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IUPAT 530

Enactment Of Labor Endorsed National Legislation And Defending Veto Of PA HB 1300 Can Prevent Future Attacks On Freedom To Vote

By Rick Galiano, Labor Council President, and Linwood Alford, Labor Council Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice

The U.S. Supreme Court released an opinion on July 1, *Brnovich v. DNC*, that is another major step towards dismantling the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is landmark federal discrimination that banned racial discrimination in voting. It was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the height of the Civil Rights Movement and amended five times to expand its protections.

FL-CIO President Richard Trumka, on the same day, issued the following statement:

“The labor movement has always fought for the freedom to vote without discrimination and without intimidation. Today, that

freedom was once again attacked by a Supreme Court dead set on unraveling democracy at the workplace and the ballot box. Endorsing the efforts of extremist Arizona lawmakers to silence voters’ voices based on the color of their skin is a stain on the highest court in the land. It also makes it that much more difficult to challenge voting laws in the future.

America’s unions are committed to working with our allies to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the For the People Act and the PRO Act to prevent future attacks on our democratic freedoms.”

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved a voting bill, H.B. 1300, on June 22 that was vetoed by Governor Wolf on June 30th. Governor Wolf concluded his veto statement as follows:

“This bill is ultimately not

about improving access to voting or election security, but about restricting the freedom to vote. If adopted, it would threaten to disrupt election administration, undermine faith in government, and invite costly, time-consuming, and destabilizing litigation. Instead of trying to silence the voices of some Pennsylvanians, we should build on the bipartisan achievements of Act 77 of 2019. To that end, I am willing to engage in good faith to refine our shared priorities, and work to find common ground in areas where we do not currently have agreement. I am committed to working sincerely towards legislation that supports voter access and can be passed on a bipartisan basis in the fall.” [Editor’s Note: The full veto statement is attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG.]

In anticipation of

Continued on page 3

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

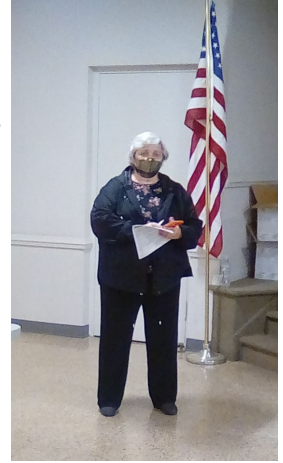
* Regular meetings of the Labor Council Executive Board and Membership were held in June, but no official business was conducted at either meeting because of a lack of a quorum. A quorum for the transaction of the business of the Executive Board consists of a majority of its seventeen members. A quorum for the transaction of business at membership meetings consists of fifteen delegates representing six different organizations. It is important that quorums be achieved at the July Executive Board and Membership meetings so that important decisions can be made. Among the decisions that must be made is whether



Labor Council Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice Linwood Alford reporting at June Labor Council meeting on national and state efforts protect the right to vote.

to schedule a COPE banquet in October and a Human Rights banquet next spring.

* Thank you to NWALF Director Rosann Barker for attending our June meetings. Rosann reported on the nationwide effort to win passage of the PRO Act in the U.S. Senate. The House of Representatives has already approved the Act and President Biden has stated that he is ready to sign it. Roseann passed out post cards addressed to Pennsylvania Senators Casey and Toomey urging them to vote for passage. Please contact Rosann if you would like to receive post cards to distribute to your local union member and friends.



NWPaALF Director Rosann Barker reporting at June Labor Council meeting on efforts to pass the PRO Act. Rosann also reported that the annual meeting of the NWPaALF would be held on June 30th and that the annual NWPaALF parade in Erie will be canceled this year.

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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.

Scholarship Winners Announced

By Sara Dudash
Labor Council Scholarship
Committee Chairperson

The 2021 winners of the two college scholarship essay contests sponsored by the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council are Nicole Croushore and Roman Rennebeck. Nicole resides in Smithton and is a graduate of Yough High School. Roman resides in Ross Township and is a graduate of North Hills High School. Both will attend Penn State University. Renee has been awarded the Beaver-Lawrence CLC Scholarship for her essay response to the topic: What is the AFL-CIO and What do they do? Roman has been awarded the Donald

McNutt Memorial Scholarship his essay response to the topic: What impact does buying "American-Made Union Made" products have on our economy? The amount of each scholarship is \$1,000.

The two scholarship contests are held annually. IBEW Local 29 has made this year's awards possible by a \$2,000 donation. Thank you to IBEW Local 29 for its donation.

In Brief



James S. Frederick receiving Defender of Democracy Award from Beaver County Democratic Committee Chairperson Terri Mitko. Jim provided technical and policy guidance to the USW and other unions on matters pertaining to occupational health, safety, and the environment for many years. He oversaw more than 200 investigations of catastrophic incidents at USW facilities. He was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for OSHA by President Biden at the beginning of this year.

Veto Of PA HB 1300

Continued from page 1

efforts to restrict the freedom to vote after the 2020 general election, the President's Report appearing in the February 2021 issue of the UNION BUG stated:

"... Our Labor Council was in the forefront of the fight in 2012 to defeat the Voter ID Law that was signed by then Governor Corbett on March 12, 2012. Our members contacted several of our local legislators. We met with Senator Elder Vogel and walked an informational picket line in front of his office. We travelled by bus to the rally urging the General Assembly to vote against the bills proposing the law. The rally was held on the steps of the state capital building in Harrisburg and

featured Rev. William Barber, who would be the keynote speaker at our 2014 Human Rights Dinner. We continued to oppose the law after it was enacted and until it was permanently blocked by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in 2014. The state's attorneys stipulated in the proceedings that they had no evidence of even a single case of voter fraud in Pennsylvania."

H.B. 1300 is an effort to revive the Commonwealth Court blocked 2012 Voter ID law. Governor Wolf's veto of H.B. 1300 will not end the efforts to restrict the freedom to vote. H.B. 1300 proponents are now calling for a statewide referendum asking vot-

er to approve the key terms of the bill.

As the Labor Council's President and Director of Civil Rights and Economic Development, we urge our Labor Council to again take a leading role in defending the right to vote. We must work locally with our allies to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the For the People Act, the PRO Act and to defeat efforts to revive the provisions of the blocked 2012 Voter ID law.

The improvements in wages and working conditions that our Labor Movement has won for working Americans cannot be maintained when the freedom to vote is restricted.

Solidarity Calendar

* The USW has reached a tentative agreement with Allegheny Technologies, Inc. to settle the strike of approximately 1300 USW working at nine ATI plants. The strike began on March 30th and continues pending a ratification vote. In a statement issued by the USW to the PRNews-wire on July 2nd, USW International Vice President (Administration) David McCall, who chairs negotiations with ATI, stated: "The unity of USW members at ATI has proven that we can accomplish great things when we stand together to fight for the respect and dignity of a fair contract. Despite management's repeated attempts to divide and conquer its workers, we showed once again that our solidarity is a tremendously powerful force."

* The May 21st issue of the Pa. AFL-CIO's "The Workers' Week in PA" includes a request from the United Mine Workers of America for donations to a Strike Aid Fund in support of the UMWA members on strike against Warrior Met Coal in Alabama. Donation checks should be made payable to the "UMWA 2021 Strike Aid Fund" and mailed to UMWA 2021 Strike Aid Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22926.

* The strike of UAW Local 1311 members at Langeloth Metallurgical Company in Langeloth (near Burgettstown, Washington County) continues. Local 1311

has been on strike since September 9, 2019.

* SEIU Healthcare PA members employed by Beaver Valley Healthcare and Rehab Center rallied on May 25th in support of nursing home residents



Greater Westmoreland County CLC President Walter Geiger (left) with striking USW members and friends at Latrobe ATI plant on June 21st. The Greater Westmoreland County CLC included a trip to the Latrobe picket line as part of its June meeting.

and caregivers. The rally was part of SEIU Healthcare PA's continuing effort to strengthen Pennsylvania long-term care regulations and to obtain fair contracts for its approximately 4,500 members at more than 80 nursing home across the state whose contracts will expire this year.

The rally was the second held by SEIU in Beaver County this year in support of nursing home residents and caregivers. The first rally was held on March 26th on the front steps of the Beaver County Courthouse. In June, 800 SEIU Healthcare PA represented nurses, nurses' aides and other caregiver positions working in 12 nursing homes throughout

Pennsylvania voted to authorized strikes at their places of employment. Union members employed by two Beaver County nursing homes, Beaver Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center and Beaver Elder Care, voted to authorize strikes. In an article posted on the SEIU Healthcare PA website on June 24, SEIU Healthcare PA President Matthew Yarnell stated: "With over 13,000 nursing home residents lost to this pandemic, the public needs to know that not only will COVID relief money be used for nursing home care, but that money will actually get where it's supposed to go – for more staffing, and to the bedside to protect residents."

The article also stated that: "The votes authorize each nursing home's negotiation committee (the group of workers who sits down at the bargaining table to negotiate the union contract with management) to issue a 10-day strike notice at any time. 10-day notices are legally required for healthcare worker strikes."

* USW Local 10-74 members working at Styropek plant (formerly Nova Chemicals) in Potter Township, Beaver County, rallied in front of the plant on June 3rd in support of a fair contract. Contract negotiations between Styropek and Local 10-74 are continuing.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 07/15 Last day to submit applications for Building Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Program (designed to prepare interested young people and transitioning adults to enter and succeed in registered Building Trades apprenticeship programs). See June issue of UNION BUG for application.
- 07/19 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings: Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 08/12 Southwestern PA CLUW Chapter meeting – 6:00 via ZOOM platform. Email cluwsdpa@gmail.com to register.
- 08/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings: Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 08/27-29 Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Community Services & COPE Institute: Wyndham Grand Hotel, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. See attached flyer for registration form and additional information.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on August 10th to be considered for publication in the August 2021 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

June 30, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869.

Pennsylvania had a free, fair, and secure election in November 2020 with record turnout, in which people embraced mail-in voting, and the results have been confirmed by two statewide audits. These results are a testament to the robustness of our existing election system, but also the many hard working local officials who conduct our elections in an earnest and transparent way. While the bill includes some potential areas of improvement—such as giving counties more time to pre-canvass, increasing poll worker pay, and expanding the use of electronic poll books—the legislation is incurably riddled with unacceptable barriers to voting, including:

- Imposing additional voter identification restrictions similar to those already found unconstitutional by Pennsylvania courts;
- Limiting mail-in voting by creating excessive and burdensome requirements;
- Requiring an arbitrary signature match for mail-in ballots without a thorough system to cure; and
- Eliminating the use of ballot drop boxes by creating onerous requirements on ballot delivery locations with which counties will be unable to comply.

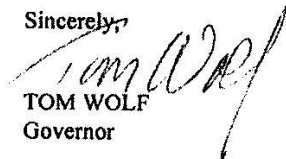
The legislation also rolls back significant bipartisan improvements made in Act 77 of 2019, the landmark election reform enacted last session, by:

- Reducing the number of days to register to vote by moving the deadline back to 30 days before an election, which would be among the most restrictive deadlines in the nation;
- Eliminating the convenient annual option to be sent a mail-in ballot for each election; and
- Eliminating the option to go to a county election office and apply for and receive a mail-in ballot in the same visit.

This bill is ultimately not about improving access to voting or election security, but about restricting the freedom to vote. If adopted, it would threaten to disrupt election administration, undermine faith in government, and invite costly, time-consuming, and destabilizing litigation. Instead of trying to silence the voices of some Pennsylvanians, we should build on the bipartisan achievements of Act 77 of 2019. To that end, I am willing to engage in good faith to refine our shared priorities, and work to find common ground in areas where we do not currently have agreement. I am committed to working sincerely towards legislation that supports voter access and can be passed on a bipartisan basis in the fall.

Until that time, for the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor

2021 AGENDA

COPE INSTITUTE

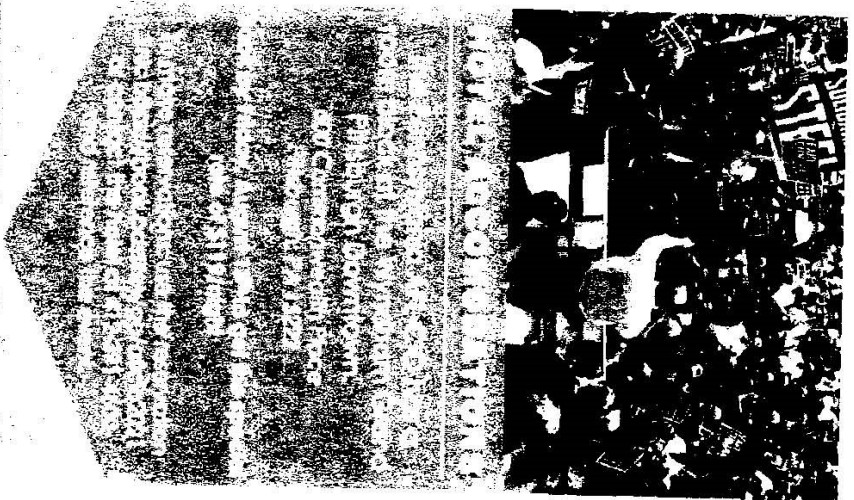
Coming off of Labor 2020, this year we will focus on how to build durable power for Labor through making inroads with local government and ELECTING UNION MEMBERS:

- Campaign Finance Rules & Regulations
- Running for Office - Path to Power
- Working with Local Elected Offices
- Creating a Candidate Pipeline
- How Judicial Elections Impact Unions
- Early Planning for 2022
- Best Practices for Labor Program
- New Digital Tools for Outreach
- Organizing New workers

COMMUNITY SERVICES INSTITUTE

Work Shops will include topics such as:

- Racial Justice: how do we make sure the recovery includes everyone? How can community services help?
- Mental Health and COVID: substance abuse, suicide, overdoes all saw an increase this past year. How do we help those who are struggling with mental illness? What are the signs that you or a loved one needs help?
- Workers Economics: During the heat of the shutdowns essential workers provided critical services but many of them are living paycheck to paycheck. Why is that? And what can we do about it?



For more information contact:

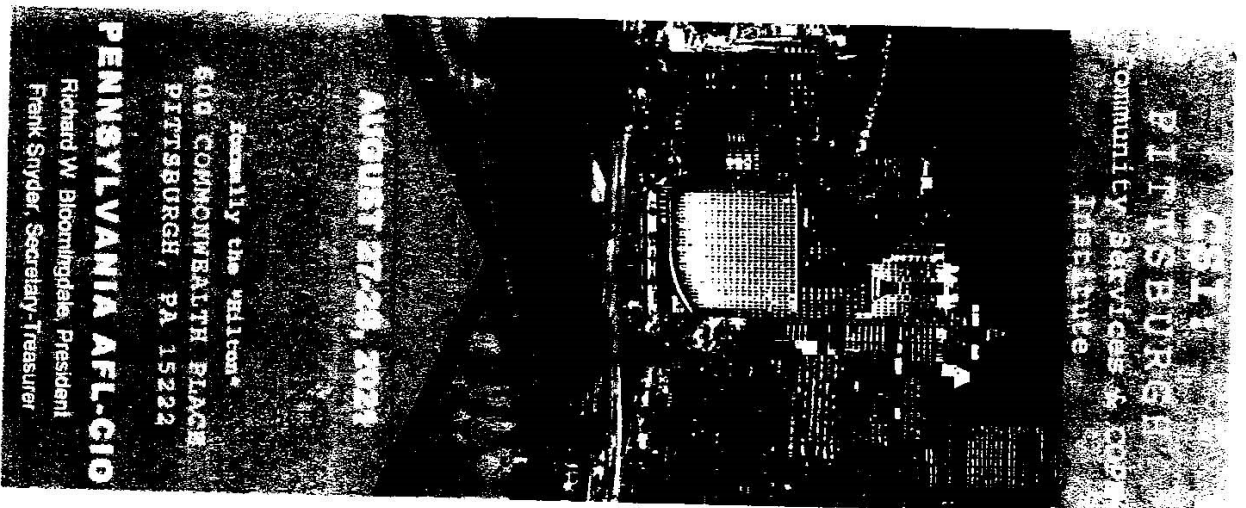
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2021
PITTSBURGH
Community Services & CPE
Institute

AUGUST 27-28, 2021

Essentially the Hilton
400 COMMONWEALTH BLVD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

Richard W. Bloomington, President
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer



Pennsylvania AFL-CIO COPE Institute

The Committee on Political Education is a longstanding program of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. Its mission remains the faithful education, training, and mobilization of union members on current political and policy issues.

COPE Institute attendees learn the skills, information, and tactics necessary to conduct strong member to member engagement in local unions across Pennsylvania.



The Community Services Institute helps develop leadership skills by educating our members and empowering them to become active in their communities. We provide AFL-CIO Community Services and Inmate Connections.

COPE Institute attendees learn the skills, information, and tactics necessary to conduct strong member to member engagement in local unions across Pennsylvania.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Establish & strengthen your community service committee within your local union or CLC.
2. Develop skills to conduct meaningful labor-based community services events in communities and effectively build community partnerships
3. Understand how politics affect your community and your life

Registration Form

Please submit by Friday, July 30th

Please complete this form for each attendee. Mail completed forms and registration fees, with checks made payable to:

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO COPE
Attn: Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer
600 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Please make checks payable to PA AFL-CIO

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email
Union / Organization
Title
Are you registering for the Community Services or COPE Institute?

