

## Assault on Union Jobs

L.U. 108 (ees, em, es, lctt, mar, mt, rtb, rts, s, spa, t, & u) Tampa, Florida.

Sumter Electric Cooperative has unilaterally decided that a job that has historically been in the bargaining agreement should no longer be a covered position. Affected employees were given the option to either move to a newly created non-covered position that covered essentially the same duties or be laid off. Three of these employees stood firm. They believe in the labor movement, want to remain union, and hope to stop the cooperative from eliminating covered positions.

The employees filed grievances, trained their replacements, and were then laid off. One of the employees has twenty-seven years seniority! The Union has filed charges with the NLRB, but the process takes time. The laid off employees that stood their ground for organized labor should be commended and supported. Their efforts and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. These dedicated brothers are Carl Bowman, Paito Figueroa, and Mike Colon.

IndianTown Telephone and Peace River Electrical Cooperative members have ratified new three-year agreements. The employees and negotiating team members did an excellent job. Negotiations will soon begin with WEDU. We have prevailed with our ULP charges against CLS (Central Locating Services). The company has agreed to begin negotiations on August 29th.

Doug Bowden, P.S.