right and ability to form and join a union."

"For humanitarian and economic reasons, this legislation must pass. Dreamers, TPS, and DED recipients have, for decades, done the work that American industries and our local economies rely on, and they deserve to stay," Rigmaiden said in an accompanying statement.

"Many TPS recipients are members of our union, and I know they work hard, pay their taxes, and play by the rules. Deportation back to their home country to face violence or disaster conditions would shatter their orderly lives and our economy. Congress must stand up to

President Trump's hateful, racist objections and show that we are a welcoming country, just as it has been for millions of immigrants from all corners of the world who have helped the United States become an economic engine."

"These programs have been vital in ensuring thousands of working people have rights on the job and the freedom to negotiate together for fair pay and working conditions," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in his statement accompanying the joint letter. It's long past time, he said, for lawmakers to give both the Dreamers and TPS recipients "a pathway to citizenship."

But Rigmaiden's words point out the biggest obstacle to keeping the Dreamers, the TPS recipients, and other migrants in the U.S.: Trump. That's where business could weigh in, Boland thinks. "Can we get some Republicans?" he asked rhetorically. It depends, he replied, on whether employers, in the interest of having a stable and growing workforce, have the will to stand up to the president.

AFL-CIO Declines to Make Early Labor Endorsement In 2020 Presidential Race

Editor's note: The following piece was written by John Wojcik, editor of People's World. It has been edited to conform to space limitations and labor sensitivities.

The AFL-CIO will not be making an early endorsement in the 2020 presidential contest.

"There will be no early endorsement of any of the candidates who have announced," Lee Saunders, chair of the federation's political committee, told People's World, as he arrived in New Orleans for the 2019 winter meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

The federation's political committee met March 11 behind closed doors, and politics was very much on the agenda of the full council when members convened at the headquarters of Local 130 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans.

"What we are planning now is to organize, mobilize, and educate not just all our members but more broadly all the working people of America on the importance of taking concern for our issues and bringing them into the elections in 2020," Saunders said.

When asked what he expects of the 14 candidates already vying for the Democratic Party's nomination, he said, "We want them to talk to our members and communicate to them and to all working families very clearly what they intend to do to lift people up. We will put the issues we care about front and center in the political debate heading into 2020."

Close to the hearts of all the labor leaders gathered here is legislation that makes it easier for workers to organize into unions. Many had high hopes at the beginning of President Barack Obama's first term that the Democratic-controlled Congress would pass and he would sign the Employee Free Choice Act. The law would have required companies to recognize unions as soon as a majority of workers signed cards expressing their desire to unionize.

But even with a 60-vote Democratic supermajority in the Senate and control of the House, the legislation did not pass at that time because of resistant Democrats influenced by big business, a GOP filibuster threat and a nasty multi-million-dollar

corporate campaign. Union leaders have not given up on this, however, and will push the Democrats hard on the issue this time around.

Speaking as president of AFSCME, Saunders said he was pleased the Democratic National Committee chose Milwaukee to host the 2020 Democratic National Convention.

"America's heartland is a great place for the nominee of the Democratic Party to communicate a vision for how he or she will lift up working families. That would include making it easier for workers to join in strong unions."

Saunders noted Wisconsin was where AFSCME was founded and seemed pleased that "the convention will be held in a state where voters, on the third try, rejected GOP Gov. Scott Walker's disgraceful attacks on working families."

Wisconsin, of course, was one of the handful of upper Midwest Rust Belt states where [President] Trump squeaked by Hillary Clinton, giving him the Electoral College votes he needed to win, despite her three million-plus lead in the popular vote nationally.

Clinton did not campaign in Wisconsin after the primaries and the Democrats' choice of Milwaukee for its 2020 convention shows the party is determined not to ignore the state again.

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BLS Report Shows Union Membership Remains Fairly Steady During 2018

Union Members Earn More Than Their Unrepresented Counterparts

The yearly report on union membership from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed very little change in 2018.

According to the agency's report, issued Jan. 18, membership declined slightly from 2017 to 2018, to a total number of 14.744 million. That's a decrease of 73,000; union density in 2018 was 10.5 percent.

The report again reinforced that union members usually earn more money than their unrepresented counterparts. Data from the BLS report shows that in 2018, the median union worker earned \$1,051 per week, compared to \$860 for the median non-unionist. (The median is the point where half of workers are above and half below.)

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO issued a press statement in advance of the report that read in part: "Here's what the numbers alone won't tell you: 2018 was one of the most substantial years for collective action in American history. The following are some significant ways workers are standing together to improve our workplaces and communities, not included in today's report:

Tens of thousands of teachers going on strike for better pay and stronger schools in red and blue states, including more than 30,000 currently striking in Los Angeles (the teachers subsequently won numerous gains and voted to return to work).

Google workers worldwide walking out for an end to workplace sexual harassment and a voice on the job.

UNITE HERE hotel workers taking on Marriott, the most profitable hotel chain in the world, and winning higher wages, a safe work environment and a say on how technology is deployed.

And, working people electing pro-worker candidates from coast to coast, including more than 950 union members.

Private-sector union membership is up, despite the fact that Taft-Hartley, a labor law rigged to embolden anti-worker employers, has been on the books for more than 70 years. Workers from Boeing



to JetBlue to Harvard University won union recognition in 2018. And 60 million workers – the population of New York and California combined – would vote to join a union today if given the chance.

Public sector union membership essentially held steady, despite the Supreme Court's ruling in Janus v. AFSCME, the case pundits predicted would be the labor movement's death knell. In fact, some public sector unions saw membership growth in 2018. Shortly after Janus was decided, the people of Missouri overturned "right to work" by 2-1, the first-ever state to repeal this anti-worker law by popular vote.

In the face of unprecedented attacks, the labor movement continues to show tremendous resilience. Public approval of unions is soaring. And new organizing campaigns in non-union workplaces are gaining steam. Give working people a level playing field to join and form unions and there will be a dramatic spike in membership by the time the 2019 BLS numbers are released."

Additionally, Mark Gruenberg of Press Associates pointed out, "The agency reported that a slight majority of union members were in the private sector, 7.577 million, compared to 7.167 million in the public sector. The public sector was more heavily unionized, with one of every

three workers – state and local government workers, teachers, fire fighters, and federal workers – unionized, compared to one of every 16 (6.4 percent) in the private sector. Teachers and protective services, each with even higher percentages, led the way."

As usual, union members were concentrated in the Northeast, the Great Lakes and the Pacific Coast states. The most union-dense states last year were Hawaii (23.1 percent), New York (22.3 percent), Washington (19.8 percent), Alaska (18.5 percent) and Rhode Island (17.5 percent).

The biggest union numbers BLS calculated were in California (2.405 million, down 87,000 and with 14.7 percent density), New York (1.872 million, down 145,000, 22.3 percent), Illinois (786,000, down 86,000, 13.8 percent), Pennsylvania (701,000, up 36,000, 12.6 percent), Michigan (625,000, down 33,000, 14.5 percent), Ohio (639,000, up 4,000, 12.6 percent) and Washington (649,000, up 61,000, 19.8 percent).

According to Gruenberg, "Washington was the biggest numerical gainer, but BLS calculated many of the other gains were in the least-unionized area, the South. Florida (plus 38,000), Georgia and Alabama (plus 28,000 each), Louisiana (plus 11,000) and South Carolina (plus 3,000) all added union members."

Federation Says No to Proposed USMCA

Continued from Page 8

a private justice system (ISDS) to challenge non-discriminatory public interest laws and regulations;

■ The removal of rules that undermine strong public interest regulations and chemical safety;

■ The removal of provisions that undermine income, health care and pension plans for creative arts workers (Articles 19.17 and 20.89);

■ An assurance that the United States, Mexico and Canada may require government contractors to comply with the deal's labor rules (Article 13.7.5);

■ An assurance that food labeling (including country-of-origin labeling) that lets families know where and how their food is produced is not a trade violation; and

■ The creation of additional tools to address outsourcing, including in the aerospace, auto, baked goods, HVAC, call center and processed meat industries.

"We are eager to work with the Administration and Congress to improve trade for working people. However, to support any final deal, we must be confident that it will reduce incentives to outsource, help Mexico eradicate systemic wage suppression and begin creating new, high-wage, high-road jobs in all three countries. We must be confident the final deal will not undermine our

ability to protect working families or to reform the American economy, including with respect to health care. It also must strengthen our partnership with Canada to address global trade issues and not treat America's partners as our enemies.

"With respect to other trade relationships, including with China, Japan, the European Union and the United Kingdom, our standards remain the same. Trade that works for all must replace the current and ineffective trade rules written by and for global companies. While the Administration has taken steps to begin addressing the untenable structural U.S. trade deficit with China, it is not at all clear that their approach will succeed. Steel and aluminum tariffs should be lifted from allies like Canada, so that we can work in coalition to confront predatory trade tactics.

"Fairer trade must be part of a larger strategy to rein in decades of anti-worker economic rules written by global corporations. We need policies that will raise wages and make it easier for workers to form a union, both here and abroad. With respect to the aviation sector, open skies agreements must promote fairness and prevent the spread of flag-of-convenience operating schemes that undermine or otherwise violate established labor standards. With respect to China, a corporate approach focused on fulfilling the wishes of CEOs who seek to profit without concern for workers or human rights must end.

"The labor movement rejects the proposition that we must choose between corporate-dominated trade rules on the one hand and xenophobic economic isolation on the other. Neither is remotely acceptable. It is possible to have trade rules that lift wages and treat all countries fairly.

"The NAFTA renegotiation is a chance to improve the lives of working people in the United States, Canada and Mexico, but the AFL-CIO will not support a deal that fails to live up to that promise. The labor movement is united in our judgment that the new NAFTA does not yet meaningfully address what is wrong with the original NAFTA. As a threshold matter, any Congressional consideration of it must wait until Mexico has enacted and fully and effectively implemented labor law reform that ensures that working people are free to join unions and negotiate better wages.

"The AFL-CIO commits to educating working people about what is happening in this process. And we commit to work with our brothers and sisters in Canada and Mexico and with the governments of all three countries to make the NAFTA renegotiation work for working people. However, the current effort by the business community to pass the new NAFTA is premature, and if it continues, we will be forced to mobilize to defeat it, just as we mobilized to kill the Trans-Pacific Partnership."



STDs Impact Women Differently Than Men

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) remain a major public health challenge in the U.S., especially among women, who disproportionately bear the long-term consequences of STDs. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), untreated STDs each year cause infertility in at least 20,000 women in the U.S., and untreated syphilis in pregnant women results in infant death in up to 40 percent of cases. Testing and treatment are keys to reducing disease and infertility associated with undiagnosed STDs. STDs impact women differently from men in a number of ways, including:

- Women are less likely than men to have symptoms of common STDs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. If symptoms do occur, they can go away even though the infection may remain.

- Women are more likely than men to confuse symptoms of an STD for something else. Women often have normal discharge or think that burning/itching is related to a yeast infection. Men usually notice symptoms like discharge because it is unusual.

- Women may not see symptoms as easily as men. Genital ulcers (like from herpes or syphilis) can occur in the vagina and may not be easily visible, while men may be more likely to notice sores on their penis.

- Women typically see their doctor more often than men. Women should use this time with their doctor as an opportunity to ask for STD testing, and not assume STD testing is part of their annual exam. While the Pap test screens for cervical cancer, it is not a good test for other types of cancer or STDs.

- A woman's anatomy can place her at a unique risk for STD infection. The lining of the vagina is thinner and more delicate than the skin on a penis, so it's easier for bacteria and viruses to penetrate. The vagina is a good environment for bacteria to grow.

- STDs can lead to serious health complications and affect a woman's future reproductive plans. Untreated STDs can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, which can result in infertility and ectopic pregnancy.

- Women who are pregnant can pass STDs to their babies. Genital herpes, syphilis and HIV can be passed to babies during pregnancy and at delivery. The harmful effects of STDs in babies may include stillbirth, low birth weight (less than five pounds), brain damage, blindness and deafness.

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in women, and is the main cause of cervical cancer. While HPV is

also very common in men, most do not develop any serious health problems.

The good news is that most common STDs are preventable and curable. There is a vaccine to prevent HPV. Most STDs can be cured with antibiotics, averting serious health consequences and preventing transmission to others. There Resources are available through which women can learn how to protect themselves and their partners from STDs, and where to receive testing and treatment. Some are:

- Healthcare providers — A doctor or physician can provide patient-specific information about STD prevention, protection and tests.

- 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) — Operators can provide information about local STD testing sites and put callers in touch with trained professionals to answer questions about STDs.

- GetTested.cdc.gov — This website provides users with locations for HIV, STD, and hepatitis testing and STD and hepatitis vaccines around the United States.

- www.cdc.gov/std — CDC's website includes comprehensive information about STDs, including fact sheets on STDs and Pregnancy (www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy) and STDs and Infertility (www.cdc.gov/std/infertility).

UIW Pensioners

Michael Gallagher
Progressive Driver Services
Spring Hill, Florida

Robert Heffner
Paulsen Wire Rope
Coal Township, Pennsylvania

Cesar Hidalgo
Victory Refrigeration
Clementon, New Jersey

William Hollenbach
A&E Products
Manteo, North Carolina

Maria Lara
Del Monte Corp.
Carson, California

Charles Maddox
Franklin International
Circleville, Ohio

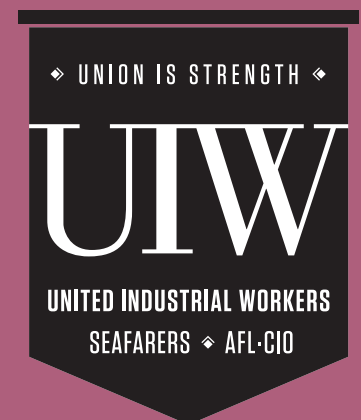
Manuel Mora
Juanitas Foods
Carson, California

Lionel Nandkisure
Partners LLC
Queens, New York

Bill Rotenbury
Crown Cork & Seal
Cleburne, Texas

Sacramento Ruan
Save The Queen
Los Angeles, California

Rufino Sostenes
Save The Queen
Long Beach, California



Gone But Not Forgotten

CARLTON BROWN

Pensioner Carlton Brown, 86, passed away January 1. Brother Brown hailed originally from Ohio. He signed on with the union in 1984 while working with Progressive Driver Services. Brother Brown resided in Atlanta and became a pensioner in 2001.

JAMES BROWN

Pensioner James Brown, 89, died December 23. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Brother Brown was a military veteran having served during the Korean War. He joined the UIW in 1965 while working at Victory Refrigeration. Brother Brown retired and went on pension in 1995. He made his home in Camden, New Jersey.

DAVID CORSOE

Pensioner David Corsoe, 62, passed away July 21. A New Jersey native, Brother Corsoe came under the UIW umbrella in 1977. He spent his entire career working at Victory Refrigeration. Brother Corsoe started collect-

ing stipends for his retirement in 2007 and resided in Blackwood, New Jersey.

STANLEY CZAMECKI

Pensioner Stanley Czamecki, 93, died October 29. Brother Czamecki came under the UIW umbrella in 1961 while employed at Pennsylvania Railroad, Port of Norfolk. The New Jersey native also worked at Sip Oil Corp. Brother Czamecki went on pension in 1980 and lived in Staten Island, New York.

ROBERT PALLARES

Pensioner Robert Pallares, 67, passed away October 16. Born in Long Beach, California, Brother Pallares donned the union colors in 1982 while working at Petro Diamond Co. He went on pension in 2005 and made his home in Los Angeles.

ROY RAKER

Pensioner Roy Raker, 71, died November

7. Brother Raker joined the union ranks in 1976 while working at Paulsen Wire Rope. He went on pension in 1993. Born in Pennsylvania, Brother Raker lived in his native state in the city of Sunbury.

WILLIAM REDMON

Brother William Redmon, 57, passed away July 28. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Brother Redmon signed on with the UIW in 1980 while working at Franklin International. He was a resident of Circleville, Ohio.

MARCELLA SANDERS

Pensioner Marcella Sanders, 75, died January 7. Born in Ohio, Sister Sanders joined the UIW in 1970 while working at Church and Dwight. She retired and went on pension in 1995. Sister Sanders called West Jefferson, Ohio, home.

WILLIAM SHELDRICK

Pensioner Warren Sheldrick, 69,

passed away October 25. Brother Sheldrick donned the union colors in 1982 while working at Progressive Driver Services. A New York native, he started receiving retirement stipends in 2004. Brother Sheldrick lived in Lake Placid, Florida.

WILLIAM SURDI

Pensioner William Surdi, 76, died December 1. A native of New Jersey, Brother Surdi came under the UIW umbrella in 2001 while working at Victory Refrigeration. He retired and went on pension in 2007. Brother Surdi was a resident of West Berlin, New Jersey.

WILLIE WHITMORE

Pensioner Willie Whitmore, 82, passed away January 3. Born in Virginia, Brother Whitmore joined the union in 1979 while employed at Plymkraft. He went on pension in 2002 and made his home in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



Organized Labor Opposes NAFTA Replacement

The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest federation of labor unions, won't support the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal if an early vote is pursued.

The announcement came March 14 during the final day of the AFL-CIO Executive Council's Winter Meeting in New Orleans. Executive council members, which is comprised of 55 vice presidents who represent 12.5 million union members affiliated with the AFL-CIO (including UIW President Michael Sacco, the executive council's longest serving vice president) voted to oppose the deal after the two-day meeting. Collectively, executive council members took the position that the USMCA lacks sufficient enforcement mechanisms that would strengthen labor conditions in Mexico. The federation, in an adopted statement said more work needs to be done to strengthen the USMCA's labor rules, including adding mandatory monitoring and reporting of labor conditions. The statement, entitled "Trade Must Build an Inclusive Economy for All," follows in its entirety.

"For more than a quarter-century, North America's working families have raised our voices for a better trade policy. The defenders of corporate-dominated trade rules too often portray trade as an end in itself. But trade is not an end, it is a means. Trade policy must be judged by whether it leads to a just, inclusive and sustainable economy. An economy that works for all, regardless of race, gender or national origin and that in particular lifts up the most vulnerable. By that measure, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has driven the outsourcing of so many good jobs, has been a catastrophic failure.

"We reaffirm our commitment to labor rights and decent work for workers in all nations. Economic justice cannot be achieved by continuing to give global firms free rein to abuse workers and exploit the environment in a race to the bottom disguised as "free trade." Nor can we allow trade agreements to be vehicles to achieve other corporate agendas that undermine the interests of working people and our families.

"This is nowhere more true than in North America, where trade relations are governed by NAFTA. Its key failure was built into its structure: setting up a system of rigged trade, in which global firms could increase profits by transferring production to Mexico where they could take advantage of systemic worker repression, exploiting both U.S. and Mexican workers in the process. By design, NAFTA distorted power relationships in favor of global employers over workers, weakened worker bargaining power and encouraged the de-industrialization of the U.S. economy. NAFTA contains not a single rule to ensure that working people and our employers prosper together, even though its proponents falsely claimed that was the inevitable outcome.

"After a quarter-century of this race to the bottom, workers in all three NAFTA countries find it more difficult to form unions and negotiate collective bargaining agreements. We face greater inequality. We face ever more powerful monopolies. And the United States faces a growing trade deficit, despite promises by the Administration to address this imbalance.

"The NAFTA renegotiation requires strong labor rights provisions and strong enforcement provisions that as of today are not yet in the agreement. In addition, as the current draft of the new NAFTA recognizes, Mexico must enact and fully



UIW President Michael Sacco, right, who also serves as president of the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department (MTD), chats with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka just prior to his address to those gathered in San Antonio, Texas for the March 2017 MTD Executive Board Meeting.

and effectively implement reforms to its labor law to end the race to the bottom for workers in all three countries. This will require the upfront guarantee of sufficient resources for enforcement. This must happen before Congress takes up any new NAFTA deal.

"But if the Administration insists on a premature vote on the new NAFTA in its current form, we will have no choice but to oppose it.

"We measure the new NAFTA (also known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA) against three basic principles. First, the purpose of an economy is to raise living standards and improve the well-being of its citizens. Second, every country has legitimate national interests, and it is the appropriate role of public policy to pursue those interests while not imposing burdens on the people of other countries. Third, a new trade policy should prioritize the public interest, rather than allowing powerful private interests to achieve outsized gains at the expense of the rest of society.

"The announcement that NAFTA would be renegotiated raised workers hopes and expectations of a new deal would be founded on these principles. The agreement to date does not meet those expectations.

"Most importantly, the new NAFTA does little to stop the continued outsourcing of U.S. jobs to Mexico across all sectors, including aerospace, electronics, appliances, food processing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) products, paint finishing systems and booths, and other manufacturing. For example, it does not prevent U.S. corporations like General Motors or Carrier from closing plants and hurting workers and communities across the supply chain.

Provisions like the auto labor value content requirement, which appear promising on the surface, are actually likely to be ineffective at addressing outsourcing. Nor does the deal address existing inequities, including permitting employees of Mexican railroads to operate trains within the United States while Mexico maintains a prohibition on the reverse scenario.

"The new NAFTA includes some modest improvements. But its labor rules repeat the flaws of past trade agreements. The new NAFTA's labor rules must be significantly strengthened. The new agreement must ensure that the labor rules will be swiftly and certainly enforced. While we have provided numerous recommendations for how that could be accomplished, none of them are included in the draft. Targeted improvement in labor enforcement is absolutely essential because without it, the agreement's substantive provisions are of little value.

"An effective enforcement mechanism must have mandatory monitoring and reporting, assurance that action will be taken promptly when violations occur, and, critically, an avenue by which workers can intervene when governments lack the will to act. Moreover, it must have a guaranteed funding stream to ensure that technical assistance, monitoring and enforcement occur. The new NAFTA has none of these. Simply put, without assurance that labor rules will be enforced, we have no confidence that the deal will change the terms of trade.

"The original NAFTA allowed a party being accused of violating the deal to block the dispute settlement process. This proved harmful to working people in all three countries. In subsequent trade agreements, the United States abandoned this failed notion. But the new NAFTA

revives this failed idea. This means that outsourcing, downward pressure on wages and labor standards and growing inequality are likely to continue.

"The new NAFTA will not end the race to the bottom in the workplace, but it is by no means the only failure of this deal. It will also keep drug prices high by expanding monopoly power for brand-name pharmaceutical companies. This provision will hurt workers in all three countries, but it will especially hurt Mexico's workers. We cannot limit the future health policy choices for North American countries simply because Big Pharma seeks to use NAFTA to lock in and increase its profits.

"The labor movement has made clear that we need a new deal that makes a real difference in stemming outsourcing and improving workers' lives. Work on this issue is far from complete. Among the changes we have requested are:

■ Strengthened labor rules, including explicit reference to International Labor Organization language that clarifies fundamental labor obligations and the elimination of footnotes that make the rules difficult to enforce;

■ New and strengthened rules (including rules of origin) for all manufacturing sectors to promote more U.S. domestic content and high-wage production, including the strengthening of the \$16 per hour labor value content rule, rules for rail cars, steel, aluminum and other manufacturing sectors, and appropriate floor wage provisions;

■ Strengthened environmental rules and enforcement;

■ The elimination of rules that allow foreign investors to continue to use