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NEWS FROM THE AFL-CIO, CTW, INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL UNIONS

In a behind-the-scenes story, organized labor and its allies in December launched a successful, intensive pressure campaign in the home districts of congressional Republicans who refused to approve a Senate plan to extend a payroll tax cut and jobless aid. The AFL-CIO, international and national unions and other advocacy groups such as Working America and the National Employment Law Project worked to push the Republicans into eventually voting for the two-month deal which expires at the end of Feb. AFL-CIO spokesperson Amaya Tune said labor hit them “in the media in their home districts” and other ways to “shame Republicans for this horrible vote.” The National Employment Law Project, for example, mobilized thousands of its constituents from unemployed Americans to community advocates to call Republican lawmakers. Other labor organizers also held a protest outside Republican House Speaker John Boehner’s office in Ohio.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union hailed the decision of the Netherlands’ largest pension fund to withdraw its investments from Walmart. UFCW President Joseph T. Hansen described the action as a “wake-up call” for the company to start treating its employees better. Algemeen Burgerlijk Pensioenfonds (ABP), with

more than \$300 billion in assets, cited the world’s biggest retail chain’s labor practices as the reason. The fund said it was pulling out of Walmart because it hasn’t complied with the United Nations Global Compact principles, which promote human rights, labor standards, and environment and anti-corruption efforts. The fund had invested \$121 million in the retailer as of June 2011. According to news reports, ABP’s decision was four years in the making, having first warned Walmart about its labor practices in 2008. In 2006, Norway’s Government Pension Fund sold more than \$400 million shares in Walmart, also in a rejection of the company’s labor practices.

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO (AFA) January 6 filed with the National Mediation Board (NMB) for a union election to represent U.S.-based flight attendants for Aer Lingus. Aer Lingus Limited and United Airlines entered a joint venture in 2009 for a flight between Washington, DC and Madrid. Aer Lingus employs the workers based in Washington, DC. “This joint venture was dreamed up by management for the sole purpose of avoiding the legal obligations of a contract and a commitment to workers,” said AFA International President Veda Shook. Aer Lingus flight attendants in Ireland are unionized as are United’s 25,000



On the left AFA President Veda Shook. Flickr.com photo used under Creative Commons from afcio.

flight attendants. Veda said U.S.-based Aer Lingus flight attendants perform the same duties as their Irish and United counterparts, but do not receive the same pay, benefits and work rule protections. Shay Cody, General Secretary of IMPACT, the union that represents flight attendants at Aer Lingus in Ireland and England, pledged "the full support of the IMPACT Trade Union" for the AFA organizing drive.

Laborers International Union

General President Terry O'Sullivan called on Congress to "get serious" about passing a Highway Bill that "fully invests in rebuilding our deteriorating bridges, roads and transit systems." He noted that at a time when the national jobless rate is dropping, construction industry unemployment rose from 13.1 percent in November to 16 percent in December. "Such a jump indicates many long-term, jobless workers who gave up hope looking for work last year have started looking again," he said. O'Sullivan criticized "too many Republicans in Congress" who did nothing but "play politics, even as working families suffered." He warned that the hopes of discouraged workers to find jobs "may be disappointingly dashed" unless Congress takes meaningful action in 2012. "There's a lot of work to be done, and 1.3 million construction workers who, based on today's jobs numbers, are ready to do it," he said.



Failing Bridge. Flickr.com photo used under Creative Commons from mihradio.

More than 200 Teamsters in

Pennsylvania and West Virginia walked off their jobs in early January following a breakdown in negotiations with the Pipe Line Contractors Association. According to the union, the national agreement between the Teamsters and the contractors expired Jan. 31, 2011, but was extended twice, ultimately expiring Dec. 31. The Teamsters said the contractors association wants to force its members into a 401(k) savings plan and ultimately eliminate all traditional defined benefit pensions. "The association's ultimate goal is to gut workers' security and gamble their retirement in the stock market with a 401(k) plan," said James J. Hoffa, Teamsters general president. "This is yet another example of the rich getting richer on the backs of the middle class." The strike halted work on projects related to the Marcellus Shale play in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and could lead to stoppages across the country. "But this is a national strike that could expand to other sites as the days go on," Hoffa said.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS

Nearly ten thousand employ-

ees of the Chengdu Steel & Vanadium Company (CSVC) in Sichuan province went on strike January 4 over pay raises. According to news reports, workers complained that public servants in government organizations receive pay raises every year, which raises the country's overall consumer demand. However, wages of company employees are relatively low and seriously lag behind expenses. On the first day of the strike, some 5,000 workers marched from the factory to the entrance of the Chengdu-Mianyang Expressway where they were stopped by more than 1,000 policemen. Three workers were injured and five arrested after police dispersed the crowd with force and the use of pepper spray. News reports said 2,000 workers from the Sichuan Chemical Engineering Group Company (CEGC) located in the same area as CSVC went on strike December 30 and blocked traffic. They won monthly salary and annual bonus increases.



TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber. Flickr.com photo used under Creative Commons from tuc.org.

United Kingdom's Trade

Union Council dismissed assertions from the Prime Minister's Office that UK business are in a "stranglehold" of health and safety rules and compensation claims. "Every government report on the UK's supposed compensation culture has shown it to be a myth, and in fact claims have been declining over the past decade. Despite this, the government seems hell-bent on trying to stop workers injured by their employers' negligence being able to claim compensation," said TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber. "It is clear that Downing Street does not have a clue about what life is like for the millions of ordinary people who work in shops, offices, schools, factories, call centers and other workplaces across the UK. Instead it is making policy in response to grumbles from elements of the small business lobby and the risible rantings of right-wing commentators."

Nigerian workers began a na-

tional strike January 9 after the government scrapped fuel subsidies at a time when fuel costs have more than doubled. The strike, called by the Nigeria Labor Congress and the Trade Union Congress, the country's biggest labor union federations, threatened to close ports and disrupt output from Royal Dutch Shell and Chevron Corp. Nigeria is Africa's largest crude producer. "The objective is that the government must reverse the fuel price

increases before we end the strike,” Owei Lakemfa, secretary-general of the Nigeria Labor Congress, told the news media. Banks, businesses, schools and most offices were shut and streets deserted except for protesters in Lagos, the West African nation’s economic center, and Abuja, the capital. Nigeria produced an average 2.2 million barrels of crude a day in December, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, and is the fifth-largest provider of oil imports to the U.S.

NATIONAL & POLITICAL EVENTS

All of the Republican candidates for president share a deep antipathy to organized labor and the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining. Their anti-union attitudes have been on display during the GOP presidential debates and in their campaign ads as each has tried to out-do the other by demonizing unions. In Iowa, Newt Gringrich blamed the auto unions for the problems of the U.S. auto industry. Leading candidate Mitt Romney has repeatedly attacked the independent National Labor Relations Board for supposedly siding with workers. “The National Labor Relations Board, now stacked with union stooges appointed by the president, says to a free enterprise like Boeing ‘you can’t build a factory in South Carolina because South Carolina is a ‘right to work’ state,’” he said in one commercial in a blatantly false statement. The NLRB never issued such a ruling. Other candidates have said unions have too much power and should be curbed.

President Obama threw down the gauntlet to congressional Republicans with several high-profile recess appointments. With Congress recessed for the holidays, Obama named Democrats Sharon Block and Richard Griffin and Republican Terry Flynn to the National Labor Relations Board. Without the appointments, the NLRB would not have had the required quorum to operate and make decisions due to the expiration of Craig Becker’s term on January 3.

AFL-CIO head Richard Trumka commended the President “for exercising his constitutional authority” to keep the board operating. Obama also appointed Richard Corday to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) after his nomination was blocked by Senate Republicans which now makes that agency operational.

The average CEO of the top 500 corporations listed by Standard & Poor’s now collects 343 times the amount in compensation as the median paycheck received by workers, according to newly released statistics. But a new group has formed to blunt public criticism of the nation’s top one percent in the wake of the Occupy Wall Street Movement. The so-called Job Creators Alliance (JCA) offers speakers and media booking services for 17 featured business leaders who say they aim to “shape the national agenda,” according to the JCA website. Among the alliance’s founding members is Bernie Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot. JCA is particularly targeting the Dodd-Frank bill that requires publicly-traded corporations to disclose the ratio between their CEO’s compensation and the median pay package given employees.

REGIONAL & LOCAL LABOR NEWS

United Steelworkers Union called for congressional and state hearings to investigate the proposed closure of three Philadelphia area refineries and the subsequent replacement of U.S. oil production with oil imports. As reported in a union statement, Sunoco announced in September that its Philadelphia and Marcus Hook, PA refineries would close in July 2012 if a buyer was not found. On December 1 the company announced it was shutting down its Marcus Hook refinery because of poor margins. At the end of September, ConocoPhillips announced it was immediately idling its Trainer, PA refinery. The union said the closures will have negative effects on employment and Northeast oil product supplies and prices “Among the impact issues being cited will be the fuel oil needs of the Northeast for heating, diesel, jet and auto fuel; direct employment of 2,500 workers plus thousands of other jobs dependent on the refineries; and national economic security when supplies will have to come from



Signing of the Dodd-Frank bill. Flickr.com photo used under Creative Commons from Leader Nancy Pelosi's photostream.

imports, which are subject to uncontrolled price hikes and shortages that cause price spikes,” the union said.

Ohio AFL-CIO predicted the 30-cent increase in the state minimum wage to \$7.70 hourly on January 1 will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy. The state labor federation and Ohioans for a Fair Minimum Wage coalition successfully placed a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2006 which tied Ohio’s minimum wage rate to the Consumer Price Index. The CPI increased more than 4 percent, which led to the wage hike. “After over a decade without a minimum wage increase, Ohioans overwhelmingly passed the amendment taking rate increases out of the hands of politicians and adjusting them in a fair and reasonable manner,” said Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga in a prepared statement. He said minimum wage earners are “essentially just surviving” and the increase will help lift all wages. “These modest increases can generate revenue for our local economies – something we are in desperate need of here in Ohio,” he said.

IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Federal union leaders react-ed tepidly to President Obama’s proposed 0.5 percent federal employee pay raise for 2013, the first in two years. “The fact is, this increase is well below the rate of inflation of 3.6 percent, and will be wiped out by higher costs for health care, groceries and other essential needs,” said American Federation of Government Employees National President John Gage. He noted the proposal also effectively freezes locality pay for another year as he urged Congress to pass a “meaningful” pay raise for federal workers. National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen M. Kelley expressed “disappointment” at the size of the proposed raises but said “the good news” is the ending of the pay freeze. She noted that private sector pay as measured by the employment cost index (ECI) has grown a total of 4.7 percent over the past three years.



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The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 195, and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 518 reached new four-year contracts with the state of New Jersey. The pacts cover more than 5,000 state employees and are the first agreements under the Christie administration since all state workers’ contracts expired in June. IFPTE represents employees at the colleges, department of transportation, human services and some areas of state police and corrections. SEIU represents approximately 190 employees at the state Motor Vehicle Commission. The pact provides no salary increases for the first two years, a 1 percent hike in year three, and a 1.75 percent increase in the fourth year, which would begin on July 1, 2014. “We have no problem with it,” said Local 195 President Tim Rudolph about negotiations. “It didn’t get hostile.” Twelve other unions are in ongoing negotiations with the Christie administration, including the Communications Workers of America, the largest union.

SIGNIFICANT LEGAL AND NLRB DECISIONS

The National Labor Relations Board ruled January 6 that employers could not prevent workers from filing work-related group or class actions, a decision opposed by many businesses. The ruling effectively bans employment agreements at companies that require workers to pursue all claims individually through arbitration.

Federal law that protects workers’ right to engage in concerted action overrides any arbitration agreement that bars them from bringing group claims, the board determined. The decision applies to all non-management private sector workers, union and non-union, from low-wage janitors to higher paid workers. “The board has long held, with uniform judicial approval, that the N.L.R.A. protects employees’ ability to join together to pursue workplace grievances, including through litigation,” the ruling said. The board issued the decision in a case involving a nationwide homebuilding company, D. R. Horton, in which workers were required to waive their right to sue in court and instead bring all claims to an arbitrator on an individual basis.

Although it is an independent agency, the National Labor Relations Board is under historic political pressure from Republicans to restrict its rulings on behalf of working people. The board, for example, was forced recently to delay by three months a simple requirement that U.S. employers post notices in workplaces informing workers of their rights to form a union. Pushing the effective date of the rule to April 30 from January 31 “would facilitate the resolution of the legal challenges,” the NLRB said. Now the agency is under fire for proposing new long overdue procedures for streamlining representation elections. The board said the new rules, which have been in the works for months, would reduce unnecessary delays and litigation, especially in the 10 percent of cases when employers file formal challenges to unionization votes, a move that often delays such votes by a month or more. The new rules are scheduled to take effect on April 30. But Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., SC) pledged he will keep blocking Obama’s nominations to the NLRB because of its perceived pro-worker tilt.

LABOR LETTER
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James Williams
General President,
International Union
of Painters and
Allied Trades

AIL/NILICO LABOR ADVISORY BOARD SERVES LABOR'S INTERESTS

Union people know that there are two kinds of employers: union employers who pay fair wages and benefits, and nonunion employers who often pay substandard wages and try to prevent their employees from joining a union. Good union companies are worthy of our support and patronage. Non-union companies should be boycotted and denied our hard earned dollars.

AIL/NILICO would fall under the category of a great union employer. I am so proud to serve as chairman of the AIL/NILICO Labor Advisory Board with true friends of the labor movement in my partners Roger Smith and Victor Kamber. Good union employers deserve the support of union families, and AIL/NILICO is one of the best union employers in the world.

The board consists of more than 45 of my national and international union colleagues who provide guidance on the company's labor support programs and insurance products needed by working families. A major focus of the AIL/NILICO Labor Advisory Board is to advise the company on the labor and labor-related causes to fund. That's what makes the AIL/NILICO Labor Advisory Board unique in corporate America.

The members of the board include the most respected leaders of the North American labor movement whose photographs are presented in this issue of the Labor Letter. My predecessor as chair was former

Communications Workers of America President Morton Bahr, now CWA president emeritus. Our Canadian representative is legendary labor leader Dave Barrett, former premier of British Columbia.

Since the founding of this company by Bernard "B" Rapoport more than 60 years ago (and its more recently established New York State subsidiary National Income Life), American Income Life Insurance Company has demonstrated time and again that it believes a company can be highly profitable with a union workforce. This company has continued this tradition under "B's" successor, Roger Smith, who has received numerous national recognitions for the company's involvement in labor causes.

With its fairly-paid union agents and employees, AIL/NILICO consistently breaks sales records every year and grows its union workforce at a time when many other companies are downsizing. AIL/NILICO is 100 percent union, which is one of the reasons why the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department cited it among those "All-Union-Wall-to-Wall" companies. All of the union-eligible agents and employees throughout North America are represented by a union. In the United States, they are members of the Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 277. AIL agents and employees in Canada are represented by UFCW 1518 and CEP 247.

AIL/NILICO actively supports organized labor and the right of workers to join

a union in both word and deed. Over the decades, AIL has donated millions of dollars financially and in services to labor and labor-related causes from its national headquarters in Waco, Texas to each and every local office in the field. No other employer in the United States can make that claim.

The AIL/NILICO Labor Advisory Board plays a significant role in suggesting where the company's contributions and in-kind services can do the most good, whether it's the fight for labor law reform or setting up a food bank for unemployed or striking workers. Membership on the Advisory Board constitutes neither an endorsement of American Income Life Insurance Company nor its products. The only obligation of membership on the Board is to provide guidance on how AIL might best serve the interests of their respective members and the labor movement.

At a time when organized labor is under sustained attack, corporate friends such as AIL/NILICO are valuable allies and partners. The AIL/NILICO corporate mission statement says it all for me:

"American Income Life and National Income Life have a commitment and dedication to helping working families in their times of need. We take pride in rallying to union members' aid by walking picket lines, setting up food banks, and offering other support as needed. Our union members fight locally, state-wide, and nationally for what really matters – good jobs, affordable health care, and the right to organize."



AIL's national headquarters in Waco, Texas.

LABOR ADVISORY BOARD

These outstanding union leaders are members of the American Income Life Insurance Company's Labor Advisory Board.

With their advice, American Income Life Insurance Company provides substantial financial assistance to labor and labor-related causes, and develops programs to best meet the needs of union members and their families.

Membership on the Advisory Board constitutes neither an endorsement of American Income Life Insurance Company nor its products. The only obligation of membership on the Board is to provide guidance on how

AIL might best serve the interests of their respective members and the labor movement.

Labor Advisory Board members recognize that AIL is a fully organized, 100 percent union company that offers supplemental insurance plans primarily to union members. AIL is honored to be among those "All-Union Wall-to-Wall" companies cited by the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department.



James Williams
General President,
International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
Chairman,
Labor Advisory Board



Victor Kamber
Vice President,
American Income Life
and National Income Life
Executive Director,
Labor Advisory Board



Denise Bowyer
Vice President,
American Income Life
and National Income Life
Secretary,
Labor Advisory Board



Roger Smith
Chief Executive Officer,
American Income Life
and National Income Life
President,
Labor Advisory Board



Bernard Rapoport
Founder,
American Income Life



Paul E. Almeida
President,
Department
for Professional
Employees, AFL-CIO



Stuart Appelbaum
President,
Retail, Wholesale and
Department Store
Union, UFCW



Ronald Ault
President,
Metal Trades
Department, AFL-CIO



Morty Bahr
President Emeritus,
Communications Workers
of America
Chairman Emeritus,
Labor Advisory Board



Dave Barrett
Former Premier of Province
of British Columbia
Honorary Member,
Labor Advisory Board



Theodore Bikel
President,
Associated Actors and
Artistes of America



James Boland
President,
International Union
of Bricklayers and
Allied Craftworkers



Hon. David Bonior
Chair,
American Rights at Work
Honorary Member,
Labor Advisory Board



Clayola Brown
President,
A. Philip Randolph
Institute



Samuel Cabral
President,
International Union
of Police Associations



Rose Ann DeMoro
Executive Director,
California Nurses Association



Barbara Easterling
President,
Alliance for Retired
Americans



Patrick Finley
General President,
Operative Plasterers'
and Cement Masons'
International Association
of the US and Canada



Hon. Richard Gephardt
Former US Congressman
Honorary Member,
Labor Advisory Board



Robert E. Gleason
Secretary-Treasurer,
International
Longshoremen's
Association



James Grogan, Jr.
General President,
International
Association of Heat and
Frost Insulators and
Asbestos Workers



Raymond Hair
International President,
American Federation of
Musicians



John Hegarty
National President,
National Postal Mail
Handlers Union



Mary Kay Henry
President,
Service Employees
International Union,
CTW, CLC



James J. Higgins, Jr.
Assistant General President,
International Union of
Elevator Constructors



Edwin D. Hill
President,
International
Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers



William Hite
President,
United Association of
Journeyman and Apprentices of
the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting
Industry of US and Canada



James Hoffa
General President,
International
Brotherhood
of Teamsters



Arlene Holt-Baker
Executive Vice
President,
AFL-CIO



Ken Howard
National President,
Screen Actor's Guild



Frank Hurt
International President,
Bakery, Confectionery,
Tobacco Workers and Grain
Millers International Union



Mike Jewell
President,
Marine Engineers'
Beneficial Association



Lorretta Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer,
American Federation of
Teachers



Newton B. Jones
International President,
International Brotherhood of
Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders,
Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers



Greg Junemann
President,
International Federation
of Professional and
Technical Engineers



D. Michael Langford
National President,
Utility Workers Union of
America, AFL-CIO



James Little
International President,
Transport Workers
Union of America



Matthew Loeb
International President,
International Alliance
of Theatrical Stage
Employees



William Lucy
President,
Coalition of
Black Trade Unionists



Hon. Ray Marshall
Former US Secretary
of Labor
Honorary Member,
Labor Advisory Board



Mary McColl
Executive Director,
Actors' Equity Association



Sean McGarvey
Secretary-Treasurer,
Building and Construction
Trades Department



Terence O'Sullivan
President,
Laborers International
Union of North America



Oscar Owens
International
Secretary-Treasurer,
Amalgamated
Transit Union



Jules Pagano
Executive Director Emeritus,
Labor Advisory Board



Anthony "Marc" Perrone
International
Secretary-Treasurer,
United Food & Commercial
Workers Int'l Union



W.D. "Dan" Pickett
President,
Brotherhood of
Railroad Signalmen



Roberta Reardon
President,
American Federation
of Television and Radio
Artists



Jeff Rechenbach
Executive Vice
President Emeritus,
Communications Workers
of America,
AFL-CIO, CLC



Paul Rinaldi
President,
National Air Traffic
Controllers Association



Clyde Rivers
President Emeritus,
California School
Employees Association



Robert Roach, Jr.
General
Secretary-Treasurer,
International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace
Workers



Cecil Roberts
President,
United Mine Workers
of America



Kinsey Robinson
International President,
United Union of Roofers,
Waterproofers and Allied
Workers



Arturo Rodriguez
President,
United Farm Workers
of America



Milton Rosado
President,
Labor Council For Latin
American Advancement



Michael Sacco
President,
Seafarers International Union
President,
Maritime Trades Dept, AFL-CIO



Veda Shook
International President,
Association of Flight
Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO



Elizabeth E. Shuler
Secretary-Treasurer,
AFL-CIO



Bruce R. Smith
President,
Glass, Molders, Pottery,
Plastics and Allied
Workers International
AFL-CIO, CLC



Andy Stern
President Emeritus,
Service Employees
International Union



John J. Sweeney
President Emeritus,
AFL-CIO



George Tedeschi
President,
Graphic Communications
Conference / International
Brotherhood of Teamsters



Richard Trumka
President,
AFL-CIO



Baldemar Velasquez
President,
Farm Labor Organizing
Committee



Walter Wise
General President,
International Association
of Bridge, Structural,
Ornamental and
Reinforcing Iron Workers



Diann Woodard
President,
American Federation of
School Administrators



Hon. Jim Wright
Former Speaker of the House
Honorary Member,
Labor Advisory Board

LAB ADDS THREE NEW MEMBERS

AIL/NILICO CEO Roger Smith announced three nationally recognized labor leaders have joined the Labor Advisory Board. They are Robert Roach, Jr., General Secretary-Treasurer of International Association of Machinists, James J. Higgins, Assistant General President, Elevator Constructors (IUEC) and Dr. Lorretta Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Teachers.

"Each of these outstanding union officials offer a unique perspective to the board that reflects their industries and professions," said Smith. "We look forward to their participation and contributions on the board."



Robert Roach (IAM)

Robert Roach started in the IAM as a ramp serviceman for TWA and a member of Local Lodge 1056 in New York. Soon after, he transferred to Local Lodge 1445 in Newark, NJ. He was elected as a shop steward in 1976 and served as Grievance Committee Chairman from 1979 through 1992. He held other offices in Local Lodge 1445, including trustee, vice president and president. In 1984, he was elected District Lodge 142 trustee and also served as coordinator for the District's Human Rights Committee. Roach became a District 142 General Chairman in 1992.

In 1994, Robert was appointed Transportation Department Special Representative and a Grand Lodge Representative (GLR) in 1996. From GLR, Robert became General Vice President of the Transportation Department on June 1, 1999. Roach earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Labor and Management Relations at the Empire State Labor College and is a graduate of the Labor Studies program at the Cornell School of Labor.



James J. Higgins, Jr. (IUEC)

In June 2008, IUEC General President Dana Brigham appointed, and the IUEC General Executive Board confirmed, James J. Higgins to serve as the IUEC Assistant General President filling the unexpired term of Timothy Smith who retired. Higgins started in the IUEC in the late 1980's with Local 1, New York, working as a helper with the Peelle Company. He moved on to construction work with Fujitec of America and eventually to the modernization department of General Elevator. Jim became a NEIEP instructor in 1993 and five years later, was appointed NEIEP Administrator for Local 1. In this capacity, he established the standards for the Local 1 apprenticeship and training program, and became the NEIEP Director in 2001.

In addition to Jim's on-the-job-training, he has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Villanova University, a Masters of Business degree in business management from Dowling College and has pursued labor studies at Cornell University School of Industrial Labor Relations.



Dr. Lorretta Johnson (AFT)

In July 2011, the executive council of the American Federation of Teachers unanimously elected Lorretta Johnson as secretary-treasurer. Before becoming AFT secretary-treasurer, Johnson was the union's executive vice president (2008 to 2011). And she chaired the AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRP) program and policy council from 1979 until October 2011. Prior to that, she was an AFT vice president for 30 years. Johnson also served as president of the Baltimore Teachers Union's paraprofessional chapter for 35 years and as president of AFT-Maryland for 17 years.

In October 2011, Johnson was elected treasurer of the AFT Educational Foundation and chair of the AFT Benefit Trust. Two months prior, she was elected a vice president of the AFL-CIO. Johnson also serves on the board of directors of the Albert Shanker Institute, the AFL-CIO's Union Privilege program and the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department. Johnson also was honored as 2005 Labor Leader of the Year by the Maryland Democratic Party.



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