



Vol. XLII, No. 6
NOV-DEC 2017

Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Union Label 70th Convention Focuses on Power of Boycott, Union Solidarity



The Union Label and Service Trades Department's 70th Convention's message was clear to all who attended: We must use the power of the boycott and the power of solidarity to achieve improvements in workers' lives. Speeches from Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis, APWU President Mark Dimondstein, and BCTGM Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bertelli repeated that message.

The Convention, held on October 21, 2017, in St. Louis, convened with an Executive Board meeting and luncheon in the morning, where some pre-convention planning and minor business of



Mike Louis, Missouri AFL-CIO president welcomed delegates and guests to the UL&STD 70th Convention.

"We cannot be afraid to use our money to protect our jobs, our service and our standards. New and different ideas are even more necessary in today's climate, but solidarity is always the way forward."

— Mark Dimondstein

the Department was discussed among attending board members. Members were reminded of their assignments to some of the Convention committees and newer members were introduced to each other.

The full Convention convened at 1pm with rousing introductory remarks from Mike Louis. Louis, as president of the Missouri AFL-CIO, is overseeing a giant effort to beat back right-to-work in the state. The state Federation turned in a petition with 310,000 signatures – three times the amount needed – to put the so-called right-to-work law on the ballot in November 2018.

"Not only did we get the signatures," said Louis, "we got all eight (congressional) districts, everywhere across the state."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Mark Dimondstein president of the APWU addresses Convention attendees.

Resolve to Buy Union

Many Americans will gather around the television on New Years Eve — or stand elbow-to-elbow with hundreds of thousands of people in the New York cold — to watch the iconic crystal ball drop in Times Square. But, did you know that members of the **IBEW** work to ensure the crystal ball works?

Around the world, there are many ways to celebrate the new year. In Latin American countries, the color of your underwear on New Years Eve is thought to predict your year to come. In Colombia, they're wearing yellow underwear for happiness and peace and in Puerto Rico, white for fertility and health. So if you're traveling to any of these places, pack accordingly. And shop for union-made skivvies online at Union House Apparel.

Or, if your family celebrates the new year as many southerners do, with black-eyed peas to usher in good luck, be sure to use Hanover brand beans (UFCW) and Farmer John fresh pork (UFCW). Finally, if your count down includes popping the cork on some champagne, use our list below to find union-made spirits to enjoy.

CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING CIDER

- » Andre champagne (UFCW)
- » Arbor Mist (UFCW)
- » C.K Mondavi (UFW, UFCW)
- » Chateau Ste. Michelle (UFW, IBT)
- » Cook's champagne (UFCW)
- » Gallo Estate Wines (UFCW)
- » Gallo of Sonoma (UFW)
- » St. Supery (UFW)
- » Tott's champagne (UFCW)
- » Turning Leaf (UFCW)



WALK IN MY SHOES

Amy Rozny, UFCW Local 881 Pharmacy Technician



I am a UFCW Local 881 member and I have been a pharmacy technician for 8 months at Jewel Osco #3296 in Chicago, IL. I started in high school. I applied and did a training course through Jewel Osco to become certified to become a pharmacy tech.

I love my job. I get to work with people every day and you always learn something new.

My advice to anyone who wants to become a pharmacy tech is to ask a lot of questions. No question is a dumb question. Before here, I worked at a pet store, because I'm an animal lover, and a garden center, because I love plants. When I started, I didn't know anything about pharmacy. You learn through asking questions.

Buy Union, There's an App for That

The Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO has introduced an app to help conscientious consumers buy union-made products and services.



Union Label is available for both Apple and Android devices and is a handy app for searching products, keeping tabs on boycotts, and finding union news and information. You can also view past editions of our Label Letter newsletter, and contact us from within the app.

The Union Label app database of products is an ever-evolving directory, and we invite all union members to download the app and add your union-made product using the included form. All submissions will be vetted with the identified union before any submissions will be activated.

We will be updating the app continually and encourage all users to let us know what you'd like to see in the next update. You can download the app by visiting your device's app store and searching "Union Label" or use the QR Code links on the back of this edition of the Label Letter. ■

Union Members Win Big on Election Night

On the heels of the AFL-CIO Convention in October, where delegates adopted Resolution #10 — Encouraging Union Members to Run for Public Office — three union member candidates won their elections. Teresa Mosqueda (OPEIU), Braxton Winston (IATSE), and Keith Kazmark (AFT) each spoke to convention attendees about their respective elections and what drove them to run for office. As well, they all spoke about the need to have more union members at every level of government.

Teresa Mosqueda will join the soon-to-be majority women Seattle, City Council. Mosqueda is a third-generation Mexican-American and the daughter of AFT and USW members. Her union upbringing led her to become a career advocate for working families. As the Washington State Labor Council Political Director, Mosqueda fought tirelessly for safe working conditions, immigrant rights, minimum wage increases and health care for all.

Mosqueda won her election with more than 60 percent of the vote. She will be sworn in on November 28.

Keith Kazmark, a former New York City teacher and active AFT member, was elected to his third term as mayor of Woodland Park, NJ. Kazmark previously held the office of Councilman and served three times as Council President.

In his speech to the AFL-CIO, Kazmark talked about attending the New Jersey AFL-CIO candidate school and how it prepared him to run for elected office. He called on every state federation to create similar candidate schools in their area.

Braxton Winston, a proud IATSE member, won one of four at-large council seats on the Charlotte City Council in North Carolina's largest city. He will be sworn in on December 4.

Winston said he became politically active when months after he had stood

with others from his community to protest the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott by a police officer, "the voice that I wanted to (hear) and the other people wanted to (hear) wasn't showing up. It became a matter of, if not me, then who, and if not now, then when?"

At the Convention, Winston read a passage from the U.S. Constitution and spoke about how our founding fathers wanted a "more perfect union."

"North Carolina is a right-to-work (for less) state," said Winston. "we will be barred by law to discuss collectively bargained agreements." But he vowed that as a city council member he will "be a champion for the (union) values."

Labor candidates won big across the country on November 7. And if we continue to encourage union members to run for office, we may begin to see a turning tide for our political landscape. ■

CONVENTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Louis added: "We'll decide, the citizens of Missouri, will decide whether right to work will become law in this state!"

"Without help, we're sunk, we're going to get this done, we're going to beat right-to-work and we're going to start taking some seats back, working people will take back the state."



Steve Bertelli, BCTGM vice president, discussed the Nabisco 600 campaign that BCTGM members have been participating in.



Bridget Martin, Bank of Labor (BOL), talked about the solidarity her bank has shown over the years, including how they divested from Staples during the APWU's Boycott



Dan Duncan, Maritime Trades Department Sec.-Treas., acted as temporary chair during the election of the executive board members

Following Louis, APWU President Mark Dimondstein presented the "Beat Back Staples" campaign's successful efforts on behalf of postal workers and letter carriers.

The Postal Service was going to place full blown post offices into Staples office supply stores across the nation and staff them with low wage Staples employees, rather than USPS employees. The APWU and NALC launched into action with a boycott of the stores and informational picketing to put a stop to the plan.

The National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers supported the boycott, along with other unions in the AFL-CIO. On the day Staples rang the bell at the Nasdaq, a cadre of members stood outside the window of the Nasdaq with signs reading, "The US Mail is not for Sale."

Dimondstein said someone at Nasdaq told him, "You're going to ruin their [Staples] day."

Dimondstein replied, "That's the point." "We cannot be afraid to use our money to protect our jobs, our service and our

standards," said Dimondstein. "New and different ideas are even more necessary in today's climate, but solidarity is always the way forward."

Staples and the Postal Service backed off the plan after more than three years.

"We took away three main lessons from this campaign. 1. You got to believe that workers can win. Workers can understand these issues and get involved. 2. We can't be afraid to take it to the streets. Members must stand up and do something in their own interest. 3. We're not alone and we can't win alone.

"We look at this victory as your victory. Everyone stood up to the Postal Service and Staples and said enough is enough. We salute everyone who fought to defend good union jobs and public institutions, and good wages. The union makes us strong."

Steve Bertelli from the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union, recounted the story of the Nabisco-Mondelez 600.

Last year, Mondelez International (Nabisco's parent company) chose to out-source some 600 jobs from its Chicago Nabisco bakery. In the same year, its CEO, Irene Rosenfeld, made \$16.7 million.

The workers have launched what they call the Nabisco 600 tour, taking their stories to local unions, college campuses, and congregations.

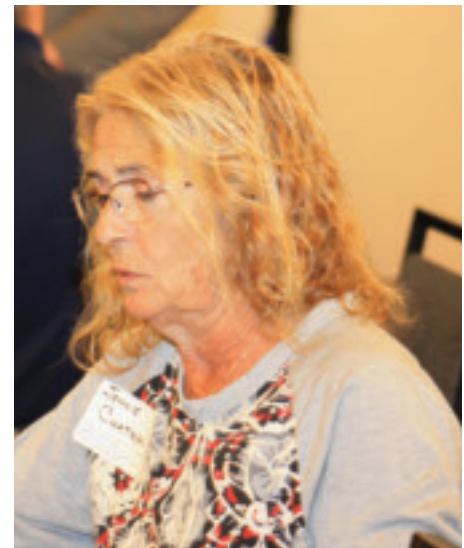
"The response has been amazing," said Bertelli. "They get it. At college campuses, a lot of the students have had fathers, mothers and grandparents lose their jobs to NAFTA. It was a message well received."



Nicole Rhine, UL&STD executive board member from the NALC, introduced a resolution for consideration by the delegates to the convention



UL&STD President Rich Kline (right) and executive board member Bruce Smith chatting during a break in the convention proceedings



Jennie Chatman - Chair Michigan State Union Label & Service Trades Council, Inc.

“We must be vigilant in the defense of our right to lawfully protest, to dissent and to influence policy, corporate and governmental.”

—Rich Kline

“You don’t get into these fights thinking it’s not for the long haul,” added Bertelli. “We’ve gotten support from Congressional leaders, with 18 reaching out to the corporation about this issue.”

Reps. Nancy Pelosi and John Lewis fully committed to help, said Bertelli, and told the union to “think big.”

When taking their story to congregations, the workers are railing against the immorality of harmful worker policies and the effects of the Nabisco model on working families.

“We’ve got the full support of the labor movement,” said Bertelli. “And we’re starting to see the window open.”

Bertelli noted that Rosenfeld is resigning effective Nov. 1, and that she was “shown the door.”

“We’re certain her replacement doesn’t want to deal with this,” added Bertelli.

“Solidarity! That’s what we’ve asked for and you have delivered,” finished Bertelli.

“Boycotts are free speech,” began remarks from Union Label Department President Rich Kline. “Along with the freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and every other right of free expression, the right to protest, including the right to boycott, must be protected. And the right to protest, basic as it is in our democracy, is under threat.”

Kline referred to the growing trend of state and federal legislatures considering, and in some case passing, laws disallowing the right to boycott, conduct street demonstrations and protest. These bills and laws vary in numerous respects, but they share a common goal of scaring people away from participating in boycotts

meant to protest Israeli government policies. Such laws could be dangerous models for anti-union measures.

“They are wrong,” said Kline. “It is the proverbial slippery slope. If one boycott can be restricted to satisfy the demand of an interest group, another interest group can demand satisfaction too. What would have happened in South Africa had the right to boycott been restricted?”

“We know that corporate America and their political toadies would happily restrict Labor’s right to boycott...”

“We must be vigilant in the defense of our right to lawfully protest, to dissent and to influence policy, corporate and governmental,” finished Kline.

A financial report from ULSTD Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Szeredy followed Kline’s remarks.

After the financial report, resolutions amending the constitution and enforcing the Department’s messages were introduced and passed by Delegates.

After the Resolutions, the Convention attendees elected the officers to the Department. President Kline, Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Szeredy, and Vice Presidents Steve Bertelli, Kenneth Cooper (IBEW), Otis Ducker (AFM), Bernie Evers (Ironworkers), George Galis (IUPAT), Loretta Johnson (AFT), Patrick Kellett (Pipefitters), Edward Kelly (IAFF), Mike Linderer (IBB), Richard McClees (SMART), Nicole Rhine (NALC), Carlos

San Miguel (IAMAW), Bruce Smith (GMP) and James Woods (IATSE) were reelected by acclamation. Dan Duncan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Maritime Trades Department, presided over the election.

The ULSTD’s new “app” was introduced to Convention Delegates at the end of the Convention. The app, available on both Android and Apple devices, is the go-to source for union products and services that have been uploaded into the Union Label Department’s database. The goal is for union members and conscientious shoppers to use the database to shop for products produced in a factory or shop where fair wages and workplace rights are protected under a union contract. There was also a resolution calling for local unions and union members to upload their products and services into the app’s database using the “add a product feature.”

Bridget Martin made a presentation to Convention delegates on behalf of the Bank of Labor.

“We’re about creating customized solutions to difficult situations,” said Martin, when discussing how the Bank of Labor helps local and international unions. “We make sure that we’re investing responsibly, and investing in products that serve working families.”

The Convention adjourned in the early afternoon. ■



Carlos San Miguel, UL&STD executive board member from the IAMAW, declared delegate credentials valid as part of the credentials committee.

Democrats 'Better Deal' Agenda Favors Unions

In late October, Democratic leaders introduced a comprehensive plan to overhaul federal law in a way that would strengthen the labor movement and make it easier for U.S. workers to unionize.

"We all worry about the decline of the middle class, and the number one reason for the decline of the middle class is the assault on unions and labor that's occurred over the last 30 years," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said at the press conference. "The union movement is under vicious, relentless attack by big corporate interests."

The Democratic plan, says Schumer, would "unwind a rigged system that undermines every worker's ability to negotiate with the employer."

SPECIFICALLY, A BETTER DEAL WILL:

- Strengthen penalties on predatory corporations that violate workers' rights and combat misclassification of workers as supervisors and independent contractors.
- Strengthen workers' right to strike for basic workplace improvements, including higher wages and better working conditions.
- Create a mandatory mediation and arbitration process to ensure corporations and newly formed unions reach a first contract.
- Ban state laws that would undermine worker freedoms to join together and negotiate.
- Provide millions of public employees with the freedom to join a union and collectively bargain with their employers.
- Streamline the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) procedures to secure worker freedoms and effectively prevent violations.
- Protect integrity of union elections against coercive captive audience meetings.
- Use federal purchasing power and policy to help expand opportunities to negotiate.

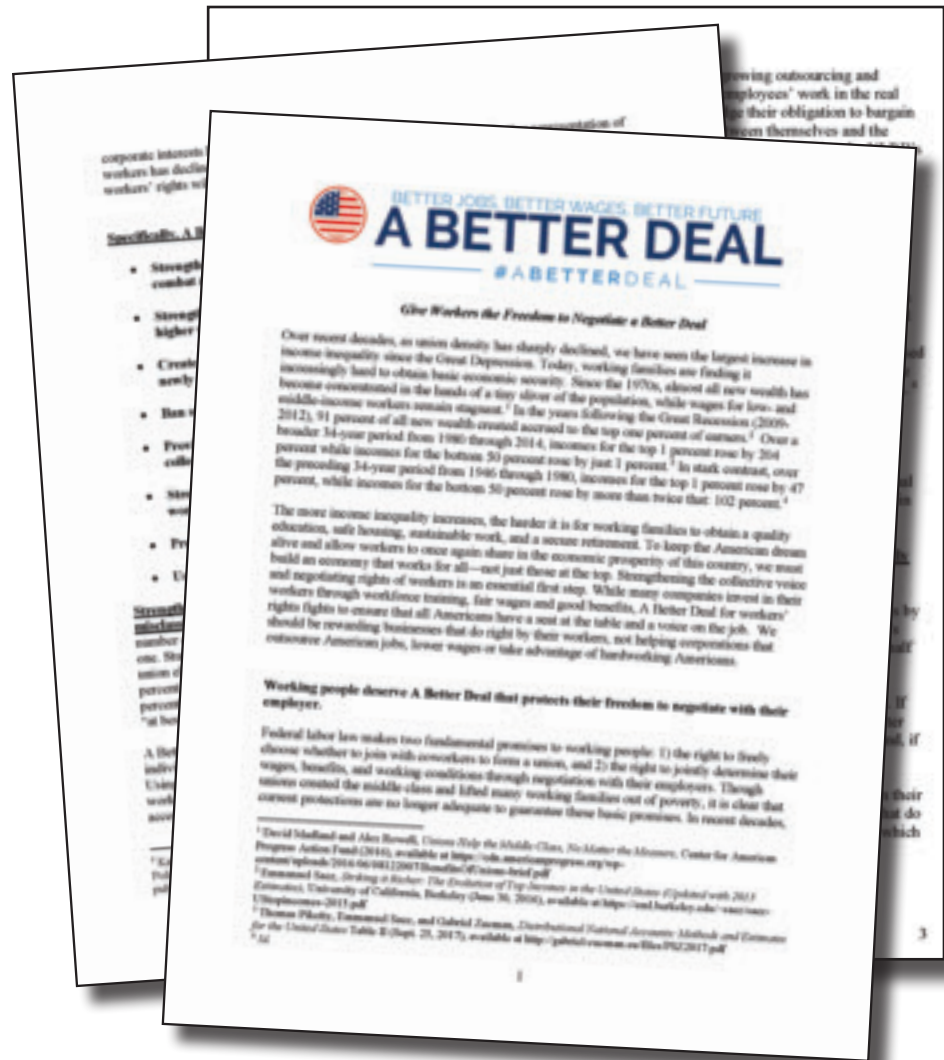
"The plan sounds like a wish list for labor. But, in today's political climate, it is just that, a wish list. If our members don't get out and vote for progressives that can actually get this agenda

passed, we will continue to see our rights attacked," said Rich Kline, Union Label and Service Trades Department president.

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka hailed the proposals, but cautioned that many Democrats have taken union support for granted. "To be perfectly honest, Democrats in the past have lost some of their connection with working people in

our communities who made up their base for generations. But this — these proposals — will strengthen that bond."

With Democrats having won several big off-year elections this November, there is hope that 2018 could see a new slate of progressives in Congress. The passage of a "Better Deal" all but relies on America's voters supporting it. ■



HAVE YOU JOINED OUR LABEL BLAST OUR E-MAIL LIST?

Have you joined our blast e-mail list? Have you visited us on Facebook or twitter? The ULSTD is active on social media, posting union news and product information we believe is important to union members. If you haven't already, find us on facebook, and make sure you sign up for our email list on our website at unionlabel.org to receive important news right in your inbox. ■

In This Issue...

- 70th Convention Focuses on Power of Boycotts, Solidarity. . . 1**
- Do Buy 2**
- Walk in My Shoes 3**
- Buy Union, There's an App for That 3**
- Dems. 'Better Deal' Agenda Favors Unions 6**
- AFL-CIO National Boycotts 7**

Downloadable versions of *Label Letter* are posted on our website: www.unionlabel.org. With the exception of copyrighted material, permission to reprint is hereby granted, but credit to source will be appreciated.

**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

TIME VALUE

EndNotes

By Rich Kline, *President, UL&STD*



Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Dept., AFL-CIO
815 16th St. N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
www.unionlabel.org
E-mail: ULSTD@unionlabel.org
Vol. XLII, No. 6 • ISSN 0161-9365



Label Letter is published bimonthly by the Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Subscriptions to members only. USPS #424-530. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send corrections of address to Room 209, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Phone: 202-508-3700.

RICH KLINE, President and Editor

VICE PRESIDENTS: Debby Szeredy, Steve Bertelli, Kenneth W. Cooper, Otis Ducker, Bernie Evers, George Gallis, Loretta Johnson, Patrick Kellett, Edward Kelly, Mike Linderer, Richard McClees, Nicole Rhine, Carlos San Miguel, Bruce Smith, James B. Woods.

Speakers Praise Solidarity to ULSTD Delegates



Speakers at the Union Label Convention in St. Louis uniformly cited the key role played by solidarity in their various campaigns.

Among the speaker were APWU President Mark Dimondstein, BCTGM Secretary-Treasurer Steve Bertelli and Missouri State AFL-CIO President Mike Louis. Speaking on the USPS-Staples campaign, the Mondelez-Nabisco campaign and the referendum on Missouri's right-to-work law respectively, the speakers told how success was built upon Labor solidarity and appeals to a supportive public.

The Union Label Department unveiled its Union Label app at the Convention. The app, Union Label, on either an Android or Apple platform, is also based on solidarity.

To be successful, our app needs widespread adoption by Union-supportive consumers. It also needs solid support from unions and union members to build the database of products and services that the app will promote. Our app is a work-in-progress, updatable, expandable and interactive.

We plan to list more and more products and services that are truly union-made and union-performed. As our readers and online visitors know, ULSTD takes no advertising, charges no fees and restricts its promotion to union goods and services.

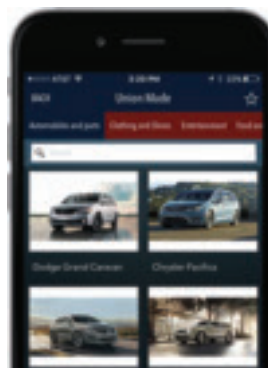
We look forward to getting help from the entire Labor Movement in building this app to its maximum usefulness.

Find the app at Apple's App Store or the Android Store.

Or scan the QR Code shown here to get the app.

Solidarity works. Get the Union Label app and show your solidarity in the marketplace. ■

Download the Union Label App



Find union-made products, add your products too. Download our app today.

