



Environmental Groups, Unions Support President Obama's Keystone XL Pipeline Decision

Posted by UAW.org, News Release, January 19

WASHINGTON --

The Keystone XL Pipeline is a complex project which deserved the careful consideration regarding its environmental and economic impacts that the Obama Administration planned to provide. In a cynical move, the House Republican leadership called for



a rapid decision on the pipeline in exchange for agreeing to keep the payroll tax cut in place. The payroll tax cut enacted last year has been an important part of efforts to turn around our struggling economy. While the House Republicans wrapped job creation rhetoric around their pipeline demands, they have rejected numerous opportunities to support programs creating good U.S. jobs. Here are a few of the jobs initiatives proposed by the Obama administration that Republi-

can members of Congress have rejected:

- The House initially voted against again extending Unemployment Insurance benefits, as well as against the measure to continue the cut in payroll taxes. If the House action had held, the economy would have lost 1.5 million jobs.
- The Republicans are blocking any consideration of the Restore the Ameri-

SEE PIPELINE pg 6

"We Are Not Done Fighting"

By Steve Rooney
President/Directing Business Representative DL70

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

While we received some good news from Bombardier Learjet about a second expansion that will create hundreds of new jobs over the next seven years, we received bad news from Boeing and HawkerBeech.



Boeing has announced they are closing the Wichita site. Boeing has a long history in Wichita and now decides to move its operation to Oklahoma and San Antonio. I believe Boeing has deceived all of us in their decision.

We have a highly skilled and loyal workforce, we deserve better than this from Boeing. We can compete against anyone given a fair chance. This workforce fought harder than anyone to ensure that Boeing was awarded the Tanker Program and now Boeing walks away from us.

We are not done fighting. I have had several meetings with local, state and other Government officials and will continue to do everything we can to convince Boeing that Wichita is still the best choice.

We also have a fight for jobs at HawkerBeech, as one of our military contracts has been awarded to Sierra, Nevada to have the AT-6 built by Embraer, a Brazilian based company.

I do not understand how our elected officials can even consider using U.S. taxpayer dollars to have foreign countries build our military aircraft.

I am asking everyone to go to the website www.missionreadyAT-6.com and support the workers at HawkerBeech.

In solidarity,
President/Directing Business Representative
Steve Rooney



Happy Valentine's Day

NAPS: Senate Could Take Up Postal Measure Soon

Posted by www.postalreporternews.com blog, January 19

From the National Association of Postal Supervisors: Senate Could Take Up Postal Measure

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has told his Democratic colleagues that he intends to schedule floor time in February for the consideration of comprehensive postal reform legislation. The Senate returns

next week from its month-long holiday recess to begin the new session. The House returned this week.

According to Senate staff, Reid's scheduling plan looks to Senate action on postal reform before mid-February. It envisions postal reform as the second item of business in the new session, following Senate action on internet piracy legislation. Reid intends

to bring the internet legislation to the floor next week, but growing controversy over the legislation is generating significant opposition, potentially scrambling Reid's scheduling plans.

Meanwhile, the bipartisan team of Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) are readying a postal legislative package for floor action. Their bill, S. 1789,

was approved and amended on November 9 by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. A number of other Senators are likely to offer further amendments when the bill comes to the floor.

Also, action on the payroll tax holiday legislation, which the Congress extended for only two months in December, will also

SEE NAPS pg 2

The Plaindealer
(316) 529-8513
3830 S. Meridian Ave.
Wichita, KS 67217-3704

Executive Summary

NFL and NCAA garments sewn under gross sweatshop conditions at the Style Avenue factory in El Salvador.

Workers paid just 10 cents for each \$15 Dallas Cowboys and Ohio State infant and toddler creeper they sew. Workers' wages amount to less than one percent of the garment's retail price.

Mandatory all-night 19-to-25-hour shifts when NFL/NCAA garments must be shipped to the U.S.

Workers are locked in the Style Avenue factory.

Photo and Executive Summary from <http://www.globallabourrights.org>.

Dallas Cowboys Called On Sweatshop Connections

Posted by Mike Hall, AFL-CIO Blog, January 14

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones spent \$1 billion to build the gilded palace his legendary National Football League team plays in eight Sundays a year. But in the gift shops inside Cowboys Stadium and in sports apparel stores around the nation, Cowboys fans are buying fancy jackets, jerseys and other gear made by Cambodian workers earning just 29 cents an hour for 10-hour days, six days a week.

And now the Cowboys merchandising arm—Silver Star Merchandising—is pursuing deals with major U.S. universities for exclusive rights to produce the

schools' logo apparel, reports ESPN's *Outside the Lines*. A recent episode spotlighted the Cambodian supplier's factory where workers:

Fear the wrath of their supervisors if they talk to a co-worker sitting next to them or take too long at the bathroom. They say they are essentially forced to work overtime daily and describe a hostile work environment in which supervisors yell and insult them. They work while sick because either they can't afford to go to the doctor or fear they will be fired if they miss work.

One of the schools Silver Star has its sights set on is Ohio State

and student activists there are outraged, says Rob Battista of the Ohio State chapter of United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS). In letter urging students to fight the proposed 10-year deal he writes:

Through a Freedom of Information Act request, our group revealed disturbing collusion between the Cowboys and our university to completely restructure our licensing program and to give the Cowboys exclusive rights to make Buckeye gear, cutting off ties with dozens of local Ohio businesses. For months, we have been pleading with our university administration to restart

this unethical process, yet they refuse to. How can OSU continue to entertain a rigged deal with a company that abuses workers' rights and conspires to obtain backdoor deals?



The Plaindealer Labor News Website Report, February

www.PlaindealerLaborNews.com

By Michael Kennon, Website Manager, web.mgr@PlaindealerLaborNews.com

New feature on our website: You may have noticed in January the addition of Facebook Like Buttons in several places on our home page. For those of you with a Facebook account, you are probably already aware of how these work. When you click on a Facebook Like Button, it will post a link to that item on your Facebook Wall so that visitors to your Facebook account will see that you want to share that item with them. We have Like buttons for not only our Website in general, but also to our own Facebook Wall.

Our Facebook Wall has news articles and links posted in between our monthly edition that our editor Vanessa Whiteside wants you to know about. Become a Fan on Facebook! UNION NEWS: The PlainDealer, A Voice for Working Kansans Since 1919 or click on the Facebook icon located at the top of each webpage of our website to visit our Facebook Wall.

Facebook is a Social Network used by many people. The PlainDealer uses it in addition to our own dedicated website. The main website is primarily used to publish on-line our monthly printed edition, an on-line archive of available past editions, and to promote other resources sharing our mission. Facebook is currently being used to post breaking news articles in between our monthly printed edition.

Another item which may be of interest to you is our page of **Tax Time Links and Information**. Many of you have already received or are waiting on your W-2's and 1099's to arrive. While you probably want to get your Tax Refund as soon as possible so that you can help to stimulate our still lagging economy, you should be careful of those Refund Anticipation loans offered by many Tax Preparation businesses. The fees and interest charged by some can eat away at a big chunk of your refund. If you have a computer, preferably with internet access, you can file your tax returns electronically (or print them to be mailed in) yourself and save a lot of money for yourself **AND** get your money almost as fast. There are Tax Return self-preparation computer programs available at many retail stores and also on-line over the internet. Visit our page of **Tax Time Links and Information** (<http://www.plaindealerlabornews.com/taxes.html>) for more information. The page can also be reached from our Home page under the **Links** button at the top of the page or the Web Banner Button at the bottom of the page.

As always, we do want to hear from our site visitors and printed edition readers for your suggestions and comments. There is an easy way of contacting us via the website, either click on our email addresses at the right-side top of each page to use your own email client program or use our on-line Feedback form (the link is at the bottom of every page) (<http://www.plaindealerlabornews.com/feedback01.html>).



NAPS continued from pg 2

occupy Senate (and House) floor time in February. Because differing versions were approved by the two chambers, Senate and House conferees will begin to meet next week to start to hammer out the differences. The current extension expires on February 29. A crucial part of the House-approved approach toward financing the payroll tax holiday, which NAPS opposes, would increase the FERS and CSRS retirement contributions of current postal and federal employees by 1.5 percent over the next three years. It also would extend the two-year federal employee pay freeze by an additional year Growing Criticism of USPS Plant Consolidation on Capitol Hill

In other developments, Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), became one of the latest members of Congress to go on record against the proposed closure of up to 252 of about 461 mail processing facilities. The USPS plant consolidation plan, which would eliminate nearly 30,000 jobs, has unleashed a flood of criticism from Washington lawmakers.

“This plan has profoundly negative implications for timely and reliable mail

service in northern, western and eastern Maine, a geographically vast and rural area of our state,” Snowe said in a news release after visiting an eastern Maine processing and distribution facility that employs 183 people and is slated for consolidation with another plant. She described herself as “unpersuaded” by the merits of the USPS plant consolidation plan, and believes it would “disproportionately slow down mail delivery to rural areas of Maine.”

Sentiments like these prompted the Postal Service last month to impose a moratorium on closings of all processing plants and post offices until mid-May, although closure and consolidation studies will proceed. The Postal Service is also pursuing a change in service standards that will drop overnight delivery of first-class mail. NAPS opposes the proposed change in service standards and has intervened in the Postal Regulatory Commission's review of the change. NAPS also favors “right-sizing” of the postal plant network, rather than closure of as significant a number of plants as USPS plans in order to save costs.

31st Annual Chili and Hobo Supper



February 11, 2012

5:30 p.m. until ?

Adults \$6

Children Ages 6-12 \$2.50

Children Age 5 or younger Free

Chili, hobo stew, dessert, and beverages available.

Play BINGO and win prizes!

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Union-Made Valentine's Day Sweets for Your Sweetheart

Posted by www.unionplus.org

When you're searching for something sweet for that special person for Valentine's Day, why not buy union-made-in-America treats for them.



Here's a brief list of choices of candy products made by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM); snack foods by members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); or fruit and nuts from members of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

As with a lot of traditionally union-made products, more are being cross-produced (union-non-union; US-Mexico), so be sure to read labels to ensure that your candy is union-made in the United States. If you know of any union-made candy missing from this list, please leave a comment below and we will add it!

And don't forget to save 20% on flowers for Valentine's Day with your Union Plus discount!

Hershey Products

Necco

See's Candy

Nestle

Ghiradelli Chocolates

Jelly Belly's Candy Company

Pearson's Candy Company

Kraft

Anabelle's Candy Company

American Licorice

Sconza Candies

Frito-Lay

Orville Redenbacher

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At the Rail

Column by Martin Hawver 1/16/12

We've all now seen Gov. Sam Brownback's plan to lower individual income tax rates and—as Brownback likes to put it—let Kansans keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets instead of sending it to Topeka.

Sounds pretty good for most Kansans, and the governor accomplishes that tax reduction by eliminating dozens of deductions and credits that more than 1 million Kansans hear about and read about but don't get to use because they file the short form, taking the standard deduction and calling it good.

Understandably, short-form filers are more than a little envious of those credits and deductions, and because they don't apply to them, they're a little suspicious of them. Paid off your house? Then the mortgage interest deduction doesn't apply. Don't happen to own a hog farm? Then you can't claim the swine facility improvement tax credit. (Nobody in Kansas claimed that credit last year, but it's there in the statute books just in case.)

So, Brownback just eliminates those deductions and credits which reduce the tax bill of those who use them, and takes the savings and lowers everyone's rates. Sounds like a good trade, maybe...

If the rate-lowering covers the loss of those deductions and credits, you are a winner and have that extra money to pocket. If the rate-lowering doesn't cover the loss of credits and deductions, is that a tax cut?

OK, now here's how this plays out for us Statehouse insiders who sniff around for the politics behind everything that every governor has ever proposed.

About 1.45 million individual income tax returns are filed with the state every year, and less than 30 percent of those returns are "long forms" on which taxpayers claim credits and deductions that Brownback proposes to eliminate. That leaves about 1 million tax filers who won't notice elimination of those deductions and credits and will just see their tax rates drop.

Now, that million or so Kansans are fans of the cut, and logically won't like—or vote for—legislators who don't vote to get them that tax cut. Simple. The technical term is "enlightened self-interest." Nothing wrong with that.

But it gets more interesting. Let's just guess that...say, a moderate Republican in the Senate doesn't like the quiet little provision also in the Brownback plan that limits state spending increases to just 2 percent a year when schools and Medicaid and pensions and other expenses are rising more than 2 percent, meaning cuts in programs that they and their constituents care about.

Do you imagine that Kansans who get a tax cut—and who aren't told about the spending limit, or just like choking off revenues to state government—are going to vote to reelect those incumbent moderate Republican senators who oppose the tax cuts?

This means if it works out for Brownback, next session he may have a Senate that doesn't have as many moderates to fight him over much of whatever he wants to do next year.

That's the other math in the tax cut equation...

Syndicated by Hawver News Company LLC of Topeka; Martin Hawver is publisher of Hawver's Capitol Report—to learn more about this statewide political news service, visit the website at www.hawvernews.com

SPEAK OUT



Direct Pipeline

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LU441

Richard L. Taylor, Business Manager
and Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Richard Taylor

Locally

As we begin this new year we know that there will be challenges just like every other year, but we do have renewed optimism that this will be a year of increased job opportunities and hours worked for the membership. Considering the projects that have already started and other projects on the horizon preparing to come out for bid throughout the state, the abundant work outlook is one that has not been seen in the past few years. This economy locally and nationwide no doubt still has a long way to go before it is said to be over, but it appears, in our industry at least, that it is headed in the right direction.

We have recently added golf shirts and camp shirts to our stock and also stainless steel pocket knives with Kansas Local 441 engraved on them. And as always, don't forget Local 441 golf balls, t-shirts (long sleeve and short sleeve), and hats are available for the membership to purchase. Come by and get outfitted with Local 441 apparel. Please take time to view your website. The address is: www.ua441.org.

Deaths

Sorry to report that Brother Steven R. Hane, 53, retired Plumber, residing in Topeka, KS, passed away on December 20, 2011, Brother Walter D. Hamblin, 66, retired Pipefitter, residing in Weir, KS, passed away on December 26, 2011, Brother Marvin E. Fitzwater Jr., 59, retired Pipefitter, residing in Blue Springs, MO, passed away on December 29, 2011, and Brother Charles A. Pennington, retired Pipefitter, residing in Weir, KS, passed away on January 15, 2012. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones.

Political

The Legislative session has started in Topeka. It is apparent that this is going to be a tough session for working families. Keep in mind that 2012 is an election year. As we progress through the political session this office will keep the membership informed of the Legislators that are trying to help us and the Legislators that are attempting to break down the middle class and organized labor.

It is important that we promote candidates not based on party affiliation, but based on their willingness to support us in the pursuit of jobs for our membership. That obviously is our number one priority. Thank you to all Local 441 members for your support, both through your participation in the PAC fund, and your involvement and support with various political groups.

Meetings

Local Union 441 meetings are being conducted on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Union Hall located at 1330 East First Street in Wichita. If other meetings are scheduled, you will be duly notified.

NOTE: Please take the opportunity to attend Union meetings in your area. The teleconference system is working well and has much better sound and video quality than in the past. The good news is that it is being provided for no additional cost to Local 441.

Richard L. Taylor
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Local Union # 441

Retirees Club

The next Retirees meetings will be on February 1st, March 7th and April 4th at 10 a.m. at the Hall. Please come and join us!

Breakfast is the second Wednesday at 9 a.m., at Village Inn, 7020 W Central from January through November.

All retired members and their families are invited to join us. Come enjoy the fellowship!

James Wilbert
722-6859

SEIU: Jobs Report

By Brendan Duke www.seiu.org, News Release, January 6

WASHINGTON, DC – Service Employees International Union (SEIU) International President Mary Kay Henry issued the following statement in response to the jobs report released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing the economy added 200,000 jobs in December 2011:

“Today’s jobs report is good news, but we can and must do better. More than 13 million Americans are still looking for work, almost 24 million workers cannot find full time work and the

number of long-term unemployed only fell slightly. We are a rich country--corporate profits are at record highs--and it is in our power to put millions of Americans back to work in the coming months.

“When Congress returns, Republicans must get serious about job creation instead of proposing more cuts to unemployment insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. Cutting critical programs while delivering massive tax giveaways to corporations is not a viable, long-term solution to our national jobs emergency.”



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Trumka to Justice Dept: Investigate Banks

Posted by Tula Connell, AFL-CIO Blog, January 23

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka is urging the Justice Department to lead a comprehensive investigation with state Attorneys General to prevent banks from engaging in future unlawful and deceptive practices that could exploit homeowners and put the economy further at risk.

From Trumka:

We need to hold banks accountable for the fraudulent practices that brought about the worst economic crisis since the Depression. State Attorneys General have been investigating bank fraud, and these critical investigations must not be undermined by a premature and inadequate settlement. We call on the administration to reject any deal that insulates banks from full responsibility.

We commend state Attorneys Generals like New York’s Eric Schneiderman and Delaware’s Beau Biden for their leadership and courage in calling for a real investigation and relief on a scale that helps the millions of homeowners who face a new wave of foreclosures.

The economy is currently weighed down by \$750 billion in negative home equity, so relief on a massive scale is needed to lift home values and stimulate the economy by increasing consumer demand. A comprehensive settlement must force banks to write down underwater mortgages. A sum significantly larger than the rumored \$25 billion is needed for the economy to grow and create jobs.

Specifically, the administration must stand strong against the Big Banks and insist on:

1. A full and thorough investigation into problems tied to the residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) market, and
2. A guaranteed minimum amount of money set aside for reducing the mortgage principal of “underwater” homeowners in key states impacted by the foreclosure crisis.

This is an opportunity for the administration to demonstrate leadership and show that it has the political will to do what’s right for homeowners and right for our economy.

You can sign an online petition urging President Obama to side with working families in this issue at: http://act.afcio.org/c/18/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=3455

20 Ways to Share Happiness

Random Acts of Kindness For The Workplace

February 13-19 is National Random Acts of Kindness Week, but why wait? Start at work today!

1. Hold the door open for someone.

2. Leave behind sweet treats for others in the employee break room.

3. Compliment a co-worker.

4. Leave extra change in the hallway pop machine.

5. Bring flowers to a stressed out co-worker.

6. Volunteer to help someone with a big project.

7. Let someone use your parking spot for a day.

8. Pay for a co-worker’s lunch.

9. Make more coffee when you empty the break room coffeepot.

10. Smile at co-workers as you pass them in the hall, especially the ones you don’t know personally.

11. Write a thank you note to a co-worker who helped you with a project last week.

12. Pick up a shift for an overworked fellow employee.

13. Start a conversation with a co-worker you don’t know.

14. Hold the elevator door open for someone as they approach it.

15. Invite the newest employee in the office to join your group for lunch.

16. Pick up trash when you see it in the staff parking lot.

17. Say “Good Morning!” to the office administrative assistant.

18. Offer to carpool with someone to work next week to save on gas.

19. Send a thank-you letter to the person responsible for hiring you.

20. Stop venting with your co-workers. Share a positive experience with them.



Pipeline continued from pg 1



crucial modernization projects for our airline infrastructure to expire, at the expense of tens of thousands of jobs, to pursue a political agenda to hold down wages and block democratic elections in the airline industry, the goal of one corporation.

- House Republicans rejected Obama administration initiatives to fund jobs for teachers, firefighters and police, despite strong community support for more responders.

A project this far-reaching deserved better than the “politics as usual” strategy of a do-nothing

can Dream Act which would create/save 2.3 million jobs in 2012 and 3.1 million jobs in 2013 without offering any alternative that would lead to direct job creation.

- The Republicans opposed the extension of the Highway Trust Fund which would create 100,000s of jobs and provide for critical infrastructure repair.
- The House Republicans allowed the funding for

Republican Congress. Their job blackmail agenda is simply wedge politics.

Addressing global climate change, establishing sustainable and secure energy sources, and creating and retaining safe and family-supportive jobs are keys to a positive future for our children and grandchildren. President Obama has acted wisely.

<http://www.transcanada.com/photos.html>

Central KS Vegetable Growers Workshop- May 4-6

www.sedgwick.ksu.edu



Tips For Local Vegetable Growers

Who: Green Thumbs

What: Vegetable Growers Workshop & Tomato Grafting Workshop

When: Feb. 17, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Feb. 18, 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: Sedgwick County Extension Center

7001 W. 21st N, Wichita, KS 67205

Cost: \$10 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday - Register by Tuesday, February 14

The workshop will give beginning and experienced vegetable growers new skills to improve their production methods and marketing skills for selling their vegetables. The Friday workshop will explore tomato grafting techniques in-depth. On Saturday, several featured speakers will cover basic vegetable and fruit produc-

Labor Notes Conference - May 4-6

www.labornotes.org/conference



Solidarity for the 99%

Who: Union Workers

What: Labor Notes Conference

When: May 4 at 1 p.m. - May 6 until 3 p.m.

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7435 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210

Cost: \$130 registration, but save \$35 if registered by March 2

Some scholarships available.

The conference is considered the “biggest gatherings of grassroots union activists, worker center leaders, and all-around troublemakers out there.” The weekend includes more than one hundred meetings and workshops over topics such as contract campaigns, organizing tactics, running for local office, bargaining, understanding the economy, and reviving the strike.

Participants can organize with other in their union, industry, or campaign while sharing tactics and swapping notes.

recycle
the plaindealer

AFL-CIO Community Services Conference - May 16-18

www.unitedwayplains.com



Wichita-Hutchinson Labor Fed Hosts 34th Annual Kansas State Conference

Who: Union Workers

What: 34th Annual Community Services Conference

When: May 16-18

Where: Hotel at Old Town, Wichita, Kansas

Featured guest speaker: Kim Bobo, Executive Director and founder of Interfaith Worker Justice, the nation’s largest network of people of faith engaging in local and national actions to improve wages, and benefits and conditions for workers, especially those in the low-wage economy. The organization supports a network of 50 religion and labor group, 20 workers centers, and five student chapters.

For more information contact:

Mario Cervantes

AFL-CIO C. S. Liaison

United Way of the Plains



AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership



“Apparently I’m twice the person I used to be, because I’m now doing the work of two people.”

LOCAL UNION BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, February 2

Operating Engineers LU101— Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita

Saturday, February 4

Machinists Local 639—

E-Board, 8 a.m., Regular Meeting, 9 a.m., Wichita

Machinists LL733--

E-Board at 8:00 a.m., Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wichita

Wednesday, February 8

Machinists Local 1989—

E-Board, 3:40 p.m., Regular Meeting, 3:50 p.m.
2005 Kansas Ave., Great Bend, 67530

Thursday, February 9

Wichita Area Union Label—

E-Board, 5:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 11

Machinists Local 834 & 839—

Regular Meeting, 10 a.m., 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita

Monday, February 13

NALC Branch 201—

7:30 p.m., NALC Br 201 Union Office
227 S. Pattie, Wichita

USW Local 01350—

Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Union Hall
427 N. Main, Hutchinson, 67501

SPEEA/IFPTE Local 2001—

Membership Recruitment / Organizing Committee
973 S. Glendale, Wichita

CWA Local 6402—

E-Board, 5:30 p.m., 530 E. Harry, Wichita
Stewards, 7 p.m., 530 E. Harry, Wichita

APWU Local 735—

Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 6920 W. Pueblo, Wichita

Tuesday, February 14

Machinists Local 708—

Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita

Thursday, February 16

SPEEA—

Midwest Council Meeting, 973 S. Glendale, Wichita

Saturday, February 18

Machinists LL2799—

E-Board meeting 9:30 a.m., 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita
Regular Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Machinists Local 774—

10 a.m. Regular Meeting, 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita

Monday, February 20

Plumbers & Pipefitters LU441—

Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., 1330 E. 1st, Wichita

Wednesday, February 22

IBEW Local 1523—

Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., 530 E. Harry, Wichita

LU 441 Retirees—

Breakfast, 9 a.m., Spears, 4323 W. Maple

APWU Local 735—

Regular Meeting, 8 a.m., 6920 W. Pueblo, Wichita

Thursday, February 23

Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Fed—

E-Board, 5:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

District 70 Retirees—

Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita

Monday, February 27

SPEEA/IFPTE Local 2001—

Membership Recruitment / Organizing Committee,
4:30 p.m., 973 S. Glendale, Wichita

SPEEA/IFPTE Local 2001—

L&PA, 4:30 p.m. at SPEEA Hall, 973 S. Glendale

Glaziers Local 558—

5 p.m., 1330 E. 1st St., Wichita, KS

Tuesday, February 28

CWA Local 6402—

Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 530 E. Harry, Wichita

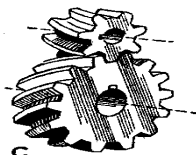
Wednesday, March 7

SPEEA/IFPTE Local 2001—

Governing Documents Committee, 5 p.m.,
973 S. Glendale, Wichita

National Engineers Week February 19-25

www.eweek.org



WWE Raw World Tour - Feb. 4

www.intrustbankarena.com

A Slammin' Good Time

Who: General Public

When: Saturday, February 4, 7:30 p.m. Doors 6:30 p.m.

Where: Intrust Bank Arena, 500 E. Waterman, Wichita, KS 67202

Cost: \$17-\$62

The WWE superstars return to Wichita for the WWE Raw World Tour including "The Second City Savior" CM Punk, The Miz & R-Truth aka The "Awesome Truth," Alberto Del Rio, "The Long Island Iced-Z" Zack Ryder, Kofi Kingston, John Cena, and the WWE Divas.



Fall Family Fun Fair - Feb. 4

www.botanica.org



Break Cabin Fever

Who: General Public

When: Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: Botanica Wichita

701 Amidon St., Wichita, KS 67203

Cost: FREE

Boranica wants you to join them for a winter garden party with a variety of crafts and activities led by volunteers. Suitable for kids of all ages, the free Family Fun Fair educates children about nature and wildlife while involving them in hands-activities.

2012 Midian Shrine Circus - February 9-12

www.hartmanarena.com

Action Packed Performances

Who: General Public

When: February 9-12, Times Vary

Where: 8151 N. Hartman Arena Drive (Exit 16), Park City, KS 67147

Cost: \$15 Adult, \$5 Children, FREE Parking

Wowing audiences for more than a century, the Shrine Circus features a wide array of entertainers. The spectacle includes a lively entourage of trapeze artists, elephants, horses, exotic felines, daredevil acts, and more.



GPS Adventures - March 4-April 15

www.exploration.org



Geocaching Using Today's Technology

Who: General Public

What: GPS Adventures - National Travling Exhibit

When: March 4-April 15, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: Exploration Place, 300 McLean Blvd, Wichita, KS 67203

Cost: \$9.50 General Admission, FREE for members

Global treasure hunting game or "geocaching" is the world of navigation and opens the door to new and enriching life adventures. Treasures await!

Hostess Brands Files For Bankruptcy Again

Posted by Tula Connell, AFL-CIO Blog, January 21



Hostess Brands, the company that has brought us such ironically American snacks as Twinkies, yesterday filed for bankruptcy protection for the second time since 2004. But the move does more than affect our universal sweet tooth—it has vast repercussions for some 5,000 workers, members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM).

BCTGM, which represents workers in 34 production facilities throughout the United States, has been working with Hostess for months to identify a mutually

beneficial solution that would address the company's financial difficulties. But according to BCTGM, the company has never offered a legitimate proposal that could be taken to the membership for consideration.

Says BCTGM President Frank Hurt:

I find it deeply offensive and highly disingenuous for the company to claim that its financial woes are the result of its union contracts and pension and health coverage obligations. We contend that the company is in dire financial shape because of a string of failed business decisions made by a series of ineffective executives who have been running this company for the past decade.

In 2004, union members sacrificed to help make the company competitive, hoping the company would emerge from the last restructuring stronger and more competitive, says Hurt.

Hurt points out that the com-

pany's portrayal in the media of its pension obligation problems is misleading. Hostess Brands had been a longstanding participant in a multi-employer (Taft-Hartley) pension fund. The nearly \$1 billion the company refers to is its withdrawal liability. Every participant in multi-employer pension fund has withdrawal liability, which ensures that beneficiaries will receive negotiated pension benefits if a company leaves the fund.

The contributions Hostess had paid into the fund were negotiated through the collective bargaining process and are part of an overall economic compensation package. Pension benefits that retirees receive each month are paid by the fund and not the individual companies.

Hurt says the union will continue to work to find a solution that "protects the interests of our members and helps enable the company to remain a viable business entity."

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USW Oil Workers To Set Stage, Bargain For Safe Refineries; Good Jobs

Posted by AFL-CIO Blog, January 24

Posted to AFL-CIO Blog by Patrick Young from *United Steelworkers Strategic Campaigns*.

Three years ago, members of the United Steelworkers (USW) went to the bargaining table with the big oil companies to negotiate changes to health and safety programs at oil refineries that would keep workers safe. Across the board, the industry said, "No." They weren't interested in bargaining meaningful and enforceable improvements to refinery safety.

In the next three years, 18 oil workers died on the job, dozens of others suffered life-altering injuries and countless others have likely suffered from chronic occupational diseases due to work-related exposures. It's become pretty apparent that health and safety in the oil sector is out of control.

This month, the 30,000 members of the USW in the oil sector are returning to the bargaining table with the oil industry. They're not willing to let another 18 workers die on the job.

Oil workers are demanding some small changes that won't cost the companies much at all, but they'll go a long way in keeping workers and refinery communities safe. They're asking for the right to stop unsafe work, safe staffing levels at refineries, a safety representative who is responsible for ensuring that refineries are safe and that the companies properly inspect and maintain oil refineries and equipment.

Union leaders and members know that to win these improvements at the bargaining table, we need support from refinery communities and consumers. So on Jan. 21, members of the USW took to the streets across the country to

visit gas stations to talk to drivers and community members about safety issues in oil refineries.

Oil workers in 20 communities across the country visited more than 50 gas stations to talk with consumers in refinery communities about issues that impact everyone.

"People need to buy gas, people need to sell gas," said Gary Beevers, the USW's international vice president for oil bargaining.

Most of these gas stations are owned by small business owners, people in our communities. We don't want to hurt them, we want to get the word out about refinery safety and the gas pump is a great place to talk to people about safety.

Workers joined actions in Texas, Louisiana, Utah, Illinois, Washington, California, Pennsylvania

and other areas across the country.

USW members also took their message directly to top management at the big oil companies. USW Local 5, which represents refinery workers at the Chevron, Shell and Tesoro refineries in the San Francisco Bay Area, held a rally at Chevron's corporate headquarters in San Ramon, Calif. They were joined by California state Sen. Loni Hancock and members of the Richmond community—where Chevron's Bay Area refinery is located.

Steelworkers emphasized that refinery safety isn't just an issue that impacts only workers—it's an issue that affects the entire community. BK White, unit chairman at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, said:

When these companies operate our

refineries unsafely, everybody's at risk—refinery workers and our communities. We know that a serious explosion at one of these facilities could devastate an entire community.

Most union agreements between the big oil companies and the United Steelworkers are set to expire at 12:01 a.m. Feb. 1. Over the next two weeks, USW members across the oil sector will be working hard to bargain a fair agreement that will help to keep workers and their community safe.

