

IUE CWA news



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White House honors IUE-CWA president

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Obama Administration named IUE-CWA President Jim Clark a “Champion of Change for Corporate Environmental Responsibility” April 12 for the Division’s work in helping to train union members to identify energy efficiency opportunities that improve environmental performance and the competitiveness of manufacturing.

The White House Champions of Change program highlights examples of citizens who represent President Obama’s vision of out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building the rest of the world through projects that move their communities forward.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality worked to select individuals for the award who are leading important efforts to increase the use of renewable energy, driving out energy waste, greening supply chains, and/or adopt other strategies to improve sustainability.

“Cutting waste, reducing energy use and operating more sustainably translates to less pollution and lower utility bills for businesses across the country,” said Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. “The leaders we’ve selected as Champions of Change are proving that sustainable practices work for companies’ bottom lines, and work for the health of American communities.”



IUE-CWA President Jim Clark (seated far left) listens as Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett opens the “Champions of Change” award ceremonies.

IUE-CWA’s work stems from an innovative partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) which worked with IUE-CWA on a pilot program to have front line workers conduct the energy efficiency “Treasure Hunts.”

In a joint process they initiate with management, the union members analyze energy use in the building systems and the production process,

identify waste and come up with solutions to maximize efficiency and minimize waste.

For an average one-time implementation investment of only \$34,500, the Treasure Hunt program achieves annual utility savings of \$97,500, on average, and saves an average of 779 metric tons of carbon annually.

Companies that have participated in the program include Cobasys in Ohio,

CCL Container in Pennsylvania, Sheboygan Paper Box in Wisconsin and CG Power in Missouri. More information on the Treasure Hunts can be found at edf.org/labor.

“I believe manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and our country needs manufacturing to be strong,” Clark said. “That’s why as president of IUE-CWA I’ve made it my mission to bring innovative and progressive programs to our shop floors – programs that make our plants more competitive and more efficient.”

IUE-CWA’s focus is not only on green products but on greening the process.° As part of that goal, the union entered into the groundbreaking partnership with EDF last year, the first time EDF has partnered with a trade union.°

“Ultimately, IUE-CWA sees this project as a way to catalyze a wider energy-efficiency initiative among the entire labor movement,” Clark said, “which would bring immense environmental benefits and improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing.”

To Learn More

For President Clark’s blog go to: www.whitehouse.gov/champions/corporate-environmental-sustainability

For the event’s You Tube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wcHpycjwAO>

Lending a Helping Hand



Shop stewards at Moorestown, N.J. Local 106 organized a food drive to help local families in need in March. The event was the second drive in three months in an area hard hit by the struggling economy. “The need is so great,” says Local 106 Secretary-Treasurer Carole Schaefer, “but the drives have been successful.” Above, from left, Cyle Agnew, Linda Buzard and Dan Carle.



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FIGHTING VERIGREEDY

Mobilizing for fairness at Verizon

DAYTON, OHIO

IUE-CWA members came out in support of their union brothers and sisters working at Verizon during two Days of Action in March and May.

The mobilization sought to pressure the company, which has been renamed VeriGreedy because of its refusal to reach a fair contract with 45,000 workers at CWA and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The company's demands for \$20,000 in annual givebacks from workers amounts to \$1 billion a year.

Verizon is gutting worker pensions and charging current and retired employees and their families thousands of dollars more for health benefits while reducing disability coverage.

In the meanwhile, Verizon tripled the salary of CEO Lowell McAdam to \$23.1 million last year. In less than a day, he earns more than the average union worker at Verizon earns in a year.

Verizon is a \$100 billion company, but despite its billions in profits, Verizon dodges taxes and has sent thousands of American jobs overseas. It didn't pay a dime in federal corporate income taxes from 2008-2010, and in fact, got a nearly \$1 billion tax rebate over that period.

For more information on how to support Verizon workers, go to cwa-union.org.



IUE-CWA members, staff and leadership turn out across the nation to support Verizon workers. From top left to right each row: 1: in Indiana, Mississippi; 2: Virginia, New Jersey; 3: Ohio and New Jersey, again.

Employer hits 100-year mark in tooling business

LYKENS, PA.

If the past is any indication, members of Local 135 can look forward to a secure future as their company, Reiff & Nestor, celebrates a century in business this year.

The firm, which started out making auto reamers and carbon taps – machine tooling equipment – was built with great foresight by a railroad man who believed the automobile “would take” in the words of Joseph Nestor – and would certainly need repairs. The company soon expanded to high speed taps which had greater durability, and dropped the reamers.

Financing came from funeral director/furniture dealer John Reiff, who soon left the business.

In 1925, Reiff & Nestor made its name with the trademark of a tool to renew threads in bolts and pipes.

The device became standard issue for the kits of World War II soldiers, and remains popular in today’s market.

The plant started as a family affair with most management positions filled by Nestor relatives. It ran with just a couple dozen employees. In 1939, workers voted to join IUE-CWA’s predecessor union, the UE. Within a few years, employment would top 130 and eventually reach 250.

Today the facility is run by fifth-generation Nestors and is still privately owned.

Local 135 President John Radell, who has more than 40 years in the shop, says the Nestors typically take care of the workers though he remembers a six-week strike in 1972 over a cost-of-living increase. The union won.

Plant employment dropped as the company automated, eventually leveling off to around 65. Today just 45 are working however business is picking up again after being hit during the 2008 recession.

June 1 marked the exact anniversary of the company’s founding. The company and workers celebrated with an all-day picnic.

“People come and stay their whole life,” said Radell. “It is a nice place to work.”

Give just \$1 a week to fight for U.S. jobs in political debate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The annual Political Action Fund fundraiser is in full swing as workers help to build a war chest to ensure that industrial workers are heard in the 2012 political season.

“With Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio, we have seen how easily anti-worker forces can take control and attack our union rights and economic protections,” said IUE-CWA President Jim Clark. “Contributing a buck a week to the Political Action Fund demonstrates a commitment to

fighting back.”

As part of the special drive, current givers who increase by \$1 a week or new givers who start at \$2 a week will receive a bonus gift of a Political Action Fund-logo engraved pen with a computer USB drive inside. In addition, the drive features drawings for a roundtrip trip for two.

See your local union officers for contribution forms, or email

iuetemp@iue-cwa.org to have one mailed to you.

Contributions can be done through payroll check-off, checking account deductions or credit card.



Midwest Tornadoes Hit IUE-CWA Members

IUE-CWA donated money to assist two members in Indiana who suffered either total loss or major property damage from the tornadoes that devastated the Midwest this spring. Members of Dayton, Ohio Local 775 also did a plant gate collection to raise additional funds for affected members. Above, Louisville, Ky. Local 761 President Jerry Carney hands over a check to member Sharon Clapp.

Datebook

SEPT 13-15

Next Generation, Diversity and Division Meetings

Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

OCT 28-29

Advanced Steward Training

Belterra, Ind.

Retirees take to streets at shareholder meetings



General Electric retirees from Louisville, Ky., protested outside GE’s meeting in Detroit demanding cost-of-living raises in their pensions. GE’s meeting saw increased security as the company was targeted by the 99% movement for its low tax rate, and the Appliance Park crew was the only retiree group brave enough to picket.



Steelworkers from Ft. Smith, Ark., joined with IUE-CWA retirees in Chicago in support of a proposal to limit the company’s use of “golden coffin” payments to senior executives. Whirlpool has announced the Arkansas plant will join the Evansville, In., plant by mid-year as yet another closed American manufacturing facility.