

UNION



BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2019

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PA AFL-CIO Celebrates Electoral Victory With Statewide and Local Wins

Statement issued November 6, 2019 by Pennsylvania AFL-CIO (HARRISBURG) – All elections matter. While so many pundits and papers focus on the 2020 election cycle, thousands of local and statewide officials were elected to office across Pennsylvania Tuesday. Labor-endorsed candidates, including hundreds of union members, won offices up and down the ballot, like Frank Snyder, the newly elected Auditor of Carroll Township in York County. Once results become official, we intend to publish a full list of union members who were elected to public office.

The officers of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO representing more than 700,000 union members, President Rick Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder, made the following comments:

“We congratulate Judge Dan McCaffrey on his successful election to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Additionally, we

commend Amanda Green-Hawkins, on her hard-fought campaign. Amanda ran a clean and professional campaign but was faced with last-minute attacks by the deep-pocketed, ultra-conservative group Commonwealth Partners. We ask, was Commonwealth Partners more frightened by a union member serving as a judge, or a person of color on the Superior Court?

“Pennsylvanians have the right to make their voices heard through the ability to elect trial and appellate court judges, and today these hard-working men and women have chosen a union-endorsed candidate who will represent their values on the bench. Judge McCaffrey is just that person,” remarked President Rick Bloomingdale.

“We are proud of the thousand-plus union members that ran for state and local offices in communities across our Commonwealth. There is no better way to ensure that working people are

represented than through the election of card-carrying union members. It’s not enough to elect supporters of workers’ rights, we must elect champions of workers’ rights. Today, we did just that,” replied Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder.

[Editor’s Note:

Two union members endorsed by the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, Mike Rossi and Dan Onuska, were elected as Beaver County Prothonotary and as a Midland Borough Councilperson on November 5th. Mike is a CWA member and Dan is a member of IBEW Local 29 and the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council’s executive vice president. Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council endorsed candidates for Common Pleas Judge, County Commissioner, Clerk of Courts, and Register of Wills were elected. The Labor Council’s endorsed candidates for District Attorney, Recorder of Deeds, Sheriff and Treasurer were defeated.]

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

* Please remember that nominations for two-year Labor Council Executive Board positions will be opened at the Labor Council November membership meeting. The election will be held at the December membership meeting. Nominations may be reopened at any time prior to the election by a majority vote.

* December 1st marks the first anniversary of the passing of IBEW International President Emeritus Ed Hill. The Labor Council maintains its office and holds its meetings in the building named for President Hill to honor his lifelong commitment to the Labor Movement: the IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex.



Remembering Ed Hill on the first anniversary (Dec. 1st) of his passing.

* The NWPA ALF is asking organized labor, union friends and community groups to adopt a resolution supporting Public Sector OSHA in Pennsylvania. Please print the resolution appearing at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG and ask your local union to adopt it at your next membership meeting.

* Labor Council Vice-President Kerri Theuerl, a SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania administrative organizer, has begun transitioning from servicing hospital workers to servicing state employees, including workers in the Department of Corrections and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Kerri's efforts

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P.O. Box A, Beaver, PA 15009

Editor - Victor Colonna
v.colonna@comcast.net

Asst. Editor - Steven Kocherzat
steven6700@comcast.net

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.

Labor Council Adopts Resolution Asking State to Keep Polk and White Haven Care Facilities Open

By Jody Kohser
Labor Council Trustee,
SEIU Local 668 Business Agent

The Labor Council has adopted a resolution asking the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to keep the Polk Center and White Haven Center open. Polk and White Haven are residential centers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

There are 744 employees at Polk and 429 at White Haven. SEIU Local 668, SEIU Healthcare Pa, AFSCME, OPEIU and PDA have members working at the facilities.

Below is a statement issued by SEIU Local 668 after the Department of Human Services announced on August 14th of its intent to begin closing the facilities. The statement provides information on what you can do to

help keep the facilities open.

"We, as an organization, were blindsided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' short-sighted decision to close both the Polk Center and the White Haven Center. Both of these intermediate care facilities provide around-the-clock care for residents with intellectual disabilities. They ensure that residents have 24-hour access to supportive living, medical care, and developmental activities, and, more importantly, ensure that residents have a safe, comfortable home. These centers also provide an option to families whose loved ones may be best-supported in a residential setting, rather than a community-based setting. After all, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to healthcare and human services."

Often, residents will

spend years at these facilities, forming close bonds with their fellow residents as well as their daily caregivers. These bonds are vital to residents attaining more positive healthcare outcomes, and leading active, happy lives.

SEIU 668 stands with our members at Polk Center and White Haven. We ask that the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services reverse their decision and instead keep these facilities open. We also ask the public to contact the Department and demand that they keep these centers open. Comments can be sent directly to the DHS via phone at (800) 692-7462 or through their website at <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/pa/dhs/feedbackform>."

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In Brief



Labor Council Vice-President Bernie Hall registering attendee at October 15th "Donuts with Dem" Candidate Rally. The rally was held at The Fez banquet hall in Hopewell. Lt. Gov. John Fetterman attended the rally. Bernie is a Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council appointed member of the Beaver County Democratic Party Executive Committee.



Mark Benkart, Labor Council Community Services Director, accepting a community services award given by the Beaver County NAACP at its annual human rights banquet on October 19th. The banquet was held at The Club at Shadow Lakes in Aliquippa.



USW Rapid Response and Legislative Conference delegates rallying in front of the Department of Labor Building in Washington D.C. on October 29th in support of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. Labor Council delegate Christ Atsidis, USW Local 1211 Vice-President, attended the conference.

Power at the polls through Solidarity

By Mike Cicconi
IAMAW L.L. 1976 Grievance
Committee Chairman

In 1893, Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, was asked 'what does Labor want?' Today, more than 125 years later, our union movement finds itself faced with that same question as eyes across the country begin to focus on the upcoming 2020 presidential year elections.

Today, the American economy works for the wealthiest of the wealthy, while telling the rest of us that this system is our greatest 'opportunity' to succeed. The reality is this system is designed to impede the freedom of workers, decimate the social contract and undermine our solidarity with one another.

So often I listen to peo-

ple say, "There's nothing we can do about it" and I have to say that simply isn't true. There is power in numbers at the polls, just as there is power in solidarity on the shop floor whenever we show our support for our negotiating committee during contract negotiations.

As recently as the 1950's, union density was 35% of the workforce. That 35% voted and demanded that elected representatives listen to their voices. The result was the enactment of laws that benefited working people, more evenly distributed wealth and created a strong middle class. We had more power then and big corporations have tried to stop us ever since.

Four of the ten Beaver County Central Labor Council endorsed candidates running in the November 6th general election did not win. Only 36.33% of

registered Beaver County voters voted in the November 6th general election. It shows that, even with a strong and large Democratic base in Beaver County, that unless WE get out and vote, we will not prevail.

It is easier to break a single stick than it is to break a bundle of sticks tied together. The size of the working class will always outnumber the size of the top wage earners. Don't let the selfish few break the ties of the working many. Let's stand together in 2020 to protect our wages, our benefits, our safety and our pensions. Let's support candidates who best support working and Union people.

President's Report

Continued from page 2

to build solidarity between Heritage Valley Beaver registered nurses and the Labor Movement during the nurses' 2016 strike was uplifting to all involved. We wish Kerry all the best in her new field of service.

* Congratulations to Labor Council Trustee Jody Kohser on being selected by SEIU Local 668 to serve as a business agent. Jody began a leave of absence from the Beaver County Office on Aging on October 7th to primarily service Local 668 members in Beaver and Butler Counties who are employed by local and state government, and

non-profit organizations. She also will focus on growing member involvement statewide with Local 668's Aging Committee. Increased member involvement will lead to better workplace policies and regulations that will give members a greater ability to serve seniors. All the best to Jody in her new position.

* The food and refreshments at the October meeting were sponsored by our UNION BUG Director of Photography and IBEW Local 201 retiree T Berry.

* Please remember that the November Labor Council meeting will be held in New Castle.

Council Adopts Resolution

Continued from page 3

One of many unions represented in these State Centers, SEIU Local 668, has members that are dedicated caregivers at both the White Haven and Polk State Centers – they are trained and certified caregivers who create and develop individualized support plans and goals for every resident, ensuring that they continue to learn and grow.

"These centers are more than residential homes for Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities – they are communities of safety, comfort, and learning. This is an ill-informed decision that will have negative repercussions for both workers and residents of White Haven and Polk Center," said Steve Catanese, President of SEIU Local 668.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 11/12 Class 1 of 3; "Bridging Divisions: Building a Stronger Labor Movement," a course of the Labor Activist Academy sponsored by the Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council and The Labor School at Penn State; USW Headquarters, 60 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh: 6:00-8:30 PM. See flyer at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 11/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings; Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; PSEA Bldg, New Castle
- 11/19 Class 2 of 3; "Bridging Divisions: Building a Stronger Labor Movement," a course of the Labor Activist Academy
- 11/28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING - Please see the flyer at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for a list of **union-made** Thanksgiving products.
- 12/03 Class 3 of 3; "Bridging Divisions: Building a Stronger Labor Movement," a course of the Labor Activist Academy
- 12/10 Community Services/Moral Monday meeting: 7:00 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 12/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings; Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 12/18 NWPA ALF 4th quarter meeting: AFSCME DC 85 Hall, 1276 Liberty Street, Franklin, Pa. 16323.
- 12/25 Christmas Dinner and Toy Giveaway; Beaver Falls High School. Please contact Darcey Casey at 724-622-3126 if you would like to help.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on (month) (date) to be considered for publication in the (month) 2019 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.

The NWPA Area Labor Federation is asking organized labor, union friends, and community groups to review the resolution below and consider reviewing, discussing, and passing the resolution below. This is our first opportunity to be successful in passing Public Sector OSHA in Pa., we have a bill in each chamber and therefore a real opportunity to pass this legislation. We will be hand delivering as many resolutions to our legislators in early November. We have included additional signature lines on the back of this resolution and encourage you to make additional copies to use or share with others. Thank you in advance for your help on this matter.

Resolution Supporting Public Sector OSHA -HB 1082 & SB 464

INTRODUCTION: Forty-nine (49) years ago, when OSHA was created, the legislators found it necessary to carve out the public sector employees from coverage and protections under OSHA. By doing that they effectively created an injustice to the public sector workers that we need to address. The oversight for the safety of workers in our state should not be determined by their type of employer. This issue is non-partisan and non-affiliation.

WHEREAS, OSHA also offers education and assistance to workers and employers to make their working environment safer for all; and

WHEREAS, local and state government employees, in Pennsylvania, are generally not covered by OSHA, even though they perform similar job functions and are exposed to similar risks as private-sector employees; and

WHEREAS, the Jake Schwab Worker's Safety Bill (HB 1028 and SB 464) would extend protections similar to those provided for under OSHA to local and state government employees in Pennsylvania, at no or minimal cost to local governments; and

WHEREAS, since legislation has already been written (HB 1082 and SB 464) that when passed and enacted into law would offer protection under the state OSHA for all workers including public sector workers, and

WHEREAS, the public servants who have dedicated their careers to this community deserve the same health and safety protections as their colleagues in the private sector.

WHEREAS, _____ affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; we advocate and approve just laws and regulations that protect people from harm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, _____ urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support and quickly pass HB 1082 Jake Schwab's Worker Safety Bill and the Pennsylvania Senate to support and quickly pass SB 464 which both address the issue of public sector OSHA and will resolve a 49 year injustice to those workers.

The undersigned hereto affirm the passage of this resolution on ___ day of _____, 2019.

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

Name/Title _____

We the undersigned hereto affirm we have read the resolution on the front of this page and support the passage of this resolution on this ____ day of _____, 2019.

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Please send signed resolutions to NWPA ALF at 1276 Liberty St. Ste2, Franklin, PA 16323 or email: nwpaalf@gmail.com.

THE LABOR SCHOOL
AT PENN STATE



Bridging Divisions: Building a Stronger Labor Movement

3 Session Course: November 12, 19, and December 3 (Tuesdays, 6:00pm-8:30pm)

Unity among union members and across unions remains essential for a strong and successful labor movement. At the same time, we face all sorts of division—including interpersonal conflict, generational differences, and racial and gender divides to name a few. In this course, we will explore these differences as a source of strength and identify how to build an inclusive union culture. We will also discuss the critical role of bridging across divisions with other organizations to address the challenges workers face in the 21st century.

Location: United Steelworkers, 60 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(\$5 parking available in parking garage below building).

Dates: Tuesdays, November 12, 19, and December 3

Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Cost: The cost for this three-week course will be \$75 per participant.

**Registration and payment due in advance. Register here: bit.ly/LAARegistration
or go to the **LABOR School website for more information:**
<https://ler.la.psu.edu/outreach/labor-school>**

This course is part of the Labor Activist Academy sponsored by The Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and The LABOR School at Penn State series of labor education workshops designed to better equip labor union stewards, labor activists and leaders to meet the challenges facing today's labor movement.

Participation in this course will count toward future participation in the other Labor Activist Academy courses and your Certificate of completion.

Questions? Please contact Zachary Zobrist at zach.zobrist@psu.edu or 412.303.4382



Getting your grocery list ready for Thanksgiving? Make sure your choosing union-made products to ensure that your Thanksgiving feast supports the ethical treatment of workers. Let's express some gratitude for the protections and freedoms guaranteed in a collective bargaining agreement by choosing union made products from ethical employers, and made possible by our sisters and brothers.

For more options check out our friends at [Labor 411](#) and the [Union Label](#).

Turkey

Butterball Turkey (UFCW)
Boar's Head (UFCW)
Empire Kosher (UFCW Local 1776 KS)
Foster Farms (UFCW)
Smithfield (UFCW)

Dressing

Kraft Stove Top Stuffing (UFCW, IBT, IAMAW, BCTGM)
Stroehmann bakery products (BCTGM)

Sides

Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce (IAMAW)
Birds Eye vegetables (UFCW)
Hanover Vegetables (UFCW Local 1776 KS)

Dessert

Entenmann's Pumpkin Pie (BCTGM)
Pillsbury pie crusts (BCTGM)
Sara Lee pumpkin and apple pies (BCTGM)
Lucky Leaf Pie Fillings (UFCW Local 1776 KS)
Musselmans Applesauce (UFCW Local 1776 KS)