AFL-CIO Convention Adopts Union Label Resolution

Over a century ago when the labor movement began to aggressively promote union labeled products to show buyers the difference that trained, skilled and dedicated union workers make in product quality the printing “bug” was already in widespread use. It’s difficult today, if not impossible, to find union labels on clothing, tools, toys and other everyday products, but that’s not true in printing.

For the most part printing continues to be a service done by small, local businesses and it is the label that sets unionized shops in a class above the rest. Now, other sectors are being encouraged by the AFL-CIO to negotiate language in their collective bargaining agreements to provide for a union label or designation on products or services performed by union workers.

Resolution to include union label identification in contract language

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 wares 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 services 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.

Buffalo Mailers Local M81 Ratify New Three-Year Contract

Buffalo Mailers Local M81 ratified a new three-year contract with the Buffalo News in late June, covering approximately 145 employees. “I am very proud of this contract,” said Joe Cannizzaro, Local M81 president. “I know what is going on out there and, with the economy the way it is, the fact that we were able to keep paid health insurance for our members is huge,” Cannizzaro continued.

The new contract keeps in place 100 percent paid health insurance, small improvements to working conditions and the grievance procedure. Also included is a “me too” provision for wage increases; whereas if the Buffalo News grants any wage increase in any other collective bargaining agreement, the mailers automatically receive an increase too.

“Management asked for some language changes and we did our part to ensure that they stay afloat,” explained Cannizzaro. Part-time employees have to be compensated an additional 13 shifts per year to receive benefits and a bulk out provision within the contract was modified, but it is temporary, expiring six months after the expiration of the contract. That provision reverts back to the original language at the end of the term.

Membership ratified the agreement by a 2-1 margin. “Overall, with the challenges facing our industry, the membership knew it was a good deal,” said Dan Wasser, President PPMWS.
PPMWS Organizes All American Hose, LLC

On the heels of a successful organizing drive at WestPenn Printing, PPMWS Organizers Kim Gill and Hope Berndt with the assistance of Kari Bienias and Sector President Dan Wasser have secured an election at All American Hose in Erie, Penn.

All American Hose manufactures equipment used in fracking and is the only manufacturer in the USA to produce these types of hoses.

On October 11, 2013, 34 employees at the Erie manufacturer will vote on whether to join the CWA-PPMWS.

A few employees at All American Hose met with PPMWS organizers in August to discuss their options for forming a union. “I work around a missile, ready to go off at any time, with no safety precautions in place. For only $12 an hour? Something has to change,” one employee said.

Should the election be successful, employees hope to secure pay comparable to the dangerous work they do. “Being able to be safe while at work. That’s at stake for these guys. It is their lives and their livelihood,” said Berndt.

“They work around 18-inch diameter hoses that are under extreme heat and extreme pressure. One worker was thrown into the high ceiling because of lack of safety equipment and gear. Safety and health are a top issue and a top priority,” “ Berndt continued.

“We look forward to working with and supporting the workers there,” echoed Bienias.
New York Typographical Union 6/CWA 14156

Organizing efforts are underway at New York Typographical Union 6/CWA 14156. The merger with Pittsburgh Typographical Union #13 merged with New York earlier this year and the newly merged local is focusing on organizing. The Union has approached several commercial shops and newspapers in the Massachusetts area.

Scranton Typographical Union 112/ CWA 14831

Scranton Typographical Union 112/CWA 14831 has begun the process of merging with Pittsburgh Typographical Union #7/CWA 14827. Jack Gallagher, president of Scranton Local 112 has met with Pittsburgh local officers and has sample merger documents to read and discuss with his members.

Salt Lake City M21/CWA 14759

Negotiations continued in July between Local 14759 and Media One, owner of the Salt Lake Tribune and Desert News. Although some items were finalized, the union warned management that the inclusion of a harsh discipline policy could cause the contract to be voted down. The company’s proposed policy included discipline for everyone on the line if a mistake was made during a run. The company refused to change their proposal and sent the proposed contract to the members.

A ratification meeting was held on July 30, and the CBA was rejected. The company later amended the discipline policy, weakening it some; however, it was not enough to gain the membership’s ratification.

After returning to the bargaining table, another ratification vote was held on August 23, with members voting nearly 2 to 1 in favor of the proposed new contract.

Also, two grievances are set to go to arbitration between M-21 and management on January 9, 2014.

New Era CWA Local 14177

The local in Derby New York met with management during the first week of September informing the union that approximately 20 to 25 percent of the total workforce would be permanently laid off.

Bumping of members for positions in the plant was discussed, and the union proposed an incentive package in the form of a buy-out.

The company presented a severance package to the union. Permanently laid off employees will receive one week of pay for every year of service, with a minimum of 10 weeks severance pay. The employees will receive all accrued but unused vacation, sick time and PTO time. The company will pay their portion of medical insurance for the employees for 12 months following the employee’s severance of employment. The employee will be responsible for their portion of medical insurance.

Waterville, Maine, CWA Local 14115

A termination was reported of one of the local’s members and assistance was requested and granted by President Wasser. A wage reopener in the local’s contract but the employee’s dental plan will see a change in cost sharing.

CWA Local 14176

A new three-year agreement was reached between Local 14176 members and the Newark, New Jersey-based Journal of Commerce. The Journal was purchased in 2005 and is headquartered in Detroit. The company later amended the discipline policy, weakening it some; however, it was not enough to gain the membership’s ratification.

The new agreement maintains the same health care coverage for the length of the contract but the employee’s dental plan will see a change in cost sharing.

The company took a hard stance on wages asking for a sliding scale based on productivity rather than a percentage increase. After several contentious rounds of negotiations the company and union agreed to a wage proposal that allows for negotiations to be reopened if members receive less than a one percent raise.

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Remarks for Good and Welfare

PPMWS Organizer Elected to City School Board

Congratulations to Norm Stachulski, PPMWS organizer in Detroit. Stachulski was elected to the Taylor School Board in June.

Columbia Typographical Union No. 101-12, CWA
Printing Publishing Media Workers Sector 14200
Acknowledges 80-Years of Continuous Membership for Elmer G. Adams

Elmer Adams who is a member of Columbia Typographical Union 101-12, CWA 14200, has achieved 80 years of continuous membership. It is not often we celebrate longevity membership of 80 years. Adams who is 99 years old is the oldest member of CTU 101-12.

Mr. Adams was honored at the annual Baltimore 101-12 Union Retiree’s Club Luncheon in early September.

Brother Adams started his two-year probationary period apprenticeship at the U.S. Government Printing Office at age 16. In 1933, he was sworn into the International Typographical Union.

He started the trade first as a Linotype Operator then transferred into the Patents Proof Room Section where he continued to work until his retirement in 1969 with a total of 35 years employment with the GPO.

Brother Adams has been retired now for 44 years and is living in Easton, Maryland.

St. Louis Print & Media Sector CWA Local 6300
Honors John Ebeling with 60-Year Pin

John Ebeling, vice president of St. Louis Print and Media Sector of CWA Local 6300 was honored with a 60-year distinguished union service award during the District 6 Conference in Little Rock, Ark. earlier this month.

John began his Apprenticeship at Mendle Printing Company. John was laid off and continued his Apprenticeship at Wellston Journal. That job was interrupted by four years of active duty in the Naval Air Reserve. Upon his discharge, he returned to the Wellston Journal, then to the Stockyard Reporter to finish his Apprenticeship. As a Journeyman, he worked at the St. Louis Daily Record Company, where he spent the next 13 years as Chapel Chairperson, Executive Committee Member of St. Louis Typographical Union #8, on the Board of Trustees, the Organizing Committee, as a Bargaining Committee member, and a Delegate to many Conferences and ITU Conventions. John was employed at the St. Louis Daily Record when he was elected President of the Local in 1975. John presently serves as first Vice President of the St. Louis Labor Council, President of the St. Louis Allied Printing Trades Council and President of the Missouri State Allied Printing Trades Association.

Chicago Typographical Honors Seven 60-Year Members; Two 50-Year

Congratulations to Chicago Typographical members Allen Anderskow, Donald Rodgers, Walter BAuser, Arthur Fox, Norman Geitz, Berger Berg, and John Lannon on their 60-year Distinguished Union Service Awards, and members Jesse Alston and Edward Nichols for their 50-year Distinguished Union Service Awards.

Chicago Tribune pensioner Frank Briggs, who celebrated his 102nd birthday in April celebrated his 76-year anniversary as a member of the Chicago Typographical Union on June 30. We wish them all the best and continued health and happiness.

Former ITU Local 126 President Honored with Master Editor/Publisher Award

Former ITU Local 126 President Dan Killoy was honored with the Montana Newspaper Association’s annual Master Editor/Publisher Award for lifetime contributions to the newspaper industry. Killoy, celebrating his 50th year in the newspaper business, is publisher of the Terry Tribune and Forsyth Independent newspapers.

“Not bad for a blue-collar Irishman from Butte who was once fired three times during the same shift,” said Killoy.

“To think about where I came from, to get this recognition is very rewarding,” Killoy said. “I’m grateful to forget about who I was and what side of the negotiating table I was on to give me a chance. Without him, I don’t know about me. Neither do I.”

Killoy began his career in the industry as an inserter in the mailroom of the Montana Standard in 1963. After graduating high school in 1965, he began an apprenticeship in the Standard’s composing department as a printer, where he became heavily involved in union politics. He was elected president of ITU Local #126 in 1970, and then as president of the Montana State Typo Union in 1971, serving in that capacity until 1979. During this time, he negotiated labor contracts with the newspapers and job shops in Montana.

FINAL NOTICE

Regarding Segregated Fund

At the 2013 Printing Sector Conference, the Delegates voted to end the Segregated Fund effective December 31, 2013, and IMMEDIATELY pay all eligible members the full amount that he or she would have been owed upon completion of eligibility.

We have sent a letter to this effect to all members that are still eligible for such payment.

If you believe that you are eligible and did not receive a letter then e-mail: bshipe@cwa-union.org, or call Betty Shipe 202-434-1245. Remember when you e-mail or call, we need your full name, membership number and contact information.

As of January 2, 2014, any unclaimed amounts will be transferred to the Printing Sector’s Operating Fund. This means that you must contact in advance of that date and the office is closed between Christmas and New Years.

Any disputes about eligibility will be investigated by the President’s office and a determination will be made by the Laws and Finance Committee.

Reminder: To be eligible, you MUST have been a member that made contributions to the ITU Retirement Trust but were not retired under the terms prior to August 25, 1981. Furthermore, you MUST have continuously remained a member of the PPMWS/ITU from the time that the Fund was created until the present. The ITU Retirement Trust was established in 1966-67 to August 25, 1981.

Sector News

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Headquarters—501 3rd Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20001-2797

Address President Daniel Wasser on all matters of administration, law, scales, finances, etc., at 501 3rd Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20001-2797. Telephone (202) 434-1238/1248.

Trustees Union Printers Home • Daniel Wasser, President • Al Rudy, Secretary-Treasurer • Robert C. Moak, Vice President. Contact Administrator, Union Printers Home, at 101 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80910. Telephone: (719) 634-3711.

Editorial Correspondence: The Sector News is edited by Kenefick Communications under the direction of the PPMWS President. Editorial correspondence should be directed to Tara Landis, editor, Sector News, 2803 Lake View Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403.