

**Delegates Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2009**

**The Secretary Speaks...
Douglas E. Sizemore, Executive Secretary- Treasurer**



Sisters and Brothers

On April 28th, millions of workers around the world, just like you and I, observed Workers Memorial Day. On this solemn day that we mourn for the dead and fight for the living, our statement this year was "Give Workers a Voice For a Change". This is the time that we once again commit ourselves to do all that we can to ensure a safe workplace for all workers.

The Employee Free Choice Act, legislation that will enable workers to organize free of harassment and intimidation from their employer, is needed to make sure that all workers have an opportunity to have a collective voice at their workplace. When we look at Cintas' track record on safety and how they treat their employees, it is no surprise that they are one of the most vocal opponents to the Employee Free Choice Act. We witnessed this first hand in a recent Peter Bronson article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* where Mr. Bronson and the Cintas Corporation gave misleading and untrue statements while expressing their opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act. Over the past three years, federal and state inspectors have cited Cintas for more violations than at its three largest competitors combined. OSHA's citations described dozens of these violations, as having a "substantial probability that death or serious physical harm" would occur. In 2007, a Tulsa worker was killed while on the job. The company has agreed to pay nearly \$3 million in penalties for health and safety violations related to the death. With the union as their representative, Cintas workers have pushed OSHA and the company for a stronger, enforceable settlement agreement.

Last year, the California Court of Appeal ordered the Cintas Corporation to pay more than \$1.18 million in back wages and interest to hundreds of Northern California workers for violating the city of Hayward's Living Wage Ordinance. The union informed workers of their right to a living wage, helped workers build their case, and helped find their counsel.

It is no wonder that Cintas, the uniform rental and laundry giant, has been one of the most aggressive anti-free choice act employers around. Bad-mouthing the bill was a central theme in its "[Cintas Votes](#)" program. Workers endured anti-free choice videos and received misleading information about the Employee Free Choice Act. The NLRB has found Cintas maintained an unlawful policy prohibiting workers from discussing the terms and conditions of their employment, interrogated workers about their union activities, and discriminated against workers' protected activity. The company has either closed union shops or ran the union out of laundries acquired through buy-outs.

The "Employee Free Choice Act" will level the playing field for workers who want to form a union in their workplace. It is time for the Cintas Corporation to stop misleading its employees and the general public about the Employee Free Choice Act. It is time to "Give Workers a Voice For a Change".

In solidarity,

Douglas E. Sizemore

SAVE THE DATE

**39th Annual
COPE Dinner
Friday, June 19th**

**Westin Hotel
21 E. Fifth St. Cincinnati Ohio
Reception: 6pm
Dinner: 7pm**

Individual: \$125, Table of 10: \$1,250

***Please RSVP no later than
Friday, June 12th***

For more information call
(513) 421-1846
or visit
www.cincinnati aflcio.org

Reminder

**22nd Annual
Cincinnati Labor Council
Golf Outing**

Friday, May 8

**Grizzly Course at the
Golf Center at King's Island**

*Check in at 7:15am
Shotgun start at 8:00am*

**CALL YOUR SENATORS TODAY
1-866-207-2060
URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR
AND SUPPORT
THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT**



National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive

We need volunteers with trucks to help transport donations and to unload food. Call the Labor Council at (513) 421-1846 to volunteer.

On Saturday, May 9, 2009, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across the nation will be doing much more than delivering mail when they walk and drive along their postal routes. They will be collecting food donations from postal customers participating in the 17th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers National Food Drive, the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Since its beginning 16 years ago, the Letter Carriers' Food Drive has provided approximately **909 million pounds** of donations to community food banks.

Some **35.5 million** people face hunger everyday in the United States, including more than **12 million** children. **With the dramatic increase in the number of unemployed, this year's food drive is more important than ever.**



Please consider leaving a non-perishable food donation by your mailbox on May 9th. Help those in need in your own community.

For more information about the Letter Carriers' Food Drive and what you can do to help, please visit www.helpstampouthunger.com

Calendar

May 6:	Delegates Meeting	Laborers Local 265 Hall (3457 Montgomery Road) 7:00 PM
May 8:	Annual CLC Golf Outing	Grizzly Course at the Golf Center at King's Island
May 9:	Letter Carriers' Food Drive	Trucks needed to deliver food to the Free Store Food Bank
June 20:	39th Annual COPE Dinner	Westin Hotel 6:00pm (reception) 7:00pm (dinner)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

www.cincinnatiaflcio.org

Unless otherwise noted, call the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council at 513.421.1846 for more information

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Next Delegates Meeting
May 6, 2009 - 7:00 PM
Laborers Local 265 Hall
(3457 Montgomery Road)