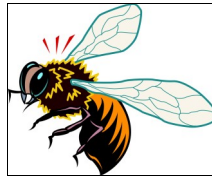


UNION



BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2017

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State AFL-CIO Executive Council Passes Resolution Calling for Return to CLC-Focused State Structure

By Dan Onuska
Labor Council Executive Vice-President

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council has passed a resolution calling for a Central Labor Council focused state structure. The meeting was held on September 28th in Harrisburg. All Pennsylvania Central Labor Council presidents were invited to attend the meeting. I attended the meeting as the designee of Labor Council President Rick Galiano. The resolution reads as follows:

“We propose that we present the National AFL-CIO a return to a CLC-focused state structure to successfully meet all of the needs, challenges and opportunities of today’s unions. To be

the most effective through our communities in electoral legislative, organizing and public relations campaigns requires a more localized configuration. To accomplish this, will require the abolition of

accountability. In order to fiscally support said structure, we also propose that we implement a unified per capital system.”

After much discussion, a vote on the resolution was conducted and the resolution was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Passage of the resolution is only the first step towards the restructuring proposed by the resolution. More meetings at the state and national levels will be held and must be approved at each level.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO stands strong for working men and women throughout our state – change is sometimes needed to accomplish this task.



PA AFL-CIO President Richard Bloomingdale addressing the attendees at the September 28th meeting in Harrisburg. Seated to his right is Pa. AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder.

the area labor federations, while returning to a central labor council composition with a clear strategy and system of

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

* The nomination and election of Labor Council officers will be held at the November and December Labor Council meetings. Nominations will be made at the November meeting and elections will be held at the December meeting. The November meeting will be held at the PSEA building in New Castle and the December meet-

ing will be held at the IBEW Local 712 Hall in Vanport. Please see the Page 1 article in the October UNION BUG for details.

*Beaver County Prothonotary Nancy Werme sponsored the food and refreshments at the October Labor Council meeting. Nancy is a former Labor Council delegate. UFCW Local 23 will sponsor the food and refreshments at the November meeting.

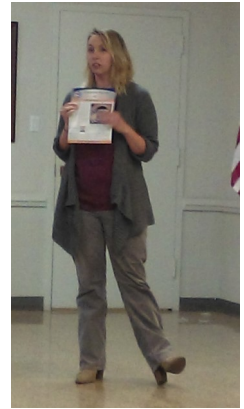


Left: Amy Fazio, candidate for the Democratic nomination for the 14th Pa. House seat presently held by Jim Marshall, addressing Council at October meeting. Amy is the founder and president of Fazio and Associates, which has been advancing the missions of non-profits and small businesses for more than 20 years.



Left: Joe Mc Gurk, candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Pa. House 10th District seat, addressing October Council meeting. The seat is presently held by Jim Christiana. Joe lives in Beaver Falls and sells medical insurance.

Right: Pa. AFL-CIO staff representative Samantha Shumaker discussing the Fall issue of Pa. AFL-CIO News and Views newsletter at October Council meeting. The issue includes an update on the Jake Schwab Worker Safety Bill (HB 1082) which supports efforts to establish OSHA standards of occupational safety protection for public sector workers (see flyer at end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional details.)



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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.

Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart
Community Services Chairman

The Beaver County NAACP held their 20th Human Rights Banquet at the FEZ on November 4th. As usual, it was an outstanding event. There were approximately 350 attendees, representing organizations such as local labor unions, the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, church groups, the 12th CD Chapter of the Progressive Democrats and Peace Links. Many politicians and candidates for political office also attended.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn, President of the Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference, was impressive. She talked about ine-

quality, and without mentioning names, how it is causing a growing anger against some ultra-right wing groups as we have seen on Social Media. She also spoke about all the gerrymandering that the majority party is doing to assure that they can stay elected. Basically, in many cases, gerrymandering makes your vote not count.

Several awards and

scholarships were presented at the banquet. One of Labor's own, Vanessa Ford-Taylor, received the Community Services award. Vanessa is a member of IBEW Local 201. She has organized and been involved in many events that help members of the community who are in need. She founded a domestic violence awareness group to help others in domestic violence situations.

Thank you Vanessa for all that you do.

Thank you Willie Sallis, Mtume Imani and all of the others that put together this outstanding banquet.

Please visit our Facebook site, [moralmonday-spennsylvania](https://www.facebook.com/moralmonday-spennsylvania). If you know anybody who would like to subscribe to the Union Bug, you can call me, 724-312-4387, or e-mail me benkart-house100@comcast.net.



(L-R) Robert Jones, Beaver County NAACP Executive Committee member; keynote speaker Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn; and Mark Benkart, Labor Council Vice-President, at Beaver County NAACP Banquet.

2017 AFL-CIO Convention Supports Medicare For All

By Jan Carpenter
Labor Council Health Care
Committee Chairperson

*Submitted by the
Executive Council*

The AFL-CIO Convention held in St Louis, Missouri, October 22-25, 2017, made history by passing a resolution in support of Legislation that Guarantees healthcare as a human right through an improved Medicare for all. It was submitted by the Executive Board on October 24, 2017. Below are some of the resolution's highlights:

The United States is at a health care crossroads. We either move forward toward making health care a basic right for everyone, or fall backward, with coverage and care increasingly out of reach as politicians actively take it away, employers cut back and higher prices make it ever harder to afford.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION | HEALTH CARE

Resolution 6: Making Health Care For All A Reality

October 24, 2017

Making Health Care a Right

Having the health care we need, no matter who we are and regardless of our circumstances in life, is fundamental to our well-being as individuals and as a nation. That is why the American

(Continued on page ??)

AFL-CIO Supports Medicare For All

(Continued from page 3)

labor movement has fought for more than a century to make quality health care a basic right in the United States. Our longstanding goal for achieving this is to move expeditiously toward a single-payer system, like Medicare for All, that provides universal coverage using a social insurance model, while retaining a role for workers' health plans. Any such system must guarantee everyone can get the health services they need without exclusions or financial barriers to care, and with access to high-quality doctors, hospitals and other health care providers; not diminish the hard-fought benefits union members have won for themselves and all working people; include long-term care for all; retain the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system as the primary direct provider of fully integrated care to veterans; provide multiemployer and other worker health plans the opportunity to administer core health benefits and to provide supplemental benefits, each on a fully tax-advantaged basis; and keep a strong federal role without shifting costs to states.

We will support legislation that guarantees health care as a human right through an improved Medicare for All, which we will judge according to our core values. We look forward to working with the sponsors of single-payer plans to ensure the needs and concerns of working people and their unions are met.

To transition to an improved Medicare for all system, we should begin taking steps toward creating a single-payer sys-

tem by lowering Medicare's eligibility age from 65 to at least 55. This would extend health care provided on a single-payer basis to millions more Americans. Further, this could help preserve coverage for pre-65 retirees, whose current health benefits earned through work are increasingly at risk. We also should create a public health insurance option that builds on Medicare or Medicaid as an alternative to for-profit insurance companies.

We must take steps to control health care prices, which are now a serious threat to all Americans' health care. To address the unchecked growth in pharmaceutical prices, we must empower the federal government to engage in binding arbitration with drug manufacturers on behalf of Medicare and all other payers when these corporations demand unreasonable prices; allow the government to reduce prices when taxpayers have helped fund the development of a drug; and curb corporate abuse of monopoly rights. Trade agreements that expand monopoly rights for drug companies should be rejected, and public investment in the development of new drug therapies should be leveraged to ensure medicines can be obtained for a fair price.

Addressing inequities in health care means everyone should be protected against discrimination in all federally funded, supported and conducted health programs and activities. This includes protections against discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, disability and age, including discrimination on the basis of gender identity or

sex stereotypes.

These protections are threatened, however, by proposals to repeal and replace the ACA. Plans pushed by President Trump and Republican leaders would let states and insurers discriminate by excluding certain health services from the covered essential health benefits, like maternity care, and charge more to those who need those services. These plans also would impose an age tax on older Americans, letting insurers charge them premiums as much as five times more than younger adults. Proposals to limit existing regulations under the ACA's nondiscrimination provision also threaten critical protections for LGBTQ individuals.

Women should have quality health care and the right to control their own bodies, including equal access to contraception, regardless of where they work. The Trump administration plans to gut the requirement that employers provide contraceptive coverage at no cost, allowing any employer or insurance company—whether a church, a nonprofit related to a church, or a for-profit corporation—that has any moral or religious objection to choose not to cover contraceptive services. We will fight efforts to roll back these protections and work unceasingly to build a society that promotes health and well-being for all.

We cannot take a health care timeout. Either we move forward to make health care better for everyone, or we will be pulled backward into a world in which

(Continued on page 9)

Single-payer health care - its time has come

Editors Note: The following is an excerpt from an Op Ed written by Mark Dimondstein, President of the American Postal Workers Union, and distributed by Unions for Single Payer Health Care.

Recently, President Donald Trump warned Republican senators that they must do something or be confronted with the dangers of "single-payer health care". But, single-payer shouldn't be the boogeyman -- its time has come.

As a postal worker and now president of the American Postal Workers Union, I've had many occasions to meet with Canadian postal workers. The lives and dreams of postal workers just across Lake Erie are similar to workers in Northeast Ohio and other parts of the United States. One huge difference stands out - Canadian health care. Canadians never worry about being denied access to medical care. Unlike in the United States, no one is forced to choose between food and medicine. A major illness won't drive them to bankruptcy or out of their homes.

Imagine how much less stressful our lives would be without co-pays, deductibles, billing for services, lifetime limits or huge insurance premiums. According to University of Massachusetts Economics Professor Gerald Friedman, 95 percent of U.S. households would save money under a single-payer plan.

It is striking that the Canadian success is rarely discussed in the current health care debate. The leadership of both major political parties treat health

care as a privilege rather than a human right. The profits of the medical industrial complex sadly take center stage over the people's interests.

Most of the Democratic Party leadership is wedded to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While some measures of the ACA should be preserved, such as coverage for the 153 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, the law has failed. It is not affordable. It contains no public option, does nothing to lower pharmaceutical prices, is a boon to the insurance companies and still leaves tens of millions uninsured and millions more with inferior insurance plans.

The failed legislation promoted by the Republican leadership is far worse. The GOP plans would gut Medicaid (used by one in five Americans and two-thirds of nursing home patients). Their plans would drive 22 million people from health insurance rolls, according to the Congressional Budget Office; incentivize employers to eliminate health coverage; limit coverage for pre-existing conditions; and drastically raise medical costs for seniors - all while giving billions in tax breaks to the wealthiest.

Most workers our union represents have employer-based health insurance. Every year we are paying more and receiving fewer benefits. A postal employee typically pays \$6,000 a year for their share of family plan premiums - plus co-pays, deductibles and co-insurance. A "Canadian style" system would offer financial relief, even to those currently insured.

Donald Trump was right back in 2000 [when he said](#): "We

must have universal health care. Just imagine the improved quality of life for our society as a whole....The Canadian-style, single-payer system... helps Canadians live longer and healthier than Americans.... There are fewer medical lawsuits, less loss of labor to sickness, and lower costs to companies paying for the medical care of their employees."

According to the most recent figures, the United States spends 17.8 percent of GDP on health care -- more per capita than any other country. More than 25 percent of health care expenses are administrative - money diverted to needless insurance industry overhead and profits. (Twice that of Canada.) U.S. citizens average \$9,000 a year in health-related costs. Yet, health outcomes are dismal. The United States ranks 34th in life expectancy. (Canada ranks 13.) A 2017 study by the Commonwealth Fund, found that the U.S. ranks last of the 11 most "developed" countries in health care quality, access, results and efficiency.

The ACA should be replaced with a better system. The recent debate between bad ("Obamacare") and worse ("Trumpcare") fails to meet the health care needs of the 99 percent. Let's learn from our neighbor and demand single-payer universal health coverage - "Medicare for All!" It is a proven, simple, cost-effective, and just way to heal what ails us. *Mark Dimondstein is president of the 200,000-member American Postal Workers Union and a vice president of the AFL-CIO.*

Union Label

Editors Note: The following is a reprint of a publication of the Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO.



The 10 days following Thanksgiving are designated by the AFL-CIO as “Buy Union” week to encourage all union members to look for union-made goods and services when they buy for the Holiday Season. When you buy union, you’re supporting good jobs in American communities, jobs that provide living wages and benefits, safe working conditions and dignity and respect for work.

Holiday shopping traditionally kicks off on “Black Friday” — designated as such because it’s the timeframe when many retailers move from red ink to black on their balance sheets. Shoppers will find plenty of “bargains,” but union family shoppers will want to look beyond foreign-made electronics, trendy toys and gadgets to find enduring goods that are union made, or perhaps gift cards for union-productions, such as movies or sporting events, or union made food stuff — there are still many union-made candies, baked goods, spirits and specialty items.

Check out the Union Label Department’s new app, available for both Apple and Android devices, for holiday gift ideas.

- 1845 Pils (IBT)
- Alexander Keiths (IAM)
- Anheuser-Busch (IBT/IAM)
- Axehead (IBT)
- Bass Ale (IAM)
- Beck’s (IAM)
- Black Eye (IBT)
- Blue Heron Pale Ale (IBT)
- Blue Moon (IUOE/IBT)
- Boxer Ice, Lager and Light (IBT)
- Budweiser (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Burger (IUE-CWA)
- Busch (IAM/IBT)
- Butte Creek (organic) (IBT)
- Camo (IUE-CWA)
- Carmel Wheat Beer (IBT)
- Clear Creek Ice (IBT)
- Coors (IBT)
- Czechvar (IAM)
- Double Dread Imperial Red Ale (IAM)
- Dundee (IBT)
- Duquesne (IUE-CWA)
- Earthquake (IUE-CWA)
- Eye of the Hawk Select Ale (IBT)
- Select Ale (IBT)
- Flor de Jamaica (IAM)
- Genesee (IBT)
- Goose Island (IBT)
- Grain Belt Premium (Schell’s) (USW)
- Green Valley Brewing Company (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Hamm’s (UAW/IAM)
- Henry Weinhards (IUOE/IBT)
- Hoegaarden (IAM)
- Honey Amber Rose (IBT)
- Huber (IBT)
- Hudy (IUE-CWA)
- Humboldt Haze Imperial What IPA (IAM)
- Hurricane (IUOE/IBT)
- Icehouse (UAW/IAM)
- Iron City (IUE-CWA)
- Jamaica Red Ale (IAM)
- John Barleycorn Barleywine (IAM)
- Johnny Appleseed (IUOE/IBT)
- Keystone Light (IAM/IUOE)
- Killians (IUOE/IBT)
- King Cobra (IUOE/IBT)
- Kingfisher Premium Lager (IBT)
- Kirin (IAM)
- Labatt’s Blue (IUOE)
- Landshark Lager (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Latrobe (IUE-CWA)
- Lazy Mutt Farmhouse Ale (IBT)
- Lefe Blond (IAM)
- Leinenkugel’s (UAW/IUOE/IBT)
- Lionshead (IUOE)
- Mad River (IAM)
- Mendocino (IBT)
- MGD 64 (UAW/IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Michelob (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Mickey’s (IUOE/IBT)
- Miller (UAW/IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Miller Lite (UAW/IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Milwaukee (IUE-CWA)
- Minhas Oktoberfest (IBT)
- Molson (IUOE/IBT)
- Moosehead (IBT)
- Mountain Crest Classic Lager (IBT)
- Natural (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- O’Doul’s (non alcoholic) (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- Old German (IUE-CWA)
- Olde English 800 (IUOE/IBT)
- Pabst (UAW)
- Pennsylvania Style (IUE-CWA)
- Peregrine Pilsner (IBT)
- Perfect 10 (IBT)
- Raptor Red Lager (IBT)
- Red Dog (UAW/IUOE)
- Red Stripe (IUE-CWA)
- Red Tail Ale (IBT)
- Rolling Rock (IAM)
- Saranac (IBT)
- Schell’s (USW)
- Schlitz (UAW)
- Serious Madness Black Ale (IAM)
- Sharp’s (non alcoholic) (UAW/IAM)
- Shock Top (IAM/IUOE/IBT)
- SouthPaw Light (IUOE)
- Sparks Malt (IUOE/IBT)
- Staropramen (IAM)
- Steel Reserve (IUOE/IBT)
- Steelhead (IAM)
- Stegmaier (IUOE)
- Stella Artois (IAM)
- Stoney’s (IUE-CWA)
- Swiss Amber (IBT)
- Talon Extra Select Double IPA (IBT)
- Third Shift (MillerCoors) (IBT)
- Thunderbolt (IBT)
- Tilt (IUOE/IBT)
- White Hawk Select IPA (IBT)

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 11/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; PSEA Bldg., New Castle.
Reminder: Nominations for Labor Council officers will be made at the November Labor Council meeting and the election of officers will be held at the December Labor Council meeting.
See Page 1 article in October UNION BUG for additional details.
- 12/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712, Vanport.
- 01/15 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712, Vanport.

AFL-CIO Supports Medicare for All

(Continued from page

health coverage, access to health care and health itself become increasingly unfair and unjust. We have a real opportunity to achieve the labor movement's historic demand for health care as a basic human right. To achieve that, we will engage with all affiliate bodies and constituency groups to fight to strengthen worker plans,

take on excessive prices, improve health equity, defend Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA, tackle the opioid epidemic, and win Medicare for All.

The entire resolution can be found at aflcio2017.org.

The most current updates for the Universal, Single Payer Congressional

Bills are:

In the US House of Representatives, Rep. John

Conyers (D-MI) has introduced HR676, **Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act**, into every session of Congress since 2003. The bill currently has 120 Cosponsors.

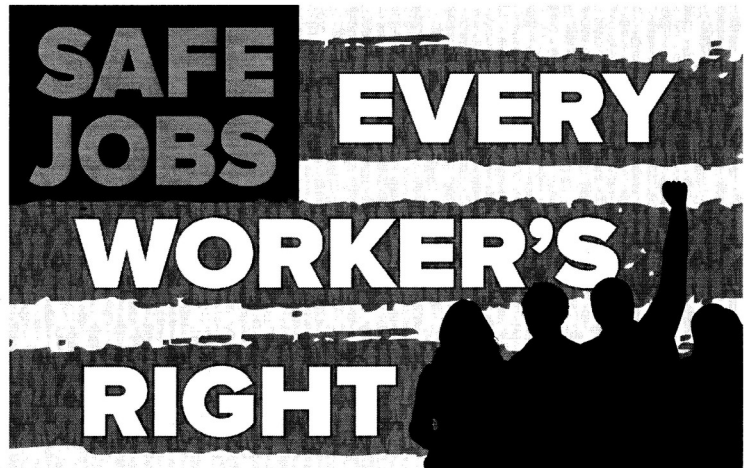
In the US Senate, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced S.1804, **Medicare for All Act of 2017** into the 115th Congress on September 13, 2017. The bill currently has 16 Cosponsors.

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

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

SUPPORT HB 1082

THE JAKE SCHWAB WORKER'S SAFETY BILL



Every worker has the right to a safe and healthy workplace.

The Jake Schwab Worker's Safety Bill is about equal treatment and protection for ALL workers. A truck driver for your local trash company is protected by the provisions of OSHA, while a truck driver for a nearby municipality (doing the same job) is not. It's time to protect all workers.

**CALL YOUR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TO SUPPORT THE BILL!**



To find your Representative go to: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>
For more information, visit the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO at www.paafcio.org



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM LABOR COUNCIL



PENNSYLVANIA'S MIDDLE CLASS!

Out-of-state corporate interests and their allies want to weaken the middle class by singling out unions and denying our voice on the job. Their proposals will silence your voice as well as teachers, firefighters, nurses, police officers and many other working Pennsylvanians.

Working Pennsylvanians and our unions already are working to solve real problems, such as the need to create jobs, repair roads, improve schools and keep our families safe and healthy. Our state legislators need to focus on the real issues important to middle-class Pennsylvanians, not political attacks on working people.



For more information visit www.aflcio.org.



“RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG!”

DON'T TRUST IT.

If Right to Work is Wrong comes to Pennsylvania, it will hurt us all. It's getting worse and worse for people living in RTWIW states. Here are the facts:

WAGES AND INCOMES
\$681/mo. ↓

LOWER WAGES AND INCOMES

Median household incomes are \$681 less per month in RTWIW states.
Source: US Census Bureau

More jobs are in low-wage occupations in RTWIW states.
Source: CFED (Corporation for Enterprise Development) Asset and Opportunity Scorecard

**HEALTH INSURANCE
COVERAGE** ↓

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

If you live and work in a RTWIW state, you are more likely to be uninsured. More children are uninsured in RTWIW states.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

**POVERTY AND INFANT
MORTALITY RATES**
12.4% ↑
infant mortality rate

HIGHER POVERTY AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

The poverty rates in RTWIW states are higher and more children live in poverty in RTWIW states.
Source: US Census Bureau

The infant mortality rate is 12.4 percent higher in RTWIW states.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

**EDUCATION
FUNDING** ↓
1/3 less

REDUCED EDUCATION FUNDING

RTWIW states spend 32.5% less per student on primary and secondary education. That means for every \$3 spent on education in Pennsylvania, \$2 are spent in RTWIW states.
Source: NEA

DEATH RATES ON THE JOB

49% ↑

HIGHER DEATH RATES ON THE JOB

The rate of workplace deaths is 49 percent higher in states with RTWIW according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

TEXT | WRONG4PA TO 235-246

Updated as of 2/14/2017

