



# **LABOR TODAY** **EL TRABAJO DIARIO**



**Bilingual Publication (Publicación Bilingüe) of Labor United for Class Struggle**

**CLASS ORIENTED • UNITING • DEMOCRATIC • INDEPENDENT • MODERN • INTERNATIONAL**  
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**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!**

**¡UNA HERIDA PARA UNO ES UNA HERIDA PARA TODOS!**

**A WORKING CLASS PROGRAM FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE**

**LABOR UNITED IN CLASS STRUGGLE / LABOR TODAY**



**Photo courtesy UFCW Local 770. Successful August 2, 2016**

**labor-community demonstration for a new contract for grocery workers.**

The US trade unions are dominated by the Samuel Gompers answer to the question: What do workers want? "More" he said. Well, that credo doesn't work anymore. The radical, class-oriented working-class tradition in the US has spoken: **"We want to run this country; not just get the left-over scraps."** That is what the fight for May Day, International Workers Day, is all about. On May 1, 1886 in Chicago workers gathered in Haymarket Square to demand the 8-hour day. May Day should be a federal holiday in the USA!

### General Issues / RIGHT TO STRIKE

- ✓ We demand the RIGHT TO STRIKE as guaranteed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR).
- ✓ We demand the right to strike during the term of a labor contract if the employers use the agreement to violate the law.
- ✓ We demand no more state 'Right to Work' at lower wages laws in any state. Restore full trade union status regardless of

### Increase Strength of trade unions

- ✓ Launch a renewed rank and file fight for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). Workers voted for EFCA in the 2008 general election; Support for EFCA helped give the Democrats a landslide victory ---winning the White House, Senate and House of Representatives -- workers were promptly sold out. This issue must be one of labor's top priorities in 2017 and beyond.
- ✓ Repeal the Taft-Hartley Act Section 14(b), also known as: Right to Work (RtW). Labor can't fight the bosses with one hand tied behind its back! Section 14(b) has been controversial from its inception. It became law over the strong objections of organized labor. What we have now is a network of different labor laws in different States that pit the workers in one State against another, It's time that we repeal section 14(b). It is time that we let unions organize and time that we allow workers who want to have a union, to enjoy that right. It doesn't cost, it pays to be union.

### Public Sector Workers

(Prepared by Blair Bertaccini, AFSCME District Council 4, Local 269, Connecticut Department of Labor)

**Starving these services through the destruction of an adequate tax base only creates the lessening of quality services and provides the cynical calls for privatization that corporate and personal greed demands.**

#### *The Greatest Threat to Public Workers: Privatization at All Levels!*

- ✓ WFTU/LABOR TODAY supports the public ownership of the vital needs of the people — shifting public works and jobs is only for profit. It never results in better services.
- ✓ No restrictions on the trade union use of public worker dues contributions.
- ✓ End the gutting of full-time jobs into part time jobs.
- ✓ Demand the right to collective bargaining for all public employees.
- ✓ Demand right to strike for all public employees per ILO guidelines.
- ✓ Oppose the creation of so-called Public Private Partnerships.

We believe that combining the fight for immediate working-class gains, with a vision to fight for far more radical gains that lead toward a worker takeover of society (what we call class-oriented socialism), is the only way to keep workers from falling into the bosses' traps. And it answers the workers' deep understanding that their bosses don't deserve any respect.

*Here is the Labor Today Trade Union Program for 2021 and beyond that adheres to our great working-class tradition in the United States.*

- geographical location.
- ✓ We demand the right to boycott any person or organization whether secondary or not.
- ✓ **Fight for \$25 an hour indexed to inflation, with 30 hours work for 40 hours pay!**
- ✓ A Federal Jobs Program at trade union wages with full health care.
- ✓ No Two or Three Tier Wage Scales.



- pays to be union!
- ✓ Remove Federal restrictions on union spending. Under current law, unions are restricted to spending funds only for collective bargaining. Trade Unions should be able to spend their funds on any projects that their members vote to support: elections, organizing drives, solidarity campaigns, educational programs for their members.
- ✓ Any Brother or Sister should be able to run for union office. End political and all types of discrimination that discourage democracy.



### Building and Construction Trades

(Prepared by Cliff Smith, Business Manager, Roofers and Waterproofers, Local 36, an affiliate to the World Federation of Trade Unions )

and strengthen Davis Bacon rules / Prevailing Wage Rules.

- ✓ Federal recognition of state-certified joint labor/management apprenticeship programs and standards. e.g., California requires any publicly funded project to utilize indentured apprentices at a ratio of 5 journeymen to 1 apprentice. Presently this program is not recognized and applicable on federally funded projects.

Preserve and expand collective bargaining rights—oppose "right to work" {for less} laws which open companies' bargaining units to non-Union workers and prohibit negotiated hourly "check-off" dues deductions and strengthen Davis-Bacon (1931) rules / prevailing wage rules.



**Local 36 international solidarity with Greek construction workers at PAME Federation offices.**

- ✓ Enact "Card-check" for worker Union representation. "Under the proposed Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), (and now the PRO Act) when the NLRB verifies that over 50% of the employees signed authorization cards, the secret ballot election is bypassed, and a union is automatically formed. EFCA was introduced in the U.S. Congress in 2005 and reintroduced in 2007 and 2009. The EFCA, and now the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act provides that the NLRB would recognize the representative if a majority of employees have authorized that representation via

card check, without requiring a secret ballot election. Employees sign a petition or an authorization card. The NLRB would still order a secret ballot election for union representation".

- ✓ (THE PRO ACT BEING CONSIDERED REPLACES THE EFCA IN CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS, Scott-VA.)
- ✓ Protect the use of Project Labor Agreements [Community Workforce Agreements] on federally funded projects.
- ✓ Preserve and expand funding for enforcement agencies of employment standards, wage theft, workers' compensation, social security disability insurance.

## Women Workers

- ✓ Equal pay for Equal Work.
- ✓ Full Paid family leave.
- ✓ No pregnancy discrimination.
- ✓ No retreat on Roe v Wade which protects a woman's right to abortions.



## THE TRADE UNIONS MUST BE THE FIREWALL THAT DEFENDS OUR DEMOCRACY!



**On January 6, 2021 our nation witnessed the greatest threat to our democracy since the British invasion of 1814. A mob of fascist thugs under the direction of the President of the United States, stormed our nations' capitol in a violent attempt at insurrection. 5 people were killed including a policeman that was protecting the Capitol. The House and Senate had to be evacuated and the certification of the presidential election was delayed. Democratic House impeachment managers made their case with [a video](#) all Americans should watch, which cast into sharp relief just how violent and blood-thirsty the Capitol insurrectionists were, and just how much they were encouraged by President Trump.**

**Prior to these events, the trade union movement mobilized their members to participate in the election like never before. Trump was defeated and lost the popular vote and the electoral college, which paved the way for a return to democracy. This was not easy, but it shows the power that unions have when they organize and mobilize their memberships. We must be vigilant when protecting our democratic rights. Trade unions must lead the working class by example, using all of the tools in our toolboxes, including international solidarity.**

**Quoting LT Associate Editor Dr. Frank Goldsmith, "I think first we need to understand something that most people forget: our nation is founded on the genocide of Native Americans, the states were built by Africans imported as slaves after 1619. Malcolm X said in the 60's, the things you do in the past come back to you. Right now, Wall Street is making billions of dollars by exploiting the current pandemic, there are hundreds more billionaires in the world than there were 8 months ago. The biggest Wall Street corporations are making billions, like Amazon and Google, and then you have poverty running rampant everywhere. From our point of view, it is legally and practically impossible for the left or the "green party" to get enough of a say, for example the "green party" that I voted for in the last election due to the lack of alternatives, is a party that has popular support, but the elections in the United States are between 2 parties, both neoliberal and there are only relative differences on the imperialist attitudes that they have had for example with Cuba and Venezuela, there are some differences yes, but imperialism is common to both factions. At the national level there are differences, such as the neoliberalism that has been largely supported by the Democrats for the last 30 years, especially during Obama's tenure that has destroyed the programs of laws and government."**

## Longshore and Maritime Demands

(Developed by Royce Adams, ILA Local 1291, Philadelphia, PA.)

- ✓ East Coast/West Coast Contract Unity and Solidarity with common contract expiration dates.
- ✓ Work Jurisdiction and the fight to defend all Longshore/Maritime workers, particularly in the "Right to Work" states.
- ✓ Union oversight over automation and an effective union agreed upon Job Security Program.
- ✓ International Solidarity, starting directly from the point of production, **including the right to boycott Hot Cargo. REPEAL TAFT-HARTLEY 14(b)**
- ✓ Health and Safety: Strict enforcement of all Health and Safety standards.



## Stop the 'Ripoff' of Pensioners and Retirees

- ✓ Full pension protection from a fully funded Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC): no loopholes.
- ✓ Stop State reductions in Pensions and benefits such as are occurring in the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS).



- ✓ Elevate the Social Security Administration's wage/salary "cap" on wage deductions to \$1million.
- ✓ Tax on Social Security Administration wage benefits should start at \$750,000 and up.
- ✓ Maintain and expand the largely working class federal and state health programs of Medicare and Medicaid.
- ✓ Begin a yearly reduction in Medicare eligibility to full coverage for all.

## Black Lung Benefits (Coal Mining)

- ✓ Maximum funding for the Federal Black Lung Benefit program, with guaranteed federal funding and no deadlines. Fund for the next 50 Years.
- ✓ Expand black lung benefits with comprehensive community health services free of charge for affected miners and their families.



## Health and Safety Regulations

- ✓ Re-establish the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) as a Standard Setting and Federal enforcement agency. Begin with an Emergency Standard for workers and community exposure to Diesel Exhaust and asbestos exposure.
- ✓ Re-establish the 2000 Ergonomic Rule. The ergonomic standard was killed by George W. Bush in 2001.
- ✓ Protect the right to refuse unsafe work. "We come here to work. We don't come here to die."
- ✓ Re-establish the 1977 rules governing workers' exposure to excessive heat and cold.

- ✓ Employ three times the number of Federal inspectors with jurisdiction in all 50 states. Leaving responsibility for worker' health and safety to most States is killing workers.
- ✓ Dramatically increase the funding for the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOSH) with total emphasis on workplace hazard research.



## Environmental Disasters



Almost all environmental hazards and risks start at the factory site. Workers face the highest risk and often die. "The case of Peterborough General

Electric plant in Ontario, Canada is typical; many of its workers, during the last decades, have been dying of work-related terminal diseases due to carcinogenic factors in their workplace. According to investigations carried out, the presence of more than 42 prohibited items such as arsenic, asbestos, lead and cadmium had been verified in the past." (from WFTU statement).

- ✓ In the USA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a skeleton of its former self. Fracking, out of control pipelining often across Native lands, off shore oil drilling are all neoliberal activities. They must stop immediately.
- ✓ Federal lands must remain untouched by corporate greed.
- ✓ Super fund sites including nuclear waste facilities that hold nuclear weaponry waste must be cleaned up. Thousands of trained and fully protected workers are needed for these dangerous trade union safe jobs.
- ✓ Combat environmental racism by focusing cleanup where significant percent of affected residents are people color.



## International Solidarity

- ✓ Terminate all existing international trade deals.
- ✓ Promote international relations among class-oriented trade unions through the World Federation of Trade Unions.
- ✓ End the privatization of public jobs and entities to for-profit or so-called not for profit companies.
- ✓ Around the world almost all countries live off the hard work of migrant and refugee workers.
- ✓ In the US, immigrant workers have become the centerpiece of our economy--they need our protection from legal attacks, dangerous work and long hours.
- ✓ Trade unions have a direct stake in immigrant

workers becoming trade unionists. Class oriented trade unions are already leading the way.

- ✓ Employers must pay for language class with time off for attendances.
- ✓ Full trade union benefits, wages and all rights to all immigrant and migrant workers regardless of legal status because **An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!**
- ✓ Initiate trade union contacts with Mexican and Canadian [Quebec] trade unions with the top agenda item being **Solidarity Against Anti- Worker/Anti-Union Trade Deals!**



## African-American and other nationally oppressed workers

Protect All Workers: Demand Affirmative Action and Immigrant Rights

- ✓ Anticipating the White House, Congressional, Legal and Administrative attacks on affirmative action programs that help correct historical and current rights, all trade unions and allies must gear up to take class-oriented actions in the national, state and local arenas.
- ✓ Anti-worker and anti-union think tanks will be feeding politicians, legal systems and media with lies and racist tracts.
- ✓ The unity of our working class and trade unions will be tested and only class-oriented trade unions will have clear understanding, activities and guts to follow through.

- ✓ Amend language in union seniority clauses that protects newly hired workers from termination, layoff, shift assignments, and undesirable job classifications where the issue of affirmative action is involved.



## Education

- ✓ Abolish Charter Schools. Taxpayers Money for Public Schools, NOT for profiteers!
- ✓ Expand Head Start and other pre-school programs.
- ✓ Provide nutrition programs (hot meals) in all primary schools.
- ✓ Eliminate wasteful testing; provide real educational opportunities.
- ✓ Make Higher Education Tuition FREE!
- ✓ Reduce class sizes to no more than 15 students per instructor and

encourage collective education for students.

- ✓ Hire and train more educators and classified employees.
- ✓ We demand Cancellation and repudiation all student debts / loans.



## Arts & Entertainment Industry

- ✓ All unions negotiate one master contract for everyone in the industry. Negotiate as a joint council or conference. Stop whipsawing workers against each other. One industry, one contract.
- ✓ Stop corporate runaway production; union oversight over new technology including digital program applications and automation.
- ✓ Full Federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH).
- ✓ Full funding for music education in our public schools.
- ✓ Demand Federal Theatre, Cinema, and Music Arts Projects. Art and culture should be financed by the public, not the corporations.



## Transportation

- ✓ Urban mass transit requires targeted attention by the Federal government to Rehabilitate the older mass transit metro/subway systems and the rolling bus stock and the purchase of up to date equipment.
- ✓ Fully fund **AMTRAK** so that all Maintenance of Way and operating equipment are of the highest technology and standards across the country. **AMTRAK trains should run on electricity, not diesel.**
- ✓ We demand that all diesel fueled mass transit be retired from service and replaced by a combination of electric/battery and propane fueled vehicles.
- ✓ End all privatization and publicly subsidized 'private' bus,

subway and light rail companies.

**Transportation Belongs to the People, not Private Corporations!** Transportation unions must have strong oversight on all equipment procurement and replacement parts.



## Trade Unions and the Fight for Peace:

### Against imperialism and capitalist barbarism

There is no more important struggle involving the trade unions as the fight for peace. Many trade unionists in the USA are employed in weapons-manufacturing. One could not only cut wasteful military spending but increase employment at the same time.

The great leader of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) William W. Winpisinger wrote a whole program on refocusing defense industry spending on socially useful peacetime spending on things like infrastructure improvements, building rail systems in our cities, and creating millions of jobs in the process. He called his proposals plant conversions or retooling. Labor Today calls for:

- ✓ An immediate halt to all military production. Skilled machinists, aircraft workers, and others employed in the defense industry should be using their talents to build and modernize our infrastructure. Defense contractors should be put out of business. No worker should lose his or her job. There is a reason why Lockheed calls their program the Skunk works. It stinks!
- ✓ Immediately start up the Emergency Defense Act to manufacture Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Covid-19 vaccines. In large quantities. The Federal government should coordinate all activities that involve our national response to Covid-19. State and local governments should be given the financial resources to provide comprehensive and coordinated response to our public health needs. No worker should lose his or her job for refusing to work in an unsafe environment. There must be severe financial penalties to employers that dismiss workers for trying to stay safe.

- ✓ Immediate job training programs to develop hi-speed internet and a Broadband network that is free and open to everyone.
- ✓ Retrain military pilots to fly commercial aircraft. Pay all pilots at a rate commensurate with their skills.
- ✓ Close all U.S. military bases in foreign countries.
- ✓ Immediately begin an aggressive pursuit of diplomatic relations with Cuba. Start by ending the U.S. Embargo against the island nation.
- ✓ Pass resolutions in all trade unions calling for an immediate halt to **Israeli** occupation of Palestine, and all building of Israeli settlements in Palestine, and recognition of an independent Palestinian state based on the borders of 1967.



**MAKE MAY DAY OUR DAY,  
A FEDERAL HOLIDAY IN THE USA!**

