

# BCTGM *News*

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## **A Crisis for North America's Workers**



## *the* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Phony Patriotism

***"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."***

—Samuel Johnson, 18th Century Author

In his new book, "Take This Job and Ship It," U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) zeroes in on the most important economic and social issue of our time – the abandonment of North American workers by corporate executives.

In one particularly insightful passage that captures the essence of this crisis, Dorgan writes, "With all of the self-serving political talk about 'values' these days and the burst of patriotism following the terrorist attacks against our country....I have often wondered whether all the talk about....patriotism ever plays any role in business decisions about jobs."

Unfortunately for North American workers, today's captains of industry are anything but patriots. While they may run "patriotic" ads on T.V. and talk a big game about "devotion to country," their actions reveal their true and only allegiance – increasing corporate profits and their own personal wealth.

In the last decade, corporate executives have hollowed out North America's industrial base by closing thousands of factories and slashing more than three million good jobs. These jobs are being replaced by workers in very low-wage countries throughout the world.

The consequences of this insidious wave of corporate greed – hundreds of U.S. and Canadian communities pummeled; countless families devastated; the standard of living for workers sabotaged and our manufacturing capability strangled.

For our members, this development has hit home hard. Recently, the Hershey Company announced that it will slash as many as 1,500 BCTGM jobs, including the shutdown of our plants in Nova Scotia, Canada and Reading, Pennsylvania and the elimination of more than 650 jobs at its flagship facilities in Hershey.

At the same time, Hershey announced it was building a new plant in Mexico to make many of the same products that our members are currently producing in Pennsylvania and Nova Scotia. In discussing these decisions with Wall Street analysts, Hershey CEO Richard Lenny callously explained that he just had to do it because the company was missing out on cheaper labor markets – even though the company remains highly profitable.

It is much the same story with Imperial Tobacco. Once the largest cigarette manufacturer in Canada employing more than 1,000 BCTGM members as recently as a few years ago, Imperial has laid off nearly all of our members and shifted all of its production to Mexico. They too didn't want to "miss out on cheaper labor markets."

Corporate executives who destroy the livelihood of families, terrorize workers and extort concessions by

threatening plant closure and exploit workers in other countries can hardly be called patriots. They, and the elected officials who enable them, are nothing more than sell-out artists, willing to give up the economic future of the U.S. and Canada in order to line their own pockets.

If these corporate decision makers truly cared about their own country, they would invest in new plants, equipment and technology in the United States and Canada not Mexico, Central and South America and Asia.

If they truly cared about their own country, they would sit down with workers and their unions and cooperatively devise innovative strategies for revitalizing North America's manufacturing economy.

If they truly cared about the future of their own country, they would do everything in their power to create new, high-wage jobs for our workers so that we could raise the standard of living, build new schools, roads and hospitals, provide quality health care for all Americans and make higher education more affordable for working families.

True patriots are devoted to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country.

Phony patriots care only for themselves.

**Frank Hurt**

*BCTGM International President*

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# Artisan Bakers Ratify First Contract with Grace

**T**enacity, dedication and hard work have paid off for BCTGM Local 125 (San Leandro, Calif.) members at Grace Baking in Richmond, Calif., who after years of waiting ratified their first union contract on April 21.

Efforts to organize bakers at the artisan wholesale bakery, which is owned by Canada Bread, began in 2004. Workers Tomas Navarro and Brenda Campos contacted Local 125 about the aggressive tactics of the plant's new management. Workers at the bakery suffered from low wages, lack of benefits and, according to Navarro and Campos, there was an overwhelming lack of respect shown to the workers.

Region Five International Vice President Sean Kelly assisted Local 125 officers in communicating with Toronto-based Canada Bread. The local's request for union recognition to Canada Bread was rejected and the company kicked off "a very dirty and aggressive anti-union, anti-worker campaign," recalls International Representative Marco Mendoza, who assisted the local in the organizing effort.

"The company hired a union busting firm from Los Angeles and held meetings around-the-clock," notes Mendoza. Because of the intimidation of workers by the company, the 2004 representation election fell 23 votes short.

Following the election, the company fired the entire organizing committee, including key supporters Navarro, Campos and Rafael Ruiz. The BCTGM filed

objections to the election and tried to get the workers rehired, however, the NLRB dismissed the charges. Navarro, Ruiz and Campos became part of the 23,000 workers who were illegally terminated or penalized during 2000-2005 for expressing their desire to be represented by a labor union — a right that is supposed to be guaranteed by federal law.

*"The dedication and spirit of workers ... is what makes tough organizing campaigns like this end in victory."*

However, the union was able to get jobs for all the fired workers at BCTGM-contracted bakeries, including Swenhard's Swedish Bakery and Boudin Bakery, where they now enjoy all the benefits and respect of a collective bargaining agreement.

Despite the 2004 election loss, workers and organizers vowed to carry on the fight for dignity, justice and respect. Navarro, Ruiz and Campos continued to work on the campaign as volunteer organiz-



ers, helping the union make house calls and maintain support for the BCTGM. On July 21, 2005 they prevailed, winning the election by a 2:1 margin and bringing the artisan bakers officially into the ranks of Local 125.

According to International Vice President Randy Roark, who led negotiations for the bakers' first contract, "The Local 125 officers and rank-and-file organizers were vital to the success of this effort. They never gave up. The company never broke their spirit.

"The dedication and spirit of workers like Tomas Navarro, Rafael Ruiz, Brenda Campos and Alicia Torrez is what makes tough organizing campaigns like this end in victory," recalls Roark.

Roark further credits Local 125 Secretary-Treasurer Donna Scarano and Business Agents Rene Castillo, Roger Gutierrez and Guy Jacobo "for their hard work and dedication to the Grace Baking workers." International Representatives Eric Anderson and Blaine Williams also assisted in the organizing drive.

# Organizing, Bargaining and Political Action Top Officers Training

Commended by BCTGM International President Frank Hurt as being, “An extremely hardworking, dedicated and a sharp group of union leaders,” 19 local union officers from throughout the U.S. completed the International’s New Officers Training at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Spring, Md. May 6 – 11.

The educational conference, administered by the BCTGM International Research & Education Department, focused on sharpening the leadership skills of the newly-elected officers. The daily sessions included interactive workshops and guest speakers who focused on local union management, organizing, preparation for bargaining, health and safety and arbitration preparations. Addition-

ally, there was a special session that reviewed the important financial record-keeping duties for the financial secretaries in the group.

The officers were encouraged to share their own union background and work experiences at their local unions, and learn from the strategies and tactics others have used in similar circumstances.

The local union representatives visited International Headquarters and met with the International Executive Officers. On the last night of the conference, the officers were addressed by President Hurt, Secretary-Treasurer/Director of Organization David B. Durkee, and Executive Vice President Joseph Thibodeau, who commended the group for their dedication to the BCTGM.

The local union activists conducted a BCTGM-PAC drive during the training and presented the International Officers with \$1,225 in donations — one of the largest single PAC donations of a New Officers Training group EVER!

Cyrus Fairley (L. 98G) and Sally Stokes (L. 81) work on their workplace maps as part of the preparation for bargaining workshop.

Rebecca Holbrook, David Cheong and Rene Castillo evaluate union strength in a L. 125 represented facility.



▲ Participants create maps of the facilities they represent for use in internal organizing. Pictured from left is Scott Wilson (L. 3G), Robert Kwosek (L. 316G), Matt Villaire (L. 263G), and Cheryl Stone (L. 9).

◀ Jerry Gil (L. 85) plots the production lines in one of the plants he services.

# Ask the Local Officer:

## Why Organize?



We organize so the workers have a voice on the job and are treated fairly.

We organize to protect wages, holidays, sick leave, pensions and the future of the family. Workers need to organize together in a union so they can defend themselves against the employer. This is your right – to organize and bargain collectively as a union member.

### **David K. Cheong**

*Business Agent, Local 125  
(San Leandro, Calif.)  
Union Member Since 1989*



Today in America, according to the U.S. Census Bureau of Statistics, nearly 36 million Americans live in poverty. Most of these individuals are working two jobs, while other people are raising their children or the children

are raising themselves. They have no medical insurance, no pension, no hope for the future and no quality of life. No dignity, zero respect on the job. So why organize? The life of a union member is quite different. I raised my children as a single mother of two without help from my family. Today, my 19 year old son is also a union member. He will have medical, pension, paid holidays, paid vacation – and a voice! He is working on a future – not an existence. Why organize? Because American families deserve the quality of life that working families of unions have. I believe if we all strive to help by organizing as much as we can, we can all work together toward a better America where we are truly free.

### **Cheryl Stone**

*Business Agent, Local 9 (Seattle)  
Union Member Since 1989*



Having come out of a recently organized shop, I know the value of organizing first-hand. Becoming a union member

allowed me to finally have a voice in the workplace and has provided me and my family with a better way of life. As labor leaders, we also must organize in order for our locals to survive. In the last five years, Local 25 has organized two new shops with a combined workforce of more than 900 workers. Yet we still have the same number of members that we had five years ago. You see, without organizing there will be no local unions.

### **Jeff Webb**

*Assistant Business Agent,  
Local 25 (Chattanooga, Tenn.)  
Union Member Since 2003*



Workers organize so that everyone has a share in the American dream and is treated with respect.

### **Rebecca Holbrook**

*President, Local 125  
(San Leandro, Calif.)  
Union Member Since 1980*

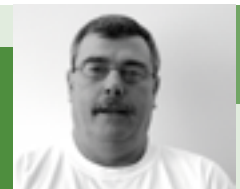


Organizing helps make us stonger. The larger the union body, the

more leverage you have. Organizing helps get the union word out.

### **Robert Kwosek**

*Financial Secretary, Local  
316G (West Chicago, Ill.)  
Union Member Since 1985*



I think we should organize as many companies as possible because the more union members we have, the stronger we become. Unions are very important to every worker in every state of this country. Unions bring better jobs and better wages for everyone. Being in a union has always been very

important to me. My dad was a big union man and this was passed down to me. I'm damn proud to be a union member!

### **Tony Pegram**

*President, Local 317T (Greensboro, N.C.)  
Union Member Since 1996*

SPRING TRAINING

# Union Style!

Spring is in the air and BCTGM union stewards are enjoying a fresh new confidence when they hit the plant floor following the polishing of their skills. In shop steward training seminars in California, Oklahoma and North Dakota, local union stewards attended education programs designed to strengthen and build their skills as local union representatives in their respective plants.

The training programs were conducted by International Vice Presidents and Representatives. In the trainings, stewards focus on developing their union skills in grievance handling, arbitration, health & safety, collective bargaining and organizing. Working collectively, the stewards brainstorm common problems in the workplace and develop strategies to take back to their shop floor following the program's conclusion.



## Oklahoma City, Okla.

International Vice President Tony Johnson led a stewards training seminar on April 20-21 in Oklahoma City for BCTGM Local 366G (Oklahoma City), Local 65 (Tulsa, Okla.), and Local 117G (Shawnee, Okla.). According to Local 366G President Larry Flowers, the training was very successful and every steward felt that the information presented by Johnson would help them become better shop stewards.

## San Leandro, Calif.

Twenty-three stewards attended the shop stewards training seminar at the Local 125 (San Leandro) union hall on February 13. International Representatives Eric Anderson and Blaine Williams led the training that also included a special labor law presentation by the local's legal representatives. Stewards who attended the one-day event included union members employed by American Licorice Co., Annabelle Candy Co., Ghirardelli Chocolate Co., Gimbal's Fine Candies, Jelly Belly Co., IBC Oakland (Colombo), Safeway Bread Plant (Richmond), Safeway Retail, Sara Lee, Svenhard's Swedish Bakery, Sconza Candy and Dobake.



## Grand Forks, N.D.

BCTGM Local 167G (Grand Forks, N.D.) sponsored a shop stewards training for several area local unions on March 19. The one-day seminar was presented by International Representatives Steve Bertelli and Dan Gust. Union stewards from Local 167G, Local 267G (Crookston, Minn.)

and Local 369G (Renville, Minn.) attended the training. According to Local 167G Secretary-Treasurer Scott Ripplinger, the special training session was held to update the stewards skills and to help train the many new stewards elected since the merger of several small BCTGM Locals into the new Local 167G. Additionally, on March 20 the stewards participated in a special organizing seminar led by Bertelli. "It is very important that every person in our local realizes the importance of organizing in order to grow our membership and better the lives of working people," concludes Ripplinger.

# DRUG COMPANIES

# Can't Quit



*George Kourpias, president of the Alliance for Retired Americans, a three million member grassroots advocacy organization for current and future retirees, describes the latest outrage by the nation's big drug companies. The following was published online May 15 by the Alliance.*

## **The big drug companies are at it again.**

Twice in the past few weeks, they've persuaded enough U.S. senators to stop two common-sense ways to lower prescription drug costs.

The first of these would have repealed the sweetheart deal these corporations have. One prohibits Medicare from negotiating bulk discounts from drug manufacturers. Every consumer understands that you pay less when you buy in bulk.

Act Two took place last week when many of these same senators then proceeded to effectively block seniors from purchasing safe drugs made in other countries.

In both instances, the Bush administration threatened to veto any measure that would lower the skyrocketing cost of medicine and curb outrageous profiteering by the drug industry.

The 49 senators who were enough to stop any meaningful drug importation received about \$5 million in campaign contributions from pharmaceutical industry executives and political action committees, according to the nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity.

The drug industry spent \$855 million on lobbying between 1998 and 2006, more than any other single industry, the center noted.

As political analyst David Sirota says, "The sheer disregard for the truth and for consistency when it

came to both the policy and politics of this vote was, in a word, stunning."

The results? Americans continue to pay the highest drug prices in the world. Medicare drug premiums are up 13 percent over the past year. Prices are nearly 7 percent higher since December for the 10 most-prescribed brand name medications under Medicare private plans.

No wonder *The New York Times* recently noted the new Part D prescription drug law, "is proving to be a financial windfall larger than even the most optimistic Wall Street analysts had predicted."

It seems that a lot of the money drug companies do not spend on lobbying goes straight into the CEOs' wallets.

According to compensation data recently released, the head of Wyeth took home \$32.8 million in 2006. The compensation for a few other CEOs: Abbott Laboratories, \$26.9 million; Pfizer, \$19.4 million; and Baxter, \$13.5 million.

It is time that big corporations stop profiting so handsomely at the expense of seniors who struggle to afford their prescription drugs.

This is no time for activists to give up hope. Instead, it is time for both retirees and current workers to redouble their efforts to make sure their elected officials stand up for the health of their constituents, rather than the health of the big drug companies.

**Americans continue to pay the highest drug prices in the world.**

# Shipping Jobs Overseas: How Real Is the Problem?

# Exporting

**F**rom confectionery plants to textiles and auto manufacturing facilities, since 2001, the U.S. has lost more than 2.5 million manufacturing jobs and more than 850,000 professional service and information sector jobs. In Canada, the manufacturing sector is also in crisis. Since January, a total of 52,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost, according to Statistics Canada's monthly Labor Force Survey.

No one knows for sure how many of these North American jobs have been lost due to increased import competition and shifts in production abroad, since no comprehensive official data are collected. But the number of jobs lost need not be overwhelming in order to concern policymakers: increased overseas outsourcing also undermines wages and working conditions in those jobs left behind and threatens the long-term health of the North American economy.

## How Many Jobs Have We Lost?

- In the U.S., more than **3 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared** since 1998, and the Economic Policy Institute estimates 59 percent — or 1.78 million — of these jobs have been lost due to the explosion in the U.S. manufacturing trade deficit over the period. In Canada, more than 250,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2002.
- From November 2002 to January 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor certified 246,398 **workers who lost their jobs due to trade** for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). This is in addition to the estimated 1,112,775 workers who were certified for TAA between 1994 and the end of 2002. The numbers do not include most service sector workers or workers who have lost their jobs due to shifts in production to China — neither group is eligible for TAA.
- The Economic Policy Institute estimates that between 1993 and 2000, our lopsided trade policies, reflected in the explosive increase in the U.S. trade deficit, cost Americans a net 3 million jobs and job opportunities. The growth in the NAFTA trade deficit alone is associated with **nearly 900,000 lost jobs** and job opportunities through 2002.
- In Canada, job losses are closely linked to **Canada's soaring deficit** in the trade of manufactured goods, and the increased penetration of the Canadian domestic market and the U.S. market for manufactured goods by exports from low-wage Asian countries.
- Forrester Research Inc. predicts **U.S. employers will move 3.4 million** white-collar jobs and \$136 billion in wages overseas by 2015.
- In Canada, despite a growing workforce, the number of Canadians employed in manufacturing as fallen to its lowest level since January 1998. As a result, **Canadians must make do with unstable, low-paid jobs** in the service sector.

## What Are the Broader Impacts?

- Economic theory predicts increased trade will lower wages for lesser-skilled occupations, and thus **increase income inequality**. Though economists' estimates vary, increased trade is likely responsible for about 20 percent of the recent increase in income inequality in the U.S.
- In the U.S., **real wages have stagnated** since 1973, even though productivity has grown rapidly.
- The Economic Policy Institute reports wages in the industries in which jobs are being created are, on average, **21 percent lower** than wages in those industries in which jobs are disappearing. In addition, expanding industries are less likely to provide workers with health insurance than industries cutting jobs.
- Increased employer mobility also hurts workers by **decreasing their bargaining power**. As it becomes easier for companies to move work overseas, employers use the threat of sending work overseas to squelch union organizing drives and win concessions at the bargaining table.
- Trade-related job loss does not just hurt individual workers and their families. **Entire communities are affected** negatively as tax revenues fall, dependency on public assistance increases, and incomes stagnate.

## Policy Solutions to Shipping Jobs Overseas

Many experts have argued that losing jobs overseas is both inevitable and ultimately healthy for the North American economy. They claim that policy solutions that would inhibit the movement of jobs within an unfettered global marketplace will be counter-productive and costly.

What these arguments ignore, however, is that the destruction of jobs is not occurring on a level playing field resulting from neutral policies. Rather, a broad range of state, provincial and federal policies allow, facilitate and even reward the destruction of North American jobs. Government policies lavish tax breaks, government contracts, and easy access to the North American market on companies that destroy good jobs and exploit lax workers' rights to produce overseas. These misguided policies hurt North America's working families and fail to promote equitable economic development in other countries.

Policymakers must reform policies that encourage and reward job destruction and implement new policies that will create good jobs for the future. While no single policy measure provides a magic bullet for stopping job loss, a dramatic re-orientation of policy that removes incentives for shipping jobs offshore, while fostering healthy conditions at home for job creation, will go a long way towards building a more balanced global economy that works for North America's working families.

## Confectionery Companies Snub North American Workers

In February, the Hershey Company announced a restructuring plan that will lay off thousands of North American workers, eliminate more than a third of its production lines in Canada and the United States, while moving jobs to a new plant in Monterrey, Mexico and to non-union U.S. plants.

Since revealing the restructuring plan, the company has announced three plant closings in Canada: Smiths Falls, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. In the U.S., the Company will be shutting down plants in Reading, Pa.; Oakdale, Calif.; and Naugatuk, Conn., while laying-off workers in Hershey and Lancaster, Pa. The BCTGM represents the workers at the plants in Dartmouth, Reading, and Hershey. The Oakdale and Smith Falls plants are also unionized. Hershey has reported that it will move production to its non-union facilities in the U.S. and the new, state-of-the-art plant in Monterrey. The company has an existing plant in Mexico, and plants in Puerto Rico and Brazil that are producing for the North American market.

In the last decade, candy companies have made it common practice to move production out of the United States. In 2001, Brach Confections announced it was closing its Chicago facility and outsourcing production to Brazil. Other companies that have moved production out of Chicago include the Wrigley Company, Frango Mints, Ferrara Pan Candy Company, and Fannie May. Chicago's confectionery workforce has dropped from 15,000 in 1970, to approximately 6,000 today. Chicago was not the only city to feel the pain. Lifesavers moved production from its unionized facility in Holland, Mich. to a non-union plant in Montreal, Quebec. In 2004, Sherwood Brands closed its BCTGM plant in New York and outsourced production to Argentina. The Hershey Company moved production to Mexico after closing its BCTGM represented Jolly Rancher plant in Denver.

Part of the explanation for this exodus of jobs can be blamed on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The trade deal, which went into effect in 1994, reduced import tariffs, allowing businesses to open south of the U.S./Mexico border and export products to North American stores. The confectionery industry has taken advantage of this trade deal by moving the majority of its hard candy business to Mexico to take advantage of the lower labor costs. Some companies, like Hershey, have also moved chocolate production out of North America.

In the last decade, candy companies have made it common practice to move production out of the United States.

# Local 334 Ratifies New Contract at B&M

In early April, 140 members of Local 334 (Portland, Maine) working at B&M Baked Beans in Portland, Maine ratified a new collective agreement. The five-year contract features annual wage increases, as well as an annual pension increase, an increase in dental coverage, and an increased accident and sickness benefit. The union was also able to secure a reduction in members' cost on future benefits.

According to International Vice President Art Montminy, the negotiations were very professional and cordial. "We have a very good relationship with the company and the negotiations reflected that. Both sides were open and straight forward and the result was a very good contract for our members," said Montminy.

Local 334 has represented the workers at B&M Baked Beans since 1968. The local also represents workers at Tate & Lyle, J.J. Nissen Co., and National Starch & Chemical Co.

The Local's negotiating committee was made up of Business Agent John Jordan, Financial Secretary Eric Heath, and members Bob West, Conrad Lausier, Mike Tapley, Bob Holbrook, and Ed Throgmorton. Montminy assisted the local during the negotiations.

B&M Foods has been in existence since the mid-1860s when George Burnham and Charles Morrill began a canned meat and vegetable company. In 1868, B&M became a major producer of canned corn. When the corn growing area in the U.S. shifted from the Northeast to the Midwest in the 1920s, the company was forced to diversify and began marketing canned baked beans. The company underwent a series of ownership changes



beginning in the 1960s until B&G Foods acquired the company from Pillsbury in 1999.

B&G Foods produces, sells and distributes seasonings, sauces and canned goods under the following brand names: B&G, B&M, Brer Rabbit, Emeril's, Grandma's Molasses, Joan of Arc, Las Palmas, Maple Grove Farms of Vermont, Ortega, Polaner, Red Devil, Regina, San Del, Ac'cent Sa-Son, Trappey's, Underwood, Vermont Maid and Wright's.



The Burnham & Morrill negotiating committee poses for a photo. From left to right is Bob West, Ed Throgmorton, Bob Holbrook, Mike Tapley, Conrad Lausier, and Local 334 Business Agent John Jordan.

# Regional Councils Set Action Agendas

This spring, three BCTGM regional councils held highly successful annual meetings. Each of the meetings focused on expanding organizing opportunities, improving communication between locals and preparing for the crucial 2008 national elections.



Fourth Region Council

A key topic at the meetings was the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), the most important labor law legislation in 70 years. Locals in each region pledged their support to the International's legislative effort to enact EFCA, which will dramatically improve organizing opportunities within all BCTGM industries.

## Fourth Region Council

In early April, delegates representing a dozen local unions from throughout the South met in Memphis, Tenn. for the Fourth Region Council meeting. Delegates shared information and ideas on a wide range of topics including strategies for signing up new hires for BCTGM membership and developing effective local union grassroots political action programs.

In discussing this year's Council meeting, International Vice President Tony Johnson said, "Our locals are anxious to go out and add to the organizing, merger, bargaining and political successes of the past few years."

## Western Conference

San Diego was the site of the 51st Annual Western Conference meeting April 30-May 3. Delegates enjoyed a comprehensive agenda with informative speakers and productive committee meetings. Because of the large number of negotiations within the region this year, the meeting offered a valuable opportunity for locals to share information and strategies for bargaining success.

International Vice President Randy Roark described the meeting as "very valuable to strengthening BCTGM efforts in the west."



Western Conference

## East Central Council

In late May, the East Central Council convened its annual meeting in Atlantic City, N.J. Delegates addressed the major changes in BCTGM industries that affect union members within the First and Second Regions.

The Council reflected on ways to build on the tremendous political successes of the 2006 Congressional elections in the 2008 presidential election.

"The Council's annual meeting helps us stand strong in solidarity and continue meeting challenges in order to protect the livelihood of our members," said International Vice President Bob Oakley.

BCTGM International President Frank Hurt addressed each council. "I came away from this series of council meetings reassured that the foundation of the International Union, our local unions, remains rock solid," concludes Hurt.

The regional councils also heard from Secretary-Treasurer/Director of Organization David B. Durkee, Executive Vice President Joseph Thibodeau, Assistant to the President Harry Kaiser and B&C Pension Funds Manager Lewis Davis.

# 2007 BCTGM International Scholarship Recipients

The BCTGM International proudly announces the winners of the 2007 BCTGM International Scholarship Program. Ten \$1,000 one-time awards were presented to the below students. The winners were chosen from a total of 198 applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

The BCTGM International Scholarship Program is an example of the union's commitment to higher education at a time when college costs continue to soar out of reach for many working families. Since 1962, the International has helped fulfill the educational dreams of students representing BCTGM families across North America.



**Domonique Broadus**, stepdaughter of Barry Harris, member of BCTGM Local 229T (Concord, N.C.) employed at Philip Morris. Domonique will attend the College of Art and Sciences at Cornell University.



**Liana Quach**, daughter of Lang Ong, member of BCTGM Local 264 (Toronto, Ont.) employed at Voortman Cookies. Liana will attend McMaster University.



**Vincent Gonzalez**, son of Jan M. Gonzalez, member of BCTGM Local 364 (Portland, Ore.) employed at Kraft Foods. Vincent will attend the University of Washington.



**Jaime Rue**, daughter of Paul T. Rue, member of BCTGM Local 372G (Hillsboro, N.D.) employed at American Crystal Sugar. Jaime will attend North Dakota State University.



**Shaw Krauchi**, member of BCTGM Local 389 (Winnipeg, M.B.) employed at Canad Inns-Polo Park. Shaw will attend the University of Manitoba.



**Ricardo Silva**, member of BCTGM Local 252 (Calgary, A.B.) employed at Weston Bakeries. Ricardo will attend Columbia College.



**Sylvester Manue**, member of BCTGM Local 114 (Portland, Ore.) employed at United States Bakery. Sylvester will attend the Concorde Career Institute.



**Anthony Sperber**, son of Jerrold Sperber, member of BCTGM Local 19 (Cleveland) employed at Tops. Anthony will attend Case Western Reserve University.



**Ivan Prado**, son of Ignacio G. Prado, member of BCTGM Local 85 (Sacramento, Calif.) employed at Sara Lee Bakery. Ivan will attend University of California-Merced.



**Anna Szapiro**, daughter of Raymond F. Scannell, BCTGM Headquarters office employee. Anna will attend Wesleyan University.

## International Representative Joins BCTGM Staff



**O**n May 6, BCTGM International President Frank Hurt appointed Sylvain Gagné as a new Region Five International Representative. In announcing the appointment Hurt said, "I am confident that Sylvain will be a great asset to our staff in Canada, especially in our organizing efforts. He brings solid union experience and is dedicated to this union."

Gagné, 41, is a native of Montreal, Quebec. He became a member of BCTGM Local 227 (St. Leonard, Quebec) in January 1992 while working at Borden Foods Corporation. In June 1994 Gagné was first elected President of Local 227 and was subsequently reelected to six consecutive terms.

Gagné currently resides in Le Gardeur, Quebec with his wife, Karine, and son, Benjamin.

## CLC Prepares for Possible Election

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is not taking any chances in its attempt to get working people's issues on the agenda should a federal election be called in 2007. The Congress has unveiled the "Better Choice 2007" campaign aimed at educating both voters and politicians on the issues that affect millions of Canadian workers.

The campaign specifically asks each voter: "Which candidates in your riding will put working families ahead of corporate profits and ensure the next parliament takes action to:

- Protect jobs and wages for working people;
- Create skills training opportunities for workers and our children;
- Make sure you get the pension you earned;
- Make prescription drugs more affordable; ensure quality child care and early learning opportunities for workers and their kids.

It is no surprise that Canada is in, what many economic analysts refer to, as a manufacturing crisis. Jobs are disappearing overseas, corporations are pillaging the country's important natural resources, and while corporate profits continue to rise, Canadian families' real incomes continue to stagnate. At the same time, education, healthcare and childcare are all being neglected. It should therefore come as no surprise that Canadian families are struggling.

According to Sean Kelly, International Vice President of Canada, working families must mobilize for a possible election, the same way they would mobilize for an organizing campaign. "It is about fighting for a voice whether it is in the workplace, or in our democratic institutions like Parliament. Workers and their families need to be represented," notes Kelly.

**For more information on the "Better Choice 2007" campaign, visit [www.betterchoice.ca](http://www.betterchoice.ca) or [www.bctgm.org](http://www.bctgm.org)** 





PHOTO: DANIEL DUNCAN CWA/TNG LOCAL 35

## Justice@Smithfield

On March 31, BCTGM Local 118 (Washington, D.C.) members joined with other members of the Northern Virginia Labor Council at a rally in front of non-union Harris Teeter in Arlington, Va. in support of the UFCW's "Justice@Smithfield" campaign. Pictured here, from left to right, is Local 118 Retiree Oscar Beatty, Bus. Agent Al Haight and Bus. Rep. Thomas Johnson. In addition to the BCTGM, nine other International Union's were represented at the rally that also included student, civic and religious leaders as well as elected officials.

## Patriotic Support

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, war-time veterans organization. The community service organization now has nearly three million members in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. On April 12, BCTGM Local 57 (Columbus, Ohio) Fin. Secy. Vester Newsome was honored by American Legion Post #144. Every year, the local provides assistance and support to the Columbus-based Post. Pictured here is Commander Art Eisol (left) presenting Newsome (center) with a plaque in appreciation for the local's efforts. They were joined by United Way of Central Ohio Labor/Community Service liaison Homer Cordle (right).



## Political Action

During a recent trip to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress on behalf of the union's sugar workers, BCTGM Local 167G (Grand Forks, N.D.) member Mark Froemke and Local 267G (Crookston, Minn.) member LaVonne Halland visited International Headquarters. Pictured here with Intl. Pres. Frank Hurt (center) is Halland (left) and Froemke (right).



BCTGM

**POWER**



# ESCAPE

*When it's time to chill out,  
union savings heat up!*

Make the most of your time off the job with union-member only savings! Your BCTGM Power benefits help stretch your hard-earned paycheck with exciting offers and discounts, available only to union members and their families.

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## Travel Savings

- Save a minimum of five percent on cruises anywhere in the world on Norwegian Cruise Line; up to 30 percent off selected sailings.
- Save up to 25 percent on resort condo rentals worldwide.
- Book the best flights through the largest airfare search engine on the Internet.
- Reserve the best rates at hotels.
- Enjoy discounted travel adventures through Worldwide Vacation Tours.

## Vehicle Rental Deals

- Save up to ten percent on RV rentals through Cruise America, the nation's number one supplier of motor home rentals.
- Save up to 25 percent on car rental with Avis, Hertz and Budget.

## Entertainment Discounts

- Save up to 40 percent on movie tickets.
- Get discount DVD rentals at Blockbuster.
- Find bargain prices and great selections at Powell's Book Store, the largest unionized Internet bookseller.



## Family Fun for Less

- Save up to \$15 per ticket at theme parks across the country.
- Get discount admissions to museums, aquariums, and zoos.
- Save on Broadway shows and sporting events in selected cities.

*Check out the travel and recreation deals and start planning your fun today!*

Visit [www.BCTGM.org](http://www.BCTGM.org) for more information on all the BCTGM Power benefits.





# **BCTGM ACTION NETWORK**

## **Collective Action through Electronic Unity**

The BCTGM Action Network gives union members the powerful tool of collective electronic activism. In a moment's time, thousands of BCTGM E-Activists throughout the U.S. and Canada can unite in action on important issues.

The BCTGM Action Network is an email list of union members and activists throughout North America. Periodically, E-Activists receive email newsletters or requests for action, such as sending an email message to a member of Congress, the President, or urging an employer to treat workers with dignity, justice and respect.

**SIGN UP FOR THE  
BCTGM ACTION NETWORK:**

**<http://www.unionvoice.org/bctgmaction/join.html>**

Independent research shows that BCTGM members are increasingly using email to communicate. Results of membership surveys show that nearly half of BCTGM members have email at home. **"We need to funnel our collective power through online campaigns to make our voices heard from the halls of Congress and the White House to the board rooms of major corporations. The BCTGM Action Network is a valuable new tool for every union member to do this,"** said BCTGM International President Frank Hurt.

