

BCTGM

News

MAY/
JUNE 2016

VOLUME 18
NUMBER 3



BIMBO BAKERIES USA



CONTRACT PRESERVES PENSIONS



IMPROVES BENEFITS



DETAILS ON **PAGES 8-9**



the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deindustrialization is **DOMINANT ISSUE** in 2016 Elections

Throughout the 2016 election season, voters across the political spectrum have consistently zeroed in on one issue more than any other, the relentless corporate outsourcing and offshoring of good, middle-class American jobs. And, this will remain the dominant issue between now and Election Day because no single issue has impacted working families and the middle-class more than the staggering deindustrialization that has taken place in this country over the last 25 years.

Deindustrialization is the root cause of the unprecedented and corrosive level of income inequality in our country. It threatens our way of life and the well-being of our families now and into the future.

This is precisely why the BCTGM's campaign to stop Nabisco/Mondelez from sending good, middle-class jobs to Mexico is receiving such strong support across the labor movement and the reason consumers are responding so positively to our nationwide consumer boycott of Mexican-made Nabisco products. As UNITE HERE! President D. Taylor, a good friend of the BCTGM, recently put it so well; what Nabisco is doing in Chicago should be the "poster child" for the deindustrialization of America.

The closure of more than 60,000 factories and the loss of millions of industrial jobs have devastated countless communities across the country from major and mid-sized cities to rural towns.

In these communities, declining tax revenue from the loss of manufacturing jobs means public education suffers as school funding gets slashed. Vital social service needs, such as drug and alcohol counseling and remediation and mental health services, go unmet.

Law enforcement, fire fighters and first responders are forced to combat crime, fight fires and save lives with diminished resources. Rates of childhood poverty and hunger grow. State budgets struggle as there is less tax revenue available from workers who once had good-paying jobs and now are either out of work or working in jobs with much lower pay. The retirement security for working people is threatened as fewer industrial workers are covered by union-negotiated defined pension benefit plans.

This is the reality of deindustrialization. This is the legacy of 25 years of corporate-driven tax policies and ruinous trade deals that have enabled, encouraged and rewarded corporations that move manufacturing jobs out of the U.S. to low-wage countries like Mexico and China.

Throughout the political primary process this year, working people told candidates, in no uncertain terms, that they want this manufacturing crisis fixed because they are fed up with working hard and still struggling to make ends meet because the jobs they have don't pay enough.

The American people want the next president and Congress to take strong, decisive and comprehensive

"In the United States, nearly one-third of adults...are either 'struggling to get by' or 'just getting by', according to the ... survey of households by the Federal Reserve Board."

— New York Times, June 2, 2016

"This election cycle, bashing companies that offshore work is the one thing the candidates have been able to agree on."

— Dave Jamieson, Huffington Post, "How Oreos Explain The 2016 Election," May 9, 2016

action which will bring about the reindustrialization of America and the revitalization and expansion of the middle class.

There cannot be a growing and prosperous middle class in this country without good, high-wage manufacturing jobs. And there cannot be good, high-wage manufacturing jobs without a growing labor movement.

The BCTGM will be supporting only those candidates for federal office who embrace and champion

labor's comprehensive, "highroad" plan for American reindustrialization which calls for: fair trade policies that level the playing field for American workers; effective labor law reform that gives workers a fair shot at organizing and bargaining collectively; revised tax laws that eliminate incentives for corporations to offshore manufacturing jobs, punish those that do and reward those that bring work back to the U.S.; legislation that penalizes companies that incorporate overseas to avoid taxes and federal government procurement reform that includes broad "Buy American" requirements.

This is a genuine, well thought out plan for a better, more prosperous future for American workers.

What we certainly don't need is a manufacturing "plan" consisting of nothing more than empty rhetoric, phony promises and meaningless slogans put forth by a candidate who is anti-union, who talks a big game on maintaining American jobs but whose companies have a notorious history of outsourcing production work to Mexico, China and other low-wage countries.

America and her people deserve better!

— **David B. Durkee**, BCTGM International President



BCTGM

News



Official Publication of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union
10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, Maryland 20895-3961
(301) 933-8600
www.bctgm.org

CALM
ACPS

Canadian
Association
of Labor
Media
Association
of the
Communications
Industry

David B. Durkee, Editor
Corrina A. Christensen, Assistant Editor



BCTGM General Executive Board

President David B. Durkee • **Secretary-Treasurer** Steve Bertelli
Vice Presidents Jethro Head • Arthur Montminy
Ron Piercey • Anthony Shelton • Randy Roark

BCTGM General Executive Board Members

Joyce Alston • John Bethel • Thomas Bingler • Edward Burpo
Butch Henley • Paul LaBuda • Stephane Langlois
Terry Lansing • Earl Lublow • Letitia Malone
Gary Oskoian • Paula Steig • Doyle Townson • Jeff Webb

BCTGM News (ISSN 1525-4860) is published bi-monthly by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, 10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895-3961. Periodicals postage paid at Kensington, MD and at additional mailing offices. Subscription to new members only. Postmaster: Send address changes to BCTGM News, 10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895-3961.

BCTGM Locals from Coast to Coast Pledge to Expand **National Boycott**

At BCTGM regional meetings this spring, nearly 50 Local Unions, representing thousands of BCTGM members across the U.S., have pledged to fully support the International Union's AFL-CIO-endorsed boycott of made-in-Mexico Nabisco products.

The 2016 BCTGM regional council meetings shared a common theme – furthering the BCTGM's national consumer boycott. At



BCTGM Community Organizer Nate Zeff and L. 300 Nabisco worker Michael Smith discuss the importance of the AFL-CIO-endorsed boycott of made-in-Mexico Nabisco products.

each of the meetings, International Union Executive officers and staff urged the delegates and local unions to devote the time, energy and resources to educating their members, communities and retail stores on the boycott and how to help save American jobs being destroyed by Nabisco/Mondelez.

The Western Conference

was held in Reno, Nevada, April 11-14; the Southern Region Council was held May 11-13 in Chattanooga, Tenn.; and, the East-Central States Council was held in Atlantic City, N.J. June 7-8.

In addition to discussion of the situation facing Nabisco/Mondelez workers, delegates at each of the council meetings thoroughly deliberated other critical issues facing the BCTGM, including organizing, bargaining and the 2016 elections. Through general discussion, committee meetings and reports, International officers, staff and delegates shared information, experiences and put forth ideas on how to combat hostile employers like Mondelez.

Hundreds of delegates who have attended the regional council meetings have had the chance to meet and hear from laid-off Nabisco BCTGM Local 300 members who are touring the U.S. and gathering support for the AFL-CIO-endorsed



Delegates to the East-Central States Council members collected \$1000.00 to support the Nabisco 600 team. Pictured here presenting Intl. Secy.-Treas. Steve Bertelli (center) with \$1000 donation is (from left) L. 19 Pres./GEB member Paul LaBuda, L. 68 Fin. Secy./GEB member Gary Oskoian, L. 19 Vice Pres. Ed Thomas, L. 19 Secy.-Treas. Phil Lukic and L. 53 Pres./GEB member Joyce Alston.

boycott of Nabisco products made in Mexico. Delegates in three BCTGM Regions, were given campaign and boycott materials to return home and begin educating within their workplaces and communities.



BCTGM Community Organizer Nate Zeff and L. 300 Nabisco worker Anthony Jackson explain the campaign and Nabisco 600 tour to the East-Central States Council.

NABISCO Worker Influences DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

On June 9, BCTGM Local 300 member and laid off Nabisco worker Michael Smith was invited to testify in front of the 2016 Democratic Platform Drafting Committee in Washington D.C. under the theme “Moving America Forward: Education, Jobs, and the Economy”. Smith delivered an emotional statement about his experience as an American worker whose job has been outsourced. Smith received a rousing standing ovation from the panel and audience.

The Platform Drafting Chair Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and Democratic National Convention Committee CEO, Rev. Leah D. Daughtry led the forum. The Drafting Committee heard from policy experts as well as Democrats from all walks of life in an effort to influence the Democratic National Platform. In his testimony, Smith spoke with passion about his feelings as a worker, father, community activist and man of faith, who has been discarded by an iconic American company that is moving his job to Mexico.

“I believe in America and am proud to live in America. But the America that has given corporations the right to produce products across borders and overseas and then return those products that were once produced by American workers, for sale in the very communities suffering from the corporate decision to displace me, is failing me, my family, my coworkers, our communities and the very essence of America’s future,” Smith told the panel.

“To many, I am a simply a statistic and a single number among millions of other persons in this country that are considered nothing more than a number or a piece of economic data. I and millions of other working Americans have been stripped of our individual identities and essentially thrown on

the statistical scrap heap,” he explained.

Smith said that he believes workers like himself and his union brothers and sisters in Chicago are more often viewed as statistics, not people. “Those that close their eyes to the personal devastation of a job loss in our country, and only count us as numbers, fail to realize the impact of corporations that hollow out the essence of America’s economic vitality, by taking American jobs to countries with low-wage economies and return these foreign products to the U.S.

“American workers lose their jobs, workers across borders and oceans are exploited for their low wages, products are made in these low wage economies, shipped back to the states at the same price and the increased profits

end up in the pockets of the CEO that already makes nearly \$20 million per year. Everyone in this business model loses except for the CEO. Workers in the United States, workers in Mexico, workers everywhere, lose. American consumers, American communities and the entire American economy loses,” Smith explained.

“I stand here before you today so that you can see that behind each worker, and each statistic, is a family. And these families are broken financially, emotionally injured and tossed into a state of hopelessness as we try to pick up the pieces. As we seek to find new work, we encounter tens of thousands of others that are similarly situated, vying for an ever shrinking job base that increasingly provides lower and lower wages and few if any benefits.

“I worked for Nabisco in Chicago, at the largest bakery in the U.S., where generations of workers and their families have worked over the course of the last 60 years. Moms, dads, uncles, aunts, cousins were part of the Nabisco family for decades. Our work and the work of those that



came before us were the financial anchors in our community and the basis for the family's economic health," Smith said.

"We were able to send our kids to college because of these jobs and the labor we provided. We were able to buy homes for our families because of these jobs and the labor we provided. We were able to earn defined benefit pensions and put additional money into saving for our retirement, so we would not be a burden on our families and

society in our elderly years, all because of these jobs and the labor we provided. Our community provided good public schools, because we paid taxes on our income and property and because our employer was required to pay taxes," said Smith.

And in an emotional conclusion, Smith implored, "I am not just a number. And I am not just a statistic!"

You can watch Smith's entire testimony online at www.fightforamericanjobs.org.

The Nabisco 600 National Tour & Beyond



On May 18, Nabisco workers and union members from 11 BCTGM Local Unions traveled to Lincolnshire, Ill. to participate in the BCTGM's labor action against Nabisco/Mondelēz at the company's annual shareholders meeting. "The foundation of the BCTGM's extraordinary success over the years is our solidarity," notes BCTGM International President David Durkee. "When our local unions and members join together on behalf of one another, there is nothing we cannot accomplish as a Union. We will win this fight with Nabisco/Mondelēz just as we have won the great fights in the past - through solidarity, hard work and an unyielding commitment to the principles upon which this union was built," concludes Durkee.

BCTGM International Strategic Campaign Coordinator Ron Baker is pictured (left) with AFGE National President J. David Cox Sr. at the union's national convention. Baker was invited to address the convention on the BCTGM's National Boycott of made-in-Mexico Nabisco products. AFGE represents 670,000 workers in nearly every federal department and agency, in addition to government employees in the District of Columbia. Nabisco workers from Chicago are traveling the country addressing union conventions, council meetings, rallies and other community and allied organizations in an effort to expand the national boycott of made-in-Mexico Nabisco products.



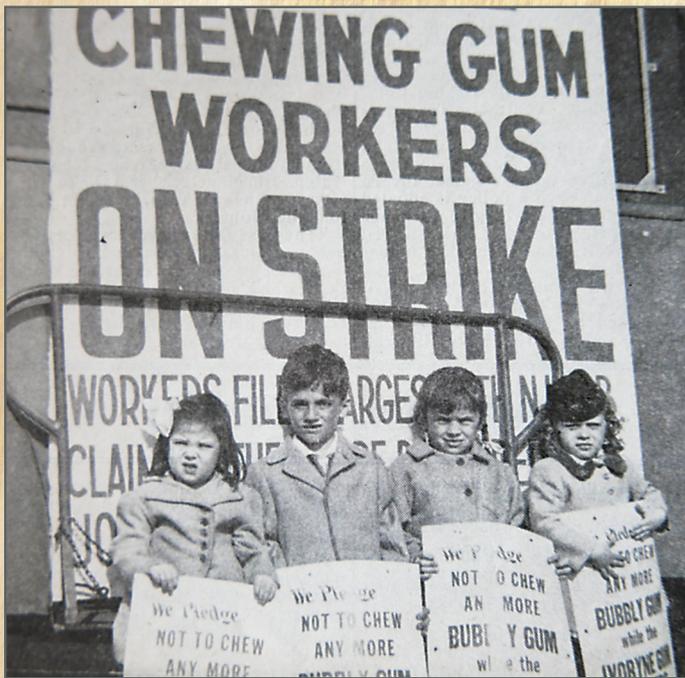
From 1886 to 2016: *Bargaining* *Against All Odds*

Since 1886, BCTGM leaders and negotiators have understood that changes and challenges will always confront them at the bargaining table and that they must adapt to those circumstances. The BCTGM has earned a reputation as a union that will take on

the largest of opponents, not only to defend their own hard-earned benefits and contracts, but also those of all workers in their industry.

The BCTGM has responded to these trials as they have since the founding of the union in 1886, with determination, ingenuity, passion and solidarity.

IVORYNE CHEWING GUM NON-UNION: UNFAIR TO ORGANIZED LABOR!

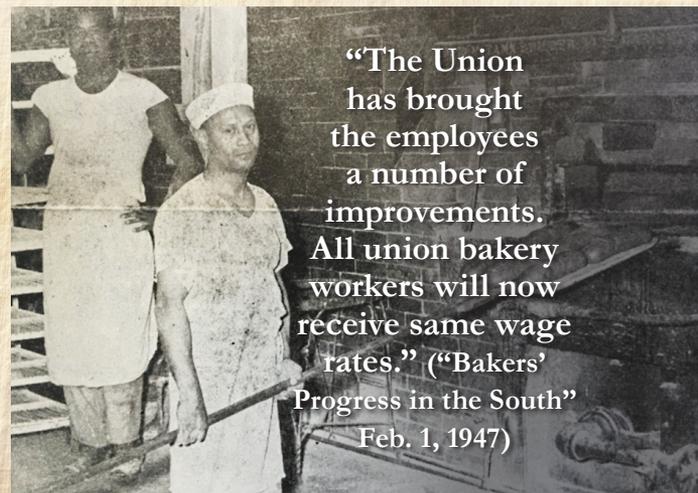


“As soon as Local 6, Philadelphia, attempted to organize the workers of the Ivoryne Chewing Gum Co., claiming 42 of 85 employees in favor of union membership, the company tried to interfere with further unionizing efforts in consequence of which strike action against the bubble gum manufacturing company developed. The picture shows the great interest little children are taking in picketing the plant and the good work they are doing for the union. Union men and women and friends of organized labor should write on their memory book that the Ivoryne Chewing Gum Company products are non-union and should not be patronized. The little children, who are carrying the signs, will enjoy with the union members a victory of union recognition.”

- *The Bakers' & Confectioners' Journal*, May 3, 1947

“Our members look upon our union shop achievements as a sacred accomplishment. We consider it an accomplishment that has to be maintained against all reactionary encroachment by anti-union employers and against infringement of the workers’ right to protect their economic and living interest by combined efforts in the trade union institutions.”

- “*The Union’s Negotiation Policy*”, Oct. 4, 1947



“The Union has brought the employees a number of improvements. All union bakery workers will now receive same wage rates.” (“*Bakers’ Progress in the South*” Feb. 1, 1947)



Founders of International Union at the first Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. in 1886

“The Wage Order, making effective March 29, 1943, the payment of 40 cents minimum wage to be paid by every employer to each of his employees in the candy and related products manufacturing industry, who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce: 40 cents to be paid for the production of chocolate and cocoa products; 40 cents to be paid for the production of candied, crystallized or glace fruits and fruit peels; and 40 cents to be paid for the production of any other products of the candy and related products.”

- *The Bakers' & Confectioners' Journal*,
Feb. 13, 1943

“Collective Bargaining with individual employers and representatives of large corporations in all branches of the industry has been firmly established as one of the greatest achievements of our organization. Much, if not most of the improvements attained in betterment of working conditions during past years must be attributed to successful procedure of collective bargaining. If the past accomplishments of our organization should not be made illusory, we must do everything in our power to maintain our strengthened position and retain every one of our gains. Therefore, by the formulating of demands as well as during negotiations every local must consider its power, and be assured of success, if a fight for the enforcement of demands becomes inevitable.”

- *The Bakers' Journal*, April 26, 1941

Southern and Midwest Regions Reach **PATTER**

After months of challenging negotiations, BCTGM Local Unions representing Bimbo Bakeries USA (BBU) facilities in the Southern and Midwest Regions reached agreement on a “pattern”

settlement. The settlement will apply to all Bimbo facilities in the two Regions, as well as to other baking companies within those Regions.

The new five-year agreement was overwhelmingly ratified by Local 65 (Oklahoma City, Okla.) members at the BBU bakery in Oklahoma City, officially setting it as the wholesale pattern. The BCTGM represents thousands of Bimbo bakery workers in the bread and cake sector within the Southern and Midwest Regions that will be impacted by the ratification.

Bimbo Bakeries USA is a subsidiary of Mexican-based baking giant Grupo Bimbo. BCTGM members at Bimbo make such well-known brands as Arnold, Boboli, Sara Lee, Entenmann’s, Mrs. Baird’s, and Thomas’.

“Negotiations were tough but we had a great negotiating team, we were well prepared, and at the end of the day, we reached a deal that benefits our members and their families and ensures that Bimbo will maintain its dedicated workforce,” said BCTGM Midwest Region International Vice President Jethro Head, who served as Chairman of the Negotiating Committee.

Negotiations began in October 2015 and continued into the spring. The new agreement calls for wage increases over the duration of the contract, and most importantly, the pact preserves members’ defined benefit pension plan.

Joining Head at the negotiating table were



“It was a long and difficult negotiation, but through our solidarity and unity we were successful.”

- L. 433 Pres./GEB member Paula Steig

Negotiating Committee members reviewed the final proposal. Pictured here, left to right are Local 433 (Chicago, Ill.) President Paula Steig, Midwest Region International Vice President Jethro Head, Southern Region International Vice President Anthony Shelton, and Local 1 (Chicago, Ill.) President Don Woods.



N SETTLEMENT with BIMBO BAKERIES USA

BCTGM Southern Region International Vice President Anthony Shelton, Local 433 (Sioux City, Iowa) President Paula Steig, Local 1 (Chicago) President Donald Woods, Local 65 (Tulsa, Okla.) Financial Secretary Jason Thomas, Local 42 (Atlanta) Business Agent Zack Townsend and Local 280 (Evansville, Ind.) officer Marlin Esche.

According to BCTGM International Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bertelli, retirement security was an extremely important issue for Bimbo's BCTGM members. "Too many corporations in North America are eliminating pension plans, leaving millions of workers left to fend for themselves, or to get by on unpredictable 401k-style plans. Our members at Bimbo are dedicated, loyal and hard-working and deserve dignity in retirement. Bimbo understands that and is investing in its future," said Bertelli.

Bimbo made headlines earlier in the decade

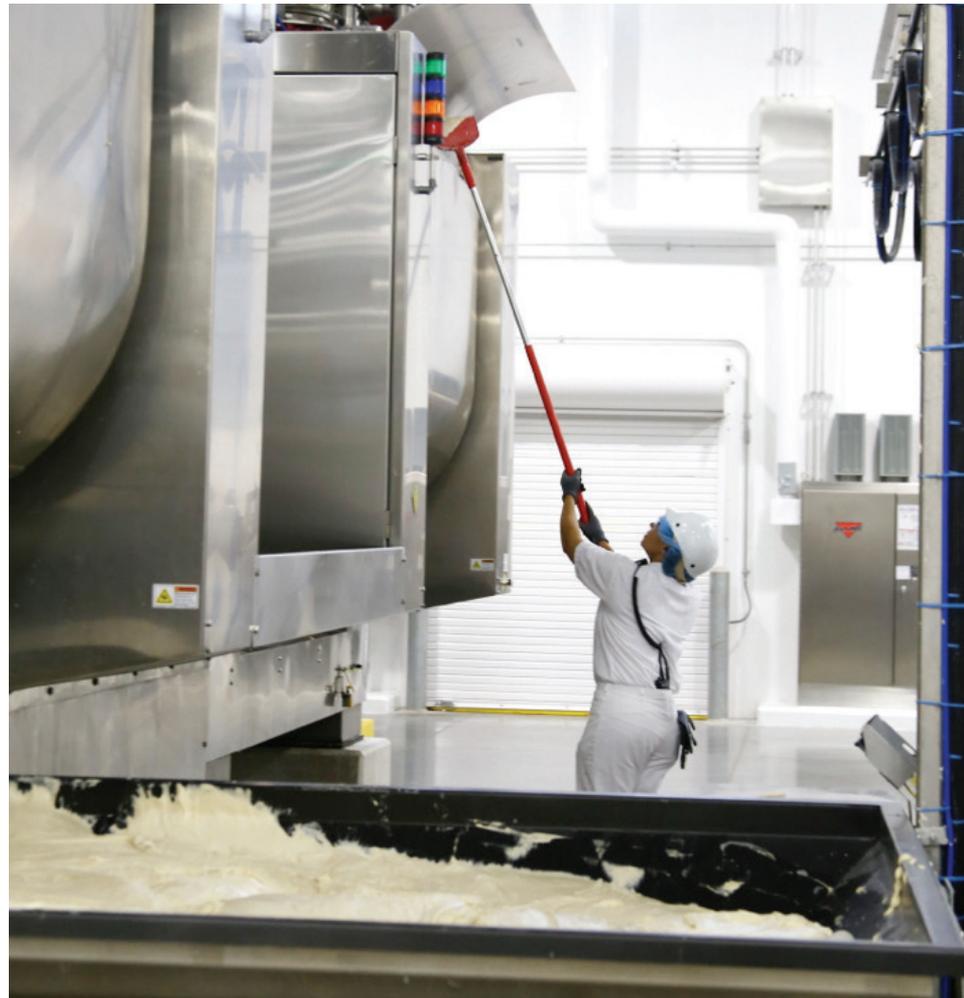
when it announced it would be spending approximately \$1 billion to upgrade its manufacturing capabilities in the United States. To that end, the company built new high performance plants in Rockwall, Tex., Topeka, Kan., Elkhart, Ind. and Lehigh Valley, Pa. The workers in all of the new facilities now belong to BCTGM local unions.

According to BCTGM International President David Durkee, more corporations need to invest in their North American infrastructure and employees. "Offshoring jobs and devastating communities is not good for business and certainly not good for the middle-class families that are impacted.

"The irony is not lost on me that a Mexican multinational corporation is investing in American jobs and American workers, while U.S. corporations, such as Nabisco/Mondelez, are offshoring jobs, many of them to Mexico," Durkee concludes.



Members
al
ured
ight,
(Sioux
resident
Midwest
ational
t Jethro
rn
ational
t
ton and
go)
hald



Stewards: FIRST Line of DEFENSE in the **WORKPLACE**

In the first six months of this year, stewards from all BCTGM Regions in North America have successfully completed education programs developed by the BCTGM International Research and Education Department and taught by International staff.

“Stewards are in the best position to understand workers’ concerns and priorities on the plant floor, organize with them to take action, and communicate important issues to the employer. This is why steward education is vital to every local union,” notes BCTGM International Director of Research and Education Matthew Clark.

In the East-Central Region, International Vice President Art Montminy led trainings for stewards at Locals 36G (Buffalo, N.Y.), 70 (Grand Rapids, Mich.), 69 (Port Chester, NY) and 374G (Lancaster, Pa.). International Representative Roger Miller conducted programs for Locals 57 (Columbus, Ohio) and 256G (Sharonville, Oh.).

In the Midwest Region, International Vice President Jethro Head led trainings for Locals 342 (Bloomington, Ill.), and combined trainings for Locals 13G (Hastings, Minn.), 22 (St. Paul, Minn.), 133G (Winona, Minn.) and 62G (Mankato, Minn.); and Locals 167G (Grand Forks, N.D.), 267G



With the January 4, 2016 merger of Local 446 (Halifax, N.S.) into Local 406 (Moncton, N.B.), the united local represents workers throughout the entire Canadian East Coast. Pictured here are the officers and stewards of Local 406 together with Canadian Vice Pres. Ron Piercey and Intl. Rep. Karl Walker (front row, first two on left).

(Crookston, Minn.), and 372G (Hillsboro, ND). International Representative Brad Schmidt conducted a training for Local 433 (Sioux City, Iowa).

In the Southern Region, International Vice President Anthony Shelton conducted a training for stewards of Local 111 (Fort Worth, Tex). In addition, stewards at Local 25 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) were taught by Financial Secretary and General Executive Board member Jeff Webb. In the Tobacco sector, International Representative Randy Fulk conducted training for stewards at Local 317T (Greensboro, NC) and Local 2T (Wheeling, WV).

In Canada, International Vice President Ron Piercey and International Representative Karl Walker led the training for the officers and stewards of Local 406 (Moncton, New Brunswick). In January, BCTGM Local 446 (Halifax, N.S.) merged into Local 406, resulting in a more expansive Local which geographically represents most of Canada’s East Coast. Representative Walker also conducted a training for stewards at Local 81 (Traverse City, Mich.). International Representative Sylvain Gagne ran trainings for Local 261T (Quebec, Que.) and Local 55 (Laval, Que.)



L. 374G (Lancaster, Pa.) executive board members and stewards completed a two-day training in late May that was led by Intl. Vice Pres. Art Montminy.

2016 BCTGM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The BCTGM International proudly announces the winners of the 2016 BCTGM International Scholarship Program. Five \$2,000 one-time awards were presented to students. The winners were chosen from a total of 60 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 throughout North America.



Samantha Martin, daughter of BCTGM Local 317T (Greensboro, N.C.) member Timothy Martin, who is employed by ITG. Samantha will attend Campbell University.



Hannah LeBlanc, daughter of BCTGM Local 406 (Moncton, New Brunswick) member David LeBlanc, who is employed by BCTGM Local 406. Hannah will attend Dalhousie University.



Miranda Martinez, daughter of BCTGM Local 37 (Los Angeles) member Erica Martinez, who is employed by Safeway/Von's Grocery. Miranda will attend California Baptist University.



Kyle Luong, son of BCTGM Local 125 (Los Angeles) member Duc Luong, who is employed by the Safeway Bread Plant. Kyle will attend the University of California, Irvine.



Skye Miller, daughter of BCTGM Local 401G (Muncy, Pa.) member Marc Miller, who is employed by Kellogg Company. Skye will attend Pennsylvania State University.

BCTGM International Staff COMPLETE

Membership education is a top priority of the BCTGM. International representatives from the U.S. and Canada continue to upgrade such skills in special labor focused programs offered by the AFL-CIO.

In April, International Representatives from three BCTGM Regions completed the Presentation and Teaching Techniques II course at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in Baltimore, Md. The class is part of the Bonnie Laden Union Skills Program, administered by the AFL-CIO.

Graduates of the class were BCTGM International Representatives David Woods and Jason Davis from the Southern Region; Roger Miller from the East-Central Region and Shad Clark from the Western Region.

According to BCTGM International Director of Research & Education Matthew Clark, this class stresses the use of participatory techniques to

Advanced Union Skills Program



Graduates of the April 24-29 Presentation and Teaching Techniques II Bonnie Laden Union Skills Program course at MITAGS in Baltimore, Md.

actively engage the union representatives in the learning process. "Teaching practice is a key component of the course with guidance and feedback provided by skilled labor educators," says Clark.

A follow-up to Teaching Techniques I (which the group successfully completed in July 2015), this course helped the union leaders advance their teaching skills. It also provided a forum for the union representatives to exchange ideas with other experienced labor educators.

Celebrating

130 Years

2016 marks the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Union. To celebrate our long and proud history of service to union members and the protection of worker rights in the U.S. and Canada, the Union has designed a special 130th Anniversary ring.

*Also available
in French:*



10K GOLD

Men: \$965
Women: \$456



ALLURA GOLD

Men: \$609
Women: \$282



STERLING

Men: \$109
Women: \$99

Men's Sizes: Half sizes 8-14 • **Women's Sizes:** Half sizes 4-9

BCTGM 130th Anniversary Ring Order Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address (Please no P.O. Boxes)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Metal Type (circle): Gold Allura Sterling Size: _____

Style (circle): Men's Women's Language (circle): English French

Payment Type: Check # _____ Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____ CVV: _____

Send order and payment to: Black Forest • P.O. Box 325 • Owatonna, MN 55060 | Phone: 800-670-7918

*No Orders or payments will be taken by the International Union. Please contact **BLACK FOREST** directly.

Prefer to order online? Go to OrderMyRing.com/BCTGM

VERIZON STRIKE

UNITES Workers Coast to Coast



Verizon workers returned to their jobs on June 1 after a 45-day strike involving nearly 40,000 workers. Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) reached an agreement with Verizon Wireless that protects workers' pensions, creates a contract for retail wireless workers

and prevents outsourcing.

In the final round of negotiations, Verizon withdrew several proposed cuts to pensions and disability benefits, while re-establishing health care benefits that had been terminated on May 1.

"The end to the Verizon strike and the new contract is a victory for all working families," notes BCTGM International President David Durkee. "The six week fight waged by Verizon workers was a true testament to the power of solidarity."

Dozens of solidarity actions were held from coast to coast throughout the strike. On May 19, Durkee, Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bertelli, Assistant to the President Harry Kaiser and several International Staff members attended a massive rally in Washington D.C. that concluded with several thousand workers marching to the White House.

Christina Martin, a Verizon call center worker in Pennsylvania, concludes, "Because we fought together as a union, my kids will be able to see me at night. We were all so worried about the potential of transfers and more offshoring, but now Verizon is going to bring more jobs back. All American companies should be doing more to keep good jobs in the country."



America's **DRUG COSTS** are Out of Control

In 2014, the cost of prescription drugs in the United States skyrocketed by 12 percent.

In that same year, 20 percent of the population - or 35 million people - did not fill a prescription because they could not afford it.

The Democratic Platform Committee is soliciting input on the 2016 Democratic Party Platform. BCTGM retirees can help tell the Democratic Platform Committee to draw a clear distinction between the Democratic and Republican plans to deal with pharmaceutical price gouging. Tell them to endorse the following cost-saving measures in the Democratic Platform:

- Increasing competition for prescription drugs, including specialty drugs
- Prohibiting “pay for delay” arrangements
- Allowing Americans to safely import drugs from abroad
- Ensuring new drugs provide value rather than adding to cost without improving treatments and outcomes.
- Requiring higher rebates for prescription drugs in Medicare
- Allowing Medicare to negotiate drug and biologic prices
- Introducing generic competition with expensive drug patent monopolies (under government use and march-in powers)
- Penalizing pharmaceutical companies for excessive year-to-year price hikes

BCTGM retirees can send comments to the Platform Committee online by visiting demconvention.com/platform and sign the Alliance for Retired American's petition to the Platform Committee by visiting the Alliance page at retiredamericans.org.

- Stopping direct-to-consumer drug company advertising subsidies (tax breaks), and reinvest funds in research.
- Requiring drug companies that benefit from taxpayers' support to invest in research, not marketing.
- Limiting out-of-pocket spending and demanding value
- Capping monthly and annual out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs

BCTGM PAC

At the conclusion of the 98th session of the BCTGM International General Executive Board (GEB) meeting in Hollywood, Fla. On March 21, Local 19 Pres. and GEB member Paul LaBuda (center) presented Intl. Pres. David Durkee (left) and Intl. Secy.-Treas. Steve Bertelli (right) with a generous contribution to BCTGM-PAC on behalf of L. 19 members.



SUMMER FUN THE BCTGM POWER WAY!



Summer is more enjoyable with BCTGM Power entertainment discounts because you can afford it. Union members can use BCTGM POWER/Union Plus Entertainment Discounts – including movie tickets, video and theme park discounts – to relax and enjoy the summer.

Theme Park Discounts

Savings up to \$19 per ticket at theme parks across the country - including Adventure Island, Busch Gardens, Hershey Park, SeaWorld, Paramount's Great America, Six Flags and Universal Studios.

Movie Theaters

Save up to 40% at national chains for those big summer blockbuster movies (most of which are made with union talent and technicians).

Major League Baseball

Sight-seeing savings at theaters, Broadway shows, museums, aquariums, zoos and sporting events like Major League Baseball in major cities.

Car Rental

Need a car for the day or the week? Support your fellow union members at Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz or National and save up to 25%. You can also save at Enterprise.

Order tickets online at UnionPlus.org/Entertainment or call **1-800-565-3712**, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. and reference member ID number: **744387769**. Also, learn more about Advantage points and start earning points toward free entertainment.

Start planning your fun today!
Visit: UnionPlus.org/Entertainment



BOYCOTT Nabisco Snacks MADE IN MEXICO!

The most effective way to fight for good American jobs is **at the cash register.**

Join the BCTGM's boycott of Nabisco snacks made in Mexico, and encourage your friends to do the same by sharing this image (right) widely on social media.

Here's how:

- 1 Use a reader app to scan this QR code and save the image to your tablet or mobile device.
- 2 **Tell the world:** Post the image on your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other preferred social feed, being sure to tag Mondelez and Nabisco and make it clear that you aren't buying any Nabisco products that are made in Mexico!
- 3 **Tell Mondelez:** Post the image directly on Mondelez International, Oreo or Nabisco Cookies pages on Facebook.



For more information, visit fightforamericanjobs.org