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Left to Right: Kimberly Mortimer, teacher, Lakeland High; Ron Kinna, Local 102 Area VP; Cynthia Haffey, Exec. Dir., Platform Art, Inc.; Maddie McDaniel, senior, Lakeland High; Angel Mitchell, senior, Lakeland High; Gabby Thomas, junior, Lakeland High; Dennis Boyer, Local 102 Branch President; Becky Ault, Art Research Enterprises, Inc. Published quarterly by
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America, AFL-CIO

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#### SIDENT'S MESSAGE



## **Member Activism** On The Rise!

D. Michael Langford

t gives me great pleasure to report that the growing activism of our members is making us a stronger union. Over the last few years, every time the National Union has reached out with opportunities to get involved, more of you have shown up.

That tells me that our union is on the right path and headed in the right direction. With a more active membership, good things will happen.

#### **Regional Conferences**

Evidence of this is on display at this year's regional conferences. Hundreds of UWUA members are participating in intensive workshops designed to give them the tools they need to defend themselves and their co-workers on the shop floor, at the bargaining table,

and through the grievance process. This couldn't come at a more crucial time as the war on workers and their unions is intensifying.

It's up to each and every one of us to do what we can to make sure meeting the needs of working people is the top item on our nation's agenda.

#### Midterm elections

With that as our goal, we launched the UWUA campaign to elect pro-worker candidates in the upcoming midterm elections. We are asking each local to designate election coordinators to work with the National Union to make sure you get the information you need to make an informed decision about which candidates will put the needs of working people first.

Regardless of party affiliation, we want to elect people who are looking out for workers. The recent election of Pennsylvania Congressman Conor Lamb is proof that we can do this. He ran on a pro-worker, prounion agenda with strong UWUA backing, and won.

As I write this, we await the U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Janus v. AFSCME case. If, as expected, the court rules against the AFSCME union, "right to work"

will replace "closed shops" for most public sector workers. Although most of our members work in the private sector, many are public sector workers and we will have to do everything we can to ensure such a decision does not hurt them.

The growing activism of our members is making us a stronger union. Over the last few years, every time the National Union has reached out with opportunities to get involved, more of you have shown up.

#### We are First Responders

As the cover story of this issue of The Utility Worker shows, we are becoming recognized as first responders. I applaud the people of Lakeland, Florida for highlighting our first responder status with a public art monument.

At the recent Edison Electric Institute's convention I had the privilege to represent our lineworkers and those from different trades who worked to restore power to Puerto Rico after last year's devastating hurricanes.

Having an industry leader like EEI recognize the work our members do tells me that our push for first responder status is having a positive effect.

#### **Defending jobs**

We are leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to keep coal plants open. I will be in Wyoming with Local 127 in June to attend CONNECT 2018, a high-level conference on the future of carbon capture. We successfully joined the effort to get the federal government to support investment in this technology. We are now working to get the necessary infrastructure built to allow coal-fired powerplants to stay open. We are also looking at possible investors to buy coal plants that are threatened with closure.

We are also making great strides in securing our place in the growing offshore wind industry. We created a partnership with industry leader Bay State Wind and are committed to working with them as they seek to win bids on the Atlantic coast.

All of this work benefits from our members' growing activism. I know that with an active membership, we can win.

## Defending Our Jobs,

## Pricing grid reliability in electricity markets

eeking to defend irreplaceable baseload power generation infrastructure to continue providing resilience and security to the national grid, the UWUA recently filed comments both individually, and in conjunction with other energy-sector labor unions, with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Continued under-valuation of the contribution that is made by coal and nuclear generation facilities is resulting in the premature closure of powerplants, leading to unprecedented national security concerns, the displacement of workers, and the loss of high-quality jobs.

In seeking action from DOE, either under the Federal Power Act, the National Defense Act, or other DOE authorities, the UWUA has made the case that the nation faces a crisis as these essential facilities are taken off-line without adequate planning for the long-term effects on the reliability of the country's power supply.

The UWUA has taken the position that these facilities must be accurately valued for the service they provide to the nation's electric infrastructure, a value for which the marketplace currently does not properly account. If allowed to close, these plants cannot be brought back in any meaningful timeframe and, as such, the UWUA will continue to fight for them to retain good jobs and their critical place in our national power system.

### Promoting carbon capture for a coal-fired future

This June, leadership from both the National, and UWUA Local 127, will be joining Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, and Montana Governor Steve Bullock, along with other high-level national political figures at CONNECT 2018, an



Continued under-valuation of the contribution that is made by coal and nuclear generation facilities is resulting in the premature closure of powerplants, leading to unprecedented national security concerns, the displacement of workers, and the loss of high-quality jobs.

exclusive dialogue on the necessity for building out carbon capture infrastructure being held in Jackson Hole, WY. Convened by the governors, the event is designed to increase public understanding and harness leadership support for carbon capture among members of Congress, industry executives, labor, philanthropic and non-governmental organization leaders, journalists, and media influencers.

As a cost-effective and essential solution for continuing to meet global energy needs while preserving and creating jobs and reducing CO2 emissions, carbon capture technology still remains

poorly understood by many, despite having been in use as a part of the oil industry in Texas and Louisiana for nearly 50 years.

With the successful passage of tax legislation earlier this year providing financial support for building out the industry on a national scale, the UWUA is now looking ahead to actual project development and beginning to form relationships with pipeline and energy industry companies looking to harness carbon emissions from powerplants such as those operated by WY Local 127.

Uniquely suited for early-stage development of scaled-up carbon capture

## **Building Our Future**

projects given the region's geography, energy reserves, political climate, and abundance of coal resources in the Powder River Basin, western states such as Wyoming and Montana are leading the way to a future for coal-fired energy production. As an employer of tens of thousands of workers throughout the supply chain, as well as a support for the surrounding regional economy, energy extraction, whether in the form of coal, oil, or natural gas, forms the economic bedrock of the area. Adding carbon capture technology to the mix will allow this industry to continue to thrive and be even more profitable, all in a manner calculated to minimize potential impacts on the environment.

**Fighting for existing contracts** and future nuclear work

As the UWUA continues its focus on the safety of the nation's nuclear power reactors, the union has been turning its attention to what safety means in the context of decommissioning these reactors, if and when they close. With four UWUA facilities having announced either a firm decision to close in Massachusetts, Michigan, and New York, or a possibility of closure if circumstances remain unchanged, in Ohio, the leadership of the four affected locals, along with the National Union, is continuing dialogue with the effected companies, Entergy and First Energy Solutions, regarding the future of their workforce.

This July, the union will be sitting down with officials from Entergy to discuss the future of UWUA members' work at their plants beyond the cessation of reactor operations. It has long been the position of the UWUA that no one is better trained, or more knowledgeable about the safe decommissioning of nuclear powerplants, than the workers who have spent years, even decades, operating and maintaining these facilities all along. With some corporations in the industry moving to outsource decommissioning work, the UWUA's focus will remain on fighting for a role for those workers who are already in place, ready and able to do the job safely.

Meanwhile, in the wake of a bankruptcy filing by First Energy Solutions, the UWUA has taken an active role in the unfolding case, having been named to the creditors' committee along with other affected First Energy unions.

To date, the company has agreed to honor existing contracts but has made it clear that all its powerplants, including the Perry Nuclear Power Station in Ohio, are in danger of being closed. In response, the UWUA has continued its

Continued on page 6

## **P4A's Success Opens Door to** Offshore Wind Industry, **More Safety Training**



Pictured here is P4A's East Coast Project coordinator Priscilla Peloubet, center right in a navy suit, with Systems Of Safety facilitators, local and National Union leaders, and Con Ed leaders at Con Edison's Systems of Safety Year End Review meeting.

The UWUA's Power for America Training Trust continued its expansion into ▲ new areas with the recent hiring of Priscilla Peloubet as the East Coast Project coordinator to manage training programs for union members with National Grid, Eversource and Consolidated Edison. P4A's partnership with Bay State Wind and Bristol Community College in Massachusetts to potentially build a training center dedicated to preparing the workforce to operate and maintain offshore wind projects, and health and safety training for wind technicians has opened the door to the UWUA in the offshore wind industry. Whether it's land based or offshore the union is now in the position of being a leader in the growing industry.

## Defending Our Jobs, Building Our Future

advocacy for market reforms to properly price the reliability and security value of these facilities into wholesale electric markets, and has begun to reach out to private investors to gauge interest in new investment for plants such as the Perry nuclear facility.

#### The future of wind energy

Looking to the future of jobs in the offshore wind energy industry, the UWUA recently reached agreement with project developers, area educators and other labor unions to develop a training center in New Bedford, MA to prepare future UWUA members for work in the operation and maintenance of wind generators along the Atlantic seaboard. Work-



ing with Orsted North America, Eversource Energy, Bristol Community College, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and unions such as the IBEW and Ironworkers, these agreements set the stage for the development of this concept, one that, over time, will train workers for high-road union jobs as more and more wind turbines are built offshore.

Currently planned developments by companies such as Vineyard Wind and Deepwater Wind would be the first industrial-scale offshore wind farms in the United States, located off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Over time, as this new energy source becomes more fully developed along the Atlantic coast, the UWUA will continue to seek new opportunities for current and future members to find work.

"Clean energy is the industry of the future," said Phillip Trombly, UWUA regional director of Offshore Wind. "We are 100% confident that this resource is not only well positioned to deliver clean power for the homes and businesses along the east coast at a good price, but also to provide future opportunities for regional workforces needed for this brand-new industry to fully develop here in the United States."

Through these new agreements on training, the UWUA has charted a path toward a bright offshore energy future, one that will employ union members for decades to come.

## Electing Labor Friendly Representatives

At the heart of all union work is the ability to organize, bargain, and act collectively to improve the lives of workers and their families. Nothing is more essential to making this work possible than a political climate that is in solidarity with unions and workers and, as such, the UWUA continues to seek out and support a range of elected officials and candidates for office who are sympathetic to, and stand in solidarity with, organized labor.

Some recent examples in the current election cycle include, at the federal level, staunch UWUA partners such as Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, but also a new ally, Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono. As a champion of organized labor, Sen. Hirono is invested in energy policy, veterans' training programs such as the Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP), investment in infrastructure, and a recognition that the UWUA is seeking to organize members in the Aloha State's utility sector.

In the House of Representatives, the UWUA has cultivated a list of strong allies including Gretchen Driskell (MI-7), Elissa Slotkin (MI-8), Andy Levin (MI-9), Tim Greimel (MI-11), Mark MacKenzie (NH-1), Rich Lazer (PA-5), and Conor Lamb (PA-18). All of these candidates share a number of common elements, winning the support of the UWUA — unflagging support for organized labor, a recognition of the complexity of the issues our members face, including a changing energy economy and the need for investment in critical infrastructure systems, and a connection to UWUA members who live and work in their home districts.

At the state level, an important, though easy to overlook win occurred with former Ohio Congressman Zack Space sewing up the Democratic nomination for Ohio state auditor. Should he be successful in the general election this November, Zack will be in position to shape the state's debate over gerrymandered Congressional Districts, bringing fairness back to an election system that has become badly skewed in favor of one side. With neighboring Pennsylvania having recently re-shaped its political map to bring balance back to the process, Ohio is next on the list of states in need of reform and the dull-sounding, but critically important, role of state auditor will be key to making that happen.

On the local scene, the UWUA has been instrumental in changing the make-up of the city council in Roswell, NM where UWUA Local 51 made itself into a political force to be reckoned with in the city and state as it fights for fair treatment for local members. This work exemplifies grassroots politics at its finest with union members and leaders working directly, and personally, to create a political atmosphere in their community that will allow them and their families to enjoy the benefits of collective action through their union for years to come.

## With Proper Investment, Hydropower Offers Michigan a Renewable Energy Advantage

The development of hydropower in the United States has roots as far back as 1880 when the construction of a hydroelectric turbine in Grand Rapids, MI provided the first public demonstration of hydropower in the country. Boasting the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth — by total volume they contain 21% of the world's surface fresh water — its unique geography has made the state a leader in hydropower.

Like other renewables. hydropower is a clean, non-emitting energy source, but unlike wind and solar, it is consistently reliable, unaffected by flagging wind or cloudy weather. Moreover, its production costs are lower than wind, solar, nuclear, and natural gas.

#### **Aging equipment** threatens infrastructure

However, despite hydropower's many benefits to consumers and producers, new development lags behind other renewables and in Michigan, major investment is needed in maintenance and upgrades to the dozens of existing hydroelectric dams.

The Michigan State Utility Workers Council (MSUWC) currently has 55 UWUA members working in operations and maintenance at 13 hydroelectric dams on five different rivers.

According to Tom Cole, senior VP at MSUWC, "With the current push for renewables, it is urgent that we upgrade our older units at the run of the river

While renewables like wind, solar, and hydropower will become increasingly invaluable to the capacity market, major investments are needed to make the most of Michigan's hydropower potential.



The Ludington Pumped Storage Plant sits on a 1,000-acre site along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The plant was built between 1969-73 and is jointly owned by Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison, and operated by Consumers Energy. Photo © Dale Fisher

flows with modern technology. The ability to produce power is difficult, with aging equipment and the ensuing loss of efficiency that happens over time and the amount of water in the river due to climate change, these units can be rendered inoperable."

While Michigan remains a leader in hydropower, it is underutilizing its available hydro resources and there are enormous opportunities to upgrade existing facilities to improve grid reliability. According to Cole, "The facility at Ludington has some of the largest inductive motors in the world. Ludington Pumped Storage can deliver large amounts of electricity to the grid at a moment's notice when demand is high, helping to ensure grid reliability

and adding VARs (voltampere reactives) when motor loads on the system create the need."

#### Hydropower key to reliable grid

The Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Plant at Ludington offers over 2,000 MW of Net Demonstrated Capability. However, when the plant's reservoir is low, "The units transition from generators to reverse spinning motors," says Cole. "The VARs needed to support the grid when those motors are running are primarily supplied by large coal-fired plants and nuclear plants that have the rotating mass to deliver the VARs the grid needs for reliability," he added.

According to a recent report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, "Electricity from renewables will soon be consistently cheaper than from fossil fuels." By 2020, the report projects that all the power generation technologies that are now in commercial use will fall within the fossil fuel-fired cost range, with some even undercutting fossil fuels.

While renewables like wind, solar, and hydropower will become increasingly invaluable to the capacity market, major investments are needed to make the most of Michigan's hydropower potential, and, given the nature of the renewable technology, "Maintaining and improving grid reliability will still require us to rely on the power produced from coal and nuclear," Cole says.



## Repower Our Locals!

n late April and mid-May, UWUA members and officers attended Regions V and I's Educational Conferences in California and New Jersey respectively. With two more regional conferences slated for 2018, the National Union is well on the way toward meeting its goal of educating, activating and mobilizing its members and engaging with them at the local level.

The Regional Educational Conferences are part and parcel of the UWUA's commitment to providing local union officers and members with the training and support they

"As the corporate war on workers and their unions intensifies, it is critically important for UWUA members to have the tools they need to defend themselves and their co-workers on the shop floor, at the bargaining table, and through the grievance process. Our regional educational conferences are designed to do just that."

— UWUA President Mike Langford

need to become effective advocates for themselves and their fellow workers.

This year's theme is "Repower" and members are showing up in force to

take advantage of learning opportunities and building UWUA power.

Intensive educational workshops include: "Understanding & Exercising Our Rights," "Effective Contract Campaign Planning," and "Offensive Bargaining." The conferences feature notable speakers and public figures in the labor movement and electoral politics. A discussion session where members share

information about what's happening in their locals and engage in dialogue with National Officers is particularly popular. The gatherings also give members

### REGIONAL CONFERENCES



## Regional Education Conferences are Off and Running



Long-time UWUA supporter Maria Elena Durazo: vice-president, UNITE Here; vice chair, Democratic National Committee; and candidate for California Senate District 24.



Former Los Angeles Mayor and candidate for California Governor Antonio Villaraigosa.



David Cay Johnston, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter and author was guest speaker for the 2018 Regions I and V Conferences.

an opportunity to share information, build relationships, and make plans to strengthen their union.

As The Utility Worker goes to press, Regions II & III are preparing to attend their conference in Pittsburgh, PA, with the Region IV conference scheduled for August 16-18 in St. Louis, MO.

## What have you learned at your Regional Conference to take back to the members of your Local?



#### **Alyna Kong**

Customer Service Rep. Local 132

"California Gubernatorial Candidate Antonio Villaraigosa was a guest speaker. Being a shop steward, my focus was always at a local level dealing with local management. I now realize there is a bigger picture. Natural gas is under attack in California and we need the right representatives in government who are willing to fight with the union, not against it. My biggest takeaway from this Regional Conference is the need to have the right people running for office — those who have our best interests for the future."



#### Joe Means

Customer Service Rep. Local 132

"This was my first Regional Conference and I learned that the union is only as strong as its members. If we want a good contract we must all work and fight together!"



#### **Olga Torres**

Secretary Local 601

"I learned that we have some rights that I didn't know we have. I learned that we have up to six months to file an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. I learned don't take no for an answer, do your research."



#### Mario Garcia

Gas Distribution Local 609

"The experience I received from our Region V conference was that I have to go home and get more 609 members involved in upcoming negotiations. We often forget how our union works for us. Now, I know; labor laws, collective bargaining, understanding our contract, fighting for better wages and our future!"



#### **Melissa Ward**

Trustee Local 511

"During my first Regional Conference I learned so much about our union: what it really means to be in the union, the laws that protect us as workers, and about my role and responsibilities as a Union Trustee. But I think the most valuable and exciting piece for me to take back and share with my fellow union members are the tools and tactics I learned to build unity. The tools I learned will not only be applied when entering into negotiations, but to be utilized each and every day to strengthen our bonds, bring engagement, and a higher level of participation."



#### Servesh Deswal

Shop Steward Local 132

"My biggest conference takeaway was the importance of being active in our union. Sometimes we forget just how powerful we are when we come together in solidarity. We must go home and organize others to get what we want."



#### **Richard Williamson**

Shop Steward Local 1-2

"I learned about the power of the union and that you have someone backing you at all times. When you are hired by the company, you don't realize what the union is all about. By coming to this conference I learned that I'm not by myself. If something goes wrong, if you have a problem with your supervisor or anybody who is trying to dictate something to you in terms of your job and you're not ok with it, there's someone to protect you. There's someone to watch your back. The union is there for you."



#### **Brian Hannon**

Construction Inspector, Underground Local 369

"The new National Safety Committee is very important. The interaction that we're going to have between the regions will open the door to tackling issues we all share. This is going to help us promote a much safer working environment."

## Honoring First Res Linemen Sculpture to be Unveiled

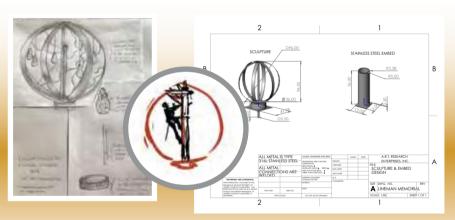
lost my husband almost 16 years ago, on August 26, 2002," says Tracy Moore, whose husband Marc was tragically electrocuted while working for the city of Lakeland, Florida. "I learned that day the true power in electricity, and the true sacrifice our linemen make — all give some, some give all, "she says, continuing, "Lineworkers are truly first responders and I would love to see them recognized as such."

Electric service area with the winning design to be modified and fabricated full size in stainless steel and bronze. The winner was the sculpture of a Lineman, based on a concept designed by three high school students.

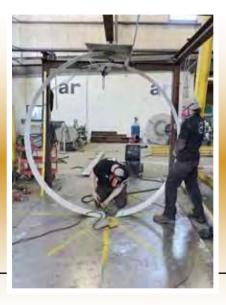
"Tracy inspired our project," says Haffey, who, on June 29, will unveil a public art sculpture recognizing electric linemen as the first of first-responders during times of natural and man-made disasters. 604 representing the Lakeland Electric workers. He adds, "This art piece gives linemen everywhere the recognition they deserve. A lot of time linemen are the first of the first responders."

The UWUA logo will be prominently displayed with the sculpture, a reminder that the union has played a vital role in giving members a voice to negotiate for better working conditions and benefits.

Nationally recognized artist, Becky Ault of Art Research Institute, in Lancaster, PA



From concept to creation. Three high school students won a public art design competition that led to the creation and installation of the Linemen sculpture.





With that as her mission Tracy established the Highline Hero Foundation to advocate for linemen and their families. In 2012, she succeeded in making August 26 Lineworkers Appreciation Day throughout the state of Florida. She then set her sights on securing a day to commemorate lineworkers nationwide.

In the process, she was introduced to Cynthia Haffey, executive director of Platform Art, a cultural organization in Lakeland specializing in public art projects that impact communities.

Platform Art was hosting a design competition for schools in the Lakeland

"The Lineman sculpture will serve as a public, visual and permanent representation of their contributions to the electric industry, and for their important and dangerous work," Haffey says.

The sculpture will be installed at the Lakeland Electric HQ on Lake Mirror, a prominent public location where festivals and public events are held regularly, with an audience of tens of thousands of people each year.

"We are grateful for the work Tracy, Cynthia, and many others are doing to recognize linemen as first responders," says Mike Stewart, president of Local was commissioned to produce the sculpture. The three high school students who won the design competition, Angel Mitchell, Maddie McDaniel, and Gabby Thomas, traveled there in April with their teacher, Kimberly Mortimer, and Haffey to see the sculpture fabricated. There they were met by two UWUA linemen, Local 102 Branch Local President Dennis Boyer, and Area VP Ron Kinna to witness the historic moment.

"It was awesome meeting the girls, seeing them involved and interested in our work, and watching the mold being poured," Kinna says. "As utility workers,

## ponders! in Lakeland, FL

"On June 29, utility workers, whether in water, gas or electric, will be one step closer to achieving our long sought goal of being recognized as first responders."

- UWUA President Mike Langford







I think we all feel that we are first responders. It's very rewarding that others are recognizing our profession as first responders."

The students came up with the idea of honoring electrical workers after experiencing the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma last fall and watching them work day and night to restore power to thousands of homes in Polk County, where Lakeland is located.

"I never really thought about the importance of linemen until we started working on this project," student Maddie McDaniel says. "They are first responders and are underappreciated. We are

going to reach lots of people with this sculpture which says 'thank you so much' for everything you do."

"It's been rewarding and fascinating to see what goes into making a monument," says Mortimer, McDaniel's teacher, "the sculpting, the mold making, the pouring of the metal, the finishing process — to get to see my girls grow."

The winning design the students submitted depicted a lineman encased by a globe and surrounded by dangling light bulbs, each containing images of Polk County residents.

"It's awesome how an idea a lineman's widow had to get first responder recognition for the work we do got young minds involved and how that turned into a public sculpture in Lakeland," says Local 102's Kinna.

UWUA President Mike Langford agrees, "On June 29, utility workers, whether in water, gas or electric, will be one step closer to achieving our long sought goal of being recognized as first responders. It's only right because without us, those who are already recognized as first responders — police, fire, and emergency medical technicians wouldn't be able to do what they do."

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

#### **Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO**

Statements of Financial Position*	December 31, 2017
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,745,53
Accrued interest receivable	\$ 3,55
Per capita dues receivable	\$ 1,531,32
Accounts receivable	\$ 21,97
Receivable from locals for bond premiums	\$ 49,60
Prepaid expenses	\$ 112,82
Total current assets	\$ 4,464,80
Investments	\$ 12,633,81
Furniture and equipment	\$ 140,85
Total assets	\$ 17,239,48
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 523,29
Due to broker	\$ 53,15
Deferred per capita dues	\$ 28,37
Total current liabilities	\$ 604,82
Long-term liabilities	
Accrued postemployment benefits cost	\$ 1,205,16
Deferred rent	\$ 164,46
Deferred compensation liability	\$ 673,37
Total long-term liabilities	\$ 2,042,99
Total liabilities	\$ 2,647,82
Net assets	
Unrestricted	\$ 14,316,21
Temporarily restricted	\$ 275,44
Total net assets	\$ 14,591,66
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 17,239,48

Statements of Activities* December 31					31, 2017	
		Unrestricted	,	Restricted		Total
REVENUE						
Per capita dues	\$	12,088,058	\$	-	\$	12,088,058
Initiation and charter fees	\$	42,188	\$	-	\$	42,188
Interest and dividends	\$	240,162	\$	-	\$	240,162
Allocation of interest and dividends	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$	557,154	\$	-	\$	557,154
Contributions	\$	-	\$	124,361	\$	124,361
Royalties	\$	99,084	\$	-	\$	99,084
Grant revenue	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Other	\$	107,965	\$	-	\$	107,965
Net assets released from purpose restriction	\$	81,608	\$	(81,608)	\$	-
Total revenue	\$	13,216,219	\$	42,753	\$	13,258,972
EXPENSES	\$	10,186,001	\$	-	\$	10,186,001
Change in net assets	\$	3,030,218	\$	42,753	\$	3,072,971
Inter-fund transfer	\$	-	\$	-	\$	
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	\$	11,285,999	\$	232,691	\$	11,518,690
End of year	\$	14,316,217	\$	275,444	\$	14,591,661

#### Schedule of Net Assets by Fund\*

December 31, 2017

						iemporariiy	/
	Unrestricted					Restricted	
	General Fund	Special Defense and Organizing Fund	Convention Fund	Health & Post Retirement Benefits Fund	Political Legislative Education Fund	COPE Fund	Total
Ending balance 12/31/17	\$ 7,855,855	\$ 4,765,587	\$ 1,375,345	\$ 294,840	\$ 24,590	\$ 275,444	\$ 14,591,661



Michael Coleman Secretary-Treasurer

#### Statement of Expenses\*

December 31, 2017

2000111201 01, 2011	
Salaries	\$ 3,661,735
Lost time payments	\$ 45,605
Payroll taxes	\$ 267,050
Pension	\$ 840,442
Health and welfare	
benefits	\$ 662,788
Postretirement benefits	\$ 415,324
Hotel and meal expenses	\$ 498,578
Transportation	\$ 434,862
Executive Board expenses and allowances	\$ 339,422
Office rent and services	\$ 148,316
Supplies and materials	\$ 171,453
Postage and delivery	\$ 13,073
Telephone	\$ 68,866
Insurance	\$ 151,764
The Utility Worker	\$ 186,911
Professional services	\$ 1,189,378
Dues and subscriptions	\$ 75,347
Scholarships	\$ 11,325
Contributions	\$ 23,355
COPE Fund contributions	\$ 81,608
Affiliation fees	\$ 444,187
Training	\$ 24,000
Conferences and meetings	\$ 285,180
Grant expenses	\$ -
Organizing campaigns	\$ 1,500
Political education	\$ 500
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 46,555
Other	\$ 96,877
	\$ 10,186,001

<sup>\*</sup>As audited by Calibre CPA Group, PLLC and reviewed and approved by the UWUA National Executive Board.

## **Our Toolbox for Contract Negotiations Works!**

nion representation and strong UWUA contracts are what separates us from workers who have no voice and very few rights at work.

With our contract, we cannot be fired at the whim of management, and our wages, benefits, working conditions, and more, are all protected. This gives us peace of mind. Imagine going to work every day without the protections your contract

We should not take what we've won in our contract for granted. In most cases it's taken many years, and numerous contract negotiations sometimes we had to go on strike to win these benefits. We can never forget the sacrifices that workers have made for others to benefit.

#### Adapt to survive and grow

To protect what we have and build for the future, we must always look to improve ourselves, each other, and our union.

Our success depends on our ability

to adapt. To maintain our status as the safest, most productive, highest skilled workers in our industries requires lifelong learning, constant training, and developing the necessary tools to keep our advantage.

Negotiating good contracts and enforcing them is the foundation of our success. At the National Union our job is to support the work of the locals, particularly around contract bargaining and enforcement. We are also very strongly focused on providing training to develop the necessary skills so our members are the best in our industries.

Members have the opportunity to improve their bargaining skills and learn what works best in their industry at our Regional Conferences. It's great to see hundreds of utility workers participating in them this year.

In order to succeed, we need to bring a lot of special tools to the bargaining table that are shaped to make meeting our contract demands possible while, at the same time, laying the groundwork for the future.

For example, as health insurance premiums rise, companies continually try to shift more of the costs onto our members. That's why we established the UWUA National Health & Welfare Fund. In most cases, through this multi-employer benefit fund we are able to offer lower-cost healthcare, vision, dental, life and other insurance benefits coverage. It is a tool

to use at the bargaining table that should not be left in your toolbox.

Another tool the National Union has created is the UWUA Power for America Training Trust. Many of our employers understand the role

To maintain our status

as the safest, most

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industries requires life-

long learning, constant

training, and developing

the necessary tools to

keep our advantage.



Steven VanSlooten Executive Vice President

training plays in remaining competitive and are joining P4A to

make that happen. The number of incumbent workers going through safety and skills training continues to climb. New members, too, are graduating from our courses in record numbers.

#### Training opens doors

To meet the demand for P4A services, East Coast Project Coordinator Priscilla Peloubet has joined the growing P4A team. She is working closely with National Safety Director Scotty MacNeill on the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Safety Committee Certification Training Program. In addition, she is building out two registered apprenticeship programs in collaboration with the DOL

and state apprenticeship offices.

Our training successes are opening doors into new, growing industries. Offshore wind is one of them. As we move into the wind industry, we are developing training curriculum and positioning ourselves to be recognized by the industry to manage training programs for union members with National Grid, Eversource, and Consolidated Edison.

One of the things we are most proud of is our Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP). Our first UMAP program was at Local 18007 in Chicago, started by Business Manager Rick Passarelli. UMAP-Chicago is a defined training to placement program specifically for military veterans. Our second UMAP program was started in Michigan several years after the Chicago program. UMAP-MI was developed for Michigan military veterans, reservists and members of the National Guard.

These programs — the Regional Conferences, the Health & Welfare Fund, P4A and UMAP — are just some of the tools we've created to address the needs of our members. They were won through collective bargaining and collective action. You don't have to wait until contract time to take advantage of them. If you want to find out more, contact the National Union's office.

## **Labor Rights are Human Rights**

Voting this fall will be

crucial. This congress

and president, as well as

state legislators, need to

by voting out of office

the working class.

those who have harmed

workers, and voting into

office those who will help

receive a strong message

anti-worker governors and

pril 4, 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While it is well known that Dr. King's assassination took place in Memphis, most Americans are not aware of the fact that he went to Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. The strike began on February 12, when 1,300 black sanitation workers, fed up with unsafe working conditions, poor pay, and racism, walked off the job.

The incident that pushed the workers to their limit was the death of Echol Cole and Robert Walker. Cole and Walker,

seeking shelter from the rain, went into the back of their truck and, when the compactor blade turned on, they were crushed to death. When the incident was reported, the city did nothing about it. The families of the workers received no monetary compensation.

#### Are we going backwards?

King's assassination on April 4 only intensified the strike. Then, on April 16, 65 days after the strike began, a settlement was reached between the city and the workers. The settlement included much needed wage increases, new safety standards, and equal opportunity for black workers

in supervising positions. This meant recognition of AFSCME Local 1733 and the first collective bargaining agreement ever signed by the City of Memphis.

Now, 50 years later, we look at how far we have come since then. When we look at events since 2010, it can easily be said that we are going backward. That year brought with it a wave of newly elected conservative Republican legislators and governors. Shortly after that election, a major assault on organized labor began in states in which no one ever thought that could happen. States like Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio saw viciously anti-union legislation passed. While voters in Ohio were able to beat back the legislation that was passed there via petition and ballot referendum, Wisconsin and Michigan had to deal with the passage of so-called Right-to-Work laws, the prohibition of dues check-off for public sector workers, and, in Wisconsin, the requirement to annually hold a recertification vote in which members that don't vote have their vote counted as a "no" vote against the union.

Workers on the federal level were also attacked by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives. There was an attempt to roll into a Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill the requirement



John Duffy National Vice President

that workers covered under the Railway Labor Act who abstain from unionization elections, would be counted as a "no" vote against the union.

The assault on democracy didn't stop with unions, it also

spread out to the general public. The tightening of voter ID laws was argued as a cure for voter fraud which is so rare it's virtually non-existent. Certainly there is no legitimate argument that can be made in support of restricting or eliminating early voting, same day registration, Sunday voting, and placing restrictions on

absentee ballots. **Trump Excutive Orders** 

### hurt workers

Now the most recent attack on workers comes from President Trump in the form of executive orders. The signing of executive orders, something for which Trump

criticized Obama, is now something Trump does on a regular basis. The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) has over 700,000 members. Their President, J. David Cox was quoted as saying, "These executive orders strip agencies of their right to bargain terms and conditions of employment and replace it with a politically charged scheme to fire employees without due process."

The Supreme Court is expected to soon issue a ruling in Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, a political attack on working people aimed at taking away the freedom to join together in strong unions and further rigging our economy and democracy in favor of corporations and billionaires.

Voting this fall will be crucial. This congress and president, as well as anti-worker governors and state legislators, need to receive a strong message by voting out of office those who have harmed workers, and voting into office those who will help the working class.



## National and Regional Health and **Safety Committees Formed**

ith safety topping the list of union priorities, the National Union has, for the first time, established health and safety committees at both the regional and national levels. While the UWUA has always focused on member safety, up until now this was largely done at the local level with National support. The formation of five regional and one national committee will allow for more coordination between locals, regions, and nationally.

#### **Engaging members is key**

The National Safety Committee has joined forces with the three other UWUA committees — Human Rights, Women's Caucus, and Young Workers — to increase the power of the union through member engagement. With safety as the glue that holds it all together, the committees have joined forces to continue the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

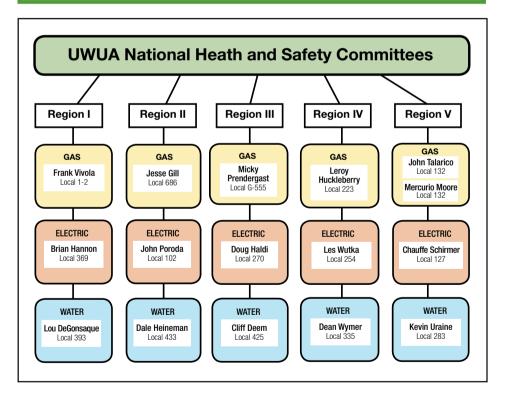
The struggle for safe working conditions was a focus of Dr. King when he was killed fighting for the rights of sanitation workers in Memphis, TN. Keeping his legacy alive is the work of many.

One example is the recently deceased Dr. James Melius, who was largely responsible for the passage of the 9/11 Zadrega Act that authorized billions of dollars for the medical care of first responders and others after the World Trade Center attacks in 2001.

In addition to the creation of the safety committees, the UWUA is now partnering with OSHA on the Safe + Sound Campaign that encour-

#### **Safety Committee Mission Statement**

The UWUA Health and Safety Committee is a resource for local advocates fighting for a hazard free and healthy workplace environment. We are dedicated to reducing injuries, accidents, and unhealthy environmental exposures. We will fight to ensure compliance with health and safety standards, and advocate for positive workplaces free from mentally and emotionally unhealthy behavior. We promote safety and wellbeing as our union's culture, and as everyone's responsibility.



ages every workplace in the U.S. to have a safety and health program that includes management leadership, worker participation, and a systematic process for finding and fixing hazards.

The UWUA is also participating in the National Safety Council, as well

as the American Society of Safety Engineers.

For more information about the Safety Committees, contact UWUA National Safety Director Scotty MacNeil, john.macneill@uwua.net

## IT TAKES ALL OF US!

## National Committees Come Together to Educate, Activate, Mobilize Members

he UWUA's national committees — Human Rights, Young Workers, Women's Caucus, and Health and Safety — are focused on the importance of continuing to struggle together for civil, human, and labor rights for all. The committees have come together for joint presentations at the union's 2018 Regional Educational Conferences.

By combining forces, committee members are building strength and unity within the union, in the communities where members live and work, in their places of worship, and in the political arena.

This union-wide unity coincides with the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While Dr. King is most remembered for his struggle for civil rights for African-Americans, often overlooked were his efforts, and teachings, connecting civil rights to workers' rights, equality for all — regardless of race, ethnicity or gender — and the need for safe

places to live and work. He brought workers, communities, faith leaders and governments together to improve the lives of all working people.

Believing that "injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere" he forged one movement to address historic inequities within the United States and the world.

#### Young Workers' Initiative Committee

In addition to building internal strength within the union, its members and their communities, the national committees are focusing on developing future union leaders, and mobilizing for the 2018 mid-term elections. What organized workers win at the bargaining table can be taken away with the stroke of a legislator's pen.



UWUA officers and national committee members marched for civil, human, and labor rights at the *I AM 2018* conference in Memphis, TN. Pictured here are, left to right, Local 1-2 President James Slevin, Women's Caucus Chair Valerie King, and Human Rights Chair Nathan Waters.

The importance of the mid-term elections cannot be overstated. All 435 seats in the U. S. House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate will be contested.

No one represents working families and their unions better than working people themselves. The Young Workers' Initiative Committee has taken the lead in promoting the UWUA's Labor Candidates Program. Modeled on the AFL-CIO's successful program, the UWUA plans to recruit, train, mentor, and support union sisters and brothers running for elected office.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO's Labor Candidates Program is an example of how electing union members to political office can achieve real gains for working families. With almost 1,000 election victories since it started 20 years ago, union

members now serve New Jersey's working families in the U.S. House of Representatives, in the State Legislature, as County Freeholders and Mayors, on town Councils and Committees, on School Boards, and as fire commissioners.

#### **Human Rights Committee**

The Human Rights Committee mission is to "Provide advocacy, training and support to UWUA local unions and members in the areas of human rights/ civil rights, and all matters of discrimination in the workplace."

To commemorate the life of Dr. King, committee members joined UWUA officers at an AFL-CIObacked conference in Memphis, TN where Dr. King was assassinated. There, union members, religious leaders, and activists from around the nation came together to continue his work.

The three-day event culminated in a march for justice where everyone, black, white, Christian, Muslim, Indian, Native American, LGBTQ, women, and children, demonstrated their support of the movement for civil, human, and labor rights.

#### **Women's Caucus**

Since President Trump's election, there has been a surge in women's activism. The Women's March and the #Me Too movement are examples of women mobilizing and speaking out to shed light on discriminatory treatment and promote women's rights in homes, workplaces and communities.

The UWUA's Women's Caucus is focused on educating members, and activating women in support of their union. They are also partnering with stakeholders in their communi-



ties to fight for change in the workplace and beyond by taking on such issues as affordable healthcare, quality schools, and vibrant communities.

Union women are helping grow the labor movement by organizing in sectors where women make up the majority of workers — restaurants, education, health care. And they are re-energizing the labor movement by activating women in the rank-and-file and leadership positions.

For an update on the National Health and Safety Committee see page 17.

#### **UWUA National Committee Chairs**



**Nathan Waters Human Rights** Committee



John MacNeill Health and Safety Committee



Valerie King Women's Caucus Committee



**Reggie Davis** Young Workers' Initiative Committee

### The UWUA Objection Plan Year July 1, 2018 — June 30, 2019

#### Nonmembers' Right to Object.

Any employee who is not a member of the UWUA, and who pays fees to the UWUA and/or a Local Union pursuant to a collectively bargained union-security provision, will have the right to object to expenditures paid for activities, which are not reasonably related to collective bargaining. Such activities are referred to as "non-germane." The fees paid by a non-member employee who files an objection under these procedures will be based only on expenditures for activities that are related to collective bargaining.

#### **Procedure for Filing Objections.**

Objections must be made by the individual objectors, in writing, addressed to the National Secretary-Treasurer, UWUA, 1300 L St. NW., Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005. Simple objections must be made annually and are effective for a single Plan Year (July 1 to June 30). Objections must include the nonmember's name and address and Local Union number. An objection which expressly provides that it is continuing will be honored. All other objections will be considered simple objections which must be renewed annually.

#### **Reduction in Dues or Fees.**

The fees paid to both the UWUA and its Local Unions by nonmember employees who file objections will be reduced for a 12-month period. Once a written objection is received by the National Office, the National Secretary-Treasurer will notify the relevant local to reduce the fees for the objecting member. Dues or fees paid by nonmember employees are comprised of the per capita fees paid to the UWUA and fees retained by the Local Union.

For the Plan Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, 87.53% of the total annual per capita fees and Local Union fees are chargeable to objecting nonmembers The applicable nongermane percentage of 12.47% was determined by analyzing the UWUA's expenditures for the recently completed fiscal year. The percentage of reduction in fees for Local Unions has been calculated at the same rate as per capita fees, because the percentages of Local Union expenditures on non-germane activities have generally been lower than those of the UWUA.

### Calculation of Reduction in Per Capita and Local Union Dues and Fees.

The National Secretary-Treasurer calculates the reduction in the UWUA's per capita fees and in Local Union fees to which objectors will be entitled by determining the

UWUA's total operating expenditures during the preceding fiscal year, based on financial statements prepared by a third party auditor, and the total expenditures made for activities that are "germane" and therefore chargeable to objecting nonmember employees. The National Secretary-Treasurer then calculates the ratio of germane expenditures to total expenditures. All objectors shall receive, the financial report explaining the calculations for the percentage reduction as well as the list of germane and non-germane expenditures.

#### **Appeal to Impartial Arbitrator.**

A nonmember employee who files an objection and who disagrees with the UWUA's determination of the reduction in per capita fees and Local Union fees in the belief that it does not accurately reflect expenditures on germane and nongermane activities may challenge the UWUA's determination by appealing to an impartial arbitrator.

- a. An objector who wishes to appeal to the impartial arbitrator must explicitly request, within thirty (30) days of receipt confirmation of the reduction in fees and financial report, that he or she is seeking arbitration. The words "ARBITRATION REQUESTED" must appear on the face of the appeal.
- b. The impartial arbitrator will be appointed by the American Arbitration Association (AAA), through its Rules for Impartial Determination of Union fees.
- c. All appeals will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the AAA. The UWUA will bear the burden of justifying its calculations.
- d. The cost of the arbitrator's services and the proceedings will be borne by the UWUA and the Local Union. Individually incurred costs (e.g. travel expenses, lost wages, legal expenses, witness fees, transcript copy costs, etc.) will be borne by the party incurring them.
- e. While the appeal is pending, the National Secretary-Treasurer will hold, in an interest-bearing escrow account, a portion of the fees paid by appealing objectors that is sufficient to ensure that any portion of the fees that is reasonably in dispute will not be used during the appeal. If the impartial arbitrator determines that the appealing objectors are entitled to a greater reduction in their fees than that calculated by the UWUA, checks will be issued for the balance of the reduction in fees, plus interest.
- f. The decision of the impartial arbitrator will be final and binding.





The Union Sportsmen's Alliance and Realtree are giving one lucky USA member and three guests three days of unforgettable, white-knuckle racing action Oct. 12-14, 2018 at NASCAR's biggest track, the legendary Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Alabama.

Prize package includes tickets to Friday's qualifying action and weekend races including the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, plus first-class seating in Realtree's luxury suite, pit road passes, meals and four nights lodging for four.

Must be a Union Sportsmen's Alliance member or AFL-CIO union member to qualify. **DEADLINE TO ENTER: August 31, 2018.** 

ENTER SWEEPSTAKES & BECOME A USA MEMBER FOR FREE! www.unionsportsmen.org/talladega

#### **Saluting Our UWUA Retirees**

The UWUA wishes all our retirees health and happiness during your "golden years." Enjoy it — you've earned it!

Local 1-2 William Armstrong James Baker John Bell Steve Bobik John Bradley Andrew Broadnax Donald Cafarelli Joseph Caradonna Michael Clark Lenny Cook Harold Corke Manuel Cosme Claudia Crawford John Daniele Manuel DeJesus **Neal DeSimone** Anthony Esposito **Daniel Finn** John Frassanito Robert Frei Robert Fristachi Jack Guarneri Stephen Haimeck John Heaphy Kevin Henn Tony Huie Stanley Jackowski Steven Jones William Kivel Michael Madonia Sidney Mangaroo **Anthony Marutollo** James Mazzie Margaret McShane Gilbert Molina Kelvin Nelson Wainwright Newark Stephen Ocskasy Mohammad Olfati Michael Pataky Karen Pennington Simon Placek **Gwendolyn Pickett** Anatolio Podolanow John Poggio **Bruce Prescod** Robert Prezioso Michael Ramirez Barbara Resslhuber Herbert Robinson Francisco Rodriguez Ameaga Rogers Anthony Rotola

#### Local 1-2 cont'd

Michael Vail Marcos Vega John Walters Robert Wenzler Sharon Zimmerman Teddy Ziolkowski

#### Local 101

James Chrisman

#### Local 102-F

Derek A. Santini August J. Santini

#### Local 102-180

Drew C. Krider Thomas L. Sipes Robert T. Tragon

#### Local 103

Phil Scudder John Wisneski

#### Local 104

Dan Beetley Pat Leidlein

#### Local 105

Jeffrey C. Andrews Keven E. Bovd Scott R. Clark Michael J. Costello Raymond M. Cunningham Kenneth Dillaha Patrick R. Heath Steven R. Johnson Kenneth L. Jones Howard L. Lafnear II Timothy J. Lane Carolyn Long Gregory P. Mathe Darryl L. Memering Paul M. Mento Diana Moyet **Geoffrey Ross** Martin L. Rossow Gary M. Smith

#### Local 106

David Hill Randy Houtz

#### Local 127

Kim Brasington Sherry Bucknell

#### Local 127 cont'd

**Gary Dutton** Alvino Maestas Ken Sharp

#### Local 144

Wade A. Doud Barbara J. Kane Andrew A. Lipinski Cynthia M. Trombley Thomas E. Woodruff

#### Local 164

Jeffrev Stofko Thomas A. Dalfonso Jeffrey Hunt

#### Local 175

Ben G. Andress William L. Hoskins Thomas Hutchison James D. Latham Stephen L. Neu Kevin R. Osswald Robert E. Peters James H. Pitchford James R. Stewart III Lee Taste Jr. Joseph A. Walters Wilbur S. Wells George W. Yelton

#### Local 211

Larry Bealko Denny Bonaroti Jim Rodriguez **Paul Walters** 

#### Local 223

Tom Banks Sharlene Brown Patrick Champion Rudy Cianfarani Eric Coudron James Dewandeler Kimberlee Manlove-Smith **Dave Pinchot** Karen Redmond Sabrina Simon

#### Local 254

**Bob Johnson Deb Stafford** 

#### Local 257

Michael J. Duits

#### Local 257 cont'd

Richard J. Erway

#### Local 261

**David Torres** 

#### Local 264

Barbara Beyser John P. Minor

#### Local 347

Susan Guenthardt **David Whitney** 

#### Local 369

Frank J. Benning David M. Blanchet Stuart X. Cameron Frank Carroll William Corbett Steven J. Demarco Thomas P. Farmer Sheila Gillis Leo Gleason Altina Gomes Charlene Greene John Lawlor Douglas LeCuyer Michael O. Mills William Mooney Margaret M. Oliveira Donald A. Padula Laurie Ravle Rose Romboli Stephen Roose Jude Saint-Gerard Damon W. Sgarzi Roberta G. Toombs Glenn Wicks

#### Local 395

Chris Bordfeld Robert Sherman

#### Local 417

Jeffrey McKeever

#### Local 423

**David Shelcusky** 

#### Local 426

Harold Hartman

#### Local 433

Kevin P. Brennan Gregory N. Diulus

#### Local 433 cont'd

Gerald J. Evangelista Robert Oneill David G. Smith

#### Local 430

Janet Cleland Jeffrey J. Kittle

#### Local 447

Mario Cocca

#### Local 470-1

Robert Clemente Peter Lacz Frank Santacroce Joseph Silva

#### **Local 478**

Robert G. Bowlen

#### Local 487

Richard A. Adamic

#### Local 501

George Benson William Kelly

#### Local 521

**Charles Johnston** 

#### **Local 522**

John T. Polzer

#### Local 525

Robert Batchelor

#### Local 534

Robert Dempsey Marcia Duffy William Griner **Donald Harris** Al Sturzione Lucille Wolfsohn Mark Yager

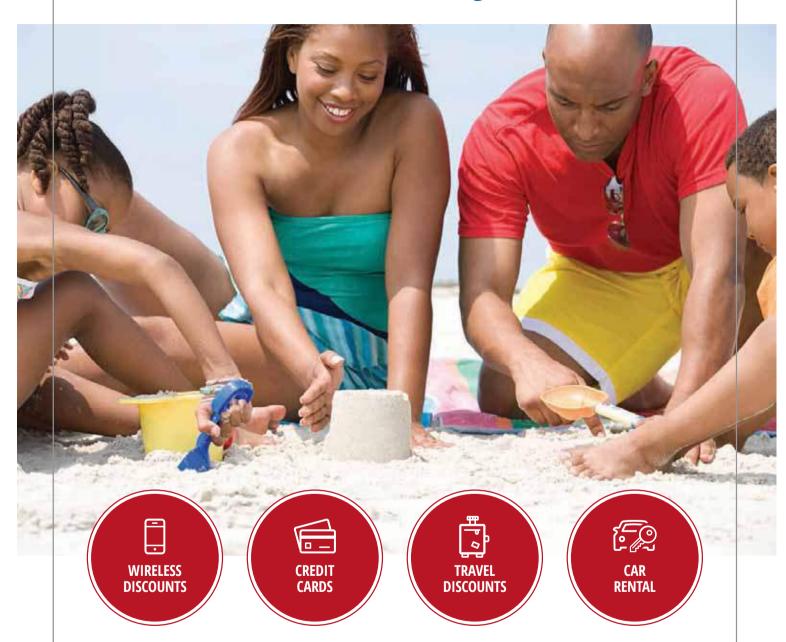
#### Local 540

Greg Reid

Jimmy Sanchez

**Edward Smiling** 

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Name			
Local #			
New Address			
City			
State	Zip Code		

## Effects of Coal Plant Closures Featured in Business Week

he devastating effects of coal-fired plant closings on individuals and their communities was featured on the cover of *Bloomberg Business Week* and published online on May 23.

Through the story of John Arnett, a UWUA Local 175 member who worked at the Killen Station in Adams County, OH, readers get an education on what thousands of workers who rely on coal for a living are going through as their plants close, largely due to the low cost of natural gas and the electric industry's search for greater profits.

Reporter Alec MacGillis focuses on community and why people like Arnett choose to stay in places like Adams County and take lower paying jobs rather than move to where job prospects might be better.

"It's just home," Arnett is quoted as saying. "I've been a bunch of different places, different countries. I've been across the equator. And now this is where I want to be, or I'd have stayed some-



where else. It's the most beautiful place in the world, these hills."

AES Corp., a multinational, bought the plant from Dayton Power & Light in 2011 and announced its plans to close it in 2016 with decommissioning scheduled for June 2018.

Working closely with Local 175 President Greg Adams, the UWUA sought in vain to find a buyer for the still profitable plant. And the government, for its part, has been unresponsive to keeping the plants, and the good paying jobs that go with them, open.

Reporter MacGillis writes, "Lee Anderson, director of governmental

affairs at the national Utility Workers Union, has spent years trying to get elected officials around the country to grapple with what's happening in places such as Adams County. But there's just no political will, he says."

To read the article, go to https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-05-23/why-do-americans-stay-when-their-town-has-no-future