

IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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Millions of Americans have suffered through long-term unemployment, and GOP obstruction tactics have prolonged the pain. It's time to join the "Bee Mad @ the GOP" campaign and get Americans working again.

UCubed Launches 'Bee Mad @ The GOP' Campaign

A new Facebook campaign by the Union of Unemployed (UCubed) has the World Wide Web buzzing with disdain and anger for GOP members of Congress whose policies have kept the jobless broke and out-of-work.

The "Bee Mad @ the GOP" campaign places responsibility for the pain jobless households experience where it rightfully belongs: on the GOP. The campaign uses a unique approach to messaging by matching worker bees (the unemployed) against rogue elephants (the GOP). Research shows that elephants are deathly afraid of bees.

"If you were a worker bee and your

hive was threatened, would you swarm to its defense? Damn straight you would. Protecting one's honey comes naturally to worker bees," said UCubed Executive Director Rick Sloan. "Matching worker bees against rogue elephants may seem comical, but the outcome is no laughing matter. Roughly 46 million voters with direct, painful memories of this Great Recession will be voting their emptied pockets this November. UCubed intends to remind our more than 113,000 Facebook leaders and their more than 30 million friends exactly how egregiously the GOP has mistreated the unemployed and underemployed."



UCubed contends the jobless have approximately 8,000 reasons to “Bee Mad @ the GOP,” based on the number of votes GOP members of Congress have cast against the jobless in recent years – including 1,521 Republican votes against the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 4,191 votes against the 2010 Commerce, Justice Appropriations bill which dealt with unemployment insurance and COBRA, and 255 votes against the Middle Class Tax Relief Act which included unemployment and payroll tax extensions.

“Ever since 2008, the Grand Old Party has been on a rampage,” said Sloan. “Like a herd of elephants, the GOP destroyed our homes and lives, wiped out our life’s savings, and then ambled away – scotfree – with tril-

lions in tax cuts, billions in bailouts and millions in bonuses. The GOP’s strategy for those 46 million voters from jobless households is ‘heads we win it all, tails you lose everything!’ We destroyed your lives, your families and your jobs. But we want you to forget all that and reward us with your votes.

“Here at the Union of Unemployed, we keep saying, ‘they’re jobless, not clueless.’ We intend to give the GOP a stinging defeat in November.”

UCubed’s fans are asked to “Join the Swarm” by sharing and liking weekly “Bee Mad @ the GOP” videos, wall posts and photos.

The campaign will run until Election Day, Tuesday, November 6th.

tap here

to SHARE and LIKE the “Bee Mad @ the GOP” campaign on Facebook

tap here

for more “Bee Mad @ the GOP” videos



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Labor Rally in Philadelphia for Second Bill of Rights

Inspired by the city where the original Bill of Rights was first proposed in 1787, more than 40,000 union members gathered in Philadelphia to endorse a “Second Bill of Rights,” one that includes the right to full employment, a living wage, a voice at work and the right to a secure and healthy future.

While the original Bill of Rights echoed the concerns of a handful of the nation’s earliest statesmen, the Second Bill of Rights embodies the economic aspirations of a much larger population, one that includes millions of workers in all 50 states.

“The need for a guiding statement like the Second Bill of Rights has never been greater,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger, who was among the signers and took part in the massive mid-day rally. “We have seen what happens when economic opportunity is limited and large numbers of citizens are denied the right to pros-



Tap above to view a video about IAM members who were among the more than 40,000 union members gathered in Philadelphia, PA, to demand a Second Bill of Rights for America’s working families.

per. As American citizens and as union members, we have both a duty and a right to make these demands for ourselves and for generations to come.”

The rally in Philadelphia marks the first major event of the AFL-CIO Workers Stand for America campaign, which



The demands in the Second Bill of Rights include the right to full employment, a voice at work and the right to a secure and healthy future.

rejects GOP austerity proposals for the vast majority of Americans while corporations and wealthy individuals continue to enjoy unprecedented advantages.

The rally's message of equal opportunity and economic justice was given added urgency by the announcement that Wisconsin Republican Representative Paul Ryan was named to be the GOP nominee for Vice President. Ryan was

the chief architect of the GOP's draconian budget proposal that would replace Medicare with a voucher program while making extreme cuts to many established social programs.

Candidates of both political parties, including Democratic incumbent Barack Obama and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, will be urged to sign and support the Second Bill of Rights.

Help Hyatt Workers, Vote Hyatt 'Worst Hotel Employer in America'

The IAM is joining with UNITE HERE, the AFL-CIO and progressive organizations nationwide to help secure fair treatment, a safe workplace and basic human dignity for housekeeping staff at Hyatt hotels.

Hyatt management has garnered a reputation for abusing its housekeepers and other workers for years, replacing longtime employees with minimum wage temporary workers and imposing dangerous workloads on those who remain.

In response, Hyatt workers are taking bold steps to end the mistreatment, speaking publicly about abuses and launching a call online to "Vote Hyatt the Worst Hotel Employer in America."

So far, more than 73,000 people have cast ballots in the campaign to call attention to extreme workloads and abusive treatment of workers at Hyatt hotels.

Some Hyatt housecleaners are required to clean up to 30 rooms per eight-hour shift, double the amount required in a standard union hotel in



To help thousands of Hyatt housekeeping staff win dignity on the job and safe working conditions, tap above to vote Hyatt Hotels the "Worst Hotel Employer in America."

North America. In addition to a Dickensian workload, Hyatt housekeepers had the highest injury rate of all hotel housekeepers in a study published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine that examined a total of 50 hotel properties from five different hotel companies.

Despite evidence that supports the workers' claims of harsh working conditions, Hyatt recently took the lead in lobbying against legislation in



California that would make house-keeping work safer.

The federal government has taken note of Hyatt's practices, issuing a companywide letter to Hyatt, warning the company of hazards its housekeepers face on the job. The warning letter is a first in the hotel industry.

A global boycott against Hyatt hotels was announced on July 23, triggering protests in 20 U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Honolulu, San Francisco, Chicago, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Seattle, and Boston.

While the boycott has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO and virtually every union representing hotel workers worldwide, there are certain Hyatt hotels that are not targeted by the call to "Boycott Hyatt."

The boycott does not include the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa and the Grand Hyatt Kauai, which

have current collective bargaining agreements with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and does not include the following Hyatt hotels with current UNITE HERE collective bargaining agreements: Grand Hyatt New York, Andaz 5th Avenue, Andaz Wall Street, Hyatt Hotel (Highway One Monterey), Hyatt Regency Monterey, Hyatt Penn's Landing (Philadelphia), Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Hyatt Regency Dearborn (Michigan), Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center, Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, Hyatt Regency on King (Toronto), Park Hyatt Toronto, Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Hyatt Rosemont, Hyatt Place San Jose, Hyatt Place Braintree (MA), and Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport.

tap here

to learn more about the "Hyatt Hurts" campaign and vote "Hyatt the Worst Hotel Employer in America."

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Unjust Voter Suppression Tactics Target Minorities and Elderly



IAM members and labor groups such as the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) are fighting GOP-inspired barriers to voting, such as voter identification requirements that disproportionately discourage elderly, low-income and minority voters.

An estimated five million Americans are being discouraged or prevented from casting a ballot this November. Why? The GOP doesn't want them to vote.

Republican lawmakers across the country are trying to influence the election by scheming to purge voters, mostly Democrats, from voter rolls by imposing shorter registration deadlines and passing unfair voter identification laws. The targets of these new laws: minorities, college students, low-income voters and the elderly.

“The unprecedented assault on voting rights is part of a centrally-coordinated campaign planned and funded by GOP

operatives like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), funded in part by the billionaire Koch brothers,” explains IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “They are essentially trying to steal this election. We haven't seen voter-suppression activity on this level since Jim Crow.”

Republican leaders claim the new laws are necessary to prevent voter fraud. However, no evidence exists to support the claim of widespread voter fraudulence. According to the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, of the 300 million votes cast between 2002



and 2007, only 86 people were convicted for voter fraud.

“It is more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls,” concluded the Brennan Center. And according to Michael Waldman, executive director of the Brennan Center, the measures represent, “the most significant rollback in voting rights in decades.”

Fueled by the GOP election victories in 2010, more than 30 state legislatures have considered legislation to make it harder for citizens to vote. According to the Center for American Progress (CAP), more than a dozen have succeeded in passing legislation. CAP says the five worst states for voting rights are Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Florida.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) is currently under heat from the Justice Department, unions and civil rights groups over his attempt to purge voters from the state voter rolls, an effort, critics say, that has disproportionately targeted minorities and other Democratic voters. In 2011, the state also imposed a short deadline and stiff late penalties for reg-

istration forms. The bill led to the end of voter registration work by many organizations, including the League of Women Voters, described as “one of the nation’s most respected civic organizations, with a 91-year history of registering and educating voters.”

“You have to ask the question, why don’t they want Americans to vote? Why don’t they want seniors and working class families to vote?” says CAP Action Fund President and CEO Tom Perriello. “All of those things make it more difficult to institute a set of economic policies that protect the one-percent instead of providing the American Dream to the American middle class and working class. So, it is important to understand why groups like ALEC support efforts to systematically disenfranchise.”

“It’s important, now more than ever, that our members are prepared this Election Day,” said Buffenbarger. “Familiarize yourself with voter requirements in your state, contact your local board of elections for any special requirements and deadlines, know your polling place, and make sure your friends, family and neighbors do the same. We must protect every American’s right to vote.”

tap here
to register to vote today!

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Profile: Edrie Irvine

A UCubed Member's Journey Back to a Job



At a rally in 2010 in Washington, DC, Union of Unemployed (UCubed) member Edrie Irvine spoke about her long search for a job during the height of the Great Recession. Millions of Americans are still jobless years after the recession began in 2007.

Edrie Irvine worked as a legal secretary for years before she lost her job in 2009.

“I will admit, at the very beginning, I wasn’t that upset,” says Irvine. “I’ve never not had a job. I’ve never not gotten a job before. It never occurred to me that I would have trouble.”

But after months of applying for jobs and no response, the reality of the recession – the worst since the Great Depression – began to sink in.

“It was pretty awful,” she says. “For

14 months, I tried everything I could: I sent out resumes; I made phone calls; I networked; Nothing worked. No call backs.”

That’s when Irvine discovered the Union of Unemployed (UCubed), an organization created by the Machinists Union in January 2010 to assist the millions of unemployed and underemployed Americans by providing a structure to take advantage of their growing numbers.

“It was for anybody who was un-





Tap above to view a video about Edrie Irvine's journey back to work.

employed," she explains. "And it was relatively new when I found it. There weren't people in my area who were in it. So I contacted them and asked if I could help get people involved."

Irvine volunteered to help UCubed prepare for the "One Nation Working Together" rally in 2010. In the process, she discovered she had hidden talents.

"I was working in areas and doing things that I hadn't done in a legal office," she said. "I was pulling together data coming in all sorts of raw form, and pushing it out to the people who needed it, but in a way that they could use it. I revised my resume to reflect the work that I did, which allowed me to apply for jobs that I hadn't thought I was qualified for."

Irvine got her first call back in 14 months and now works for a non-profit in Washington, DC.

"I'm doing things I love to do," she says. "UCubed got me a job."

TCU News

IAM GVP Martinez Visits TCU/ IAM Advanced Training

Good training has always been the key to a good job, and for more than 40 years, the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program has been the pathway for more than 8,400 students to a good middle-class job in the transportation industry.

With nine locations nationwide, the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program can prepare students for employment in a wide range of transportation jobs, from airline and rail passenger service agents to hands-on vocational training.

With the affiliation between the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the Machinists Union (IAM) complete, IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Robert Martinez, Jr., and IAM Grand Lodge Representative Ra-



IAM and TCU representatives tour the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program facility in San Marcos, TX. The program prepares students for jobs in the transportation sector. The San Marcos facility specializes in hands-on vocational training for the rail industry.

mon Garcia had an opportunity to visit a TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program facility in San Marcos, TX. The facility features the hands-on vocational training and equipment students need to prepare for careers in rail shops.

“The IAM has always supported skills training to ensure good jobs for future workers,” said Martinez. “The





TCU National Vice President Arthur Maratea; IAM GVP Robert Martinez, Jr; TCU National Vice President and Carmen Division President Richard Johnson; TCU National Vice President David Steele; TCU Senior Executive Director Diane Dettmann and IAM Grand Lodge Representative Ramon Garcia, during the visit to the TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program in San Marcos, Texas.

TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program is a great example of the types of facilities and staff our country needs more of to educate tomorrow's workforce."

The tour showcased many aspects of the TCU/IAM program, including a recently-installed rail track that will accommodate a full-sized rail car which provides excellent hands-on instruction for the students. Martinez and Garcia also witnessed demonstrations in the

welding bay and the train coupler assembly.

The TCU/IAM Advanced Training Program is growing, and the inclusion of aerospace and machinist training will provide a new avenue of career opportunities for students.

"It was an honor for General Vice President Martinez to tour our facility and learn in great-

er detail the operation of our Carmen and Machinists' training," said Diane Dettmann, TCU/IAM Senior Executive Director of Training Services. "We are very excited about increasing our hands-on training with the establishment of our rail track and look forward to incorporating additional up-to-date machinist parts and equipment to create even more relevancy to the curriculum and training."

Transportation

IAM Calls on Turkish Government to Reinstate Airline Workers

In a meeting with Turkish Embassy officials in Washington, DC, IAM General Vice President Sito Pantoja lodged an official complaint on behalf of the IAM and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and called for the reinstatement of 305 Turkish Airlines employees who were illegally discharged in Istanbul after protesting the Turkish government's ban on strikes in the aviation sector.

Pantoja expressed labor's serious concern about the airline's disregard of international core labor standards

and sought the immediate reinstatement of the 305 members of Hava-Is, an ITF affiliate. Turkish Embassy officials committed to relaying the complaint to the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, as well as high-ranking government officials in Ankara.

ITF affiliate unions, including the IAM, have developed a coordinated response to pressure the Turkish government and Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines to lift the strike ban and reinstate the 305 illegally terminated workers.



The International Transport Workers' Federation, which includes the IAM, is organizing worldwide protests against Turkish Airlines' illegal termination of 305 workers. This demonstration was held outside the Turkish embassy in London.



“The right to strike is a human right,” said Pantoja, who also chairs the ITF’s Civil Aviation Section Committee. “The Turkish government ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 87, which grants the right to strike. They should honor that commitment.”

The IAM represents more than 50,000 workers at Star Alliance carriers in North America, and will work closely with other Star Alliance unions across the globe to ensure the human rights of the illegally dismissed Turkish Airlines workers are respected.

“If we don’t defend these

“If we don’t defend these workers’ right to strike, our own rights could be targeted next.”

Sito Pantoja

Transportation General Vice President

workers’ right to strike, our own rights could be targeted next,” said Pantoja.

The ITF created a special website and video to support the illegally terminated Turkish Airlines workers.

tap here

to view “Brutally Yours,” a video about the illegal firing of Turkish airline workers.

tap here

to send a message to Turkish officials to reinstate the 305 workers.



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