

April 22,  
2010 #9

# The Sagebrush Telegraph

**United for Good Jobs    Healthy Families**  
**Strong Communities    Justice at Rio Tinto**

---

Our goal is to keep everyone informed and involved in our battle against Rio Tinto's lockout that's hurting families, communities, and businesses in the high desert. We can win by getting involved, staying united. Here's the latest news:

## **Our families went to the British Consulate last Friday and had an incredibly successful event.**

If you didn't join more than 100 families who travelled together in a caravan of cars to the British Consulate last Friday, you missed a great event. Police estimated our numbers at 1000 strong. We told the Consulate that British companies like Rio Tinto aren't welcome in America if they hurt families, communities and local businesses like Rio Tinto is doing to us in the High Desert.

Besides the huge event in Los Angeles, there were also actions at the same time in front of other British Consulates in San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Boston, and Vancouver, Canada.

Our events got positive news coverage in many cities, including Los Angeles where they ran great photos, plus good television and radio reports.

## **In London and Australia, Local 30 members told Rio Tinto executives: end your cruel lockout now!**

Our own Dave Irish just returned from Rio Tinto's annual shareholder meeting in London where he spoke directly with CEO Tom Albanese. Dave explained to shareholders why Rio Tinto's lockout was cruel, unnecessary, and should end immediately. Travelling with Dave was ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe, who also spoke with CEO Albanese, telling him that Rio's lockout in Boron is damaging the company's reputation with political leaders who make decisions that impact the company. Dave and Ray were both stranded for a few extra days because of the volcano in Iceland!

Rio Tinto had another shareholder meeting scheduled in Melbourne, Australia that Local 30 member Terri Judd flew to attend with ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. After they arrived, the company postponed the meeting until May, but that didn't stop our team from going ahead with an action in front of Rio Tinto's headquarters. We got great support and assistance from the Maritime Union of Australia, the Miners Union, plus community groups including residents of Papua New Guinea who were mistreated by the company and continue to stand up for their rights. Residents are suing Rio Tinto in U.S. court right now for those past violations.

Terri and Dave are both expected to attend our union meeting on Tuesday and will have a report for us about their trips to London and Melbourne.

## **Our Next Family Dinner is April 30<sup>th</sup>: be there.**

Join us on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for a family-style dinner at the

union hall. This is becoming a regular event for families to save money, get a break from cooking and enjoy a great meal. It's also a good place to get the latest news and accurate information. See you there!

## **Hardship Committee will meet again on May 1<sup>st</sup>**

If your family is facing a financial emergency, please see our Hardship Committee. They meet most Saturday's in the union hall at 12 noon. Contact Chuck Kennedy at 661-208-8863, Darrell Nichols at 760-382-0409, or Brett Davies at 760-284-2555. The Committee won't meet Saturday 4/24.

## **Emergency Fund: Every penny for our families**

When donations are sent to help us, they go into the Emergency Fund that was created with help from our International Union and the LA County Federation of Labor. Every penny donated is used by the Hardship Committee to help our families. Not a penny is used for overhead or expenses.

## **New Policy: Union meetings every Tuesday**

In an effort to keep everyone more informed and involved, we decided to hold meetings every Tuesday at 4pm. This should make it easier for us to respond quickly to both problems and opportunities. Join us!

## **Negotiation update: Rio Tinto hasn't delivered**

Rio Tinto walked away from the negotiating process on January 31 when they locked us out and failed to negotiate again until last week. The company said they would get more serious, but they're refusing to end the lockout and aren't doing much at the negotiating table. We'll let you know if anything changes, but if they want a long tough fight, our families are ready with support and resources to win. Get the latest update at our union meeting on Tuesday.

## **Join Aussie labor leader Paddy Crumlin in Boron!**

Get a rare chance to meet one of the most inspiring and dynamic union leaders in the world this weekend when Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the *Maritime Union of Australia* will be visiting us in Boron at "the line" where he wants to meet members and families. We expect him sometime on Saturday

## **March for California – we were there with 5000 others**

Local 30 members joined a two-month march by working families that highlighted the need for more respect and good jobs in California. Geronimo Duarte and Isaac Ybarra both walked 2 days, and were joined by Bill Galloway and Steve Davenport for the finale in Sacramento.

## **Any firewood you can donate?**

Firewood donations would be really appreciated until the weather warms up. Deliveries to "the line" on Borax Road will be warmly appreciated.

**NEXT GATE CAPTAIN MEETING SATURDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 9AM**

*The Sagebrush Telegraph* needs your ideas, suggestions and photos. Send to: [sagebrushtelegraph@yahoo.com](mailto:sagebrushtelegraph@yahoo.com).