GMP Exhibits Ware at Detroit
In this Issue:

In his Message on page 1, International President Ryan points out the labor-friendly positions of the presumptive Democratic Presidential candidate, Senator Barack Obama.

The GMP demonstrated pottery-making skills at the 2008 America @ Work show in Detroit. See page 2.

A member of Local 50 in Seattle, Washington, received a Lifeline Trust grant from Union Plus. See page 4.
The latest economic news is bad. Just consider. The nationwide average cost of gas is four dollars a gallon. On June 6, the stock market fell 400 points. Unemployment jumped to 5.5%.

Further, the auto industry is in a tailspin, the airlines are grounding themselves and the housing debacle continues to produce few houses but plenty of foreclosures.

Meanwhile, back in the race for the presidency Sen. John McCain is pledging to continue the policies of George Bush. His proposed program of tax cuts benefits the rich. McCain’s small government approaches to major problems in the financial world will produce little improvement.

Sen. McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, presumptuously tried to steal Sen. Barack Obama’s campaign slogan. His lame attempt to co-opt “change you can believe in” was lambasted by Republicans and Democrats alike.

However, we should not seek solace from McCain’s poor performance on the stump or his lackluster ideas. It is not enough to deride a candidate whose weaknesses are ever more evident. After all, McCain has himself identified “economics” as an area of his ignorance.

We look to Sen. Obama, the soon-to-be-annointed Democratic candidate to energize the electorate. He has begun to do so. Importantly, he calls for economic programs to strengthen America.

Obama has expressed an interest in taxing the oil companies that are feasting on high prices at the pump. He looks forward to raising the taxes of the richest Americans and giving a $1,000 tax cut to the rest. He intends to wind down the Iraq war and use the money saved on domestic needs.

Obama has called for greater federal action on renewable energy and on building a green economy. These approaches to a national crisis would in the long run strengthen the economy. They would both cut costs and create new jobs in new industries.

The Democratic candidate wants to protect consumers. Obama will propose legislation to protect homeowners, create a universal mortgage credit and penalize mortgage industry fraud and abusive lending practices. He has proposed ways to end predatory credit card practices.

Notably, Obama introduced the Patriot Employees Act of 2007 to provide a tax credit to companies that maintain or increase the number of full-time workers in America relative to those outside the country. The measure calls for other worker-positive corporate behavior. This is a change we can stand behind.

On healthcare, education, Social Security and many other key issues, Obama’s positions are supported by the Labor Movement. The opposition would move the clock back, way back beyond what George Bush has done.

We cannot fail to get our economic house in order. The 2008 election gives us an opportunity to make that happen.
The GMP demonstrated pottery decorating and pottery casting at the America@Work exhibition of union-made products and services in Detroit, Michigan, in May. The America@Work Show, formerly known as the Union-Industries Show, was attended by union members and the general public from a wide area around Detroit.

The GMP exhibit, staffed by a delegation from the International and several local unions, was led by International President John Ryan. Others from the International were: International Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Smith and International Vice President Frank J. Brandao, Sr. Director of Communications Richard Kline oversaw the operation of the GMP booth.

Local Union members on hand to demonstrate and explain their work and the benefits of GMP membership were:
- Local 265 (Constantine, MI) President Timothy Lyke
- Local 412 (Kalamazoo, MI) President Thomas Kimble
- Local 417 (East Liverpool, OH) President Sally Winterburn
- Local 419 (Newell, WV) President Luellen Bozek
- Local 421 (Muskegon, MI) President Bruce Knuppenburg


Several visitors to the Show were winners of FiestaWare. Each winner received a place setting for four of the popular Homer Laughlin China product.

The America@Work Show gives the thousands of people who attend a keener appreciation of the diversity and quality of union-made products and services. The first such exhibition was held in 1938.
Former Local 316B (Michigan City, IN) President Dave Glancy explains the operation of a Weil-McLain boiler.

Local 417 President Sally Winterburn and Local 412 President Thomas Kimble.
A GMP member suffering from narcolepsy and off work for eight months, received help from Union Plus, a $1,250 grant that does not have to be repaid.

Kelly Wiersma, a Local Union 50 member employed as a forming machine operator at Saint-Gobain’s Seattle plant, found herself becoming suddenly drowsy on the job. She took leave to treat the condition.

After six months, her finances were stretched thin and then her disability checks ended. That’s when she applied to the Union Plus Life-line Trust for assistance.

The Lifeline Trust is set up to aid GMP credit cardholders who experience a significant loss of household income due to a long-term illness or prolonged disability. The Lifeline Trust has distributed over $465,000 to 295 members of various unions since 2005.

Wiersma is back on the job and says of Union Plus and the Lifeline Plus grant, “It came at exactly the right, “It came at exactly the right time. I had a stack of bills to pay - electric, car insurance and phone. The money I received helped me out during those two months when I didn’t get a paycheck.”

Union Plus Credit Card holders can apply for a grant by calling 1-877-761-5028. To apply for a credit card, call 1-800-522-4000. Lifeline Trust is just one of the unique safety net programs offered by Union Plus to help union families during difficult times. Visit www.UnionPlus.org for information on all the benefits - including scholarships, everyday savings and programs to help union members buy and keep their homes.

Union Privilege, founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986, develops and manages the Union Plus benefits program, which uses the combined buying power of America’s union members to obtain top-quality goods and services at competitive prices. In addition to a money-saving credit card, the Union Plus programs include free and discounted legal services, education services, discounted health services, a home-buying program, travel and recreation discounts and much more. To learn more, visit www.UnionPlus.org.

The International Union conducted a Steward Training seminar in East Liverpool, Ohio, recently. Several Local Unions sent 22 representatives to attend the meeting. Participating Local Unions included:

LU 241 - East Palestine, OH  
LU 328 - Chester, WV  
LU 333 - East Liverpool, OH  
LU 384 - Lisbon, OH  
LU 417 - East Liverpool, OH  
LU 419 - Newell, WV

The seminar, which was held at the Local 419 Union Hall in East Liverpool, was conducted by Director of Research and Education Frank Grotti, International Vice President Walter Thorn and Executive Officer Sondra Powell.

Some of the topics covered in the class were the Seven Test for Just Cause and Weingarten Rights.
Federation, Allies Stage Blitz for Increased Jobless Benefits

The AFL-CIO activated its state and local leadership and is appealing to its members to stage a massive blitz on June 10-12 of e-mail and phone calls to Congress, urging passage of a new bill lengthening jobless benefits from their present 26 weeks to 39 weeks in most states and 52 weeks in states with 6%+ jobless rates.

The effort, coordinated by Americans United for Change, also includes AFSCME and SEIU, leaders said in a June 10 telephone press conference.

“The economy is in free fall and working people are struggling. The share of all the unemployed who are jobless more than 6 months is 18%, and there are two jobless workers searching, per every job available,” declared AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel. He called the economy—including a sharp rise in May in the jobless rate—“a toxic brew” for workers and their families.

The objective of the blitz is to get the House to approve a bill, to be voted on either on Wednesday, June 11, or Thursday, June 12, extending jobless benefits to a minimum of 39 weeks, and making the extension retroactive to all workers who had exhausted their benefits starting last November. Samuel said that every month, starting in January, some 200,000 more workers had lost their benefits, reaching the end of their 26 weeks.

“We alerted our state and local labor leaders, to contact their lawmakers and push them for it,” Samuel said. “And we’ve got 800 (toll-free) numbers for activists to call.” One such number is 1-888-460-0813, set up by the federation and Americans United.

The key roadblock, said Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) who joined the call, is getting enough Republicans to defect to override a veto by anti-worker GOP President George W. Bush. Bush says that joblessness is not high enough to justify extending benefits. He contends the economy is still basically healthy, even though unemployment rose 0.5% in May to 5.5% and 861,000 more workers lost their jobs.

Neither Levin—whose Ways and Means Committee is writing the bill—nor Samuel could produce a nose-count on either side of Capitol Hill. Samuel said the situation could change quickly depending on both lawmakers’ perceptions of the joblessness problem and on whether the free-standing jobless bill would—again—be rolled into Bush’s money bill funding the Iraq War. The Senate added the jobless benefits, plus an improved GI Bill for soldiers’ education, plus more relief for Katrina victims, to that measure last month by a bipartisan 75–22 vote.

That would be enough to override a Bush veto, but “we don’t know how many would defect” on a solo jobless benefits bill, Samuel said. “We hope it wouldn’t be any.”

The House also tucked the jobless benefits extension into the war money bill, but without enough votes to override a veto. That needs two-thirds majorities.

Letter Carriers Food Drive Sets New Record: 73.1 Million Pounds

Rising generosity from the nation’s postal customers helped the Letter Carriers set a new record for their annual food drive for the needy, collecting 73.1 million pounds of food, the union announced on June 2.

The food, in cans and other non-perishable forms, was delivered to local food banks, pantries and shelters to help needy families in all 50 states and U.S. territories and jurisdictions, the union added.

Millions of families left food by their mailboxes or in large cities took it to post offices on the 1-day drive on Saturday, May 10, where thousands of Letter Carriers, rural carriers, and other postal employees and volunteers collected, processed, and delivered it to the pantries and shelters, NALC President William H. Young said.

“It is heartwarming that in these difficult times, when all families are feeling the effects of high food and gasoline prices, that so many Americans put aside their own financial concerns to help others facing hard times. They should be applauded for their generosity toward millions of needy Americans—including many working families, children and the elderly,” he added. Letter Carriers “are proud to deliver” the food to organizations that feed the hungry, Young stated.

Final results showed 73,113,915 pounds of non-perishable food were collected in the union’s annual “Stamp Out Hunger” drive in more than 10,000 cities and towns. The amount was 2.4 million pounds larger than a year ago and surpassed the previous record of 71.3 million pounds collected in 2005. In 16 years, the NALC’S annual drives have collected 909 million pounds of food.

West Coast Florida NALC Branch 1477, headquartered in the St. Petersburg area, finished first among the nearly 1,500 local branches that conducted drives, collecting 1,717,218 pounds of food. That ended a 5-year reign by Buffalo/Western New York NALC Branch 3 as the top local branch. Branch 3 finished second.

Young thanked the Postal Service and Campbell Soup Co., who together supplied over 120 million postcards to promote the drive. Among other top backers were the AFL-CIO and America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s food bank network.
With the Democratic and Republican primaries over, and with Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) their parties’ presumed presidential nominees, unions are turning their attention to the fall campaign.

And that’s even though the AFL-CIO is not expected, as a group, to endorse Obama much before mid-June, more than a week after a combination of the Illinoisan’s win in the Montana primary and super-delegate gains gave him the Democratic nod on June 3 over Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) in their hard-fought battle.

The first immediate move came from the Communications Workers, one of the last big unions to remain uncommitted all through the primary season. Its members were almost evenly divided between Obama, Clinton and, earlier, former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.). CWA’s going to back Obama, union President Larry Cohen said.

In an interview with Press Associates Union News Service after a June 4 press conference on trade, Cohen—an Obama-backing super-delegate himself—said his union’s executive council would make that recommendation on June 5 to CWA’s convention, which meets at the end of June. “We’ll have a major focus on this” at the conclave, he added.

After the expected ratification by the CWA delegates, CWA will concentrate its political efforts this fall on two areas: Its own members, and in seven states—including the unlikely selections of Louisiana and Mississippi—where CWA, the Steel Workers and two other unions who joined together for political action this year form the majority of all unionists. The others include Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky.

But between the CWA council’s recommendation and its convention will come the decision by the AFL-CIO General Board to back Obama.

To gain its endorsement, he needs the votes of board members—union presidents and officials—representing two-thirds of the federation’s members.

That may take at least a week to get, even after Clinton suspends her campaign this weekend, but retains her delegates. That’s because pro-Clinton unions, notably AFSCME, “need some time” to come to terms with the fact that their favorite lost, Cohen explained. “Today, he’s got a majority, but not the two-thirds,” Cohen said of Obama.

Once the AFL-CIO endorses Obama—it already launched and upgraded its anti-McCain website, focusing on his anti-worker record—the federation can start massing ground troops for the fall. That’s separate from its non-partisan education, registration and get-out-the-vote campaign, budgeted now at $54.9 million. That drive’s cost may rise to as much as $60 million, AFL-CIO Political Committee Chairman Gerald McEntee, the AFSCME president, has said in the past.

The fed won’t be the only labor group acting soon. Other plans include:

* The Steel Workers plan tens of thousands of worksite visits by a corps of political activists, armed with information about Obama’s positions. They’ll emphasize his stands for fair trade as opposed to “free trade,” and for revitalizing U.S. manufacturing through high-paying—and unionized—jobs in “green” industries, such as making solar cells, industrial-size windmills to power electric turbines, and hybrid auto engines.

* The Service Employees, the largest union in Change to Win, decided at their convention June 2-4 in San Juan to use $85 million for the fall campaign, out of the $150 million they allocated for politics in the next 12 months. Their political plan centers around holding candidates at all levels accountable for creating and backing a system of universal, comprehensive and affordable national health care-type unspecified.

The $85 million will go to elect such candidates, including Obama,
Maybe we should call it “The Bush Crash,” as the nation’s jobless rate under GOP President George W. Bush leaped 0.5% in May, to 5.5%. It was the largest one-month increase since 1986. It exceeded every monthly rise during Bush’s first recession in 2001. And the May increase put 861,000 more people out of work, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

The number of unemployed was 8.487 million in May, compared to 7.626 million in April and 5.956 million when Bush entered the Oval Office in Jan. 2001. And the May increase put 861,000 more people out of work, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

The number of unemployed was 8.487 million in May, compared to 7.626 million in April and 5.956 million when Bush entered the Oval Office in Jan. 2001. That’s a difference of 2.531 million more people without work. The jobless rate in that long-ago January, under Democratic President Bill Clinton, was 4%.

Despite the bad numbers, rising joblessness and declining job creation—a separate BLS survey showed U.S. businesses shed jobs for the fifth straight month—Bush refuses to extend jobless benefits, now at 26 weeks. The Democratic-run 110th Congress is wrestling with an extension, inserted in the bill funding Bush’s Iraq War, to 39 weeks in most states and 52 weeks in those states with extremely high jobless rates.

A spokesman for Senate Labor Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), prime backer of the rise in jobless benefits, said Kennedy—now hospitalized—hopes Congress will use the new numbers to defy Bush and help hurting workers.

“There are now 8.5 million unemployed Americans who desperately need an extension of the unemployment benefits they’ve been receiving,” the spokesman said. “Kennedy has led the fight to provide this assistance to working families, and a veto-proof majority of the Senate voted to do so. He hopes the House will act favorably on this urgently needed relief and send it to the president’s desk as soon as possible.”

BLS said its survey of industries showed job cuts were widespread, reaching from factories (down 26,000 jobs to 13.57 million) through construction (down 34,000 to 7.26 million) to retail trade (down 15,000 to 15.336 million). Factories have shed almost 3.3 million jobs since 1999, half of them union jobs, and hundreds of thousands of them due to subsidized foreign imports.

The jobless rate in construction was 8.6% in May and it led all industries in unemployment rates. The jobless rate in factories was 5.3%.

The big loss in construction was in residential specialty contractors, who axed 18,800 jobs. In both sectors, joblessness increased by more than 1.4 percentage points in one month.

The job losses were so pervasive that even temps lost jobs. There were 29,600 fewer temps in May than in April, down to 2.465 million. That’s 100,000 fewer than at the start of the year. One of the few sectors adding jobs was government (+17,000)—all local.
Saying it is time that trade pacts work for workers, not just for multi-national corporations, top union leaders and several lawmakers unveiled a new comprehensive trade bill on June 5.

The legislation by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and others orders the next president—Republican John McCain or Democrat Barack Obama—to review all existing trade pacts according to new criteria that emphasize workers’ rights and environmental protection in addition to business benefits. Brown does not expect it to pass this year.

Those trade pacts that flunk—all but the one with Jordan, Brown said—must be renegotiated according to those new standards. New pacts must meet them, too. “Our nation can’t survive in a global economy without a different set of trade rules” that protect workers here from the race to the bottom and workers abroad from “exploitation by drug companies and energy companies,” Brown added.

The Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act, called the Trade Act, is designed to set new trade policy for the U.S., and to wrest control of the issue from the White House and return it to Congress and the people, backers said.

It would replace now-dead “fast track” for trade pacts, where presidents sent them to Congress for up-or-down votes on implementing legislation, with no changes—and no workers’ rights provisions.

A joint congressional-White House commission, with lawmakers representing more than just financial and business interests that dominate congressional trade policy, would draft the new standards all trade pacts would then have to meet. Brown said in practical terms that means a 2-year moratorium on all trade pacts.

He also said Obama “will take it (new trade policy faster)” while McCain “will need to be dragged by the public” to new trade policy.

The legislation has strong union support, with Communications Workers President Larry Cohen and Teamsters President James Hoffa stepping to the D.C. press podium to back it, and other unions and federations—including the Steel Workers and both the AFL-CIO and Change to Win—issuing written statements in support.

“It’s time for fighting for our jobs, for a vision of the future of America,” Cohen declared. “We can’t be the last country in the world to focus on what trade means for our workers.” What trade does right now, he said, is not only strip U.S. workers of jobs but “transfers our wealth to the Middle East, China and sovereign wealth funds”—multibillion-dollar investment funds run by foreign governments.

Cohen’s latest example of trade’s bad impact was GM’s announcement it would close three U.S. plants and another in Mexico. “We need to do something to bring back our auto industry, not just watch it go down one plant at a time,” he said.

Hoffa said the new bill would be pro-worker, unlike past trade pacts. “Investors got NAFTA, billionaires got CAFTA and workers got the shafta,” he said of the treaties with Canada, Mexico and Central America, pushed by GOP and Democratic presidents.

Hoffa’s latest example of trade’s bad impact, he told PAI, is Fig Newtons, made by Nabisco. The former National Biscuit Company closed its profitable U.S. plants making Fig Newtons and now makes them most of them in Mexico. Peppermint Patties, now manufactured in York, Pa., may be next, Hoffa added.

The Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) represents 9,000 Nabisco workers nationwide, but had 1,000 more before the firm closed all but one Fig Newton production line—it’s in Chicago—and moved to Monterrey. BCTGM also represents the Peppermint Pattie workers, BCTGM’s Joe Thibodeau said.

In a prepared statement, AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney said the Trade Act “calls for a strategic pause on trade agreements and a long-overdue comprehensive review of U.S. trade policy…It is past time to restructure trade policy to work for working families.” In another statement, Change to Win Executive Director Greg Tarpinian added: “This legislation will finally bring an end to the disastrous trade deals that have sent millions of jobs overseas and lowered safety standards.”

Besides the two federations, CWA, the Teamsters and the Steel Workers, other unions backing the bill so far are the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Boilermakers, the Machinists, the Painters, and UNITE HERE.

“The public is calling for a very, very different direction in trade policy—and they’re way ahead of this city (Washington) and this body (Congress) in doing so,” Brown declared. “Now we’re catching up,” he added, even while later admitting the legislation will not pass in the present 110th Congress, but must wait till next year.

Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine), a Steel Worker and former shop steward said “our trade policies are broken. They’re not working for our men and women, who are sick and tired of seeing jobs being outsourced” due to the unfair “free trade” pacts pushed by past Republican and Democratic presidents, over union opposition.

“It’s important for the presidential candidates to talk about trade and this bill is a step forward” and a prod for them to do so, Michaud added. “This is making sure we have fair trade, but having a new model for it.” Added Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.): “This will put an end to all those tired old arguments that we’re just protectionists.” They co-chair the House group that helped draft the bill. Said Rep. Phil Hare (D-Ill.), a former UNITE shop steward: “Trade must be fair. Only then can American workers compete on a level playing field.”
## General Election
### Voter Registration Deadlines

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### Notice of Nominations and Elections

#### Local 117, Lincoln, IL

The nomination of officers for Local 117, Lincoln, IL, will take place at the American Legion, 1740 5th Street, Lincoln, IL, during the regular 5:00 P.M. union meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008.

The election of officers for Local 117 will be held on October 23, 2008, from 7:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. at the American Legion in Lincoln, IL.

**NOTICE:** Any Local Union advertising its nominations and elections in Horizons must submit 120 days prior to the nominations date, an up-to-date corrected mailing list along with other details.

#### Local 157, Salem, NJ

The nomination of officers for Local 157, Salem, NJ, will take place at 3:15 P.M., on Monday, September 8, 2008, at the regular monthly meeting at the Local Union Hall on Fourth Street in Salem.

The election of officers for Local 157 will take place at the Union Hall on Monday, September 29, 2008. Voting will take place from 6:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

#### Local 247, Brookville, PA

The nomination of officers for Local 247, Brookville, PA, will take place at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at the Heritage House, 4 Sylvania Street, Brookville, PA, at 3:30 p.m.

The election of officers for Local 247 will be held at the Heritage House on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., and then from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The regular monthly meeting of October 14, 2008, will follow these elections with the installation of the newly elected officers.
GMP Visits Local Union 419
At Homer Laughlin China Company

International Vice President Walter Thorn and Executive Officer Claude Beaudin recently met with officers and members of Local Union 419, as they toured the Homer Laughlin China Company plant in Newell, West Virginia. Approximately 575 members of Local 419 employed at this facility produce commercial and consumer chinaware, including the popular Homer Laughlin FiestaWare.

The officers of Local 419 are - President David Allen, Vice President Charles Bartley, Recording Secretary Luellen Bozek and Financial Secretary Ralph Goldsmith. Local 419 was chartered in 1979.

House Blocks Extended Jobless Benefits

By an excruciatingly small margin, the Democratic-run House on June 11 failed to pass a bill lengthening jobless benefits from their present 26 weeks to 39 weeks in most states and 52 weeks in those states whose jobless rates are 6% or more. The failure came despite AFL-CIO activation of its state and local leadership and appeals to its members to blitz Congress with e-mail and phone calls.

The failure occurred because while the measure won a 279-144 majority, congressional Democratic leaders, seeking to move it quickly to the desk of anti-worker GOP President George W. Bush, brought it up under a special procedure where it needed a two-thirds majority (282 in this case) to pass. And Bush’s Republican allies mustered just enough foes of workers to make sure the bill fell three votes short.

Bush has already vowed to veto any Iraq War bill that has anything in it other than money for his war. That threat, if upheld by enough GOP votes, would doom the jobless benefits there, too.

The effort to pass the stand-alone jobless benefits bill was coordinated by Americans United for Change and also included AFSCME and SEIU. The failure disappointed the coalition’s leaders, who said workers need the aid.

“The economy is in free fall and working people are struggling. The share of all the unemployed who are jobless more than 6 months is 18%, and there are two jobless workers searching, per every job available,” declared AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel in a telephone press conference when the fed launched its last-minute blitz the day before the vote. Samuel called the economy—including a sharp rise in May in the jobless rate—a “toxic brew” for workers and their families.

The bill would have made the longer jobless benefits retroactive to all workers who had exhausted their benefits starting last November. Samuel said that every month, starting in January, some 200,000 more workers had lost their benefits, reaching the end of their 26 weeks.

But the key roadblock, said Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) who joined the press conference, was getting enough Republicans to defect to override a Bush veto. LL Bush needs to sustain a veto is one-third of those voting, plus one. On the stand-alone bill, he got one-third plus three.

Bush says that joblessness is not high enough to justify extending benefits, and contends the economy is still basically healthy, even though unemployment rose 0.5% in May to 5.5% and 861,000 more workers lost their jobs.

A prior Senate vote added jobless benefits, plus an improved GI Bill for soldiers’ education, plus more relief for Katrina victims, to Bush’s war bill by a bipartisan 75-22 margin. The House also tucked the jobless benefits extension into the war money bill, but without enough votes to override a veto.
Recently the GMP International Union and Local #Unions 76 and 134 Glenshaw, Pa reached an agreement with Kelman Bottles, LLC., formerly Glenshaw Glass. The one year agreement covers the 88 hourly employees at the facility.

Kelman purchased the former Glenshaw Glass after it had gone into bankruptcy and had been closed for 2 years. The company is operating one tank with 2 glass bottle making machines.

Glenshaw had a series of problems including receivership and a devastating flood that drove the plant into bankruptcy. Kelman Bottles purchased the property and reopened the plant as a glass making operation in January of 2007. The new owner has plans of starting up a second tank in the future.

Correction: In the May magazine, Larry Price and Curtis Cornett, donors to the GMP Memorial Scholarship Fund, were incorrectly listed among those memorialized.
The National Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is the basis on which our Cost of Living clauses are calculated. Thus, changes in the CPI-W are the basis for wage increases as required by many GMP contracts.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics—which publishes the Consumer Price Index—has re-formulated the CPI-W and discontinued the old index in July 1985 when it published the June 1985 Index. The new CPI-W reflects a change from home ownership costs to rental equivalent costs. GMP HORIZONS will continue to publish the CPI-W for the benefit of GMP members.

Although most contracts call for a COL increase based on an increase in points, some have provisions for increases based on percentages. Therefore, both the percentage increase and point increase are shown below. Effective dates and terms of the contract clauses vary. Consequently, an interested member should consult his current Union Contract for effective dates and provisions. He then can judge from the changes noted in the table if the agreement provisions call for an increase.

For purposes of gauging changes, the base index will remain 1967 = 100.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U.S.A.**

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<th>(1967 = 100)</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>Point Increase</th>
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<td>607.3</td>
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<td>July 2007</td>
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<td>August 2007</td>
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12 Month Index Increase = 25.6 • Year-to-Date Inflation Rate Increased by Approximately 1.3%
“The Big Squeeze” Describes Problems Crushing Workers

Millions of American workers are confronting hard times. For too many, job security is lacking and wages, benefits and pensions are not keeping up.

Now, Steven Greenhouse, the labor and workplace reporter for The New York Times has written The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Workers. He describes this growing crisis in detail along with accounts of individual workers trying to earn a living.

The Big Squeeze examines the powerful factors pressuring workers. Globalization, immigration, corporate greed and government policy are but a few of the issues.

Greenhouse draws upon his reporting for the Times to find anecdotes that exemplify the situations. For example, he mentions a case in which American workers must train their Indian replacements who will receive $5,000 annually (and not the Americans’ $80,000 wage) when the jobs go to the East.

He recounts many instances of workers being mistreated. Workers in jobsites as varied as Wal-Mart, call-centers, factories and poultry plants provide examples of how people are being squeezed economically, if not outright abused.

Equally troubling is Greenhouse’s discussion of how workers are being denied their rightful pensions. He notes that when corporate titan IBM switched to a cash balance plan, expected pensions were cut nearly in half.

The pension-cutting trend has spread and Greenhouse analyzes the corporate strategy and its harmful impact on workers. He notes the weakness of 401(k) investments for retirement: a 401(k) requires good management and a positive status when it is cashed in.

The effect of these corporate policies is to increase corporate earnings while undermining the economic security of workers.

Some of the remedies for our economic ills that Greenhouse recommends are greater unionization, a high minimum wage and lowering unemployment. He says that bosses who break wage and hour laws should be severely punished.

Greenhouse also calls for universal health care and a secure national retirement program. Fundamental to his call for improvement is union organizing.

All of us in the GMP can subscribe to many of his recommendations. And we look forward to a labor and worker-friendly national administration that will act to resolve these problems.
Buying a home can be one of the most expensive and complicated purchases you will make in a lifetime. That’s why we’re proud to offer our union members exclusive benefits and services designed to cut your costs, ease your stress and help you secure that home of your dreams!

**Customized advice from expert counselors**
- How much you can afford to borrow? Which type of mortgage best suits your needs? When should you think about refinancing?
- Our specially trained mortgage counselors are standing by to answer all your questions, just a phone call away.
- Available during early-morning and evening hours, so you can call whenever it’s most convenient.
- Walk through the entire process of buying, selling or refinancing a home.

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- Only program that can cover your mortgage payments when you’re on strike, laid off or disabled.
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- Comprehensive home warranty plan available at no extra cost.
- Mortgage planning calculators and other useful tools at our online Home Finance Center.

**Wide range of mortgages for union workers**
- Many affordable options, including FHA/VA loans.
- First-time buyer program.
- Unique opportunities for borrowers with “less than perfect” credit.

**Affordable terms**
- Competitive fixed and variable interest rates.
- Low down payments and fees.
- Closing bonus—$350 toward your closing costs when you use both the real estate and mortgage portions of the program.

**Easy application**
- Call 1-800-848-6466
- Online: visit [www.UnionPlus.org/Mortgage](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Mortgage)

For more information about all the benefits available through your union, visit [www.UnionPlus.org/Mortgage](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Mortgage)