

April 10,
2010

The Sagebrush Telegraph

United for Good Jobs
Strong Communities

Healthy Families
Justice at Rio Tinto

Welcome to the eighth issue of The Sagebrush Telegraph. Our goal is to keep everyone informed and involved in our fight against the lockout by Rio Tinto that is hurting our families and communities in the high desert. We can win this fight if all of us get involved and stay informed.

Our families are going to the British Consulate in Los Angeles this Friday, April 16th. Join us!

Over one hundred of us have already pledged to be part of this exciting event in Los Angeles. If you haven't reserved space yet for you and your family, please join us.

We're going to the British Consulate because Rio Tinto is a foreign-owned company with headquarters in London and Australia. We're calling on the British Government officials to tell Rio Tinto that the lockout needs to end now.

Rio Tinto is holding their annual shareholder meeting in London on April 15th. Our own Dave Irish is attending that meeting and will tell the company to end their cruel and illegal lockout. The following week, our own Terri Judd will travel to Australia where she will attend the shareholder meeting there in Melbourne.

In addition to our action in Los Angeles, other rallies are being held at British Consulates in Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, and Canada.

Carpools are forming at every location in the High Desert. If you fill up your car with friends and family, we'll provide drivers with up to \$40 in gas for the trip. Carpools will depart around 8am, depending on the location. We'll provide details after you sign up. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the union hall, or call Agustin at 916-606-4681 or Carlos Cordon at 213-618-1765.

Victory: Rio Tinto's Copper Mine plan is frozen

Rio Tinto needs Congress to approve an Arizona land swap that would give the company valuable copper deposits on public land. Members of Congress are so outraged by Rio Tinto's lockout against our families that Rio Tinto's land swap – Senate Bill 409 – is

going nowhere until Rio Tinto ends our lockout and signs a fair contract. More details at our 4/30 dinner.

Our Next Family Dinner is April 30th: be there.

Join us Friday, April 30th for a family-style dinner at the union hall. This is becoming a regular event for our locked out families to help save money, give you a break from cooking and cleaning, and enjoy a great meal.

Emergency help is available every Saturday

If your family is facing a financial emergency, please meet with members of the Emergency Assistance Committee each Saturday in the union hall at 12 noon. Contact Chuck Kennedy at 661-208-8863, Darrell Nichols at 760-382-0409, or Brett Davies.

Get your groceries each week at the union hall.

You can get your bag of groceries each week while they last, preferably on Wednesdays. We only ask that everyone try to help by doing a few hours of "gate duty" or volunteering to help one of our Committees that can use your help. Many hands make light work. We're stronger together and thank everyone for being involved this critical fight for good jobs.

Negotiation update

Rio Tinto abandoned the negotiating process on January 31 when they locked us out. The company hasn't been to a single negotiation since. Rio Tinto's illegal lockout makes fair negotiations impossible, but we are honoring the federal mediator's request to sit down and talk – while not waiving our rights to fair negotiations that are guaranteed by law. We'll negotiate this week on Wed and Thurs, 4/13 & 14, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Palmdale. Members are welcome to come and observe, space permitting.

Local 30 elections: nominations are open

Nominations for Local 30 positions must be filed by April 25th. See the office for nomination forms.

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