

DESERT EDGE

UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

October 2008

VOTE on Nov. 4!

Your economic future depends on YOU!

In June 2007, 51 senators voted to support the Employee Free Choice Act to restore the middle class. Unfortunately, a procedural move by a minority of anti-worker senators meant that the chamber fell short of the 60 votes needed to send the bill to the President, and the bill has not yet come to another vote.

Here's how the two presidential candidates voted that day:

Barack Obama
 voted
FOR
 Employee Free
 Choice

John McCain
 voted
AGAINST
 Employee Free
 Choice

"I support this bill (Employee Free Choice Act) because, in order to restore a sense of shared prosperity and security, we need to help working Americans exercise their right to organize under a fair and free process and bargain for their fair share of the wealth our country creates. The current process for organizing a workplace denies too many workers the ability to do so."

— Senator Barack Obama

Support the freedom to choose a union
Support the Employee Free Choice Act.

President's Report

**We can't
 afford four
 more years of
 Bush policies**



By Bill Lathrop

We need change — now!

I've been around a while, and I gotta tell ya, our country's economy is in the worst shape I've ever seen. We have to fix it now, before it's too late.

The housing market is in collapse, the stock market is in the tank, banks are going belly-up and the price of gas is out of sight, but our president won't admit we're in a recession.

And some people want four more years of this? That's what we'd get if, Heaven forbid, John McCain becomes our next president.

He's a maverick, you say? Don't believe it! Over the past seven and a half years, McCain voted with George W. Bush nearly 90 percent of the time.

Even in areas where he used to play the rebel — like the environment, tax policy and some social issues — McCain has reversed course and is now just another George W. Bush clone.

Look at the facts on pages 4-7. With John McCain, we'd just get four more years of the same policies that have failed us and caused so much misery.

(Please see page 4)

Editors note: Pictures and features of the Local 1167 scholarship winners will appear in a future issue of *Desert Edge*.

UFCW files complaint against Fresh & Easy supplier

The firing of six workers, allegedly for attending a pro-union meeting and complaining about managers, has prompted the UFCW to file a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board against the primary supplier of prepared foods for Tesco-owned Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets.

The complaint against British-owned 2 Sisters Food Group "sends a message that companies cannot come to the United States and ride roughshod over workers' rights and labor laws," a UFCW spokesman said. A spokesman for the supplier denied the charge.

Return in 5 days to:
United Food and Commercial Workers
 Union Local 1167
 P.O. Box 1167
 Bloomington, CA 92316

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 2285
 SAN BERNARDINO, CA

You are interesting.

Tell us about yourself!

You are the most interesting thing about our union! If there's something unusual or newsworthy about your life, hobbies, abilities or talents, call us at the office and tell us about it so that we may consider doing a feature about you in the *Desert Edge*. Just ask for Kathleen Franks or your Union Rep.

President Bill Lathrop

UFCW Local 1167 Retirees Club
Monthly Meeting
and Potluck!

**Wednesday
Oct. 15**

BINGO!
Everyone's invited!

Play is open to the public!
Come have fun and win money!

Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Activities at the
Local 1167 Auditorium
855 W. San Bernardino Ave.

Open Enrollment time is here! Don't delay — decide today!

Open Enrollment is the once-a-year opportunity to select a health plan through the UFCW Unions and Food Employers Benefit Fund.

If you enroll by Oct. 15, 2008, you'll have medical, dental, orthodontic, vision, prescription drug, chiropractic, mental health, a death benefit and other valuable benefits starting Jan. 1, 2009.

For members hired on or after March 1, 2004, the weekly payroll deduction for your share of the premium is a modest \$7 for yourself, \$10.50 for you and your children, or \$15 for your family (you, your children and your spouse or registered domestic partner). The member must have been employed for at least 24 months to add coverage for a spouse or domestic partner.

If members continue their current employment, members are eligible for health care benefits through the UFCW Unions and Food Employers Benefit Fund on Jan. 1, 2009.

It's easy to enroll. When you get your Open Enrollment package, fill out the enclosed forms and return them in the postage-paid envelope (also enclosed) no later than Oct. 15. You will get detailed information about coverage after the form is received. Weekly payroll deductions will start in November 2008 and coverage will take effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

If the enrollment request is received after Oct. 15, 2008, you must submit a check or money order for missed premiums.

If you do not choose to enroll now, the next chance to sign up will be during Open Enrollment next year for coverage in 2010.

Late enrollment is allowed only if you lose health care coverage under another group insurance plan or if your family status changes (for example: get married or have a baby).

Please take advantage of this

opportunity to provide health insurance for yourself and your eligible dependents. If you would like to talk to someone about enrolling in these benefits, contact your local union or the Fund Office at (714) 220-2297 or (562) 408-2715, ext. 426. People are waiting to answer your questions. Again, this is a once-a-year opportunity. Don't miss out!

El período de Inscripción Abierta es su oportunidad cada año para inscribirse en un seguro de salud a través de UFCW Unions and Food Employers Benefit Fund. Si usted se inscribe el 15 de octubre de 2008 o antes, recibirá beneficios médicos, dentales, ortodónticos, para la vista, para medicamentos recetados, quiroprácticos, de salud mental, beneficios para sobrevivientes y otros beneficios valiosos a partir del 1ro de enero de 2009. La deducción semanal de su cheque de pago por su parte de la prima de seguro es de solamente de \$7.00 para usted, \$10.50 para usted y sus hijos, o \$15.00 para su familia (usted, sus hijos y su cónyuge o pareja doméstica registrada). Usted debe haber estado empleado durante por lo menos 24 meses para poder añadir cobertura para su cónyuge o pareja doméstica.

Nuestros registros indican que si usted continúa en su empleo actual, será elegible para recibir beneficios de atención para la salud a través de UFCW Unions and Food Employers Benefit Fund el 1ro de enero de 2009.

La inscripción es fácil. Complete los formularios adjuntos y envíelos por correo en el sobre con porte pagado (adjunto también) el 15 de octubre de 2008 a más tardar. Nosotros le enviaremos información detallada acerca de su cobertura una vez que hayamos recibido su formulario. La deducción semanal de su cheque de pago comenzará en noviembre de 2008 y su cobertura comenzará el 1ro de enero de 2009. Si recibimos su solicitud de inscripción después del 15 de octubre de 2008, usted deberá enviar un cheque o giro postal para cubrir las primas de seguro pendientes de pago.

Si usted decide no inscribirse ahora, su siguiente oportunidad para inscribirse vendrá durante la Inscripción Abierta (Open Enrollment) del año que viene y su cobertura comenzará en 2010. La inscripción tardía se permite solamente si usted pierde su cobertura de seguro de salud bajo otro plan de seguro colectivo, o si el estatus de su familia cambia (por ejemplo, si usted se casa o si le nace un bebé).

Le recomendamos encarecidamente que aproveche esta oportunidad para obtener un seguro de salud para usted y para sus dependientes elegibles. Si desea conversar con alguien acerca de su inscripción en estos beneficios, llame al Local de su sindicato o a las Oficinas del Fondo al 714-220-2297 o al 562-408-2715, extensión 426. Habrá personas listas para contestar sus preguntas. Una vez más, esta es una oportunidad que sólo se le ofrece una vez al año. ¡No la pierda!



DESERT EDGE

Official monthly publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

855 West San Bernardino Ave.
Bloomington, California
(Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.)
(Closed Sat., Sun. and holidays)
P.O. Box 1167, Bloomington, CA 92316

Telephone Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Business Telephone:
(909) 877-5000

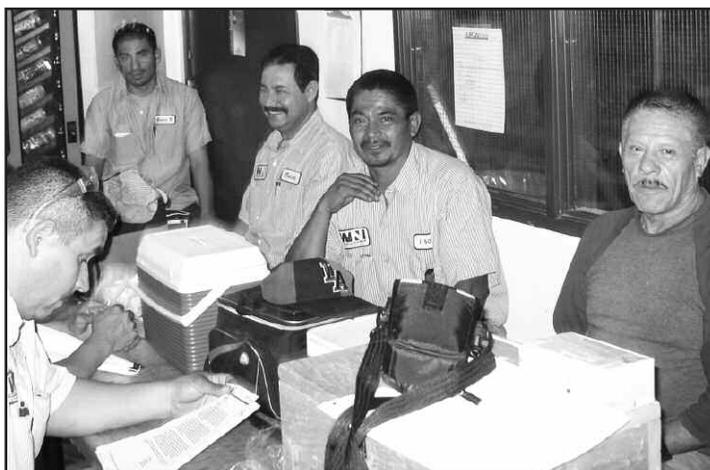
Toll-Free Telephone:
(800) 698-UFCW

Food and Meat Division Insurance:
(909) 877-1110

Drug & General Sales Div. Insurance:
(909) 877-2331

Bill Lathrop
Editor

Bleiweiss Communications Incorporated
Publisher



Western Nonwoven members

The pictures that accompanied the Country Villa story in the September *Desert Edge* were incorrect. The photos were members who worked at the Western Nonwoven plant that closed Aug. 25. The union members there made nonflammable stuffing for mattresses. They were ratifying a deal the union had negotiated with Simmons Bedding when that company backed out of the deal. The new owners closed the plant and transferred acquisitions to Texas.

In memoriam

Cecil Johnson, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died on Aug. 14, 2008, at the age of 79. He had been a member since July 1948.

Julian Hernandez, a retired Setup Operator formerly employed by Pactiv, died on Aug. 31, 2008, at the age of 57. He had been a member since December 1968.

*Our condolences to the families
of these deceased members.*

Hillary Clinton: Barack Obama's 'my candidate'



Sen. Hillary Clinton took the stage of the Democratic National Convention in Denver to deliver a powerful endorsement of Sen. Barack Obama for the presidency.

Clinton, Obama's main opponent in the Democratic primaries, said: "Obama is my candidate and must be our president."

She implored her followers to unify behind Obama.

"Whether you voted for me or for Barack Obama, the time is now to unite for a single party, for a single purpose," Clinton said. "This is a fight for the future and a fight we must win together."

Declaring herself to be "a proud supporter of Barack Obama," Clinton urged Democrats to put aside their personal loyalties to her and unite

behind Obama, or else risk continuing Bush administration policies under the Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain.

Clinton also offered her support for Obama at an earlier event, a reception for Emily's List, a group that supports female candidates, marking the 88th anniversary of women's suffrage.

"I ask all of you who worked so hard for me, who knocked on doors, who got into arguments from time to time, to work for Barack Obama as hard as you did for me," Clinton said. "Let's devote all the passion and energy we have, and there's a lot of it."

Union Representative Report



By Pete Waasdorp

Protect American freedoms with your vote

We Americans examine who we are as individuals and as a people every day. Some of us are black, brown, red, yellow or white. Some are men and some are women. Some are old and some are young.

But we are all Americans.

What does it mean to be an American? I don't immediately think of flags and cowboy hats. I am not reminded of taxes, amber waves of grain or Big Macs.

To me, being an American means having freedom.

We live in one of the few countries where you can stand on a street corner and protest the government and not be hauled away. We can own homes and choose careers we enjoy.

But the freedoms that we possess — and too often take for granted — came at a price.

We fought a bloody war to win our freedom from England. Almost a century later, we fought an even bloodier war to win freedom for millions of us who still toiled in chains. In the 20th century, we fought wars in foreign lands to make the world safe for freedom at home and abroad.

Even now, our freedoms are threatened by foreign enemies and even our own government at times, so we must continue to affirm and protect the freedoms that we hold dear.

There are many ways to defend our birthright as free women and men. Enlisting in the military is honorable. But for those of us who don't have that option, there is no better way than voting wisely.

Unfortunately, only half of all Americans register and vote. This means that the majority of Americans put their freedom in the hands of others to pick our leaders.

Some people say that their votes don't count. Others say they are too busy on Election Day. Or maybe they just forgot to register or vote.

But those excuses don't fool anyone. Failure to vote is a fundamental failure of an American's patriotic duty.

Your election

Election Day, Nov. 4, presents a historic opportunity to affirm our rights as working Americans. For too long, our freedom to join with our fellow citizens, organize as unions and negotiate the terms of our employment has been relentlessly attacked by those who want us to behave like obedient sheep. For too long, we have let ourselves be distracted by gossip and "social issues" that only weaken our resolve. Many of us become disgusted by the political noise and stop paying attention altogether.

Enough of that!

It is the time to step forward and elect pro-labor candidates who will stand with us to ensure a better job for every worker, a better education for every child, a better retirement for every senior citizen and better health care for every American.

In this issue of the Desert Edge, there are names of union-endorsed candidates. These are individuals whom we trust to vote the right way — our way — on issues that affect all of us in the workplace.

When politicians don't vote our way, we don't endorse them. When they do vote our way, they deserve our support.

We need friends of labor in office, and union members are the voters who can put them there.

Do your civic duty and vote on Nov. 4. Our freedom depends on it!

Deadline to register to vote is Oct. 20!

2008 Membership Meetings DEC. 17

Meetings start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Auditorium, Bloomington

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

	August 2008	2008 Total
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$24.90	\$64,582.65
Members reinstated	8	181
Grievances settled	23	719
Unemployment benefits restored to members		\$472.80

Your dues now payable! Sign up for dues checkoff!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: **OCTOBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2008, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.**

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your paycheck. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you—a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local as a courtesy normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

Avoid suspension. Authorize dues checkoff today!

McCain & Bush: One and the same

McCain voted with the Bush 90 percent of the time

Since President Bush took office, McCain has supported Bush's positions 90 percent of the time. McCain's support of Bush's policies reached as high as 95 percent in 2007. [Congressional Quarterly Voting Study, 110th Congress]

McCain shares Bush's rosy view of the economy

Bush says the economy is "inherently strong": "I believe we can find common ground to get something done that's big enough, effective enough so that an economy that is inherently strong gets a boost to make sure that this uncertainty doesn't translate into more economic woes for our workers and small business people," Bush said. [Associated Press, Jan. 23, 2008]

McCain says "underpinnings of our economy are strong": "I still believe our fundamental underpinnings of our economy are strong, but it's obvious that we are facing challenges which will require actions such as the Federal Reserve took today." ["Lou Dobbs Tonight," CNN, Jan. 22, 2008]

Bush wants to make tax cuts for the rich permanent. During his weekly radio address, Bush said: "To keep our economy growing, we need to ensure that you keep more of what you earn, and Congress needs to make the tax cuts permanent." [Jan. 7, 2006]

McCain wants to make Bush's tax cuts permanent: "I think it's very important that we make the Bush tax cuts permanent. I voted to make them permanent twice already.... And if we don't make the tax cuts permanent, then they will experience what amounts to a tax increase." [Republican Presidential Debate, MSNBC, Jan. 24, 2008]

McCain voted for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of working families. He voted for a \$60-billion tax cut bill benefiting families with incomes \$100,000 or higher. The tax cuts would follow equally drastic cuts in spending on programs vital to working families. [Nov. 18, 2005]



Bush says outsourcing "makes sense." In 2004, the president's economic report to Congress said: "When a good or service is produced more cheaply abroad, it makes more sense to import it than to make or provide it domestically." [InformationWeek.com]

McCain says global economy results in outsourcing: "I'm not going to bring back a lot of these jobs. I can't because with a global economy, they're headed the other way." [Technology Daily, Dec. 4, 2007]

President's Report

America can't afford more failed policies

(Continued from front page)

More "trickle down." More tax breaks for the rich. More corporate scandals. More collapsed bridges. More e coli and salmonella scares. More tainted toys and pet food from China.

These are the things that happen when the government is run by people who don't believe in government.

The mortgage crisis is a case in point. The FBI predicted four years ago that rampant fraud in the mortgage industry would cause a major economic crisis, but our regulators — the folks who were supposed to protect us — sat on their hands.

More recently, the Bush government finally stepped in to save Fannie Mae when it could have done so two months ago and saved the government, and our economy, billions in losses.

Our country can't take four more years of this.

I know some of you are happy McCain chose a running mate who is a woman. I would be excited too, except this isn't the right woman, nor does she give you reason to vote for four more years of Bush policies.

Please don't let them distract you with mooseburgers and lipstick. Focus on the real issues that affect your ability to bring home a paycheck, put food on the table and take care of your families.

The Employee Free Choice Act is one of them. McCain doesn't want working Americans to assert their right to join unions. Barack Obama does.

A President McCain would do nothing to stop employers like 2 Sisters in Riverside from firing

workers for pro-union activities.

Employees at 2 Sisters, which is Fresh & Easy's main distributor of prepared foods, were concerned about their workplace. They wanted something better, so they called our union. Their supervisors found out about it and fired them the next day.

Is that against the law? Yes. Will we fight for their rights? Yes. But the current National Labor Relations Board, which is stocked by people who share John McCain's anti-union ideology, has been hostile to the rights of workers. And current labor laws are so weak that the company would rather risk a slap on the wrist than let its employees get dignity in the workplace with a union contract.

The Employee Free Choice Act would put teeth in the law and stop the rampant harassment and intimidation of workers, but John McCain doesn't want that. In 1996, he said the right to unionize is "class warfare."

Enough of this nonsense! We need change. I don't care if it comes from a man or a woman. I don't care if that person is white, black or chartreuse. We need a friend of Labor in the White House.

This year, we have a friend in Sen. Barack Obama. Don't believe the lies that are spread about this patriotic American. He was born in the U.S.A., which he repeatedly calls the "greatest nation in the world."

In this issue of *Desert Edge*, you'll find the facts you need to make your own decision. Please read them carefully and then vote with your conscience and your brain. But for America's sake, vote!

Obama's opponent fails to grasp economic policy

"I never really understood economics."

McCain said: "The issue of economics is something that I've really never understood as well as I should." [Boston Globe, Dec. 18, 2007]

McCain: Americans have seen great economic progress since Bush took office.

Since President Bush took office, "I think if you look at the overall record and millions of jobs have been created... you can make an argument that there's been great progress economically over that period of time," McCain said. ["Money & Politics," Bloomberg, April 17, 2008]

Here are the facts: The number of unemployed workers rose by 11.7 percent over the past year, an increase of 797,000 people. We've lost more than three million U.S. manufacturing jobs since 2001, and millions more are vulnerable. Between December 2007 and March 2008, the U.S. lost a net 240,000 jobs. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2, 2008]

McCain's economic plan helps corporations, not working families.

"McCain offered sweeping rhetoric about the economic plight of working-class Americans... even as he spelled out a tax and spending agenda whose benefits are aimed squarely at spurring corporate growth." [Washington Post, April 16, 2008]

How the presidential candidates compare on health care

Health care is a key issue in the 2008 presidential election. Here are some of the key elements of plans announced by U.S. Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain.

Barack Obama

- Proposes new national plan with coverage similar to that available to members of Congress
- Comprehensive coverage would include preventive, maternity, and mental health benefits
- Would include measures to lower prescription drug costs
- No one would be turned away because of pre-existing medical conditions
- Affordable, portable, easy enrollment



“My plan begins by covering every American. If you already have health insurance, the only thing that will change ... is the amount of money you will spend on premiums. That will be less’

— **Barack Obama**

John McCain

- Proposes taxing medical benefits
- Would work with governors to establish a model “guaranteed access plan” to cover those denied coverage under other plans
- Encourage and expand use of the Health Savings Accounts begun under the Bush Administration
- Greater competition to encourage lower prescription drug prices, through safe reimportation of drugs from other countries and faster introduction of generic drugs
- Government would promote greater access to care through walk-in clinics in retail outlets

‘Families should be in charge of their health care dollars and have more control over care.’

— **John McCain**

The real McCain

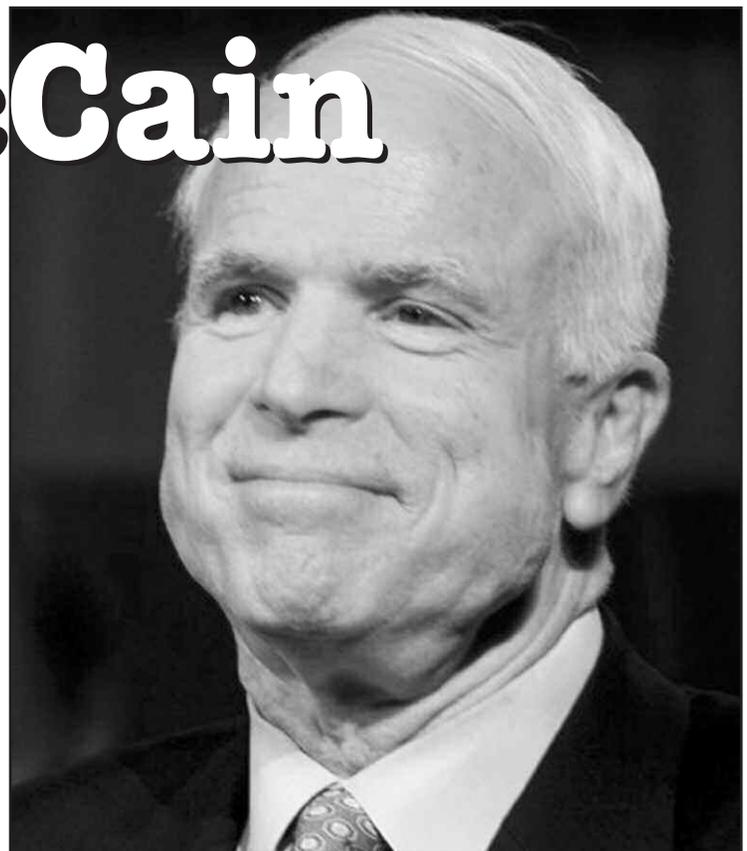
The right to unionize is ‘class warfare.’ — 1996

McCain against collective bargaining

- Voted against the Employee Free Choice Act card-check legislation — 2007
- Backs companies that fire or replace lawfully striking workers. — 1992 and 2000
- Opposed bargaining rights for firefighters, police officers and other public safety workers — 2001 and 2008
- Voted to gut rail and transit workers’ bargaining rights — 1987

McCain says Buy America laws are ‘ludicrous’

- “I firmly object to Buy America provisions...” — 2005
- “I oppose these types of protectionist policies, and from an economic point of view they are ludicrous.” — 2005



Where do the candidates stand on

Housing

Barack Obama is committed to preserving the American Dream. His well-defined plan to end the housing crisis includes a \$10 billion fund to help prevent foreclosures — funded partly by penalties imposed on fraudulent lenders. He also wants to increase financial counseling and tax credits for homeowners, while eliminating many fees. Sen. Obama's plan also will require better disclosure by lenders.

John McCain doesn't really have a strategy to end the housing crisis. He says he would consider greater intervention by the federal government to limit the effects of the mortgage meltdown if current measures fail, but he believes a government bailout should only be a last resort.



Immigration



Sen. Obama is a strong supporter of immigration reform. He co-sponsored the DREAM Act and the Citizen Promotion Act, and also supported the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act and the Secure Fence Act. He wants to reduce incentives for illegal immigration and would toughen penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants.

Sen. McCain also supported the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act and the Secure Fence Act, but unlike Sen. Obama, McCain also said that existing illegal immigrants should be "rounded up and deported."

Retirement

Barack Obama strongly opposes privatizing Social Security. He will reject any Social Security plan that includes benefit cuts or a massive increase in debt. Obama understands the problems of American seniors and is committed to finding solutions.

John McCain wants to privatize Social Security with risk-based accounts and has supported deep benefit cuts. He voted to raise the retirement age, raise the Medicare age and expose seniors to higher Medicare premiums. He also voted to cut more than \$6 billion from Medicare and to use Social Security funds to pay off federal debts rather than to help America's seniors.



Education

Sen. Obama is a strong supporter of public education reform, including expansion of early-childhood programs, increased funding for schools at all levels and improved assessment policies. Sen. Obama will overhaul the No Child Left Behind program and ensure that it is funded adequately. Obama supports college outreach programs for low-income families and wants to simplify the financial aid process. He proposes an American Opportunity Tax Credit to give many Americans \$4,000 in exchange for 100 hours of community service.

McCain voted for President Bush's flawed No Child Left Behind. He strongly and consistently supports school vouchers, which use public education funds to help families pay for private school tuition, but takes money and students away from public schools. McCain voted against increasing federal student loans and Pell Grants and against expanding eligibility for financial aid, making higher education further out of reach for many American families.

issues that affect working people?

Labor

As a co-sponsor and strong advocate of the Employee Free Choice Act, **Sen. Obama** is committed to protecting workers' rights. He worked to raise the minimum wage and supports increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to help working families. Obama wants to protect collective bargaining rights, expand FMLA and paid leave, and ensure that workplaces are safer.

McCain voted to block the Employee Free Choice Act and has consistently voted against collective bargaining rights, overtime guarantees, unemployment benefits and fair pay. He even voted to eliminate the federal minimum wage and to allow privatization and outsourcing of government jobs.



Trade

Barack Obama supports fair trade policies that create American jobs instead of sending them overseas. He will meet with trade representatives from Canada and Mexico to overhaul NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) in order to help American workers. Sen. Obama will pressure the World Trade Organization to enforce trade agreements and stop countries from using unfair trade practices.

"Trade has been a cornerstone of our growth and global development. But we will not be able to sustain this growth if it favors the few and not the many. Together, we must forge trade that truly rewards the work that creates wealth, with meaningful protections for our people and our planet. This is the moment for trade that is free and fair for all."

— Sen. Barack Obama, July 24, 2008

John McCain voted yes on NAFTA in 1993 and maintains his position that it is "a good idea." He also supported CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement) and wants to expand free trade. He has even voted to outsource government jobs overseas. Sen. McCain has called himself "the biggest free marketer and free trader that you will ever see."

Health Care

Sen. Obama is committed to providing quality, affordable health care to every American, regardless of age, employment status or pre-existing conditions. He will work to expand Medicaid and SCHIP programs and lower health care costs in general by overhauling and modernizing the U.S. health care system.

Sen. McCain opposes a universal health care program. He wants to shift health care responsibility onto individuals rather than employers. He even wants to tax health care premiums. McCain refuses to acknowledge the plight of America's working families; his plan does nothing to control skyrocketing health care costs or to help the 47 million Americans without insurance.



Economy

Barack Obama recognizes that our economy is in trouble and is committed to finding a solution. He will invest in infrastructure, innovative technologies, schools and medical care and use tax credits to help working families. He will reform bankruptcy laws, especially to protect families with out-of-control health care costs.

John McCain is out of touch with the needs of working Americans. Despite skyrocketing health care, housing and living costs, and stagnant wages, McCain still believes the "fundamental underpinnings of our economy are strong." He nevertheless admitted: "the issue of economics is something that I've really never understood as well as I should."



LOCAL 1167 ENDORSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

Linda Jones 36th
 Don Williamson 59th
 Norma Torres 61st
 Wilmer Amina Carter 62nd
 Carl Wood 65th
 Grey Frandsen 66th

STATE SENATE

Art Bravo Guerrero 37th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Ed Chau 42nd
 Joe Baca 43rd
 Bill Hendrick 44th
 Julie Bornstein 45th

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Neil Derry 3d District

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bob Buster 1st District

CITYHOOD FOR MENIFEE Yes

MENIFEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

John Denver

MAYOR, CATHEDRAL CITY

Paul Marchand

MAYOR, CITY OF COACHELLA

Eduardo Garcia

BANNING CITY COUNCIL

Patrick "Cork" Irwin
 Barbara Hanna

INDIO CITY COUNCIL

Michael Wilson
 Pat Runyon

PALM SPRINGS SCHOOL BOARD

Greg Rodriguez

COLTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

John Mitchell

COLTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Vince Yzaguirre

FONTANA CITY COUNCIL

Angel Santiago

FONTANA SCHOOL BOARD

Jesse Sandoval

COLTON SCHOOL BOARD

Kent Taylor

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Randall Cenicerros
 Edward Velasquez

SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Longville

RIALTO SCHOOL BOARD

Cory Jackson
 Dan Mays
 Walter Hawkins

PALM DESERT CITY COUNCIL

Carole Schaudt

CORONA CITY COUNCIL

Louis Davis

BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Conaway

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Kenn Young

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Takano
 Mary Figueroa

RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL WARD 6

Nancy Hart

CATHEDRAL CITY CITY COUNCIL

Greg Pettis
 Bob Morford

MURRIETTA CITY COUNCIL

Paul Clay

RIALTO CITY CLERK

Barbara McGee

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

- 1- Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act – Vote YES
- 2- Treatment of Farm Animals – No Recommendation
- 3- Children’s Hospital Bond Act – No Recommendation
- 4- Waiting Period, Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy – Vote NO

- 5- Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation – Vote YES
- 6- Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding – Vote NO
- 7- Renewable Energy Statute – Vote NO
- 8- Elimination of Same-Sex Marriage – Vote NO

- 9- Criminal Justice System. Victims’ Rights – Vote NO
- 10- Bonds. Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy – Vote NO
- 11- Redistricting – Vote NO
- 12- Veterans Bond Act – Vote YES

Country Villa workers ratify contract

Pact with union nursing home includes wage increases and better health benefits

Local 1167 members at the Country Villa nursing home on Date Street in San Bernardino voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new three-year contract. The agreement calls for the largest wage

increase ever negotiated for members at the facility, as well as improvements in medical coverage. Members also will have an additional floating holiday and, for the first time, paid bereavement leave.

Other improvements include paid sick leave beginning with the first day of absence, a sick leave “cash out” provision that will enable members to be paid for unused sick time beyond 100 hours, and improvements in language regarding disciplinary warnings. “We are pleased with this contract,” said Local 1167 Secretary-Treasurer Brent Denkers. “In



addition to the significant wage increase, there were several groundbreaking elements, including paid bereavement leave and the sick leave ‘cash out’ provision.

“Country Villa members displayed excellent solidarity throughout the negotiations and that helped us achieve this great contract.”



Editors’ note: This story was published last issue with photos of members at Western Nonwoven. Shown here are the proud union members of Country Villa.

