



Episcopal Network for Economic Justice

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Inside this issue:

ENEJ to Raise Economic Justice Concerns in Indianapolisp.2

Banking on Payday ...p.3

ENEJ Presents Community Investment Workshop at Fall Conference.....p.4

ENEJ Meets with Episcopal Urban Caucus in Atlanta p.5

Steve Tellari, Justice Deaconp.5

A national blue-green alliance gets a big push in Seattlep.6

Gleanings Out and About in the Church.....p.7

Collective Action Lawsuit Filed against 10 Indy Hotels.....p. 8

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Important Work in 2012 for ENEJ

By John Hooper

The Executive Committee of ENEJ gathered for its annual meeting in Atlanta on March 3rd, following the Episcopal Urban Caucus' conference. The organization is strong and well-balanced at this time, ready for a new spurt of inspiration and energy during 2012. A new set of bylaws is in the draft stage, envisioning, among other things, support by the Network of local geographical chapters and interest groups pursuing issues at a regional or national level (more on this in a future newsletter). We also envisioned a board of directors in 2013 with greater representation geographically, more diversity in age and experience as well as in race and ethnicity.

The Network during this economic downturn is planning to be very active at the Convention in Indianapolis, particularly in job-related issues like labor justice in U.S. ports, wage theft, job creation and training, and just labor practices in the Church. There will also be a helpful display table in conjunction with the Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN) and a public action in support of fair labor practices in Indiana.

The advocacy committee anticipates increased involvement in major issues in which it is already engaged: (1) Worker justice advocacy (unions, living wage, fair labor practices); (2) eradication of practices which exploit human beings for capital gains (humane immigration reform, an end of human trafficking); (3) social responsibility in church investments and purchasing practices (divestment from institutions supporting prisons, detention centers and environmental

exploitation; and encouragement of fair trade products and companies demonstrating social responsibility toward labor and the environment); working closely with the Episcopal Ecological Network and others to encourage economic justice practices closely related to environmental stewardship and to breaking down barriers rooted in racism.

The education committee will continue its work of encouraging the Episcopal Church at all levels (dioceses, parishes, organizations, individuals) to make significant community investments, informing them of the what, why and how of community investing. They will make the new community investing workshop, based on the two DVD program "From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing" (Ched Myers and Andy Loving) available throughout the country through local facilitators. The committee will also plan and implement, with the Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN), a provincial conference promoting just economic and ecological practices.

The communication committee envisions 4 newsletters during 2012 (3 electronic and 1 print edition), a revamped website, new brochures for ENEJ and for community investing, and an overall plan for communications in general and the electronic media in particular.

The capacity building and membership committee will concentrate on providing a solid base of support for the work of ENEJ and an increased and more active membership to carry out the above objectives.

ENEJ to Raise Economic Justice Concerns in Indianapolis

By Mike Maloney

Continuing on the work it did in Anaheim in 2009, ENEJ plans to ask the Episcopal Church to expand on its economic justice agenda at the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. ENEJ President, Dianne Aid, will coordinate ENEJ's efforts in Indianapolis, July 5-12, 2012. The team includes Vicky Partin, Vice President, Capacity Building Co-Chair, Art Lloyd, Education Co-Chairs, Sue Lloyd and John Hooper, and Past President, Geoff Curtiss. Mike Maloney and Jeff Dey will provide staff support. ENEJ's strategy for General Convention has several elements:

Resolutions – ENEJ will present or support resolutions on the Ports Campaigns, Labor, Immigration, Human Trafficking, Jobs, Wage Theft and ENEJ Funding. In addition, ENEJ is collaborating with the Episcopal Environmental Network (EpEN) to promote a variety of environmental resolutions. ENEJ members will testify at legislative hearings in addition to promoting the resolutions using a bookmark and a brochure detailing the resolutions.

Action – ENEJ will help organize an action in support of Indianapolis hotel workers. Indianapolis hotels have adopted the practice of hiring part time workers to do the work of full time workers. This is a form of wage theft. ENEJ will collaborate with UNITE to protest at the Hyatt. ENEJ will also organize mini-protests (in the form of posadas) at each of the 10 hotels being sued by the unions for wage theft.

Consultation Speakers' Program – The Rev. Tim Yeager of Chicago will speak on worker justice and Michael Schut will discuss environmental issues as part of The Consultation's speaker's corner in the General Convention exhibit hall.

Publicity – In addition to our brochure and bookmark, ENEJ will advertise the action with a sticker. Audio-visual materials will be presented on a wide screen TV as part of ENEJ's display booth. ENEJ also contributes daily articles to The Consultation's convention paper, Issues.

Education – ENEJ's display space will be shared with EpEN and will feature a DVD and videos on economic justice.

We need your support!

The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice is the only group within the Episcopal Church whose sole focus is to encourage the Church at every level - from individuals to congregations, from Dioceses to Provinces - to stand with those in economic need. For over twenty-five years ENEJ has helped educate and energize

Episcopalians to invest in community economic development, start credit unions or community development corporations, stand with janitors and other low-income workers or immigrants trying to organize for their rights.

To do our work of educating and energizing Church members we need financial support - to create educational materials, send members to conferences, organize workshops, have a presence at General Convention in support of resolutions and more. Please send your tax-deductible contribution using the form on the right. Checks should be made payable to ENEJ.

ENEJ Membership Form

Suggested amounts

- Individual membership \$50
- Congregations/other organizations \$100
- Diocesan membership large \$1,000
small \$250
- Sponsors \$100-499
- Benefactors \$500-1,000
- Low income membership \$10

We welcome contributions over-and-above the dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail this form with check (payable to ENEJ) to:

ENEJ
5829 Wyatt Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45213

ENEJ Resources You Can Use

The following resources are available at www.enej.org:

Economic Justice How-to Action Manual: A Guide to Economic Justice Ministries for Episcopal Congregations, 2006.

Economic Justice Issues: A Guide to Church Teaching and Action Steps for congregations and individual activities on 26 issues facing the United States, 2009.

Twenty Years Later: Response to A Crisis: Strengthening Economic Justice Ministry in the Church in a time of Fiscal Crisis. This report addresses current national and international issues including the international economic crisis and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, 2009.

Community Investing: An Alternative for Religious Congregations Seeking Social as well as a Financial Return, 1999.

Economic Justice Education Modules, six popular education units on such issues as inequality, worker justice and the impacts of recession. (Developed in conjunction with United for a Fair Economy)

Related Resources

“From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing” is a 6 part, 2 disc DVD, produced by Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, featuring biblical scholar/activist Ched Myers and Andy Loving, social investment advisor. It was produced for study groups interested in exploring biblical faith and practical economic justice. It is available at (www.bem-net.org) for \$25 (plus \$2.50 shipping and handling). A facilitation guide is available without cost from the same website.

Money and Faith: the Search for Enough, edited and compiled by Michael Schut, with a substantial study guide for small groups. There are readings on many aspects of money by such authors as Walter Brueggemann, Henry Nouwen, Bill McKibben, Ched Myers, William Greider, Maria Harris, Andy Loving, and Michael Schut. The book is available from Morehouse Education Resources, (www.morehouseeducation.com), with a retail price of \$20.

Banking on Payday

By Verna Fausey

For some time, big banks-- Bank of America, J.P Morgan, National City Bank, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo--have financed payday loan companies. Now, some of the same big banks--Fifth Third Bancorp, Regions, U.S.Bancorp, and Wells Fargo--offer payday loans, according to a Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) report. These short-term “direct deposit advance” or “checking account advance” loans have Interest rates around 365% APR (annual percentage rate).

Bank payday loans work this way. Desperate borrowers, who have checking accounts with their banks, get the loans. The bank automatically repays itself in full with the borrower’s next direct deposit—paycheck, Social Security, unemployment or disability payments. If there is not enough in the account, the bank repays itself anyway even if this triggers overdraft fees. Like non-bank payday loans, the borrower may need another loan to recover expenses. And then another loan. The debt trap cycle begins. As a result, the borrower risks the odds they

will lose their checking accounts due to repeated overdraft fees.

Borrowers seeking this type of loan are poor persons of color, the elderly (Social Security recipients) and military personnel. Social Security recipients have almost a quarter of payday loans.

Due to federal legislation and regulations limiting various fees, banks are searching for new income sources. On the other hand, banks ignore laws regulating non-bank payday loans. Banks also structure the loans to evade the 2008 law capping payday interest to active duty members of the military at 36% APR. A recent report revealed that banks were the third lobbying sector in 2011.

We believe that consumer groups urge the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to look into this situation: to extend laws and regulations covering non-bank payday loans to cover big banks.

For more information about payday loans, check ENEJ’s web site, www.enej.org, go to “publications,” then “Issue papers,” to access the issue paper “Predatory Lending”.

“Unemployment is the most hideous of our social evils, and has lately seemed to have become established in a particularly vicious form. We have long been acquainted with transitional, seasonal and cyclical unemployment—in which catalog the adjectives represent a crescendo of evil; but we now have to face long-term unemployment.”

Archbishop William Temple, *Christianity and Social Order*, New York, Seabury Press, 1977, p. 33.

ENEJ Presents Community Investment Workshop at Fall Conference

By Vicky Partin

On October 14, 2012, I had the opportunity to represent ENEJ at the Episcopal Church's gathering "Everyone Everywhere" at Estes Park, CO.

I led the workshop Community Investing: Our Assets at Work in Underserved Communities to encourage people to talk about their money, especially their surplus capital, and how we, as disciples of Christ, can put our money to work in the low-wealth communities through community investing.

This workshop was not about our tithe or about a typical stewardship campaign as we experience in church, but rather about how to use our "stored away capital" to work for the benefit of others.

As Sue Lloyd, the chair of our ENEJ Investment Committee told me, "We are at Everyone Everywhere to challenge people to the biblical mandate to serve the poor and to move people to action. That is to study the socially responsible investments, look at your portfolios

and become responsible stewards". Sue told me that her community investments often fare better than corporate ones.

I invited in another expert Andy Loving, a certified financial planner and expert in community investing who has won multiple awards for his work with individuals and religious institutions. He joined well-known theologian Ched Myers in development of the study "From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing". In Segment 5 Andy asks the big question:

What do we do with our money if we share God's vision of an economy for all people?

Workshop participants were encouraged to consider the amount of surplus in the group and

imagine the power of even a portion of that money being used in poor communities to build housing and schools and small businesses. The creativity sounded around the room was amazing and extremely hopeful.

The description of this dvd study and other resources for your parish are found at www.chedmyers.org/dvd.

Vicky Partin is Lay Missioner for the Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, Inc. in Columbus, GA. She serves as Vice President of the ENEJ.



ENEJ Education Co-Chair, Sue Lloyd, presents Community Investing Workshop in Atlanta

“The whole effect of historical consciousness must be to extend the scope of our responsibility to include maintaining and transforming the very structures of our society and culture. Insofar as we know that even these basic conditions of our existence are neither divinely appointed nor naturally given but historically created as such by ourselves, we must also know that ours is the responsibility for either maintaining them in the forms in which we have received them from our predecessors or else so transforming them that they more nearly realize the justice that could alone justify maintaining them.”

Schubert M. Ogden, "The Concept of a Liberation Theology," in B. Mahan and L.D. Richesin, The Challenge of Liberation Theology: A First World Response, Maryknoll, N.Y., Orbis Books, 1984, pp. 138-39.

ENEJ Meets with Episcopal Urban Caucus in Atlanta

By Rev. Arthur S. Lloyd

Meeting in Atlanta March 1, 3 members of ENEJ sponsored the annual Gloria Brown luncheon and held three workshops, in conjunction with the recent Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. They also participated by conference call in ENEJ's Annual Meeting.

The Gloria Brown luncheon was held at nearby St. Luke's Church, a parish noted for its outreach. ENEJ honored Holy Comforter Church with the Gloria Brown award, for its work with people suffering from mental illness, other disabilities and poverty. The Rev. Mike Tanner described their art and gardening programs. In addition to providing skills training and part-time work for participants, the garden also produces food for meal programs and for sale. ENEJ also awarded its

Hugh White "Trumpet for Justice Award" to the Rev. Kimberly Jackson, Chaplain at the Absalom Jones Center, for her ongoing work in support of the organizing efforts of food service workers at Morehouse College.

Among those attending the luncheon were past Gloria Brown awardee Richard Tolliver of St. Edmunds, Chicago, and past Hugh White honoree, Geoff Curtiss, of All Saints, Hoboken.

ENEJ sponsored three workshops. Vicky Partin, long-time facilitator for anti-racism and intercultural groups, led a workshop on fostering racial harmony through relationship-building. Most participants had lived through the civil rights movement of the 60's, while others are now looking for best practices for building new

relationships with Hispanic residents challenged by fears of deportation and lack of trust. A workshop on immigration, facilitated by Dianne Aid, focused on the historical time line of US immigration policy, from the first European explorers through present-day immigration detention and its relationship to privatized prisons. (The historical time line is available on request, and another resource, "Immigrants for Sale," can be viewed on You Tube.)

A third workshop began with a DVD presentation on socially responsible investing, including community investing. Representatives of three Atlanta area community development financial institutions shared information about their work: community development/ micro-finance lending, providing capital for housing in distressed areas, and a low-income credit union. (Information on the DVD, produced by Bartimaeus Ministries, is available for purchase, on request.)

ENEJ's concluding Annual Meeting was conducted by conference phone call, with four members of the Executive Committee gathered in an Atlanta motel room and the others calling in from around the country. Members reviewed the year's financial statement, adopted a 2012 budget, discussed plans for involving a younger generation skilled in social media, and concluded with discussing plans for ENEJ's presence at General Convention this July.

Steve Tellari, Justice Deacon, Dies

By Dianne Aid

Steve Tellari has been deacon at St. Columba in Kent, Washington, since September 2010. Steve was born in Rugby, Colorado, and grew up in Colorado, New Mexico, and Washington. Steve's passion in ministry was justice work: housing and homeowner foreclosure prevention, hunger and homeless, poverty, kids and education, and social and health services. He was honored by the South King Council of Human Services for his work in poverty and racism. He was on the Diocese of Olympia Economic Justice Committee and was the vice-president of the Board of Directors of Sound Alliance. He also participated as part of ENEJ's Advocacy Committee and was working particularly on a labor resolution we hope to bring to General Convention.

Bishop Greg Rickel (Diocese of Olympia) reminded us in his sermon at the Celebration of Life for Steve that Steve said more than once "Don't file it, do it".

"Descanse en Paz, Steve".

A national blue-green alliance gets a big push in Seattle

By Rev. Richard Gillett

[posted on Episcopal News Service website]

[Episcopal News Service] The visibility and power of a national blue-green alliance, focused on labor and environmental issues at the nation's principal ports, took a big step forward last month in Seattle as almost 400 port truckers left their trucks, partially shutting down the port for several days in protest.

The truckers—mainly from East African countries—are protesting their status as “independent contractors,” which deprives them of the usual benefits of employee status such as health insurance, workers comp, and social security. They want recognition as employees of the big shipping companies they drive for, and they want the companies to own the trucks, assuming responsibility for truck safety and repair conditions and paying the insurance on their loads. As compensation for the heavy responsibilities they bear, the drivers make an average of about \$28,500 a year, out of which come various expenses borne as truck owners.

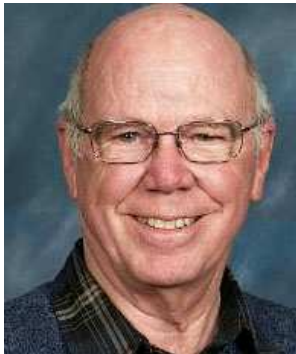
The Seattle protest was the most recent of similar protests taking place over the past four years and more in the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, Oakland, and New York/New Jersey, all with the strong involvement of faith groups in those cities, including Episcopal clergy and lay people. The blue-green alliance, called the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports, is pushing for a major cleanup of the air around the ports befouled by diesel fumes from the aging trucks, and for the emergence of the drivers from what has been called a “sweatshop on wheels” work environment. (For example, drivers are forbidden to exit

their trucks to take a bathroom break while at work, forcing many to carry “pee bottles” in their cabs.)

As employees they would be protected under federal labor laws, and have the right to collective bargaining.

In August of last year, 17 young adult Episcopalians from around the country came to Seattle for a five-day Eco-Justice immersion experience. The group toured the port, met with port drivers, visited impacted neighborhoods, and learned from local organizers.

The port tour helped make those and other Seattle eco-justice connections clear as the young adults heard about low wages, poor working conditions, air and noise pollution, and environmental health impacts. The event was sponsored by the Episcopal Church's Office for Economic and Environmental Affairs and the Office of Young Adult Leadership and Vocations.



In early February, I was privileged to be present at an extraordinary organizing meeting of about 300 highly energized Seattle drivers, who ran the meeting themselves. The drivers, mainly from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and other East African countries, exhibited a notable respect for the democratic process in the way they conducted their meeting. One repeatedly disruptive person was nonetheless freely allowed to voice her views. It struck me powerfully that the leaders that night, many of whom were refugees from brutally antidemocratic and authoritarian regimes, had early on absorbed Americans' respect for the democratic process, and were putting it into practice in their meeting, perhaps doing it better than we ourselves sometimes do.

Here in Seattle, the drivers' walkout was heavily reported by the press; and the strong support of many community, labor and religious supporters, including Muslim leaders, unexpectedly resulted in the passage of a bill late last month in the lower chamber of the Washington State Legislature to recognize the drivers as employees, thus abolishing their independent contractor status. Although the bill died in the state senate, the Port of Seattle and the large shipping companies have been sobered by the sudden emergence of the port drivers and their community allies.

As for the drivers, they returned to work after a two-week walkout without major retaliation against them by the companies, and continue to build support from the rest of the 1,500 port drivers as well as from the public. In support of the state senate bill giving the drivers employee status, Greg Rickel, Episcopal Bishop of Olympia and a steadfast supporter of the port drivers' actions for justice, in a letter to the chair of the State Senate Labor and Commerce Committee wrote: “In our church tradition, we ask newly baptized persons to take a vow to uphold ‘the dignity and respect of every human being.’ [This proposed law] ... seems to be the most pressing because it does, in fact, bear on the dignity and respect of human beings.”

Nationally, a decisive change in the federal law that governs environmental and working conditions at all the ports is needed. We can all support the Clean Ports Act of 2011 (HR 572). Address comments to U.S. Rep. John L. Mica (R-Florida), chair of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, or ranking committee member U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-West Virginia).

— The Rev. Dick Gillett, a long-time advocate and activist for worker justice, lives in Seattle.

Gleanings Out and About in the Church

By Dianne Aid

The big news in the church these days are around “restructuring” and multi-million dollar budget cuts. We are facing many tough decisions and changes as we approach General Convention. These things consume my thoughts at times – but wait, amidst it all, there are stories of hope and a different way of looking at the world.

ENEJ Leadership

Officers

Dianne Aid, TSSF, President
 Vicky Partin, Atlanta, Vice-President
 Rep. Byron Rushing, Massachusetts,
 Vice President – Church and Community
 Affairs
 vacant, Secretary
 Urla Abrigo, Los Angeles, Treasurer
 The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Newark,
 Past-President
 The Ven. Michael S. Kendall, New York,
 Past-President

Committee Chairs

Dianne Aid, TSSF, Olympia, Advocacy
 The Rev. Arthur S. Lloyd, Milwaukee,
 Capacity Building
 Jeffrey L. Dey, Southern Ohio,
 Communications
 John Hooper, Michigan, Education
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The first weekend in January (Feast of the Epiphany), I was blessed to be able to attend Province VIII Winter Talk, sponsored by the Province VIII Indigenous Ministries network. We met at the Spirit Mountain Resort in Grand Ronde, Oregon, hosted by The Grand Ronde Federated Tribes. “The Doctrine of Discovery” certainly tells us we are hardly through with Good Friday as we as a church unpack the horrible actions of conquest and the long lasting results of oppression, racism and injustice of a grand scale. The Grand Ronde tribes are busy reclaiming language and culture and passing that on to their children, and new life is sprouting which will be carried into future generations.

Winter Talk began on a Friday afternoon surrounded by a casino environment and “The Tribal Market Place” – a long hallway of vendors selling traditional items such as drums and blankets to florescent pink and yellow teepees which housed Tweetie Bird and other cartoon characters, a luxury hotel and restaurants and we found our holy space in our meeting room. Gathering from Hawaii, Arizona and the Western States, we constructed an altar, a community altar, each brought something to place on the altar, and told a story of what we brought and our connection to it – the community story then became the center piece for our weekend of sharing. We heard painful stories interwoven with rich songs and prayers. Nobody around the table was

“accused” or made to feel guilty. The majority of those gathered were First Nations people, but there were a few like me – descended from those who came from Europe and stole land and did their best to destroy millions of people. The history of the Doctrine of Discovery belongs to all of us, and it will take all of us to heal the wounds and restore justice.

We were welcomed into the Grand Ronde lands, treated to a wonderful meal, songs, and a time to share at the Tribal Center Cedar Plank House – it was indeed holy time.

By the time it was time to say goodbye on Sunday, the Tribal Market Place, The Casino, Hotel staff all had become part of our extended view of community – much of the profit from the Spirit Mountain Resort is given back to the community in terms of educational and health services development for tribal and non-tribal community members as well. We ended our time with a traditional “give away”, everyone brings gifts to give – no rules or regulations, these are gifts that come from the heart.

If the church really pays attention (and it seems to be doing so in some corners) to models that First Nations communities offer, a spirit of respect, listening and generosity our restructure and budget struggles could well become the road to Easter.

Collective Action Lawsuit Filed against 10 Indy Hotels and Subcontractor for Wage and Hour Violations

Potential liability could amount to \$10 million

In Indianapolis, home to the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, city government has invested over one billion dollars of taxpayer money in the downtown hospitality industry. While this city has rebuilt its economy with service industry jobs, hotel workers in Indianapolis are some of the lowest paid in the nation. Hotel workers here start at \$7.25 per hour and are offered few or no benefits. Now, some of the hotels that the city has chosen to subsidize are being accused of illegal activity, of not even paying their employees the minimum wage.

On January 9, 2012, hotel workers in Indianapolis filed a lawsuit in federal court against Hospitality Staffing Solutions (HSS) and ten major hotels for wage and hour violations. This landmark lawsuit is the broadest wage and hour case in the history of the Indianapolis hotel industry. If the lawsuit is certified as a collective action, eligible employees as a group could be entitled to as much as ten million dollars in back pay. An action was held in front of HSS offices with hotel workers and community supporters in conjunction with the filing of the lawsuit. The action occurred about a month before the Super Bowl, which resulted in Indianapolis hotels making \$27 million in one

week alone. Room rates during the Super Bowl in downtown hotels cost more than \$1000 per night.¹

Workers in the lawsuit allege that HSS and area hotels regularly fail to pay them for all the hours they work and force them to work off the clock and without breaks. In addition to wage and hour violations, the lawsuit also alleges that current contracts between hotel employers and HSS create an unfair monopoly power of HSS over hotel labor in Indianapolis. The federal Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor is currently investigating HSS practices in Indianapolis hotels.

"Every day I was told by my Hyatt manager to come in to work early and work before clocking in, and forced to work through my breaks without being paid," says Martha Gonzalez, a plaintiff in the lawsuit who used to work as a housekeeper at a Hyatt hotel through the HSS agency. "I am supporting my three children and often there was not enough money in my paycheck to pay for food."

The lawsuit was filed against HSS, a national subcontracting company based in Atlanta. HSS operates in almost every downtown Indianapolis hotel. The current lawsuit also implicates the Hyatt

Regency, Hyatt Place Airport, Marriott downtown (LaSalle), JW Marriott (White Lodging), Westin (Host Hotels), Conrad (Kite Realty), Embassy Suites (Simon Property Group), Canterbury (Turner Woodard), Holiday Inn Airport, and the Omni Hotel, all of which use HSS to subcontract workers.

This lawsuit is not the first time that HSS has stirred controversy. In 2010, HSS and the Hyatt Indianapolis were fined \$50,000 by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for record keeping and training violations. Two years ago, hotel workers won a \$20,000 from HSS and two Hyatt hotels in Pittsburgh through a class action lawsuit.

For more information, please visit the www.hotelworkersrising.org.

¹ <http://www.indystar.com/article/20120217/NEWS11/202170331/Super-Bowl-2012-major-windfall-Indianapolis-area-hotels>