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Label Letter

Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Cutting Saturday mail delivery is a **BIG** mistake

BY JANE BROENDEL
NALC SECRETARY-TREASURER/
UL&STD VICE PRESIDENT

Almost daily we learn of yet another attack by anti-union politicians and greedy corporate chieftains on the jobs and economic livelihoods of working Americans.

Some people in this country seem to be working overtime to make sure that the rest of us aren't working at all.

You wouldn't think the chief honcho of the U.S. Postal Service—a government agency tasked with providing universal mail service to the American people—would be among the guilty, but you'd be wrong.

Defying clear congressional intent, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has decided to eliminate Saturday delivery, a lifeblood for millions of Americans who depend on mail delivery six days a week.

Saturday delivery is especially indispensable to the elderly, the one-half of the public that pays bills by mail, the many millions who lack access to reliable Internet service, and those who send or receive weekly newspapers and magazines, as well as rural residents and small businesses in both small towns and our biggest cities.

Millions of jobs will also be on the cutting block if the Postal Service's ill-conceived plan goes through. Most obvious are those letter carriers, good union members of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO, who wouldn't be walking the streets of the nation's cities and towns every Saturday. But other jobs are involved as well, since the Postal Service is the hub of the \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry and its 7.5 million private-sector jobs.

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Photo Credit: David Borer

On March 20, 2013, federal employees protested sequestration cuts in front of the Department of Labor building in Washington, DC.

More than 2 million jobs endangered Sequester budget cuts will have deep and lasting impact

In cutting \$84.5 billion from the federal budget in the coming fiscal year (or 7 percent of the federal budget), and \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives defied White House warnings that the cuts were too deep and arbitrary. Sequestration is the term for taking money away from government programs.

President Obama has maintained all along that arbitrarily cutting the federal budget without taking steps to increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans would hobble the economic recovery and could turn the nation back toward recession.

From the beginning, sequestration was a variation of the old game of chicken, where each side expected the other to blink first.

The process does achieve one of the foremost objectives of the Tea Party and conservative elements of the Republican Party. By taking a meat axe to government

programs, sequestration moves the needle closer to the goal of shrinking government down to the point where it can be drowned in the bathtub.

The Republicans were initially gloating because, to date, the pain appears to be localized to government employees—about a million of them who will experience as many as 22 unpaid furlough days, or 20 percent of their income. By mid-March, federal agencies had sent out furlough notices to about a quarter of a million workers.

Federal workers are the prime target of Republican orthodoxy. Just before the sequester began, the House of Representatives voted down a miniscule pay raise for the federal workforce, continuing a wage freeze into a third year.

There is no indication that the Sequester standoff might be resolved anytime soon. On March 20, Congress passed a stopgap spending bill to keep the govern-

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DO BUY

**A good diet
and preventative
health care is the
best way to keep
pets healthy
and avoid big
veterinary bills.**

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

DO BUY—these union-made pet products & services

Union Plus offers pet programs to help protect your pets and your wallet. Get details about pet insurance benefits and how to enroll at UnionPlusPets.com or call 1-866-473-7387 (9 am–midnight ET and 10 am–8 pm ET on Saturdays)

Pet savings & services

- Save up to 10 percent on pet insurance.

Veterinarian discounts

- Save on veterinary services. These savings can be used with pet insurance to lower out-of-pocket expenses.
- Save up to 50 percent on other pet services such as pet boarding, pet supplies, pet sitting, pet training and more.
- Pet Food, Medication & Toy Discounts—through the union plus online pet store <https://store.unionpluspets.com>

When you're searching for things to buy for your pets—why not support unions and buy trusted products that are union-made?

Here's a brief list of pet products made by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

BCTGM

- Alpo
- Chew-eez
- Fancy Feast
- Milk-Bones
- Purina Animal Feeds
- Purina Beneful
- Purina Cat Chow
- Purina Dog Chow

- Purina One
- Purina Pro Plan
- Purina Puppy Chow

UFCW

- 9 Lives
- Anchor
- Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
- Sanderson Farms
- Wayne Farms
- Alpo
- Beggin' Strips
- Chew-eez
- Fancy Feast
- Fresh Step
- Friskies
- Litter Green
- Milk-Bone Dog Biscuits
- Nature's Recipe
- Purina Animal Feeds
- Purina Beneful
- Purina Cat Chow
- Purina Dog Chow
- Purina Pro Plan
- Purina Puppy Chow
- Science Diet
- Skippy
- Snausages
- Tidy Cat's



Walk In My Shoes



John Bratcher,

NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION—
NATCA/FSM; FT SMITH
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER/
RAZORBACK APPROACH

I'm often asked what it's like to be an air traffic controller and what it means to do something high stressed. I summarize it in three thoughts: amazing, a privilege and a rush. Controllers work 365 days a year, seven days a week, 24 hours a day; late nights, early mornings, weekends and holidays. We have to be 100 percent, all the time. In our world there is no acceptable mistake. The flying public demands perfection and we strive for it every day.

I grew up wanting to be a controller. Knowing I'm responsible for thousands of lives every day makes me feel honored to plug in and call myself an air traffic controller. Being part of a profession that's the epitome of professionalism is truly special. NATCA is more than just a labor union—it's my family. At work I know my union family is helping me do my job as a Union Air Traffic Controller! ■

Labor & business team up to encourage South Bay families to 'Earn 'n Spend in San Jose'

Ben Field, South Bay Labor Council

The launch of a new campaign to encourage shopping and dining at San Jose businesses, which pay a \$10/hour minimum wage, points out two often overlooked facts.

First, treating workers well is good for business. Various businesses have already raised wages, and the result is happier workers and better customer service. That's not to mention the \$70 million additional dollars low wage workers will put back into the economy when they spend their raises.

Second, the Labor Movement wants businesses to thrive. If a business isn't doing well, it is less likely to provide good quality jobs with decent pay and benefits.

The business community and organized labor can and should collaborate on social justice issues. **When the minimum wage increased to \$10 an hour on March 11**, the South Bay Labor Council and the San Jose Downtown Association launched a **joint campaign** to encourage consumers to patronize San Jose

business specifically because those businesses are paying a higher minimum wage. The slogan, "**Earn 'n Spend in San Jose**," which are posted in business windows and upcoming ads, is designed to remind the public that San Jose is a great place to shop, dine and spend.

I believe that most Silicon Valley business people are not ideologically opposed to the Labor Movement. In fact, business and labor should be able to agree most of the time. We all want economic development that benefits the whole community. We have a shared interest in policies like the minimum wage increase that promote the economic development. It is time to start thinking about a new policy initiative to improve the lives of working families. As we do, I hope we will continue to have collaborative partners in the business community. ■

This article originally appeared in the blog "Labor's Edge, Views from the California Labor Movement."

Spotlight the Label:

Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Founded in 1913, Actors' Equity became a force to be reckoned with in an historic 1919 strike. Since then, Equity has gone beyond securing the safety, health, and rights of stage actors to become a progressive force in theater.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA or 'Equity') represents more than 49,000 professional stage actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of ben-

efits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

Equity is governed by its own members through an elected council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members at large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 24 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each. ■



SEQUESTER IMPACT... *continued from page 1*

ment open through the end of September, sidestepping the threat of a government shutdown, but sequestration cuts remain in place at least through September 30.

Like the layers of an onion, the federal budget affects virtually all Americans in many different ways. By the time the full impact of these cuts registers on the average family the damage will be extensive and the process of restoring vital services expensive, and in some cases, impossible. News accounts estimate that 2.14 million jobs are in danger as a consequence of the sequester and 956,000 of those are “small business jobs” that depend upon government contracts.

Local education funding will feel the pinch, forcing administrators to lay off teachers. Federal funding for police and public safety personnel will be lopped away. Programs such as Head Start, Food Stamps and Unemployment Benefits will feel the pinch.

The impact of the 2013 cuts will see reductions in every government program—from agriculture and airline safety to cuts in the national zoo. The sharpest evidence of public inconvenience will begin in April with the first furloughs. School children planning to visit Washington this Spring won't be touring the White House and they'll have fewer opportunities to see many of the other iconic Washington sites that depend on federal workers. Smithsonian exhibits will be restricted due to understaffing as will the monuments along the National Mall. The National Weather Service will be forced to postpone modernizing its weather prediction capacity. Social Security and the Internal Revenue Service will experience slowdowns in processing their work. Security lines and delays will grow in airports, air traffic control will be pared down and many small airports in various regions of the country will shut down. Food and meat inspection will be sharply curtailed—forcing some factories to suspend operations when inspectors are not available. Federal law enforcement agencies will experience staff shortages—from the Border Patrol to FBI agents, federal prison facilities, drug and firearm enforcement and others.

Down another layer, billions of dollars in federal contracting will be constricted, cut-

ting down shipbuilding and repair, research and development and the full range of national security expenditures.

Thousands of union members will feel the pinch as skilled craft workers are laid off from big defense contractors such as Lockheed and Boeing, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics. The ripples will threaten jobs in health care, food service, travel, hospitality and more.

Leaders in Congress and the White House continue to hold hopes that a compromise can be reached to reduce the impact of the cuts by taking steps to raise taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals. The hope is that once average Americans begin to feel the pinch they will bombard members of Congress to demand a resolution. ■



Photo Credit: AFL-CIO

Federal workers in Pittsburgh, PA protest sequestration cuts during the March 20, 2013 National Day of Action



Photo Credit: Kathy Mayo

The Chicago Federation of Labor organized a March 20, 2013 “Day of Action” protest against sequester cuts at the Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago, IL



Photo Credit: AFGE

Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans (AARA) and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) action at the Social Security Office

FIND A UNION PRINTER AT

www.CWAPrintShops.com

The Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector-CWA (PPMWS), formerly the International Typographical Union (ITU), is the oldest union in America. Formed in 1852 by a group of typesetters and printers in New York the ITU fought for, and won, the 40-hour workweek and other benefits that eventually became standard across all industries. In 1987, the ITU merged with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and formed the PPMWS-CWA.

The PPMWS-CWA “bug” is a symbol of quality union printing done by trained printers. www.CWAPrintShops.com is an easy to use website established to help businesses find CWA union printers in their area. To request a quote click on the link “Request a Printing Quote” and choose your district as identified on the map. From there simply fill out the form to submit your bid request. Once your request is submitted the printers that fit your criteria will contact you directly.

You can also view information about union printers on the website by clicking on the “Participating Printers” link. There you can find links to the union printers who have registered with the website.

Want to become a PPMWS-CWA union printer? Visit the www.CWA-PPMWS.org website and use the “Contact Us” form or call the Sector’s office at 202-434-1248. ■

The American Labor Museum



Tucked away in the town of Haledon, New Jersey, the 1908 Botto House National Landmark is home to the American Labor Museum. The Botto House was owned by Italian immigrant and silk mill worker, Pietro Botto and his wife Maria.

In 1913, Botto, a labor organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), addressed more than 20,000 striking Paterson silk mill workers from the home’s balcony. Workers at the mill were striking for an eight-hour workday. Because the home served as a haven for free speech and assembly for those laborers it was added to the National Register of Historic sites and was designated as a National

Landmark by the Department of the Interior.

In 1983, the home opened to the public as The American Labor Museum dedicated to teaching the public about the history of workers, the workplace and organized labor. The museum offers education programs both onsite and through a distance learning program.

The American Labor Museum advances public understanding of the history of work, workers and the labor movement throughout the world, with special attention to the ethnicity and immigrant experience of American workers.

This year marks the centennial of the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike, a major event in the history of labor in the 20th century. The American Labor Museum has events planned throughout the year to honor the centennial. Activities include a year-long strike exhibit, teachers’ workshop, historical bus tour, May Day Festival and Labor Day Parade. Visit the museum’s website for hours of operation and information on additional exhibits, www.labormuseum.net. ■

SATURDAY MAIL, *continued from page 1*

Let’s not forget that the jobs that would be cut if Saturday delivery is eliminated aren’t high-paying professional jobs. No, these are jobs that have long been the entryway into the American middle class for millions of men and women—many of them minorities and/or veterans. And in the Postal Service and many related industries, such as printing—these are good union jobs.

Six-day mail delivery has been the practice of this nation for 150 years, and has been renewed annually by Congress the past 30 years not only because so many Americans depend on Saturday delivery, but also the Postal Service itself

does too—whether the current Postmaster General realizes it or not.

Eliminating Saturday delivery will send many businesses and citizens scurrying for alternatives, thus further diminishing demand for postal products and services, a demand that already has been reduced due to poor economic conditions (thanks to the Bush years) and technological alternatives to hard-copy communications. So instead of alleviating the financial problems the Postal Service faces, dropping Saturday delivery would worsen them and set the Service on a path to destruction. Thousands of American businesses have discovered in recent years that cutting service is exactly the wrong

way to save a business—but unfortunately the leaders of the Postal Service haven’t learned that lesson.

In the end, Congress must act to save the Postal Service—and to save Saturday delivery. So write, call or e-mail your Senators and Congressional Representative, and let them know how important Saturday delivery is to preserving the U.S. Postal Service, to the millions of Americans who depend on the Postal Service six days a week, and to the millions of Americans whose good jobs depend on a functioning, effective Postal Service.

For more information go to www.nalc.org and click on “Delivering for America.” This is everyone’s fight. ■

Women's soccer star Alex Morgan seeks fair contract for all players

During the 2012 Summer Olympics, Alex Morgan scored the winning goal in the semifinal match against Canada in extra time, sending the United States to the gold medal match against Japan. Her goal came in the 123rd minute, the latest goal ever scored by a member of the U.S. women's team or in an Olympic match. In the final, a 2-1 win against Japan on August 9, Alex assisted on a Carli Lloyd header. She ended the tournament with three goals and a team-high four assists. This summer you'll be able to watch Alex play with the Portland Thorns FC as part of the new professional National Women's Soccer League. The nine-team league is an attempt to bring women's professional soccer back to the U.S.

Morgan, the young (23) superstar, is not only the face of the new league, she's become the face of collective bargaining for her fellow players. Just two years after playing in her first professional game for the now defunct Women's Professional Soccer (WPS), Morgan

brings a surprising amount of experience and professionalism as an advocate for other young players entering the league.

"When I was drafted [in WPS], I wasn't really sure what went on and what kind of salaries are given, what the quality of the team was—not only in terms of players, but coaching staff, training staff, training facility, that sort of stuff," Morgan said. "Now being on this side of it, we really wanted to not only fight for us, but also those players not on the national team that didn't really have a say. We had to be their voice. I think it's finding that middle ground between sacrificing a little bit of what we want for the betterment of the league and for all of the players."

Playing soccer is now her livelihood and although she may play with the abandon of someone who would do this for free, she is aware she cannot if she and dozens of free agents and rookies who will sign contracts hope to pay their bills. ■

Broadcast employees reach tentative agreement with ABC

The National Associations of Broadcast Employees and Technicians-Communications Workers of America (NABET-CWA) has reached a tentative agreement with the American Broadcasting System (ABC) on a new four-year contract.

After two years without a contract—the last one expired in March 2011—James C. Joyce, NABET-CWA president and head of the bargaining committee, recommended to members that they ratify the contract.

"After two years of protracted negotiations, this latest round of mediation has produced a breakthrough, and this offer is now worthy of our members' consideration. The persistence of our members and our bargaining committee to achieve a fair contract was instrumental in this outcome," said Joyce.

Joyce says the new contract contains significant improvements over ABC's "final" offer in 2012, including a 9 percent wage increase and an additional year on the length of the contract. ■



LABOR 411 UNION BUYING GUIDE PROMOTES ETHICAL CONSUMERISM

Cherri Senders, Publisher, Labor 411. As a public relations professional specializing in communications for labor unions, Cherri Senders signed an agreement with the Los Angeles Labor Federation that she would "buy union whenever possible." For years, she'd research her purchases beforehand and armed with her shopping list, she'd live up to her agreement.

"It wasn't easy," said Senders. "I had to really do a lot of research. I didn't know how accurate or reliable my sources were."

Senders wanted to support good union jobs so she finally decided that the labor

movement needed an accurate and up-to-date union shopping guide—full of union-made products and services. And so Labor 411 was born.

On Labor 411's website [www.labor411.com], Senders sums up the guide's mission: "Working people deserve the support of their neighbors, communities and friends. By making the choice to spend our money on union-made goods and services that are made in our country by workers who are treated fairly, we are helping to protect the middle class, strengthen our national economy and build a stronger America. We call that ethical consumerism..." ■



AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

MARCH-APRIL 2013 >>>>>>>>>>>>>



HOSPITALITY, TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

- › GLOBAL, Hyatt Hotels (*with exceptions, see box, below)
- › ANCHORAGE, AK, Hilton; Sheraton
- › ARLINGTON, VA, Hilton, Crystal City; Sheraton Crystal City
- › BALTIMORE, Sheraton Baltimore
- › CHICAGO, Congress Plaza; Westin Chicago Northwest; Wyndham Suites
- › IRVINE, CA, Embassy Suites Irvine
- › LONG BEACH, CA, Hilton Long Beach;
- › LOS ANGELES, Wilshire Plaza
- › SACRAMENTO, Arden West, Hilton Sacramento
- › SAN DIEGO, Le Meridien
- › WASHINGTON, D.C., Westin City Center

SUBMITTED BY United Steelworkers (USW)

- › PALERMO PIZZA

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

SUBMITTED BY Communications Workers of America

- › ECHOSTAR DISHNETWORK Satellite Television Service

SUBMITTED BY International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

- › SINCLAIR BROADCASTING 55 stations in 33 U.S. Markets. Go to www.unionlabel.org and click "Boycotts" to find the stations in your area

LEGAL

SUBMITTED BY American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

- › GLEASON, DUNN, WALSH & O'SHEA

- › HARDIN, LAZARUS AND LEWIS, LLC
- › MCDONALD, LAMOND, CANZONERI AND HICKERNELL

OTHERS

SUBMITTED BY Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers International Union

- › AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR
- › R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO. Camel (cigarettes, snus, orbs, strips and sticks), Pall Mall, Winston, Salem, Doral, Kool, Misty, Capri. Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Co. is a non-union sister company of RJR producing Santa Fe Natural American Spirit cigarettes

The call to 'Boycott Hyatt' DOES NOT include hotels with current ILWU agreements or those with current UNITE HERE agreements

Current ILWU hotels: Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa and the Grand Hyatt Kauai, which have current collective bargaining agreements with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Current UNITE HERE! hotels: Hyatt Hotel (Highway One Monterey); Hyatt Regency Monterey; Hyatt Penn's Landing (Philadelphia); Hyatt Regency Dearborn (Michigan); Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center; Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill; Hyatt Regency Atlanta; Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina; Hyatt Regency on King (Toronto); Park Hyatt Toronto; Hyatt Regency Vancouver; Grand Hyatt New York; Hyatt Rosemont; Hyatt Place San Jose; Andaz 5th Avenue; Andaz Wall Street; Hyatt Place Braintree (Mass.)

POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT OF AFFILIATES' BOYCOTTS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has developed policy guidelines that regulate how the federation endorses boycotts undertaken by its affiliates. To get AFL-CIO sanction, boycotts should be directed at primary employers.

THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS:

- › All requests to the national AFL-CIO for endorsement must be made by a national or international union
- › Any affiliated union with a contract in force with the same primary employer will be contacted by the AFL-CIO to determine whether there is an objection to the federation's endorsement.
- › Affiliates will be asked to provide the AFL-CIO with background information on the dispute in a confidential information

survey. Prior to endorsement of the boycott, the executive officers, or their designees, will meet with the national union's officers, or their designees, to discuss the union's strategic plan and timetable for the boycott, or other appropriate tactics, and to discuss the federation's role.

- › The national or international union initiating the boycott is primarily responsible for all boycott activities; the AFL-CIO will provide supplemental support.

- › Boycotts will be carried on the AFL-CIO national boycott list for a period of one year, and the endorsement will expire automatically at the end of that time. National and international unions may request one-year extensions of the listings for actions where an organizing or bargaining campaign is actively in place.

(These guidelines were adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in April 2011.)

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TIME VALUE

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EndNotes

By Rich Kline, *President, UL&STD*

A minimum wage increase: morally right and sound economics



What if we could have an economic stimulus that pumped consumer spending in to the economy and righted an economic wrong and hardship at the same time?

Well, we can by raising the minimum wage and tying future increases to the cost of living. That is the essence of a proposal by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.).

President Obama called for raising the minimum from its current \$7.25 an

hour to \$9 by 2015. He argued that "no one who works full-time should live in poverty." The Harkin-Miller plan calls for a \$10 start point for the COL indexing to begin. They say that starting so low creates an economic class that will never catch up.

Opponents to the increase, whether the Obama or the Harkin-Miller one, will say it will cost jobs, an unproven claim. They ignore the benefit of having more money in the pockets of workers who will spend every penny earned to meet the needs of their families.

The minimum wage dates from 1938 when the Fair Labor Standards Act set it as a floor. The federal rate can be exceeded by state and local regulations, as is the case in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

It's a matter of fairness and a boost for an economy still struggling to emerge from a lengthy recession. Producers of goods and services and their unionized and unorganized workers alike will benefit, too, from a more vibrant marketplace supported by wage earners employed above the poverty line. ■

MOURN FOR THE DEAD FIGHT FOR THE LIVING

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO



Label Letter

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