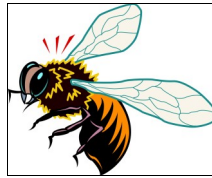


UNION



BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12

AUGUST 2020

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Labor Day Spirit Continues Despite Cancellation Of Parades

By Mike Cicconi
IAM Local 1976
Labor Council Delegate

The annual Labor Day parades in Pittsburgh and Erie, and the annual two-day Labor Day Celebration in Westmoreland County, have been canceled because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Labor Day events represent a tradition that began in the late 19th century. As the Labor Movement grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate working people. The Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor organized the first parade in New York City on September 5, 1882, and Labor Day was born.

In 1887, Oregon was the first state to designate Labor Day an official public holiday. A total of 30 states would officially celebrate the contributions of working people before the United States finally recognized the importance in 1894 by declaring Labor Day a Fed-

eral holiday.

From the coal mines and steel mills of the past to the healthcare, aviation, technologies, and manufacturing industries of today, Beaver and Lawrence Counties and the greater Pittsburgh area boast a rich labor history.

The Pittsburgh Labor Day parade, for example, is often described as our nation's largest Labor Day parade. Each year, workers from all professions are joined by elected officials and visitors. It's a great opportunity to share professional pride, highlight our occupations and promote union affiliations. The parade goes through downtown Pittsburgh and is often followed by union picnics for an overall great family event.

Labor Day doesn't belong to the corporations or the rich. Labor Day is a workers' day. That is, you and me and everyone else who toils. It's a day to appreciatively reflect on the victories that make working people's lives

better – minimum wage, safety and health laws, 40-hour work week – and build support for the battles we fight today – retirement security, job protections and fair taxes.

Being part of the Labor Day festivities promotes social time with family, friends, and coworkers; it creates an opportunity to strengthen our ties to the past and the present concerning worker rights and working conditions for all. It also creates the opportunity to assess the current political climate towards Labor and the many challenges the American worker faces each day.

However, we must not forget the meaning of having a day that is for Labor, a day celebrating working women and men, especially in these trying times. Let's maintain the spirit of Labor Day this year despite the cancellation of our parades and celebrations and look forward to their resumption in 2021.

PA. AFL-CIO Announces 2020 Election Endorsements

August 5th Pa. AFL-CIO press release

(Harrisburg, PA) Today the Executive Council of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO voted to endorse 189 candidates at the federal, state and local levels. Representing 700,000 workers and 51 affiliate unions across the Commonwealth, the State Federation believes that these endorsed candidates will protect workers' safety and health, defend good jobs, and fight for economic justice.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and our Central Labor Councils have an extensive vetting process for candidates seeking the endorsement of working people. The National AFL-CIO announced the support of former Vice President Joe Biden for President earlier this Summer. The officers of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO made the following statements:

"No election before has been as important as the one we face this Fall. Pennsylvania's unions have endorsed public servants who put the

needs of working families ahead of partisan interests. The Union Movement is not a political party; we endorse candidates who support economic justice and commit to protecting the rights of workers, regardless of whether they have a "D" or an "R" after their name," remarked President Rick Bloomingdale.

Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder added, "Pennsylvanians have 50 days, beginning September 14th to cast their votes and make their voices heard. As the General Election approaches this Fall, coupled with the uncertain status of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to be concerned with potential voter disenfranchisement. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must guarantee that all voters have the opportunity to cast their votes safely and securely in the coming months."

Editor's Note: The Executive Council vote on candidates in races affecting Beaver and Lawrence Counties is as follows:

Continued on page 3

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

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T Berry



The opinions expressed in Union Bug articles are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council or its officers.

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

* The in-person July Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings were canceled due to the continuation of the COVID-19 crisis. The Executive Board held a teleconference meeting at its regular monthly meeting date and time, July 20th at 6:00 pm. It adopted a resolution in support of federal financial support for the U.S. Postal service. A copy of the resolution appears in this issue of the UNION BUG. It also discussed Labor Council financial matters and the possibility of holding a picnic monthly meeting at Beaver County's Brady's Run Park in August. The August Labor Council meeting was scheduled to be

held at the PSEA Building in New Castle. However, PSEA has informed the Labor Council that the PSEA Building will not be available for in-person meetings until January at the earliest.

* The in-person August Labor Council Executive Board and membership meeting have been **canceled** due to the continuation of the COVID-19 crisis. The Executive Board will hold a teleconference meeting at its regular monthly meeting date and time, August 17th at 6:00 pm. Please contact me or any Executive Board member if you want a matter addressed during the meeting.

* Please check with any Executive Board member or read the September UNION BUG Calendar of Events for the status of

the September Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings.

* Congratulations to Robert T. Williams, a member of USW Local 1211, and John Stephen Krizan III, a member of Teamsters Local 341, on the endorsement of their candidacies for Pa. State House District 15 representative and Pa. Senate District 47 senator, respectively. Bob's campaign can be reached at 412-074-6106 and John's campaign can be reached at 724-787-0094.

* The Pittsburgh and Erie Labor Day parades have been canceled. I am wishing all Labor Council affiliates and their memberships a safe Labor Day weekend.

Endorsements Continued from page 2

U.S. House of Representatives:

17th District - Rep. Conor Lamb (D)

Pa. State Senate:

46th District – no endorsement

(Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R) is incumbent)

47th District – John Stephen Krizan III (D), a member of Teamsters Local 341

(Sen. Elder Vogel (R) is incumbent)

Pa. House of Representatives:

District 9 – Rep. Chris Sainato (D)

District 10 – no endorsement

(Rep. Aaron Bernstine (R), is incumbent)

District 14 – no endorsement

(Rep. Jim E. Marshall (R) is incumbent)

District 15 – Robert T. Williams (D), a member of USW Local 1211

(Rep. Josh E. Kail (R) is incumbent)

District 16 – Rep. Robert F. Matzie (D.)

Labor Council Urges Support For U.S. Postal Service

Editor's Note: The Labor Council Executive Board has adopted a resolution urging all of its affiliated unions to ask their members to support the USPS by calling Senator Casey and Senator Toomey and asking them to support immediate financial relief for the USPS. The resolution was adopted by the Executive Board during its July 20th teleconference call meeting. The American Postal Workers website reports that "The Postal Service is in a crisis, caused by the Coronavirus, and Congress needs to act, urgently. Call your Senators and tell them to support stimulus funding for the USPS:844-402-1001. The Coronavirus shutdown is plummeting postal revenues while increasing costs. The Postal Service could run out of money by the end of the summer and the Trump administration is trying to leverage the crisis to sacrifice our public Postal Service at the altar of private profit." The Labor Council resolution reads:

Whereas, the United States Postal Service, which receives no taxpayer money, funding itself on the sale of stamps and services, while carrying out universal mail service to all Americans, 159 million addresses, six days a week, is in an emergency financial crisis because of the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on its revenue;

Whereas, because of the massive reduction in revenue, the Postal Service is in danger of running out of funds this September, and will, therefore, be unable to continue providing essential services to the people of the United States, such as the delivery of 1.2 billion medical prescriptions each year;

Whereas, financial relief of \$25 billion for the Postal Service to be able to survive past the current crisis, was included in the initial draft of the Cares Act, but was eliminated from the legislation when President Trump threatened that he would not sign any legislation that contained relief for the Postal Service in the form of grants;

Whereas, the final Cares Act did include a \$10 billion line of credit for the Postal Service, but after the legislation was signed by President Trump, he stated that he would not allow the Postal Service to borrow the \$10 billion unless it raised the prices on packages 400-500%;

Whereas, the most recent stimulus package passed by the House of Representative, the Heroes Act, contains \$25 billion in relief for the Postal Service and a no-strings credit line of \$10 billion to enable the Postal Service to meet this financial crisis and survive past the Pandemic and exist as a service for the American people for generations to come;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, which represents 49 labor organizations with members in Beaver and Lawrence Counties, understands the importance of the public Postal Service to all Americans and the need for it to survive this crisis for generations to come; and

Be It Resolved that the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council understands that the Postal Service employs over 600,000 workers represented by four unions, and its closing would be devastating to this workforce;

Be It Resolved that the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council will encourage all member unions to ask their members to support the public Postal Service by calling Senator Casey and Senator Toomey and requesting immediate financial relief for the Postal Service, and ask their friends, relatives and co-workers to do the same.

In Brief



Sign on car in front of Brighton Rehab and Wellness Center in Brighton Township on July 20th. The car was part of a Healthcare Heroes Car caravan that traveled to Beaver County nursing facilities with SEIU Healthcare Pa. represented employees. The Beaver County caravan was a part of a nationwide, one-day "Strike for Black Lives" that was organized by multiple labor unions, including SEIU, IBT AFT, United Farm Workers and many social justice groups.



UNION BUG director of photography T Berry, SEIU Healthcare PA nursing home organizer Joe Stout, SEIU Healthcare PA internal organizer Denise Cox and Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Vice-President Jan Carpenter at Beaver Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Aliquippa during the Healthcare Heroes Car caravan as part of the nationwide, one-day "Strike for Black Lives."

UNIONS

A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO EXPLOIT AND STEAL FROM THE WORKING CLASS

AFL-CIO

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



We're on the Web:
pa.aflcio.org/349

Calendar of Events

- 08/16 Bob Williams for 15th Pa. House of Representatives seat Family Picnic and Corn Hole Tournament: Brady's Run Park, Shelter 6. Tournament registration starts at 11:00 am and lunch is at 1:30 pm. See the attached letter and flyer for additional information.
- 08/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council in person Executive Board and membership meetings are **cancelled** due to pandemic. Executive Board will hold a teleconference meeting beginning at 6:00 pm.
- 09/07 **Labor Day:** Pittsburgh and Erie parades and Westmoreland County two-day Celebration are canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 09/21 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings. Please check with Executive Board members or read September UNION BUG Calendar of Events for status of meetings.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on September 14th to be considered for publication in the September 2020 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



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AMERICA IS AT ITS BEST WHEN YOU SHOP AND SAY "UNION YES!"

8/3/2020

Bob Williams for PA House Rep for District 15
71 Walnut Street
Beaver, PA 15009

Hello Union Brothers and Sisters and Friends,

My name is Bob Williams and I am the Democratic Party candidate for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives 15th District seat.

I am a proud member of USW Local 1211, having worked at Hussy Copper in Leetsdale for the past 23 years. During those 23 years I have served as a union trustee and am currently serving as a shop steward.

I am also a seven-year veteran of the United States Marine Corp. and a past president of two Beaver County fire departments.

My campaign committee is sponsoring a Corn Hole/Family Picnic fundraiser with the Casanova Trio as special guests. The fundraiser will be held on August 16th at Brady's Run Park Shelter No. 6. Please see the attached flier for more information.

You can still donate to my campaign even if you cannot attend our fundraiser. We are a grassroots campaign and donations of any kind will be appreciated. We need funds to purchase yard signs, palm cards and other campaign materials. Please visit my web page, Williamsforpa15.com, or call 412-974-6106, if you would like to help or need additional information.

Thank you,

Bob Williams

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1st Annual Bob and Friends Family Picnic and Corn Hole Tournament

When: August 16, 2020

Where: Brady's Run Park, Shelter 6 /Music by Casanova Trio after lunch

Time: Registration starts at 11 AM, and lunch is at 1:30 PM

\$30 per team (lunch included), \$10 per person for picnic

We ask that all payment be made by August 10, 2020. Please check out our web page Williamsforpa15@gmail.com for a paperless payment option, or send checks to:

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Friends of Bob Williams

71 Walnut St

Beaver, PA 15009