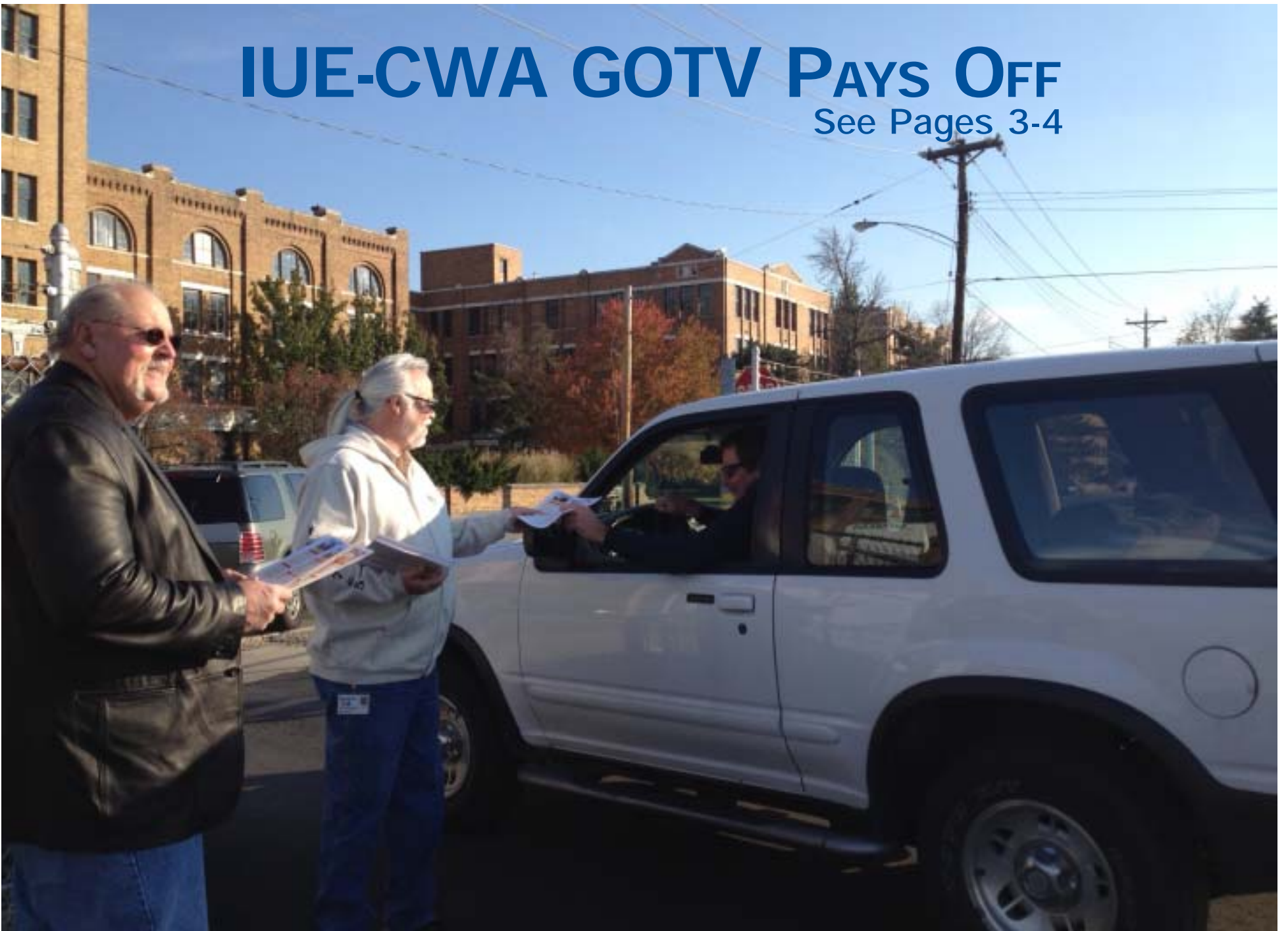


IUE-CWA news

IUE-CWA GOTV PAYS OFF

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inside

Fire scholarship opportunities expanded.

SEE PAGE 2



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Hitting the Books



Nearly 100 stewards turned out for advanced training in late October at the Belterra Casino in Indiana. The class was a follow-up to an equally successful beginning training earlier this year. IUE-CWA will hold another round of beginning training for stewards, negotiators and financial officers in March in Atlantic City and in Indiana midyear.

Division gains two new units

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

IUE-CWA gained members in two new units in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Out west, the growth of the Service Contract Alliance continued as 11 facility maintenance employees at Chugach joined Local 7011.

The workers were concerned over increasing health care costs and lack of raises. Negotiations with the Kirtland Air Force Base contractor should start

mid-December.

Across the country in Massachusetts, customer service reps grew concerned about their job security after a change in management at Marblehead Municipal Light Department.

So the 5-person unit approached IUE-CWA, which represents the linemen at the department through Local 214.

The town agreed to a card check.

Historically, the clerical workers got the same wages and benefits as the linemen even though they weren't represented.

Fire scholarship expanded

DAYTON, OHIO

Local IUE-CWA leaders now have improved access to union-oriented education programs through changes to the Edward Fire Continuing Education Scholarship program that expand the schools and expenses it will cover.

In October, the IUE-CWA Executive Council voted to change the rules for the scholarship so it will now cover lost time expenses, which often were prohibitively expensive for a local to pay, thus severely limiting those who could take advantage of skills training.

The council also said the program would cover classes not only at the National Labor College Union Skills Program, but also at other college-affiliated continuing education labor programs, such as the University of Wisconsin School for Workers.

The scholarship covers continuing education classes that will help a trade unionist develop and strengthen his or her skills in such areas as collective bargaining, arbitrations, organizing and other topics that improve the member's ability to be active and contribute to the strength and growth of the union.

In addition to lost time, the scholarship covers tuition, room and board and reasonable transportation costs.

Online applications for the scholarship can be found at iue-cwa.org.

Union Plus offers grants for Sandy storm victims

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Union Plus Disaster Relief Grants of \$500 are available to help eligible participants in the Union Plus Credit Card, Insurance or Mortgage programs who are facing financial hardship due to the disaster. The money does not have to be repaid.

Funds are limited to the nearly \$370,000 available in the Union Plus Disaster Relief Fund.

To qualify for a Union Plus Disaster Relief Grant, you must:

- Have been a victim of the severe weather in counties designated by FEMA as qualifying for individual assistance. (List of qualifying counties available at UnionPlus.org/Sandy.)

- Have experienced a significant loss of income or property within the last six months due to the disaster.

- Have had a Union Plus Credit Card, Union Plus Insurance policy or Union Plus Mortgage for at least 12 months with the account or policy in

good standing (be up-to-date on payments).

- Describe his or her circumstances and document the income or property loss.

To apply for a disaster relief grant, union members who participate in any of the following programs can call:

- Union Plus Credit Card: 1-877-761-5028

- Union Plus Insurance: 1-800-472-2005

- Union Plus Mortgage: 1-800-472-2005

Union Plus programs are truly unique in looking out for the welfare of union members. Credit card holders are also eligible for Union Plus grants that help union members who lose their job, are recently disabled, face high hospital bills or are forced to go on strike. The mortgage program also offers assistance that includes interest-free loans and grants for union members who are unemployed, recently disabled, locked out or on strike.

Union Plus Credit Card holders are encouraged to contact Capital One, the new Union Plus Credit Card issuer, at 1-877-761-5028, if you need additional assistance. Capital One has programs in place to help customers who are experiencing difficulties due to the storm.

Union Plus Mortgage holders, including anyone who is in the process of receiving a new Union Plus mortgage, are encouraged to contact Chase, who provides Union Plus Mortgages, at 1-888-356-0023 or tweet @ChaseSupport, for additional assistance and information.

For more information about the Union Plus disaster benefits, visit UnionPlus.org/Sandy.

More scholarships

Applications are now open for the 2013 Union Plus Scholarship Program. To apply, visit UnionPlus.org/Education. The deadline is Jan. 31, 2013.

Datebook

FEB 22-23

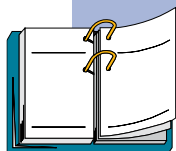
Bargaining in a New Era Training
Sarasota, Fla.

MARCH 13-14

Education Conference
Atlantic City, N.J.

APRIL 20

Division Conference
Pittsburgh, Pa.



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OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

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IUE-CWA News is published by the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers-Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO; 2701 Dryden Road, Dayton, Ohio 45439; 937/298-9984; Fax 937/298-2636. Send address changes to IUE-CWA News; 501 Third St., N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20001.



Energy from election victory shifts to fiscal cliff debate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Celebration over President Obama's reelection quickly shifted into a new round of mobilization over political negotiations to resolve the so-called "fiscal cliff" as supporters of the president made clear their vote was a mandate to focus on creating jobs for working people, not maintaining tax cuts for the rich.

At press time working family advocates were strongly rejecting proposals that would extend the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent and see cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

The basis of a sound fiscal policy is getting the economy back on track and getting people back to work, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Working families saw President Obama as the leader who could achieve that goal.

Nationwide, 65 percent of union members voted for Obama, with that number jumping to 70 percent in Ohio. Among all voters, 50 percent supported the president.

The union vote was decisive in delivering key battleground states such as Ohio, Wisconsin and Nevada for the president.

"Voters reject the idea that bringing down the federal budget deficit is the overriding priority," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "Voters say we should maintain public investments that create jobs, and bring down the deficit gradually."

With a substantial membership in Ohio, IUE-CWA was particularly active in that state, with two lost-time activists and one staff representative steadily working get-out-the-vote activities in addition to support from other leaders and staff.

Other states seeing heavy IUE-CWA GOTV activity included Virginia, Kentucky and Massachusetts.

President Jim Clark and Region 7 Director Willie Thorpe hit key locals to leaflet and distribute voter guides as the election approached.

"This victory belongs in part to the thousands of IUE-CWA members who took the initiative to get involved and fight for working people in this election," said Clark. "We proved that the money of a few billionaires cannot silence the voices of working families. Even as we celebrate this victory, the labor movement cannot rest. We need to continue to work to keep our issues at the center of the public debate, and to refuse to compromise when any of the leaders we elect fail to honor their commitments to the working families who supported them."

The pro-worker EPI outlines five steps lawmakers should take to resolve the deficit talks without further damag-

ing a still weakened economy. EPI's five guiding principles are:

- ✦ Create jobs now. The main obstacle to economic growth continues to be a huge shortfall in aggregate demand. This shortfall is driven by insufficient spending by households and businesses, spending that pulled back in the aftermath of a housing bubble that wiped out trillions of dollars in household wealth and froze residential and commercial construction.

Therefore, boosting aggregate demand with deficit-financed fiscal stimulus remains the most effective policy lever for addressing the jobs crisis.

Long-run fiscal sustainability is more difficult to achieve when a long-term jobs crisis has caused people to defer or forgo educational goals. Meanwhile, poverty is on the rise and businesses are not investing for future growth.

- ✦ Let the Bush tax cuts expire. The Bush tax cuts have already added more

than \$3 trillion to the national debt and will add another \$4.3 trillion over the next decade if extended. They should fully expire on schedule, and to alleviate the impact of their expiration on lower- and middle-income households, refundable tax credits should be consolidated and expanded. Specifically, a work credit and a family tax credit should replace the personal exemption, standard deduction and Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

- ✦ Preserve and strengthen the social safety net. Benefits should not be reduced. Instead, the safety net on which millions of Americans rely should be strengthened by expanding unemployment compensation, eliminating the payroll tax cap to solidify Social Security's finances, and attaining long-run efficiency savings and cost containment in the provision of health care.

- ✦ Return fairness and progressivity to the tax code. Taxing wealth the same as ordinary income, reinstating more

progressive estate tax parameters, adding new tax brackets on taxable income over \$2 million and enacting a net wealth tax would reverse the weakening of the progressivity of the tax code that has occurred over the past few decades.

- ✦ Tax goods and services that have significant social costs. Pricing carbon emissions, taxing financial transactions and leverage and levying taxes on products that pose public health risks would compel businesses to internalize costs that would otherwise spill over to society.

"A truly sustainable budget provides future generations not only with manageable debt levels but also the building blocks of a prosperous economy: increased investments in infrastructure, education and R&D, and a strong safety net to ensure that future generations have at least the same baseline levels of economic security on which millions of households currently rely," said EPI.

GE pushes for offshoring tax break

WASHINGTON, D.C.

General Electric is part of a coalition of 95 companies urging Congress to "Fix the Debt" through a plan that mostly hurts middle class families while preserving tax breaks and windfalls for big corporations.

The coalition has kicked off a splashy \$80 million lobbying campaign for a plan that, according to an analysis by the Institute for Policy Studies, consists of two basic points: "pro-growth" corporate tax reform and "reforming" earned-benefit programs.

Simply put, the goal is to cut Medicare and Social Security while securing windfalls for some of the country's biggest corporations.

According to IPS, the 63 publicly held companies that are part of the coalition "stand to gain as much as \$134

billion in windfalls" if Congress approves one of the coalition's main proposals. The group wants a "territorial tax system" that would permanently exempt from U.S. taxes all offshore income earned by U.S. corporations.

Playing the influence game isn't new to any of these companies—they've spent big over the past few years on lobbying and campaign contributions.

An analysis by Public Campaign, a

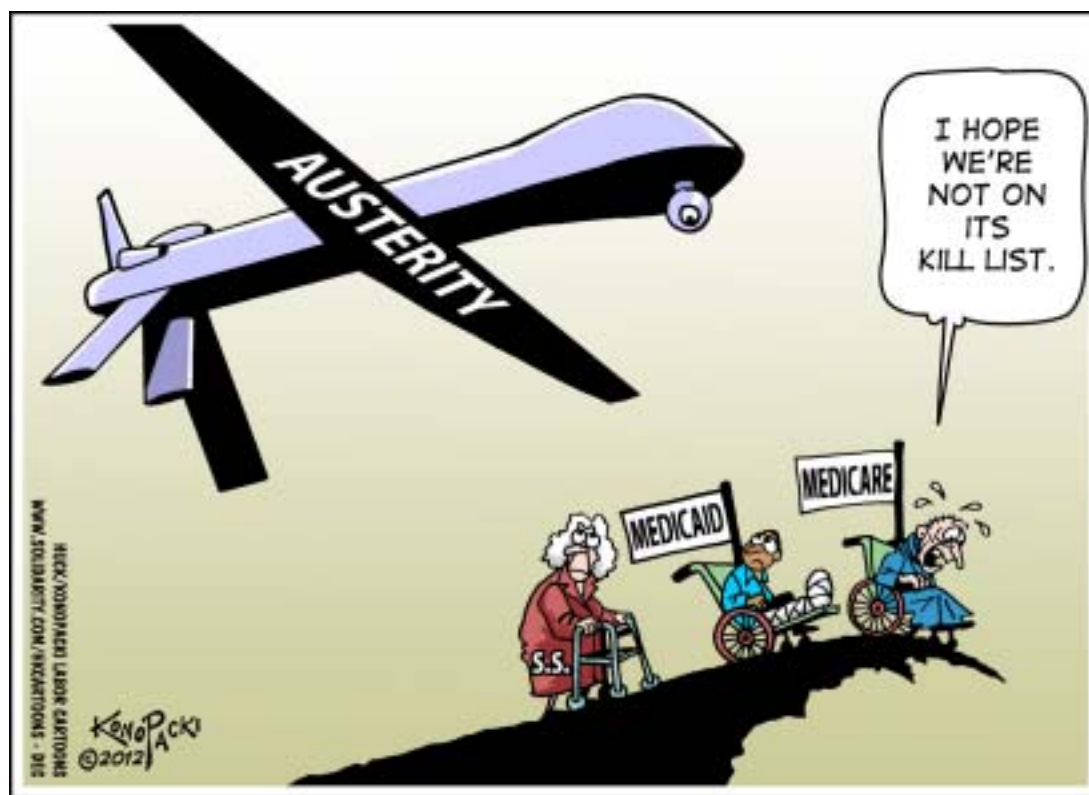
on lobbying and campaign contributions.

- ✦ Twenty-two publicly traded companies that are members of the coalition have spent more on lobbying in the past three years than they have on taxes.

- ✦ General Electric is the top influence-spender of these companies. Since 2009, GE, its CEO and political action committee have spent a combined \$112 million on lobbying and campaign contributions.

- ✦ The influence peddling is bipartisan. Fifty-seven percent of the contributions spent by the CEOs and PACs of these companies goes to Republicans and 43 percent goes to Democrats.

Public Campaign argues the initiative is "another example of the undue influence of the wealthy on our political process." The organization is citing the Fix the Debt effort as another reason for Congress to support campaign finance reform.



nonpartisan group, finds:

- ✦ The 95 companies that make up the "Fix the Debt" coalition have spent nearly \$1 billion over the past four years

GOTV ELECTION 2012



Clockwise, Local 201 officers campaign in Lynn, Mass., with Rep. John Tierney, who won re-election. President Clark leaflets outside Behr in Dayton, Ohio. Shift change saw hundreds of Siemens workers getting election education in Norwood, Ohio. Workers at DMAX are greeted with leaflets and rain. Local 717 skilled trades retirees get an election update. Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan greets workers at the Delphi plant in Warren, Ohio.

