



UE Service Center Workers

Fighting for Justice at USCIS



THE MEMBERS RUN THIS UNION!

Local 1008
JUNE 2009
NEWSLETTER
NGC/SPS/SAI
Volume 2

BULLETIN BOARD NEWS:

Bulletin Board update! We have CSC approval to install our new UE Bulletin Boards!
"Watch for the installation!"

UE DEMANDS ANSWERS AND ACTION NOW!

UE National Leader Bruce Klipple met personally with Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis in March about the transfer of Service Contract Act work to the Department of Treasury Lockbox facilities. During the meeting, UE Leader Klipple requested that she allow the Department of Labor Investigators to report on this matter as part of their current ongoing investigation of SCA violations in our workplace and that if a legal loophole does exist that allows the outsourcing of these protected Service Contract Act jobs then the current administration should make corrective changes that would serve to preserve and protect these important American jobs. UE has been in contact with DOL and Stanley Inc, regarding work place concerns.

RECALL NEWS:

UE Staff and Leaders sent letters and phone calls out to every eligible former employee to notify them of their recall rights and the job opportunities available to them during the HIB CAP surge. In addition Stanley Inc., in compliance with our contract did the same. Many employees took advantage of the temporary opportunity to work and we wish and hope that everyone who desires continued employment gets that opportunity. Job openings that become available shall be filled according to Contract Language Article 15, first by current contract employees then by a laid off status contract employee.

UNION STEWARDS HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS

National UE and our UE Local leaders are supporting two of our co-workers who have unfair disciplines. These workers are taking advantage of the grievance procedures now in place to work towards fairness and respect in our workplace. One of UE Local grievances' is now scheduled for a binding arbitration hearing. Steward Camille says, "It is a sad situation that as employees we have to file grievances to fight for our rights. If any one of us is wrongly disciplined, now we can stand up together. When we met with SPS for Alfredo's grievance, SPS had to listen." UE Member Alfredo says, "We set out last year to make a change in our workplace. With our ally and Union UE we can continue the fight to improve our workplace. We deserve our rights as workers. You do not have to keep silent. We can stand up to unfair treatment by supervisors and use our Union contract grievance procedure. Remember, you are part of the change and part of the solution."

POLITICAL ACTION:

Progress is being made to get the attention of elected officials like Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein as well as Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to help protect our jobs here in California. Sign up NOW to visit Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein's offices in Los Angeles. We will carpool and practice what we want to say before each visit. YOUR voice counts! Remember, we are the union and we need to unite for strength. Call the UE office for more details.

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my steward or union officer be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

(This is my right under a Supreme Court decision called Weingarten)

**UE LOCAL 1008
NGC/ SAI / SPS**

3505 Cadillac Ave Bldg O Suite 108B Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: 714-432-1503 • Fax: 714-432-1510
www.justiceatuscis.org/ • www.ueunion.org/

UE LOCAL 1008

What has the Union done for Me?

- We Got Raises! Before the Union wages were based upon the minimum wage limits set by DOL Wage Determinations. General Clerk I wages remained stagnate at \$10.69/hour since 2004 for five years while Data Entry II wages remained stagnate at 12.98 since 2002 for seven years! Now, together we bargained for cost of living wage increases of 3% per year for three consecutive years.
- Together we bargained for a Grievance and Arbitration Procedures.
- Together we bargained for fair and equal treatment Layoff and Recall procedures.
- Together we bargained for fair and equal treatment job opening procedures.
- We bargained for Seniority
- We bargained for Just Cause.

THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT: (S. 1925 and H.R. 3619) Sponsors: Sen. Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. Miller (D-CA); 32 co-sponsors in the Senate, 207 in the House The single best protection against outsourcing and off-shoring, and the most effective way to ensure quality jobs and living standards for U.S. workers, is through union representation. This act would ensure that employees have a free and fair choice whether or not to unionize, without the onerous and illegal obstacles that employers now use to block workers' choice. Together, we must tell our members of congress and state legislators that we support laws that protect workers rights, protect consumers and that we won't allow our tax dollars to be spent to send more jobs offshore and overseas.

MONTHLY STEWARD WORKSHOPS:

May 19th UE Stewards and Members met at lunch time to discuss unjust discipline grievances and Union Contract violation grievances. What do you do when a supervisor calls you into the office and says sign here? What do you do if you are asked to sign something you do not agree with? Find out at the next monthly Steward/Member meeting.

To YOU the UE Membership:

To all our Members who are currently out due to personal or family illness, our prayers and thoughts are with you. We wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you soon! Special thanks to all the UE Member volunteers and Stewards who have given many hours of their time and energy making

OUTSOURCING OUR JOBS TO BIG BANKS?

January 23, 2009 the General Accounting Office released reports GAO-09-180 and GAO-09-70 which states that about 6 million applications and petitions for immigration and naturalization benefits, along with applicable fee payments, are submitted to USCIS annually. In 2007, in consultation with USCIS, FMS designated JPMorgan Chase that operates the Chicago lockbox as the sole financial agent responsible for all USCIS fee collections. The lockbox in Chicago currently processes a limited number of form types, but by the end of 2010 it is expected to process all USCIS form types both at its Chicago location and at other locations across the United States. USCIS is currently in the process of moving all fee collections and other pre-adjudication processing activities away from the Service Centers and field offices to its lockbox facilities operated by JPMorgan bank by March 2011 for reasons such as the lockbox facility's flexibility to respond to unanticipated surges in application receipt volume. According to USCIS, benefits of the lockbox include reduced operational costs, a more secure environment for fee collections, centralized and expedited application and fee collection intake and flexibility to address unanticipated surges in application receipt volume. For example, the lockbox facilities maintain a certain number of staff as temporary workers who can be called upon when needed.

In November 2007 the Department of Treasury selected JPMorgan to be the sole lockbox provider for USCIS immigration petitions. April 2009 the JPMorgan Lockbox Data Entry Facility opened in Burlington Vermont, to support the USCIS Lockbox network. The data entry facility will be exclusively responsible for data verification and correction. Beginning on April 27, 2009, all I-90 petitions have been transferred to the USCIS Lockbox facility in Phoenix for initial processing.

April 2009, JP Morgan Chase, the second-largest bank of the US which acquired Washington Mutual and Bear Stearns recently, will increase its outsourcing to India by 25% this year to nearly \$400 million. IT solutions provider 3i Infotech announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire J.P. Morgan Treasury Services' national retail lockbox business. 3i Infotech's subsidiary, Regulus Group, is currently the largest outsourced remittance processing provider in the U.S. and this acquisition will further strengthen the unit. The deal is expected to be closed within the next few months and concerns the lockbox centers in Louisville, Kentucky and in Phoenix. Regulus will process more than 700 million payments annually once the acquisition is complete, the firm stated in a release. currentitmarket.net.

Member News:

Congratulations to Blanca Esposito and her daughter Elizabeth! Elizabeth Esposito made deans list honor student at San Diego State University and is graduating this month with a Major in Criminal Justice. Way to go Blanca and Elizabeth!

Submit your announcement in our monthly UE Newsletter! Just drop a fax, e-mail or telephone call to the UE office. Do you have a June Graduate or New baby? We want to know!

