



IBEW 483

Newsletter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483

April 2011

Representing: Light • CFS • Clerical • Water • Water Pollution Control • Building Maintenance • Supervisors •
• Click! Network • Elmhurst • Fircrest • Lakeview • Milton • Ohop • Parkland • Peninsula Light • Sumner •
• Eatonville • Pierce County Traffic Signal • Asplundh Tree • Trees Inc. • Henkels & McCoy • RCE Flagging •
• Osmose • Northwest Line Construction • Pacific West Corporation • KVA

Workers Rights Rally



This is the big one! All Union members and supporters of public employees and quality state services will rally in Olympia to demand answers on how the legislature will share the sacrifice by extracting a price from the bankers, billionaires and CEOs that got us into this mess, and how will they create jobs.

Come join us on Friday, April 8, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on the front steps of the State Capitol in Olympia. We need to send a message to our legislators to let them know that they must protect workers' rights, keep private hands off of workers compensation and work to provide jobs instead of attack Unions! Let's send the message that what happened in Wisconsin will not be tolerated in Washington State!!!

New and Improved Website for IBEW Local 483

Check out our new and improved website at www.ibew483.org and see all the changes that have been made. One of the things we now have is video streaming capabilities, so if you have any suggestions, let us know.

Our Local 483 website also contains a **Member's Only Section**. To gain access to this section you must simply sign up under the Member Login Section on the website. Once we receive your request, we will activate your account and send you a confirmation e-mail so you can begin using this exclusive member resource.

Our website provides you with a wealth of information, current and upcoming Union events, and links to several different websites that offer information on a wide variety of subjects from Apprenticeships to Union Outdoor Sportsmen Info. So sign up today at: www.ibew483.org

Brotherhood Night/ Old Timers Night Friday, May 13, 2011

Please join us to honor our retired brothers and sisters at our annual Brotherhood Night/Old Timers Night. A buffet and refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Where: IBEW Local 483 Hall
3525 South Alder Street
Tacoma, WA 98409
(253) 565-3232

All 483 members, active and retired, and their families are invited to attend this event.

Volunteers are always needed, so please contact the hall today if you are interested in volunteering.

***Please remember to contact the Hall if you have had a change of address, telephone change, name change, etc. Also, if you are on an unpaid status please contact the Hall to make sure your dues stay current.

Business Managers Report...



The war has started, and this is the big one! Brothers and Sisters, this time we are fighting not only for our livelihood but for the livelihood of our children and grandchildren. Recently at one of our unit meetings a member had the courage to ask the questions, "What does it mean to lose your bargaining

rights?", "What does that mean for us?" and "What exactly are bargaining rights?"

These are great questions and sometimes we throw terms around without explaining them. Your bargaining rights are everything in your Collective Bargaining Agreement like hours, wages and working conditions. Some examples would be: How many hours your shift would be, and if it is considered overtime after eight hours (federal law allows for overtime after 40 hours in a 7 day period, your Union contract gives you overtime after your shift hours which is normally 8 hours in a day), Meal Allowances, Clothing Allowances, Retirement, Vacation, Sick Leave, Healthcare and how much you will pay for it, seniority rights, having Just Cause for discipline, and the list goes on. Without bargaining rights you are nothing more than a slave! You will get what management wants to give you, when they want to give it to you! Let's look at some of the issues that have happened here recently:

- Tacoma – Step Freezes – Without bargaining rights this would have been a done deal.
- Tacoma – PTO for all employees – Without bargaining rights this would be implemented.
- Furlough Days, COLA's, Healthcare Increases – We may have agreed to them, but without bargaining rights you would not have even had a seat at the bargaining table.

There are also the "Right to Work" bills! "Right to Work" is a law that allows employees to opt out of the Union, but the Union must represent them anyway. Even if they are not paying their fair

share of dues! This is designed to bankrupt Unions and nothing more! Brothers and Sisters it is time to get real! You may not like everything this local does, and you may not like me as your Business Manager, but the bottom line is if you do not make your voice heard you will not have a voice at work at all, PERIOD!!! Right now the attack is on Public Employees, but it will come to us all with time.

What has happened in Wisconsin is a crime. It is a slap in the face to every American man, woman and child. Our entire history has been about standing up and fighting for freedom, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, freedom of speech, freedom to live, work and play as we want in the manner we feel appropriate. Now we may not have full choices in all of these issues, but we have a right to stand up and fight for the right to change it. If the American people, Republican, Democrat, Union Worker, Non-Union Worker, Black, White, Red, Yellow, Straight, Gay, Man or Woman let this freedom to bargain collectively be stripped from our souls, what will be next?

I was recently in Washington, DC and went to the Holocaust Museum. The last panel as you are leaving the museum has the following statement. It has been passed around many times, but please take a closer look at this quote and think of the workers in Wisconsin. Then read it one more time!

Martin Niemöller (1892-1984) was an ardent nationalist and prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last 7 years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. Niemöller is perhaps best remembered for the quotation:

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Socialist;

*Then they came for the **Trade Unionists**, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Trade Unionist;*

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew;

Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.

Where Have America’s Middle-Class Jobs Gone?

By: Tracy Emblem*

American businesses earned profits at an annual rate of \$1.659 trillion in the third quarter, according to a Commerce Department report. These profits are the highest they have been in 60 years. At the same time, Americans are out of work. As of September, 14.8 million Americans were unemployed – 6.1 million people have been out of work for six months or more. Recently, three members of San Diego County’s congressional delegation, including North County Rep. Brian Bilbray, voted to extend another round of unemployment benefits. But extending unemployment benefits is a Band-Aid while leadership ignores the problem. America’s economy is hemorrhaging from the nation’s loss of jobs. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that since 1979, 8 million American manufacturing jobs have been lost. This is significant because for every manufacturing job affected, three to four ancillary jobs are also lost.

Apple, Sony, Hewlett-Packard and Dell are just a few of the U.S. corporations that extensively profit from foreign labor. These companies contract with FoxConn’s plants in China to manufacture electronic goods sold in America. Earlier this year, The New York Times reported that the average wage paid for a Chinese factory worker is \$132 per month, which was expected to be raised to \$172 because of the increased rate of suicides by Chinese factory workers. The workers live in dormitories for several months and work 12 to 15 hour days, six days a week. Although manufacturing costs are lowered, the foreign manufactured products are still sold in America at market rate. Outsourcing affects our local economy. In August, following the trend to hire cheaper labor, Carlsbad-based Callaway Golf announced that they would lay off many assembly line employees while it moved its manufacturing to Monterrey, Mexico.

When we first began to lose our manufacturing base, Americans were told that our economy was changing to a “service-based” economy. Americans were promised high-paying technology jobs. Embracing the “new” economy, droves of Americans returned to schools and attended training programs to be employable in the new job market. At first, our nation’s workers prospered from higher-paying IT jobs. However, from 2001 to 2008, 26 percent of our technology jobs were moved to foreign countries. American workers not only lost their highly coveted jobs, but were slapped in the face when companies recruited foreign workers with H1-B visas, and some U.S. workers were forced to train their foreign counterparts only to see their own jobs cut later. America is also losing high-paying white-collar jobs at an alarming rate. The McKinsey Global Institute estimates 30 to 40 percent of all white-collar jobs, such as architects, research scientists, engineers, chemists and product development, will be

outsourced to foreign workers over the next five years. Mechanical Engineering magazine reports Caterpillar, Daimler, General Electric, General Motors, Honeywell, Siemens and IBM have all built massive engineering facilities offshore while many U.S. companies also outsource engineering to offshore vendors.

During the last decade, our nation’s pharmaceutical industry has increasingly outsourced production to foreign nations. Up to 80 percent of active pharmaceutical ingredients in drugs are manufactured in various foreign countries with minimum FDA oversight. Continuing this trend, North County was affected when Roche Pharmaceutical recently announced it would cut 3,550 U.S. jobs, including local jobs in Oceanside. The “service” jobs promised to Americans will also be replaced by inexpensive foreign labor. By 2015, more than 3.3 million better paying jobs, such as accounting and payroll processing, will be outsourced to foreign workers, continuing the devastating impact on our middle class and communities.

What does this mean? As America’s good-paying middle-class jobs are plundered and wages deflated, we no longer have “buying power,” which hurts families and produces a significantly lower living standard, which in turn will weaken U.S. world power status. If we want our local, state and national economies to recover, we must have good-paying jobs, not minimum-wage jobs. Ironically, U.S. taxpayers have unwittingly helped to fund foreign industry not only by providing tax subsidies to companies that outsource our jobs, but also through federal foreign aid which assists in the development of roads, utilities and manufacturing plants in foreign countries competing for U.S. workers’ jobs.

In September, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce shamefully convinced every single Senate Republican to vote to kill Senate Bill 3816, legislation that would have ended tax breaks for U.S. companies that manufacture in foreign countries only to import foreign-made products back home. Unfortunately, until Americans understand how our nation’s jobs have been hijacked to foreign countries, and demand that Congress impose policies to level the playing field for our nation’s workers, our jobs will not be coming home anytime soon.

*Tracy Emblem is an Escondido attorney

Agreement	Expires	Agreement	Expires
Asplundh	12/31/12	NECA	01/31/13
CFS	In Neg.	Ohop	04/30/12
Clerical	In Neg.	Osmose	01/31/12
Click!	In Neg.	Pac. West	12/31/13
Bldg. Maint.	12/31/11	Parkland	03/31/13
Eatonville	12/31/13	Peninsula	03/31/12
Elmhurst	03/31/12	PCTS	12/31/11
Fircrest	12/31/11	Sumner	12/31/12
Henkels	01/31/13	Supervisors	In Neg.
Joint Labor	12/31/12	Light	03/31/13
JTS	In Neg.	Trees Inc.	12/31/12
Lakeview	In Neg.	Water	In Neg.
Milton	12/31/11	WPC	In Neg.

**International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, Local 483**
3525 South Alder Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

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Change Service Requested

April Meeting Schedule

Executive Board	Thurs.	April	14	5:00 p.m.	Union Hall
General Meeting	Thurs.	April	14	6:00 p.m.	Union Hall
Water	Tues.	April	19	5:30 p.m.	Union Hall
CFS	Thurs.	April	21	6:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Clerical	Wed.	April	27	5:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Peninsula Light	Mon.	April	11	4:30 p.m.	Peninsula Light

May Meeting Schedule

Executive Board	Thurs.	May	12	5:00 p.m.	Union Hall
General Meeting	Thurs.	May	12	6:00 p.m.	Union Hall
Water	Tues.	May	17	5:30 p.m.	Union Hall
CFS	Thurs.	May	19	6:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Clerical	Wed.	May	25	5:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Peninsula Light	Mon.	May	09	4:30 p.m.	Peninsula Light

June Meeting Schedule

Executive Board	Thurs.	June	09	5:00 p.m.	Union Hall
General Meeting	Thurs.	June	09	6:00 p.m.	Union Hall
Water	Tues.	June	21	5:30 p.m.	Union Hall
CFS	Thurs.	June	16	6:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Clerical	Wed.	June	22	5:15 p.m.	Union Hall
Peninsula Light	Mon.	June	13	4:30 p.m.	Peninsula Light

We encourage all members to attend Union meetings.

If you have a special need that makes it difficult for you to participate, please contact the Union Office at (253) 565-3232 so that we may arrange the necessary accommodations.