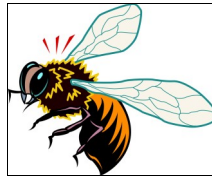


# UNION



# BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 12

AUGUST 2017

## LABOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

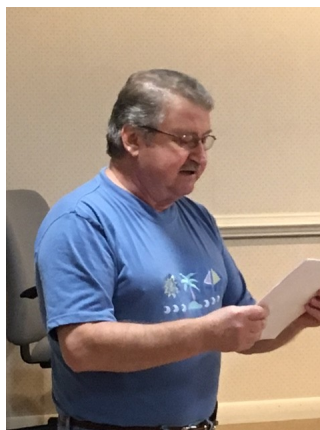
- **President:**  
Richard Galiano
- **Ex. Vice President:**  
Dan Onuska
- **Recording Secretary:**  
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- **Secretary-Treasurer:**  
Larry Nelson
- **Vice Presidents:**
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  - Bernie Hall
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  - Mark Benkart
  - Keri Theuerl
- **Trustees:**
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  - Laurie Fisher
  - Vacant
  - Jody Kohser
  - Alicia Craig
  - Sara Dudash
  - Ed Auer

## COUNCIL SUPPORTS FAIR REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

The Labor Council passed a resolution at its July membership meeting on July 17th supporting Pennsylvania Senate Bill 22 and Pennsylvania House Bill 722.

The bills propose an amendment to the State constitution which will assign re-drawing congressional and legislative district



Labor Council Vice-President Mark Benkart reading fair redistricting resolution to membership before vote of approval at July 17<sup>th</sup> Labor Council meeting.

boundaries to an independent redistricting commission and prohibit districts from being

drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any political party or candidate.

Senate Bill 22 was introduced on February 16, 2017, and House Bill 722 was introduced on May 8, 2017. The resolutions call on the members of the State Senate and House to vote for passage of the bills as quickly as possible so that they can be in force for the next redistricting after the 2020 census.

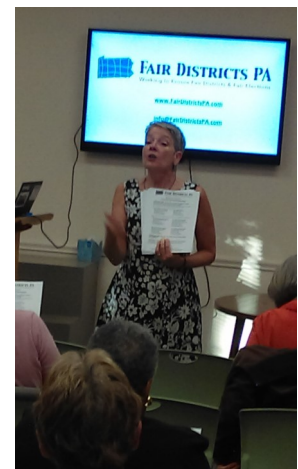
Please ask your local unions, community and political groups to pass similar resolutions supporting the Bills.

Legislative redistricting will be a major focus of the 2017 PA AFL-CIO COPE that Labor Council Vice-President Kerri Theuerl and I will attend on August 18-20.

The evening guest speaker on August 18th will be best-selling author, journalist, and gerrymandering expert David Daley. His new book, "Rat F\*\*ked:

The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy", is, according to the Pa. AFL-CIO "a sobering and timely work as we move into the 2020 redistricting process."

The resolution passed by the Labor Council appears on page 6.



Jennifer Wood, Beaver County Fair Districts Pa. chairperson, speaking at Fair Districts presentation at Beaver Area Memorial Library on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The keynote speaker, Craig Hammond of Fair Districts Pa. provided the attendees with an explanation about what gerrymandering is, how it weakens our votes, and what we can do to change reapportionment procedures.

# Annual NWPA Area Labor Federation Labor Day Monday, September 4, 2017

## NWPA Media Advisory

**Erie, PA** – Members of the Northwestern Area Labor Federation, (NWPA-ALF, AFL-CIO), will be joined by high school marching bands, clowns, parade floats/vehicles, public safety and construction vehicles in kicking off the 2017 NWPA ALF Labor Day Parade in Erie, Pennsylvania on Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2017. Parade organizers, local elected officials and participants will be joining in the celebration of the rebirth of the Annual Labor Day Parade in Erie which was last held in 1987.

The parade will begin at 10:00 A.M. The parade will assemble on 11<sup>th</sup> Street between French Street and Myrtle Street. The parade route begins at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and State Street, proceeds north to N. Park Row and then east to French Street.

Members of labor unions, several community organizations including “Variety” the Children’s

Charity will be having the children and family members of the adaptive bike program in the parade, two high school marching bands, parade floats, construction and public safety vehicles will be showcased. Several clowns will also be providing entertainment for the entire family. This year, Prizes for 1-2-3 Place will be awarded at the end of the parade in the following 7 categories: Best in Floats and best in Vehicles, Union with the most participants, Union with most YOUTH participation, Union who traveled the furthest distance, Entertainment: Bands, Clowns, Dance Groups, and Etc..

Applications are still being accepted to participate in the parade which is free. Applications are available online at <http://paafcio.org/nwpaalf> or by calling (814) 360-8336 or (814) 434-0226 or email application to [nwpaalf@gmail.com](mailto:nwpaalf@gmail.com).

## UNION BUG

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### NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Bernie Hall

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

Jody Kohser  
Mark Benkart

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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 Labor Council needs food and refreshment sponsors for the September, October and November membership meetings. The December meeting will be sponsored by the Labor Council. Please contact me if your Local is interested in serving as a sponsor.

\* The Labor Council is looking for delegates to serve as chairpersons of the COPE and the Union Label committees. Please contact me if you are a Council delegate and interested in serving as the chairperson of one of these two committees.



Charlie Hamilton was recognized by the Labor Council at its July meeting for his 50 years in the union movement. Charlie is a retired National Association of Letter Carriers staff representative and a former longtime officer of the Labor Council.

\* Happy Labor Day to everyone. I hope that all of our Council delegates and member of our affiliated unions will attend the Northwest Area Labor Federation Labor Day Parade in Erie or the

Allegheny County Labor Day Parade in Pittsburgh. Also please consider attending the two day Labor Day Celebration at Northmoreland Park in Westmoreland County.

## Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart  
Community Services Chairman

July was a very busy month for the Labor Council and Community Services.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Community Services Institute was held in Reading from Thursday, July 19th to Saturday the 22nd. It was certainly nice to see some of my friends again from all over Pennsylvania.



Thursday's rotating workshops were: **Strike and Layoff Assistance**, which provided information about available resources if there is a crisis in your area; **Navigating your Community Resources**, which provided information about 211, a number to call to find resources; **Right to Work**, which defined in detail what this means and the impact that it would have on your Union; and **Drug Abuse and the Opioid Crisis**.

The Drug Abuse and the

Opioid Crisis workshop was especially informative. It was run by Nicole Fuller, Labor Liaison for the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. The guest speakers were Brian Horner, Northern Berks County Chief of Police, and Joseph Ashdale, Coordinator of the Ambrosia Treatment Center.

The Friday workshops were: **Breaking Down the Barriers**, presented by Darrin Spann, Assistant Director of AF-SCME Council 13, and Kim George, Pa. State President, Coalition of Labor Union Women; **Social Media**, presented by Samantha Shewmaker, PA. AFL-CIO Communications Department, and Ron Oliver, Labor Liaison, United Way of Erie County; and **Mapping and How to Communicate Effectively**.

The Breaking Down the Barriers workshop focused on unconscious bias and how individuals and groups perceive other races, genders, etc.

Social Media was my favorite Friday Seminar. It showed the importance of using email, Facebook, Twitter and other forms of internet communication to get your word out. Mapping and How to Communi-

Continued on page 5

## ACA DEFEATED, AFL-CIO CALLS FOR SINGLE PAYER SYSTEM

By Jan Carpenter  
Labor Council Healthcare Committee  
Chairperson

On July 30th 52 years ago as President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law, he told the nation that America tradition "calls upon us never to be indifferent towards despair. It commands us never to turn away from helplessness. It directs us never to ignore or spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance."

President Trump and many Congressional Republicans have promised to repeal and re-



Council Executive Vice-President Dan Onuska in Rep. Keith Rothfus' office on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

place the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Their proposed replacement, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), would remove an estimate 22 million people from their current coverage over and above the millions that have remained uninsured under the ACA. In addition, premiums and co-pays would rise for those retaining insurance.

On May 4th, the House of

Representatives voted to pass the ACHA by a narrow margin of 217-213. However, on July 28th, the bill failed in the Senate on a 49-51 vote.

The close vote in the House of Representatives and the defeat of the bill in the Senate reflected the mobilization of millions of ordinary citizens, including the mobilization of the labor movement by the AFL-CIO. The national and state AFL-CIO urged union members to contact their Congressional representatives in person, by email and by telephone to urge them to vote no on the ACHA.

The AFL-CIO also urged its members to take part in February's "Resistance Recess" which was the first opportunity for constituents to speak face to face with members of Congress returning to their districts for the first recess of 2017. Locally, union members helped plan the February 22nd town hall meeting in Beaver to which Rep. Keith Rothfus was invited and which he did not attend. Union members also participated in visits to Rep. Rothfus' Beaver office on February 15th and July 18th to let his staff know of their firm opposition to the AHCA.

In the spirit of President Johnson's Medicare and Medicaid signing statement, the national AFL-CIO issued a statement on July 26th: "Stopping the Attack on Our Health Care and Moving Toward Health Care for All.

The first key point of the statement is: *"Quality health care should be a basic right in the United States. It should not be a commodity that can be denied*

*because you have too little income, do not have the right job or any job, or have a pre-existing medical condition."*

The second key point is: *"Our core goal, however, is to move expeditiously toward a single-payer system, like Medicare for All, that retains a role for workers' health plans and in which access to quality, affordable health care is indeed a right for everyone in this country."*

The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act (HR 676) is currently pending in the US House of Representatives. It has 115 sponsors, including a majority of House Democrats. It is my understanding that Senator Bernie Sanders will soon intro-



February 22<sup>nd</sup> town hall attendees showing their zip codes as a way of letting Rep. Rothfus know the parts of his district where they reside.

duce Medicare for All bill in the US Senate.

I urge everyone to study HR 676 and any bill introduced by Senator Sanders. Again, American tradition "call upon us never to be indifferent towards despair. It commands us never to turn away from helplessness. It directs us never to ignore or spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance."

# Community Services Report

Continued from page 3

cate Effectively were equally



Rick Bloomingdale, Pa. AFL-CIO President, addressing Community Services Institute attendees.

informative.

The reason that I have written about the Community Services Institute is because more labor union members need to participate in this pro-

gram, especially in today's political environment.

The last thing that I would like to mention is that we finally delivered the cabinet that will hold the chrome, dedicated shovel to the Rochester VFW. The Vietnam Veterans of Beaver County had asked the Labor Council to build the cabinet to display the shovel that was presented to them by Beaver County Commissioners in honor of the recently completed Veterans' Bridge that crosses the Beaver River from Bridgewater to New Brighton. Thank you to Labor Council Vice-President Kerri Theuerl and her mother for donating the cabinet.

Please visit our Facebook page, [moralmonday-pennsylvania.com](http://moralmonday-pennsylvania.com). This site is administered by a Beaver County Coalition consisting of the Bea-



Bill Laughner, Vietnam Veterans Beaver County Chapter 862 Vice-President, standing by Labor Council donated cabinet that will display Veterans' Bridge commemorative shovel.

ver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, Beaver County NAACP, Progressive Democrats of Beaver County and National Organization of Women of Beaver County.

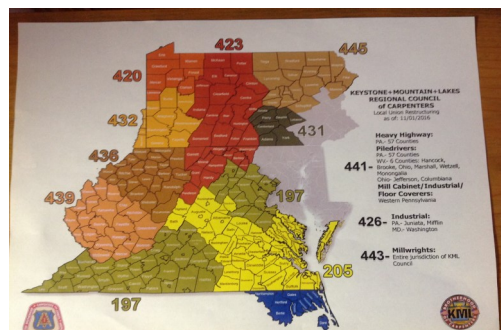
## Carpenters Local 420 Prepares for the Future



Carpenters Local 420 is seeking member to fill the increasing demand for the construction industry services that it offers employers. The \$33.00 per hour rate is for the Pittsburgh area. The rate varies from area to area.



Local 420 apprentices being sworn in at Local 420 July meeting.



The Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenter, of which Carpenters Local 420 is a part, now includes parts of five states and Washington D.C. as a result of recent mergers.

## Council Supports Fair Redistricting Legislation

(Continued from page 1)

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PENNSYLVANIA SENATE BILL 22 AND PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE BILL 722

**WHEREAS**, the Beaver-Lawrence County Labor Council is dedicated to upholding democracy in Beaver and Lawrence Counties and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and;

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania Senate Bill 22 and Pennsylvania House Bill 722 propose an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which will assign redrawing congressional and legislative district boundaries to an independent redistricting commission, prohibit districts from being drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any political party or candidate, mandate strict compliance with constitutional anti-gerrymandering standards, guarantee meaningful opportunities for public input, and limit redistricting to just once during each decennial census cycle, and;

**WHEREAS**, current congressional and legislative redistricting is undertaken by a legislative reapportionment commission, comprised of people who have enormous political and personal interests in the outcome of the commission's work, and;

**WHEREAS**, districts are often redrawn to optimize the probability for incumbents to stay in office and to disadvantage candidates of the opposing party, which diminishes competition and choice during elections, as well as accountability to the voters, and;

**WHEREAS**, only a truly independent commission composed of a politically diverse group of qualified members of the voting public, chosen to assure the fairness of the redistricting process, should be able to define congressional and legislative districts, and;

**WHEREAS**, districts should not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against any political party or candidate, and;

**WHEREAS**, the constitution should define the maximum allowable deviations from the requirements that district populations be equal in population, compact, and contiguous, as well as prohibit unnecessary splitting of political subdivisions and require explanation in detail for any departures from any plan that would achieve the stated standards, and mandate that these rules shall be enforced by the commission and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and;

**WHEREAS**, there must be opportunities for the public to be involved with the commission through comments and public hearings throughout the commonwealth, and;

**WHEREAS**, redistricting should be permitted just once during each decennial census cycle, unless required by a court order;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council believes that our current system of districting has the potential to diminish meaningful choice during elections, diminish the accountability of elected officials to the voters, and jeopardize the democratic process as it leaves districting to partisan legislators instead of a diverse and representative sample of the people of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council calls upon Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to vote for passage of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722 to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to do so in a timely manner so as to enable the amendment to be in full force for the 2021 redistricting of the Commonwealth's congressional and legislative districts.

**PASSED BY VOTE** of the membership of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council at its monthly membership meeting held on July 17, 2017.

**BEAVER-LAWRENCE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL  
RICK GALIANO, PRESIDENT**

# FIRST BUILDING TRADES ARP CLASS GRADUATES

By Larry Nelson  
Labor Council Secretary Treasurer

The first graduating class for the Beaver County Building Trades, Apprenticeship Readiness Program (ARP) was held on June 20th at Communi-

ed the 120 hour construction curriculum designed to help young people and transitioning adults choose and succeed in an apprenticeship program.

Each student received a certificate of completion from the North America Building

Trades Unions and now has the skills needed to apply for an apprenticeship through the 14 union sponsored programs in western Pennsylvania.

The goals of the Building Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Program are

to (1) increase the number of qualified candidates for apprenticeship across all crafts, (2) to increase the diversity of apprenticeship candidates by recruiting women, people of color and veterans, and (3) to increase the retention rate among apprentices by providing them with a deeper understanding of both the industry and the role of craft unions in construction.

The second ARP class is currently underway but if anyone is interested, we are sponsoring a third Apprenticeship Readiness

Class scheduled for Monday-Friday (three weeks) Sept. 11th -29th from 8:00am-4:30pm. Call



Graduates of the first Apprenticeship Readiness Program. Also pictured - Larry Nelson Secretary Treasurer, Beaver County Building Trades, Michael McDonald President, Beaver County Building Trades, Maria Brown, Coordinator, Apprenticeship Readiness Program, Diane Loverich, Program Director, CCBC and Dr. Christopher Reber, President, CCBC.



Chet Thompson, ARP Diversity Instructor

the Coordinator Maria Brown at (412) 735-0851 or email: maria.brown@ccbc.edu.

ty College of Beaver County. 20 students successfully complet-



Biz Mancini, ARP Trade Awareness Instructor



Larry Nelson, Kimberly Washington, Michael McDonald

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



We're on the Web:  
[pa.aflcio.org/349](http://pa.aflcio.org/349)

## Calendar of Events

- 08/21 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council meetings: Ex. Bd. mtg. 6:00 PM, membership mtg. 7:30 PM; PSEA Building, New Castle.
- 09/03, Westmoreland County Labor Day Celebration. See flyer  
09/04 at the end of this issue of the Union Bug for additional information.
- 09/04 Labor Day: Northwest Area Labor Federation Labor Day Parade, 10:00 am (See article on Page 2 of this issue of the UNION BUG. Allegheny County Labor Council Labor Day Parade, Pittsburgh, 10:00 am.
- 09/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council meetings: Ex. Bd. mtg. 6:00 PM, membership mtg. 7:30 PM; IBEW Local 712, Vanport.

## UNION HITCHHIKER

Author Unknown - Submitted by Larry Nelson

Have you ever driven down the road and came upon a hitcher? Most of the time, their thumb is giving a clear message:

"If you furnish the car, the gas, the time and do the driving, I'll ride with you. But if you think I'm going to pitch in for gas, you're out of your mind. By the way, if you have an accident and I'm hurt. I'll sue you for all you got."

We have hitchhikers in our Union too. In one way or another they're saying: "If you supply the protection of a contract, negotiate that contract, protect me at work, get me fair and decent wages, health benefits, and hours of work, I'll ride. But you're crazy if you think I'm going to get involved and help you make this a better place to work. And by the way, if anything happens that irritates me, you'll hear from me"

Think about it - Are you just thumbing a free ride? Or can you do a little more to help us all out?

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at [jkohser@verizon.net](mailto:jkohser@verizon.net), by 6:00 p.m. on September 8th to be considered for publication in the September 2017 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



# LABOR DAY *Celebration!*

**Sunday and Monday  
September 3 and 4, 2017**

**NORTHMORELAND PARK**

**FREE Admission • FREE Parking**

**Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**\$3 All Day Ride Pass**

Access to: Carnival Amusement Rides, Greenfield Farms Petting Zoo, & Horse Drawn Trolley Rides

**Arts and Crafts Show**

**Giant 2-Day Flea Market**

**Food and Refreshments**

**Bingo**

**Pittsburgh Pirate Alumni  
Autograph Session**



Spectacular acts including The Wheel of Destiny and the Raceway in the Sky featuring motorcycles on a high wire!



**Shows both Sunday & Monday!**

**The Good Guys Band.** A Classic Rock 'n Roll Band  
**Sunday, September 3, 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.**



The Westmoreland  
County Board  
of Commissioners

This program is supported by Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), the regional funding partnership of the PA Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding comes through an annual appropriation by the PA General Assembly and from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance



**Elvis Lives!**

A Tribute to The King!

**Sunday, September 3**

11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



**Chuck Blasko  
& The Vogues**

A Labor Day Tradition!

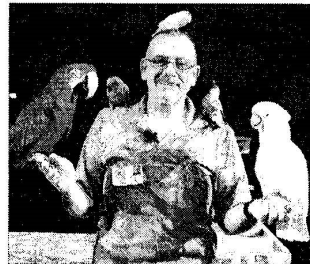
**Monday, September 4**

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



**Penn Trafford Community Band Big Band**

Sounds of Your Favorite Songs! **Sunday, September 3, 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**



Educational and Entertaining!

**Sunday: 12:00 p.m.,**

3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Monday: 11:00 a.m.,**

2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.

**The Shiners**

A unique brew of Country and

Rock 'n Roll...Texas Style!

**Monday, September 4**

11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.



**Dogs and other pets  
are NOT permitted**

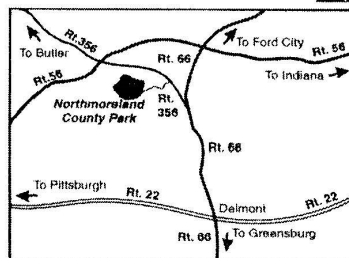
Northmoreland Park is located in Allegheny Township and is accessible via State Route 356 from State Routes 56 & 66.



@WestCoParksRec



WestmorelandParkandRec



[www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks)