Late last year, New Era Cap, the official manufacturer of MLB hats, announced it would close its unionized Derby, NY, manufacturing plant by March. The company says it is moving away from manufacturing to focus more on branding and marketing.

The nearly century old company will keep its headquarters in nearby Buffalo, but will move manufacturing to its plant in Miami for fulfillment of MLB hats.

Since the company announced its plans to close last November, the union has been negotiating the severance agreement for employees.

“The settlement is the best we believed we could do under the circumstances,” says Debora M. Hayes, the upstate NY area director for CWA District 1.

The negotiated package will give workers one week's salary for each year of service up to 26 weeks of severance. In addition, the company will continue to pay their portion of employees' health insurance for up to five months after the plant closes at the end of March. Employees will also receive any benefits previously outlined in their contract, including bonuses, unused vacation time, and paid time off.

The average length of service for an employee at the Derby plant is 19 years. Some have worked there more than 40 years.
is shared by the approximately 800,000 workers in the printing, packaging, and publishing industry who go to work every morning knowing that their jobs are relevant to the nation’s manufacturing economy.

So relevant, in fact, that just last week PIA’s Center for Print Economics and Management released its 2019 State of the Industry Report forecasting a favorable year ahead with total print revenues increasing around 1 to 2 percent and printers’ profits holding at historic growth levels. This encouraging news demonstrates the staying power of print even in the face of challenges emanating from postal rate uncertainty, tariff and trade policy impact, and a multitude of “go paperless” initiatives.

The lack of surprise relates to the fact that Printing Industries of America has urged the Bureau of Labor Statistics multiple times over a number of years to revise its outdated definition of the printing industry. Print has and will continue to evolve as a media and demonstrate the staying power of print even in the face of challenges emanating from postal rate uncertainty, tariff and trade policy impact, and a multitude of “go paperless” initiatives.

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While most of the country focused on President Trump’s use of emergency powers to build a wall on the Southern Border of the United States, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), introduced a bill on the Senate floor calling for a national right-to-work law, S. 525. The legislation is cosponsored by 16 Senate Republicans and aims to repeal five provisions from the National Labor Relations Act and one in the Railway Labor Act to prohibit the collection of union dues.

“This is yet another attempt by corporate backed politicians to tilt the balance of power to corporations and away from workers,” said Dan Wasser, President, Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector-CWA.

Republicans Introduce National Right-to-Work Legislation, Again

This isn’t the first time Paul has introduced a National Right to Work bill. In 2017, he introduced the same legislation, backed by the National Right to Work Foundation. At that time, the publication, In These Times, wrote an article, “GOP’s national right to work bill is a smokescreen: The threat is what comes next.” In that article, author Moshe Marvit explained that the real strategy behind the introduction of bills like S. 525 isn’t to pass this legislation at a national level but instead “bring increased attention to the issue on the state level.”

The author’s theory is backed by the National Right to Work Committee’s own statement issued after Paul introduced his legislation, which states: “The bill introduced by Senator Paul is part of a two-pronged strategy which consists of building support in Washington for the National Right to Work Act, while at the same time mobilizing opponents of forced unionism to pass their own state Right to Work laws.”

The National Right to Work Committee has been pushing state legislation hard. Despite a recent loss in Missouri when voters overwhelmingly rejected right to work in a ballot referendum, Republican state legislators have again hatched a plan to pass right-to-work, this time by inserting an amendment into the state’s Constitution. Todd Graves, the former chairman of the Missouri GOP, asked a Republican party official to file a right-to-work petition that would add the issue to the ballot again in 2020.

States with “Right-to-Work” Laws Have Lower Wages and Incomes

On average, workers in states with right to work laws make $6,109 a year (12.1%) less annually than workers in other states ($44,401, compared with $50,511).1

Median household income in states with these laws is $8,174 (13.9%) less than in other states ($50,712 vs. $58,886).2

29.6 percent of jobs in right to work states were in low-wage occupations, compared with 22.8% of jobs in other states.3

States with “Right-to-Work” Laws Have Higher Workplace Fatality Rates

“Right-to-Work” makes workplaces more dangerous. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 54% higher in right-to-work states.4


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54%  
“Right-to-Work” makes workplaces more dangerous. The rate of workplace deaths is 54% higher in right-to-work states

13%  
13% of people under the age of 65 are uninsured in so-called “right-to-work” states compared to 9.4% in free bargaining states

RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG

$6,109

The average worker in states with so-called “right-to-work” laws makes $6,109 a year less than workers in a free bargaining state

$3,392

States with “right-to-work” laws spend $3,392 less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than other states, and students are less likely to be performing at their appropriate grade level in math and reading
The Union Printers Home Foundation, or UPH Foundation, with a mission to provide educational and charitable benefits, is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. The Foundation launched its new website late last year and includes the ability to apply for a UPH Foundation Scholarship. The 2019 Scholarship is now accepting applications, and the application deadline is May 15, 2019.

All members of the PPMWS are encouraged to visit the website, create a profile, and list eligible family members. The Foundation, an independent body, is an ever-evolving nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational and charitable benefits that bring people together and give them the tools to help change the world of tomorrow.

“One of the Foundation’s mission is to help our members, their families, and the youth of today” pointed out PPMWS President Dan Wasser.

The Foundation was organized exclusively to provide educational and charitable benefits to individuals, and invest in tomorrow's talent, today. Such charitable benefits include providing academic scholarships to successful candidates and lessening the burden of obtaining a higher education by today's youth. Resonating the fine traditions of the past yet standing ready for the challenges of the future.

To be eligible for a scholarship through the UPH Foundation, an applicant must meet the requirements of eligibility outlined at https://www.uphfoundation.org/scholarship/eligibility.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit them at https://www.uphfoundation.org.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED, VISIT US AT:
https://www.uphfoundation.org