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Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

America's at its best when we **SAY AND SHOP UNION YES**



AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler swearing in UL&STD Board members during the Department's 69th Convention

“When consumers buy union, they buy more than quality goods, they buy into supporting the middle class. They buy into supporting good jobs. They buy into supporting working families,” said Art Pulaski, California State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary, in his speech welcoming delegates and board members to the 69th Convention of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

In remarks to convention attendees, UL&STD President, Richard Kline reminded delegates that “[O]ur Mission, of course, remains the same as it was in 1909 when the Union Label Department was first chartered: To promote a greater demand for products bearing the Union Label and for labor performed by union workers whose services are designated by shop cards, store cards and service buttons.”

“With this mission in mind, I raise a concern. Too few products or services are identified as union-made or union-performed,” continued Kline.

Kline’s concern led to the Department drafting a Resolution calling for union label identification language in contracts. The Resolution passed with a resounding yes vote by delegates to the Convention. A

similar version was submitted to and later passed by the AFL-CIO at its convention on Monday, September 9, 2013.

“We need to let people know what we make and what we do. We need to make thinking union and buying union easier. Let’s get our products and services labeled. We have a great brand, let’s show it,” said Kline.

Additional resolutions passed by delegates were:

- “The Union Label Program.” Resolving that the UL&STD, with the support of its affiliated unions, would utilize all of the means at its disposal to identify and publicize union-made products and services. The resolution further calls on affiliates and allies of the department to provide information about union products and service that are created by their members.
- “Buy Union.” A resolution calling on all American consumers to take the Buy Union Pledge:

“I pledge to buy union-made-in-the-USA whenever possible. I know that by purchasing union-made products and services I am supporting working families in my community and beyond. We all need to do our part. As union members

how we spend our hard earned dollars makes a difference in the lives of our families, friends and neighbors. Our purchases also help keep good, middle class jobs here in the USA. I’ll do my part to support working families by pledging to buy union.”

- “Support for the U.S. Postal Service,” submitted by the American Postal Workers Union, called for the Department to go on record as being opposed to the Postal Service’s downsizing the mail network, and degrading service and delivery standards. The Resolution passed by acclamation by delegates.
- The final resolution, which also passed by acclamation, was “The Shame of Death Trap Factories.” Resolved that the Department, on behalf of its affiliates, “calls on the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to withdraw trade privileges from any nation that cannot independently certify that all consumer products entering U.S. ports are produced under globally recognized safety standards and that the workers in those nations enjoy the unfettered right to express their concerns through democratically operated free trade unions.”

Continued on page 4 ►



FALL Entertainment



Did you know you can support union workers in the comfort of your own home? Many television shows are scored by members of the American Federation of Musicians.



Local 47-Scored Emmy Nominated Shows in 2013:

- American Horror Story: Asylum (FX Networks)
- American Idol (FOX)
- Arrested Development (Netflix)
- Bates Motel (A&E)
- Battlestar Galactica (Syfy)
- Behind the Candelabra (HBO)
- The Bible (History)
- The Big Bang Theory (CBS)
- Bob's Burgers (FOX)
- Conan (TBS)
- Da Vinci's Demons (Starz)
- Dancing With the Stars (ABC)
- Defiance (Syfy)
- Family Guy (FOX)
- Glee (FOX)
- Golden Globe Awards, 70th Annual (NBC)
- Grammy Awards, 55th Annual (CBS)
- Halo 4: Forward Unto Dawn (web series)
- House of Cards (Netflix)
- How I Met Your Mother (CBS)
- Jimmy Kimmel Live (ABC)
- The Kennedy Center Honors (CBS)
- Mad Men (Lionsgate TV)
- Mike & Molly (CBS)
- Modern Family (ABC)
- Nashville (ABC/Lionsgate TV)
- NCIS (CBS)
- The Newsroom (HBO)
- Nikita (The CW)
- The Office (NBC)
- Once Upon a Time (ABC)
- The Oscars, 85th Annual (ABC)
- Parks and Recreation (NBC)
- Political Animals (USA)
- Revolution (NBC)
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (HBO)
- Scandal (ABC)
- The Simpsons (FOX)
- Smash (NBC)
- Southland (TNT)
- Super Bowl XLVII Halftime Show Starring Beyoncé (CBS/NFL Network)
- Two and a Half Men (CBS)
- The Voice (NBC)
- The Walking Dead (AMC)



Need an evening out? These films are among those that are also scored by members of the AFM.

Recently Scored Films (excerpted list):

- **After Earth** (James Newton Howard)
- **Blackfish** (Jeff Beal)
- **Captain Phillips** (Henry Jackman)
- **Copperhead** (Laurent Eyquem)
- **Despicable Me 2** (Heitor Pereira, Pharrell Williams)
- **Dorothy of Oz** (Toby Chu)
- **Epic** (Danny Elfman)
- **Good Deeds** (Aaron Zigman)
- **Grown Ups 2** (Rupert Gregson-Williams)
- **Identity Thief** (Christopher YOUNG)
- **Kick-Ass 2** (Matthew Margeson)
- **Man of Steel** (Hans Zimmer)
- **Monsters University** (Randy Newman)
- **Much Ado About Nothing** (Joss Whedon)
- **Oz the Great and Powerful** (Danny Elfman)
- **Pacific Rim** (Ramin Djawadi)
- **Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters** (Andrew Lockington)
- **Planes** (Mark Mancina)
- **Puppet Master X: Axis Rising** (Richard Band)
- **R.I.P.D.** (Christophe Beck)
- **Savannah** (Gil Talmi)
- **Side Effects** (Thomas Newman)
- **Star Trek Into Darkness** (Michael Giacchino)
- **The Hangover Part III** (Christophe Beck)
- **The Heat** (Mike Andrews)
- **The Internship** (Christophe Beck)
- **The Lone Ranger** (Hans Zimmer)
- **The Marriage Counselor** (Aaron Zigman)
- **The Wolverine** (Marco Beltrami)
- **This is the End** (Henry Jackman)
- **Turbo** (Henry Jackman)
- **Under the Dome** (W.G. Snuffy Walden)
- **White House Down** (Harold Kloser, Thomas Wander)



Editors note: as with all Do Buy lists this list does not include all available union-made products and services. We welcome your suggested additions and invite you to add your products to our online database at www.unionlabel.org



Ed Smith, CEO ULLICO



Fred Redmond, USW Vice President of Human Affairs

UNION YES..., *Continued from page 1*

In the Convention keynote speech, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler asked attendees to help spread the message that “unions are relevant in the modern economy, that we aren’t of the past, that we are on the cutting edge. And we do make a difference in workers lives and in our communities and for our employers too.

“We are regular working people who have come together to make jobs better and safer. We know that, but not a lot of other people do. And that just makes it easier for the anti-union politicians and the unscrupulous employers to come after us. So, unfortunately not a lot of

people have the information they need about us.

“There is another side of unions, that we have to take responsibility for telling people about. That we collaborate that we bring solutions to the table.

“Letting the public know what unions do is a big job. The AFL-CIO is working to transform the way people see us. Not a lot of people see us standing for the same thing, or sharing the same values. And that is devastating. Unless we connect with them based on shared values their not hearing this. We have to reconnect with people with hearts and minds, and our work is all about values.

“Our building trades unions for example spend a billion dollars a year in investment

and training. The Building Trades is second largest provider of training in this country behind the U.S. Military. And their apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship programs truly change peoples’ lives and build ladders to the middle class.”

Secretary-Treasurer Shuler later administered the oath of office to the new Union Label and Service Trades Department Executive Board members.

Delegates heard from ULLICO CEO Ed Smith, whose company works to protect and grow unions through programs like their “J for Jobs” initiative. Smith discussed the more than \$500 million in loans ULLICO has provided through “J for Jobs,” creating over 15,000 union jobs.

“We can’t trust Wall Street. And we sure as hell can’t wait on Washington. They can’t get out of their own way. So, three years ago, we launched our own infrastructure fund. Through the infrastructure fund, all the work is done with union workers. That’s

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General Secretary-Treasurer, IAFF



Cherri Senders, Labor411



(L to R) UL&STD Secretary-Treasurer Tim Tuttle, UL&STD President Rich Kline look on as California State AFL-CIO Secretary Art Pulaski welcomed delegates to the Convention

what we're doing to grow unions and protect unions," Smith said.

Smith talked about the other programs ULLICO has in place for unions: the Union Liability Insurance covering unions when companies are going after them and Group Life Insurance, which Smith says is the only company that pays a triple death benefit to workers families when a worker is killed on the job.

In a poignant story, Smith recalled the teachers from Newtown, Connecticut, who were killed on the job. "And you think about the dangerous work that many of our members in dangerous occupations do but I'll tell you one that we don't often think about...those teachers at Newtown, who were killed on the job, they were insured by Union Labor Life Insurance so their families got that triple benefit."

Echoing Shuler's theme, Fred Redmond, International Vice President for Human Affairs at the United

Steelworkers, spoke about the need to spread the union message to all workers, especially young workers to build the labor movement back up.

"Something is happening in this country, something that is very profound, when we see fast food workers walk off the job in support of good wages and collective bargaining, when we see low-wage workers are standing up, it offers us some opportunities to touch the lives of those that have not reaped the benefit of what this great country of ours has to offer," Redmond said.

Cherri Senders closed out the day talking about her company's Labor411 Foundation. Senders, who has been producing the Labor 411 directory in Los Angeles for several years, identifies union made products and services in both her print and online directories. Senders, through her Labor411 foundation, is working on creating a nationwide labor directory. ■



Delegates to the Convention

AFL-CIO passed the Union Label and Service Trades Department resolution

The AFL-CIO passed the Union Label and Service Trades Department resolution to include union label identification in contract language at its quadrennial convention September 8–11, 2013, in Los Angeles.

WHEREAS, many consumers, including both union members and non-union members, look for union made goods and services as a way to support good jobs with decent pay and benefits for the people who produce the ware and services that they purchase, and

WHEREAS, many of these consumers value the assurance of quality and value that union made goods and services offer, and

WHEREAS, employers under contract with unionized workers enjoy enhanced business because of the public's association of union made goods and service with higher quality, reliability and value, and

WHEREAS, it is too often difficult to determine whether goods are made in the United States, let alone made by union workers, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of union workers and their unions to provide the public with information concerning whether products and services are union made, and

WHEREAS, the Union Label is a historic means that is widely recognized as an indicator of the union made nature of products and services,

BE IT RESOLVED that affiliated unions are encouraged to negotiate language in collective bargaining agreements that requires a union label verifying that products and services are made or provided by union workers. ■

Patrick Benhene

SUPER SHUTTLE DRIVER,
THURGOOD MARSHALL BALTIMORE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
FUTURE MEMBER, UFCW LOCAL 1994 (MARYLAND)



In 2006, after losing a job as an IT professional, a friend suggested I try to get a job with Super Shuttle. I applied and received my “franchise” license. Of course, it’s not really a franchise – I can’t sell it to anyone and once you’ve paid them back for your license, you have nothing to show for it, not even an ownership certificate. On the other hand, Super Shuttle can sell as many of their licenses as they want – no limit for them, making our licenses mean nothing. We can end up sitting in the airport 15-18 hours a day. We have to pay them fees for our license; we have to pay them insurance; and, we have to pay gas and tolls. At the end of the week, we end up with nothing to show for our work. It became too much. When we brought our problems to the attention of Super Shuttle, they just didn’t listen.

They say we’re independent contractors, but we’re not.

We got a lawyer and organized ourselves. In our first attempt to make changes a few years ago, the NLRB failed to decide anything meaningful for us. This time, our lawyer contacted the union. Around 80 or 90 percent of our drivers have signed authorization cards and the NLRB is hearing arguments on whether we’re “contractors.” Hopefully, we’ll get our election soon.

Benhene and his fellow Super Shuttle drivers at BWI and nearby Reagan National Airport in Washington DC have filed for union recognition under UFCW Local 1994. Remarkably, they’ve mobilized nearly 90 percent of their fellow drivers to sign authorization cards. Benhene is a U.S. citizen who immigrated from Africa 16 years ago. ■

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Spotlight the label: American Federation of Musicians (AFM)

In the mid-1800s musicians in the United States began exploring ways to improve their professional lives. They formed Mutual Aid Societies to provide members with loans, financial assistance during illness or extended unemployment and death benefits. A number of these organizations became early unions serving various constituencies, but problems arose between them due to competition. In 1896, delegates from these organizations gathered at the invitation of American Federation of Labor (AFL)



President Samuel Gompers to organize and charter a musicians’ trade union. A majority of the delegates voted to form the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), representing 3,000 musicians nationally. They resolved: “That any musician who receives pay for his musical services, shall be considered a professional musician.” Within its first ten years, the AFM expanded to serve both the US and Canada, organized 424 Locals, and represented 45,000 musicians throughout North America. ■

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In This Issue...

America's at its best when we say and shop union yes.	1
Do buy: Fall entertainment	2
AFL-CIO passes UL&STD resolution	5
Walk in my shoes.	6
Spotlight the label.	6
AFL-CIO National Boycott	7

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EndNotes

By Rich Kline, *President, UL&STD*

Make Our Brand Visible



The UL&STD gained passage of resolutions calling for unions to seek contract language requiring union label identification of union-made products and union

performed services at its own and the AFL-CIO Convention.

The Department's argument was simple: consumers cannot be expected to purchase union goods or support unionized service providers without some assistance. We called for union labels, shop cards, store cards and service buttons at the point of purchase.

The resolutions passed without opposition. But unanimous support on the convention floor is not the victory we seek. We hope to see the contract language embodied in the resolutions become common.

Our brand, the Union Label, stands for quality and value, strong communities

and workplace fairness. To gain support in the marketplace, our brand needs visibility. Winning this contract language in negotiations would ensure that consumers, government, business and organizations could determine which goods or services are produced by union workers.

At our Convention, we heard from AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, California State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Art Pulaski, USW Vice President Fred Redmond, ULLICO CEO Ed Smith and Labor 411 Publisher Cherri Senders. All of these speakers spoke of the need to support union workers by patronizing the goods they produce and the services they perform. They all suggested that innovation combined with commitment to our diverse membership and its needs would renew our Labor Movement. On behalf of the Department and our delegates, I thank our speakers for addressing and inspiring us.

Our Department's mission is to promote union-made goods and services. We attempt to inform our readers here and elsewhere about threats to these same good and services. In that vein, we warned about the consequence of language in pending Free Trade Agreements that give corporations equal status with nations.

That's right, corporations like Walmart and other anti-union companies could challenge regulations here and around the globe without reference to the nation in

which that are based. Giving corporations, already blessed with the status of legal "persons," the right to sue governments over legal protections for workers and consumers is a bad idea.

In forthcoming issues of the *Label Letter*, on our website and other media we will have more to say about this concern.

In the meantime, we urge anyone who wants to support union products and services to look for the Union Label. ■



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