

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Fill the Boot is back

In Vancouver, Fire Fighters Local 452 will raise money for MDA.

They took a year off due to COVID-19, but this year from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 9 and 10—at the busy intersection of NE 78th and Highway 99 in Hazel Dell—Vancouver fire fighters will wade into stopped traffic with a pitch: Put money in the boot to help local kids diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

The annual event dates back to the 1950s, when a Boston fire fighter began to raise money for research and resources to help his child who'd been diagnosed with the disorder. Since then, In-

ternational Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) chapters around the country have raised millions of dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). In a typical year, IAFF Local 452's event raises close to \$40,000.

While spouses and kids wave signs on the corners to explain what's going on, about a dozen members walk out among idling cars wearing helmets and turnout pants and brandishing the boot, inviting motorists to put in cash or coin. A fire truck and a giant inflatable also help raise visibility.

"We try to make it a fun event," says Kevin Lundy, who volunteers to coordinate it.



Members of International Association of Fire Fighters solicit donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association every year with a fundraiser called "Fill the Boot." Above are members of Local 452 in Vancouver in 2017. [Photo by retired fire marshal John Gentry.]

## Strike ends at Topeka, Kansas Frito-Lay plant

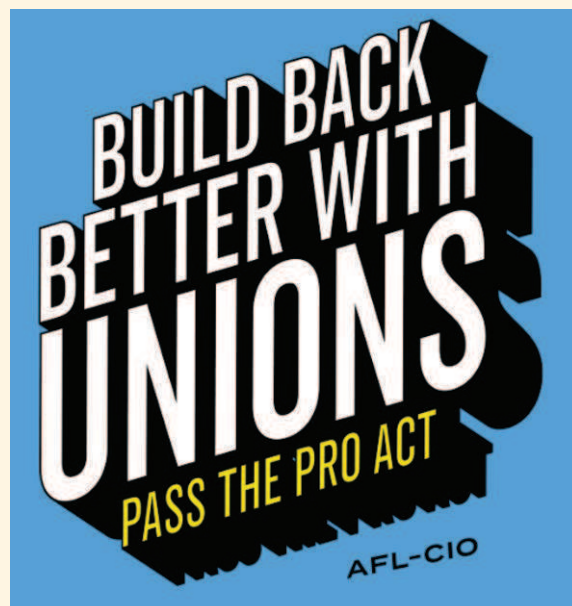
Members of Bakery Workers Local 218 ratified a contract offer by Frito-Lay July 23, ending a strike at the company's Topeka, Kansas, plant that had been under way since July 5.

Workers struck for wage increases and an end to forced overtime, but got only very modest improvements in the modified employer offer. Where before Frito-Lay had offered two 2% raises, now workers will get a 3% raise in year one and 1% in year two. Because of compounding, that's a slight improvement. Wages at the plant start at \$16.33 an hour and can rise to \$38.42, depending on the job.

Meanwhile, on forced overtime, the new contract will guarantee workers at least one day off per week, on either the sixth or seventh day of their work week—provided they haven't used any time off that week, including sick days, or holidays. The new agreement also eliminates the hated "suicide shifts"—when workers are forced to stay over an extra four hours after their normal eight-hour shift and then must come in four hours early before their next shift, leaving them just eight hours between shifts.

Local 218 represents about 850 employees at Frito-Lay's Topeka plant, but only some pay dues because Kansas is a "right-to-work" state. More than 500 of them participated in the strike.

# Enjoy Your Labor Day! YOU EARNED IT!



*Our nation's labor laws are woefully outdated and have become ineffective as a means for working people to have our voices heard. But the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression is now in the hands of the U.S. Senate. This Labor Day, we call on the Senate to quickly pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, a landmark worker empowerment, civil rights and economic stimulus bill, and an essential part of any plan to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and recession.*



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### In Memoriam

**Richard L. Trumka**  
1949–2021  
President, AFL-CIO

AFL-CIO

