

The Sagebrush Telegraph

**United for Good Jobs
Strong Communities**

**Healthy Families
Justice at Rio Tinto**

This is our 10th issue of *The Sagebrush Telegraph*. We hope to keep everyone informed about Rio Tinto's lockout that's hurting out families, communities, and businesses in the High Desert. We can win this fight by getting involved and staying informed. Here's the news:

Negotiation report: Rio Tinto rejected our latest efforts to end the lockout and reach a fair contract.

The Federal Mediator asked our elected negotiating Committee to sit down and talk with Rio Tinto for the past two weeks. Rio Tinto destroyed the negotiating process 3 months ago when they refused further talks and locked us out, but, we thought it would be valuable to see if they were serious about ending the lockout and reaching a fair settlement. Unfortunately, they weren't.

Our elected Negotiating Committee talked with the company over the past two weeks, but we're sorry to report that Rio Tinto remained arrogant and refused to end the lockout. They demanded a long list of concessions that would destroy good jobs, hurt our families, and harm local businesses. Our Negotiating Committee offered many reasonable compromises, but that wasn't enough for Rio Tinto – they wanted everything their way, and didn't care about good jobs.

It's clear that Rio Tinto remains driven by corporate greed and won't end the lockout or reach a fair agreement until they feel more pressure. Here are some steps that all of us can take to help:

Let's ask local businesses that we know to call on Rio Tinto to end the lockout and negotiate a fair agreement.

Many businesses have already come forward to help us, but we need many more. If you know of a business that will help us, please contact Kim Evans at 760-258-7277 or Tami Lawrence at 661-472-1277. Both serve on our Outreach Committee. They can explain what to do, and will provide you with a sign-up sheet.

Another thing we can do is to involve our local pastors, ministers, and churches in the call to end the lockout and reach a fair agreement.

Randy Granath has been doing a good job already in this area, and is prepared to help others build support among the faith community. Randy's phone is 661-674-6152. He's working with organizer Jon Brier who can be reached at 206-851-

7177.

Finally, it's time for all of our local politicians to tell Rio Tinto that the lockout needs to end and a fair agreement needs to be signed. We have a group of volunteers who want to help with this project, including Dave Dorton, Rick Larson, Tom Burgess, Rod Mullinax, and others. If you'd like to attend the special training that's being planned, and work on a strategy to hold our politicians accountable, please contact Dave at 760-885-5989.

Las Vegas families want to host a dinner and help us!

Nevada's largest union has helped 60,000 families win good jobs. To do it, they've had to do battle with some powerful employers, so they know what it takes to win. They've offered to prepare dinner for our families and share some of their experiences and strategies that can help us win. We're working with them to coordinate dates and will let you know the schedule for the dinner.

Free medical services for our families coming May 15

Concerned health professional from throughout Southern California want to help us by providing a day-long clinic for locked out family members on Saturday, May 15 at the High Desert Medical Group Building in Boron (also known as the "old hospital") at 12560 Boron Avenue. To schedule an appointment, please call Cate Engel at 213-252-1351.

Emergency financial help is available most Saturdays

If your family is facing a financial emergency, please contact one of our Emergency Assistance Committee members. They meet most Saturdays at our union hall at 12 noon. Contact Chuck Kennedy at 661-208-8863, Darrell Nichols at 760-382-0409, or Brett Davies.

A new shipment of groceries arrived at our union hall

You can get your bag of groceries. We only ask that everyone try to help by doing a few hours of "gate duty" or volunteering to help one of our Committees. Many hands make light work. We're stronger together and need everyone involved to win our fight for good jobs.

Local 30 elections: Wednesday, May 12 at the hall

Local 30 officers and Board member elections are happening all day on Wednesday, May 12 at the hall. Please drop by to vote between 6am to 8pm. A run-off will be held the following Wed. if needed.

Sagebrush Telegraph: Please send ideas, suggestions, and photos to: sagebrushtelegraph@yahoo.com

