

An Important Holiday Message from
Mary Dado,
Vice-President of
IUE-CWA Local 81408



PLEASE POST ON UNION BOARD

As the holidays approach, giant China factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced consumer goods - merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year could be different.

It's time to think outside the box.

Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. Small, locally owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or rounds at the local golf course. Local folks stand ready update or speed up PC's.

There are bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town neighbors with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a local shop run by hard working Americans? Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day or a once a month.

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OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. We could go out to see a play or ballet at your local hometown theatre. Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, folks, do we REALLY need to buy another ten thousand lights for the house? When we buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If we have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice tip.

The holidays should no longer be about draining American pockets and sending cash overseas. The holidays should be about caring about the USA, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS could be the new American holiday tradition. Open your local Yellow pages and discover a thousand local businesses with American gift giving ideas. Most have gift certificates!!!

**This is a revolution of caring about each other,
and isn't that what the holidays are about??????**

