



International Union Of Operating Engineers Local 420

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

OVER THE LAST 7 months I have become more in tune with the bigger picture of organized labor.

When labor is successful so is the working class, the economy is stronger and America is stronger. Strong unions set the pay standard for non-union employers. Unions reduce wage inequality by fighting for raises for low to middle class workers. When the working class has more income, spending is up, and the economy is growing. Unions also provide a better standard of benefits and workplace safety which promotes a healthier workforce.

It also goes to say that when labor is under attack so is the working class. The economy slows, and people need to work more than one job to make ends meet.

Union density has been dropping since 1973. With that decline so has the amount of income coming to the working class. Through the 80's, 90's and 2000's we have watched what was a strong middle class, that built this great nation, slowly be eroded. Whether it is the Taft Hartley Act of 1947 that restricted the power of Labor Unions or the Supreme Court decision on the Janus vs AFSCME case that again changed "rules" for public sector unions, these attacks make it more difficult for labor unions to form and grow. In the end anti-union entities want to suppress the voice of the working-class people and pit us against each other.

Our International is continuing to do what it can in the political arena as well as working with its

locals to assist in training and safety. The latest attack on labor is greedy anti-union contractors wanting to destroy apprenticeship programs. They are determined to lower our standards, cut corners, and boost profits on the backs of their workers. We all know our jobs are the first to be cut, our positions are the first go unfilled and our work is the first to be given away.

It's time to make our voices heard and stop the assault on labor and the middle class. Our strength is in numbers, our voice will be heard collectively, and our success is based on solidarity. Please read the article in this newsletter pertaining to Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs and take action.

A line needs to be drawn in the sand telling the current administration enough is enough. Contact the DOL to have your voice heard with ours on IRAP. We will not be divided. We will not be conquered. We will stand together as one.

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Unscrupulous contractors have been using apprentices as a way to evade federal and state prevailing-wage laws for years. They lie about whether an apprentice is actually registered. It's the only way a worker on a public-works project can be paid less than the prevailing wage. If this rule allows industry-registered apprenticeship programs into construction, there will be a massive hole blown in prevailing-wage laws. We cannot allow this back-door attack on prevailing wages and apprenticeship.

— Alex Tetzlaff