

NWPA ALF News

February 2022 Edition

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The NWPA ALF's jurisdiction covers 19 Pennsylvania Counties: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren and Westmoreland. We produce this newsletter for the members of our affiliates.

Any comments or questions about this newsletters or its contents should be sent to the NWPA ALF is located at 1276 Liberty St. Ste. 2 in Franklin, PA 16323.

<https://pa.aflcio.org/nwpaalf>
www.facebook.com/nwpaalf
Phone: 814-360-8336

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ERIC M. DEAN,
GENERAL PRESIDENT OF
IRON WORKERS INTERNATIONAL
IS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT OUR
JUNE 29, 2022 CONVENTION

SOURCES: <http://www.ironworkers.org/>, <https://nccmp.org/>



Eric M Dean,
General President

Eric Dean is the General President of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers. A Chicago native, Eric followed three previous family generations into the trade by joining the Iron Worker local union.

His career as an Ironworker began in December 1980 when he joined the Apprenticeship Program as a fourth-generation Local Union No. 63, Chicago, Illinois, Ironworker. He completed his apprenticeship in 1984 and became a journeyman ironworker in Local 63 (Chicago). As an accomplished ironworker, he worked for various contractors as a journeyman, foreman, and project superintendent throughout the Chicago area. From 1989 until 1995, he served as an apprentice instructor and earned the status of a certified welding inspector. He became very involved in his local union serving as conductor, trustee, vice president, and business agent. Recognizing his leadership skills, General President Jake West appointed him general organizer for the International in 1999, assigning him to the Department of Ornamental, Architectural and Miscellaneous Metals (DOAMM). In 2005, he was elected president of the Chicago and Vicinity District Council of Iron Workers. General President Joseph Hunt appointed Eric Dean as general vice president effective August 4, 2008. General President Walter Wise appointed Eric Dean as general secretary effective February 1, 2011. The general executive council unanimously elected Eric Dean as general president effective July 1, 2015.

In August 2016, he was elected by the Delegates to the 43rd International Convention as General President for a five-year term. On May 29, 2015, Eric was elected Secretary of the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans (NCCMP). As General President, he is a member of the Building and Construction Trades Department's Governing Board of Presidents and the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

Some members of labor had an opportunity to meet General President Eric Dean at the Christmas Party for the members of Ironworkers Local 851 who were on strike at Erie Strayer. He spoke passionately about the strength and Solidarity of his members. He was proud of them and noted they withstood the longest strike in the history of Iron Workers.

The theme of this year's convention will be "Building the Labor Movement through Solidarity and Activism." We are sure you will all enjoy meeting him and hearing his comments at our convention at which we elect our officers and Executive-Board. Please mark your calendars for June 29, 2022. In March, we will send the details and credentials. We will have a convention booklet that you may wish to place an ad in convention booklet. We hope you will join us!

"IF YOU'RE NOT
WILLING TO LEARN,
NO ONE CAN HELP
YOU.
IF YOU'RE
DETERMINED TO
LEARN, NO ONE CAN
STOP YOU."

2022 NWPA ALF MEETINGS

Delegates Meetings are held 7:00 PM on the following **Wednesdays, March 23rd, June 29th, September 28th, and Dec. 14th.** Our E-Board meets at 6 PM on the same days,

Meetings are held in the AFSCME DC 85 HALL
1276 LIBERTY ST. FRANKLIN, PA 16323.
Attendees may join us in person or via ZOOM.

Special speakers: TBD

RSVP to 814-360-8336 or nwpaalf@gmail.com
Please Mark Your Calendar & Plan to Join Us!

CLC Meetings in NWPA ALF:

Beaver-Lawrence CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Monday, Feb. 21st
IBEW 712 Hall
217 Sassafras Lane Beaver 15009
For more information call 724-971-7473.

Butler County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 2nd
UAW 3303 Hall
112 Hollywood Rd. Butler, PA 16003
For more information call 724-285-4883 ext. 233

Clearfield-Elk-Cameron-Jefferson (Potter) CLC
Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 3rd
Via ZOOM
For more information call 814-937-2208.

Erie-Crawford CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 2nd
USW 3199 Hall 703 French St. Erie 16501
For more information call 814-823-9940.

Greater Westmoreland CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, Feb. 28th
Fire House #2,
421 Thornton Rd. Greensburg 15601
For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 24th
UMWA 1412 51 Eleventh St., Lucernemines
15754
For more information call 724-479-0923.

Mercer County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 17th
USW 1660 Hall, 1028 Roemer Blvd. Farrell
16121
For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter:

Meeting 6:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 10th
IAM 1842 Hall
24 Front St. Franklin 16323 or via ZOOM.
For more information call 814-671-4420.

Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC:

Meeting 6:00 PM on Thursday, Feb. 3rd
IUOE 95 Hall, 116 Dobson Ave. Warren 16365
or via ZOOM
For more information call 814-730-7558

PA AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale



PA AFL-CIO President
Rick Bloomingdale

Rick Bloomingdale began his career with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees in 1977, where he worked as a Project Staff Representative of Local 449 and as Assistant Director and State Political/Legislative Director of AFSCME Council 13.

In 1994, he was named Secretary-Treasurer of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. In 2010, Rick was elected President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. Though soft-spoken, he inspired and encouraged many of the leaders today. After serving the labor movement for 42+ years, he has decided not to run for re-election at their upcoming 2022 Convention. We want to thank him for his leadership and assure him the legacy he leaves behind is one of Solidarity and Activism. That is what will help the labor movement in the future. The NWPA ALF thanks you for your hard work and dedication to labor!



ATTORNEY GENERAL
JOSH SHAPIRO

PA AFL-CIO endorses Shapiro for Pennsylvania Governor

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO's Executive Council on behalf of nearly 700,000 union workers across the Commonwealth, unanimously endorsed Attorney General Josh Shapiro for Governor.

Yes, this is unusual for them to make an endorsement so early, but it is important that labor has a friend in this position and Josh Shapiro is a friend of labor.

The record of Josh Shapiro as Attorney General has shown that he fights for justice for working people.

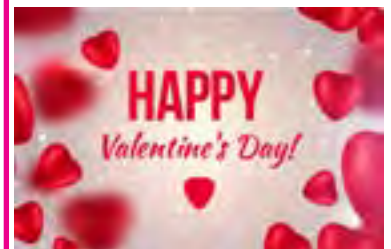
Labor-friendly candidates only get elected when we share the information about them with our members, friends, and family members. The labor Program is how we outreach to our less educated members and their families. If your union does not have a local union coordinator to serve as a liaison between your union and the PA AFL-CIO's Labor Program, please consider becoming a local union coordinator. For more information, talk to your leadership and the PA AFL-CIO.

Let's work together to ensure we have a Governor that shares our values and will fight for the working people of Pennsylvania.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“When we vote, our values are put into action and our voices are heard. Your voice is a reminder that you matter because you do, and you deserve to be heard.”

— Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex



PANDEMIC PAYMENTS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

by Barb Holmes, Blaufeld, Schiller &
Holmes LLP Attorney At Law

As many readers of this column know, workers' compensation benefits are not paid at the full amount of the average weekly wage, but rather some portion thereof. Similarly, employers/compensation carriers receive a credit for (or subrogation of) certain benefits because the employer funds those benefits and the workers' compensation benefits. In this instance, the other benefit amount is "deducted" from the disability compensation due. The injured worker does not "double dip," as they say, and get the full amount of both benefits that may be payable to them. Unemployment is a perfect example of this: if an injured worker collects unemployment while his/her workers' compensation claim is in litigation, and then wins his/her case, the employer/carrier gets to credit the net amount of unemployment compensation paid to that individual against the total disability benefits owed, and pay out only the net amount of those past due benefits (total disability benefits due minus unemployment benefits received).

While cases were in litigation during 2020, some injured workers received not only unemployment benefits, but also the federal pandemic payments under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Employers/carriers, when seeking credits, argued that these pandemic payments were also an amount that should be credited against the workers' compensation benefits due, thereby minimizing or eliminating the benefits that the injured worker would actually receive.

In January, the Commonwealth Court spoke on this issue, in a decision in the case of an injured worker named Waardal. Ms. Waardal was employed as a substitute teacher when injured in 2017. She also worked as a home health care aide, so had concurrent employment. The wages from both of those positions were calculated to arrive at her pre-injury average weekly wage and therefore her total disability compensation rate. She ultimately returned to her position as a substitute teacher, but not to her concurrent employment. The employer/carrier filed petitions to modify or suspend her compensation based on her return to work in February 2020.

In March 2020, Ms. Waardal was laid off from her substitute teaching position and filed a Petition to Reinstate her total disability benefits. While that litigation was ongoing, she collected both unemployment and pandemic benefits through the CARES Act. The employer argued its entitlement to credit for both against the total disability benefits she was seeking to have reinstated.

The Workers Compensation Judge awarded the employer/carrier the unemployment credit, but not the credit for pandemic benefits. The Judge noted that the weekly pandemic compensation Ms. Waardal received was unrelated to the amount of her wages. Further, the WCJ held that since the pandemic compensation was intended as a "general economic stimulus" in response to the pandemic, allowing the credit for those funds would "largely defeat the purpose of the CARES Act."

In affirming the Judge, the Commonwealth Court discussed the CARES Act, and its purpose to provide financial assistance to

those affected by the pandemic who were unable or unavailable to work due to business closures because of COVID-19. The Court explained that even those who would be ineligible for unemployment benefits such as those who were self-employed, could receive these additional "pandemic unemployment assistance" benefits. The Court also discussed the rationale behind the credit allowed for unemployment benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act, as the employer directly responsible for paying the workers' compensation is also "assessed" the unemployment benefits an individual receives. Both are the employer's obligations, and so the employer is allowed the credit. Disallowing the CARES Act credit, the Court found, would not require the employer to pay "duplicate benefits for the same loss of earnings." Rather, the CARES Act benefits were paid by a wholly separate entity—the Federal government reimbursing the Commonwealth. In fact, the Court held, allowing the credit would basically punish those who were unemployed AND injured, rather than just unemployed due to the pandemic.

It is essential to be certain in this—as in every—instance, that the employer/carrier does not try to relieve itself of liability or limit its liability by overstepping in the amounts to be credited or offset against compensation due. The CARES Act benefits were meant to supplement payments so that those unable to work were still able to "spend," so as to stimulate the economy. Allowing the employer to "double dip" under the circumstances in Waardal would defeat the purpose of the CARES Act and improperly harm injured and unemployed workers.

FREQUENCY OF TRUCK ACCIDENTS ON THE RISE

By: Kelly L. Enders and Susan A. Meredith

During the last two years, many people have shifted to online shopping with the convenience of packages being delivered right to our homes. The marked increase in online shopping has also greatly increased the number of delivery trucks and tractor trailers on our highways and local roads. Even prior to the pandemic, truck accidents were on the rise. According to the American Trucking Association, in 2017 commercial trucks were involved in 59% more accidents per mile than in 2010, despite the existence of new technology in trucks to help avoid collisions.

Tractor trailers often weigh 20 to 30 times as much as a passenger vehicle. Studies have shown that a loaded tractor trailer takes 20% to 40% more distance to stop than a passenger car. This discrepancy will be compounded if the road surface is wet or if the truck has poorly-maintained brakes. The excess weight of a tractor trailer and its slower ability to stop quickly can make a crash with a tractor trailer more dangerous than with a car.

Drivers of vehicles, such as tractor trailers that weigh more than 10,000 pounds, must follow certain laws set forth by the U.S. Department of Transportation. There are limits on the time a driver of the tractor trailer can be behind the wheel. Trucking companies are known to put stress on drivers to exceed these limits. Unfortunately, exceeding the time limits often creates a safety hazard when a driver is fatigued. Long work hours without sufficient recovery time can lead to a tired driver, and studies have shown that such drivers have slower reaction time and reduced ability

to assess driving conditions on the roadways.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration collects data on the causes of truck crashes involving injury. Driver fatigue is among one of the most noted causes. Other causes include:

- Distracted drivers;
- Failing to adjust driving to road and weather conditions;
- Speeding and driving recklessly;
- Failing to properly train drivers;
- Poorly maintained equipment; and
- Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

In some cases, the cause of a truck accident may stem from the negligence of mechanics, shipping brokers or warehouse operators. The chain of people responsible for ensuring the safe operation of a large truck is complex. The truck driver is not always the party responsible for causing the accident. A thorough and complete investigation is often necessary to find out who and/or what caused an accident. When a truck accident involves a commercial tractor trailer, multiple laws may be applicable. These could include local traffic laws as well as Department of Transportation and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations.

Accidents involving tractor trailers, delivery trucks or any other commercial truck involve consideration of many factors that will require significant investigation. Such investigation may include having an expert inspect the truck, travel to the accident location, review a driver's logs/records and review the trucking company's records. There may be a need to make sure the damaged truck or a part of the truck is preserved for later inspection and testing.

If the truck driver is also injured in the accident, then he or she may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits. There can be an issue as to whether the truck driver is an independent contractor or an employee of a trucking company. The determination of whether someone is an independent contractor or employee is fact-driven and may require the injured workers to seek a ruling from a Workers Compensation Judge. If the driver is found to be an independent contractor, then no workers compensation benefits would be owed so it is important to understand your rights and seek help from an attorney if you are a truck driver injured in a truck accident.

The attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman have many years of experience representing those injured in trucking accidents. We are available to discuss with you, your family member or friend the issues involved in any crash involving a commercial truck, delivery truck or big-rig vehicle. We will devote our time and energy to helping the injured person obtain the compensation they deserve. We will expend the funds necessary to hire experts and conduct our own investigation rather than rely on any investigation done by a police officer, insurance agent or trucking company. We can be reached toll-free at 1-800-222-8816 and would be happy to sit down for with you, your family member or friend to discuss any potential case.

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The “Hills and Ridges Doctrine”

By Signe O’Brien Rudberg, Esquire

Slips and falls due to snow or ice, which accumulated to the extent to invoke the Hills and Ridges Doctrine

In our region, snow and ice are constants in our lives from late fall to early spring. Buildups of snow and ice often lead to slippery sidewalks and perilous parking lots that can cause falls resulting in serious injuries. **Property owners in Pennsylvania** have a duty to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks, walkways, driveways and parking lots in a reasonable amount of time after snow or ice accumulates. However, the property owner’s liability is not absolute. Pennsylvania has adopted what is known as the “Hills and Ridges Doctrine” to help limit property owners’ duty to travelers upon their property by allowing owners a grace period to remove ice and snow from their premises.

The “Hills and Ridges Doctrine” protects property owners from being sued for generally slippery conditions such as freshly fallen snow or thin layers of black ice that may be hard to detect or remedy quickly. If property owners were to be held liable for these general conditions, then owners would be forced to anticipate the storm or ensure that their property was immediately cleared of ice and snow. “Hills and Ridges” allows for actions to be brought for slips and falls due to snow and ice only after the snow or ice has accumulated to the point

of creating ridges in the snow. Ridges in the snow are proof that the property owner let the dangerous accumulation go untouched long enough for the top layer to melt and refreeze.

To establish a case for a slip and fall under the “Hills and Ridges Doctrine,” there are three essential elements that must be proven before the property owner can be held liable for your slip and fall injuries:

- The accumulation of snow and ice must have been the actual cause of the fall.
- The snow or ice must have accumulated to the point of creating ridges of such proportion as to unreasonably obstruct travel and cause a danger to pedestrians.
- The property owner must have either known about the accumulation or a reasonable amount of time must have passed so that the owner should have known that the accumulation needed to be cleared.

The “Hills and Ridges Doctrine” does not pertain to all snow or ice slip and fall injuries, only those that are naturally occurring. The “Doctrine” was adopted in Pennsylvania to help property owners deal with the constant inclement weather in our region, not to absolve owners from all liability. “Hills and Ridges” only applies to the natural accumulation of snowstorms and ice storms but will not create a grace period for property owners who allow artificial conditions, such as water leaks or damaged sidewalks, to become dangerous with ice or snow.

Please remember that adults only have two years from the date of the slip or fall in which

to file a lawsuit and children have until two years from their 18th birthday to file a lawsuit for their injuries, but it is always best to pursue a claim as soon as possible, as it can become more difficult as time passes. It always helps to take pictures of the unsafe condition after you have been injured.

These property problems can lead to serious injuries for innocent people of all ages from infants to the elderly. Your child could suffer a broken arm, collarbone or leg. Your parent could suffer a fractured hip or leg resulting in surgery and the potential that they will no longer be able to care for themselves. You could hurt your back or sustain an injury that would cause you to miss extended periods of work, which could unnecessarily lead to tight monetary situations. Let our law firm help you recoup medical expenses, lost wages, and damages for pain and suffering.

If a property owner knew of the dangerous condition or that the dangerous condition existed for a long enough period of time that the owner should have known about it, then the owner was on notice of the problem and will likely be held liable for the injuries that the dangerous condition caused to you.

If you have fallen due to ice or snow or any type of injury, please feel free to contact:

Signe O’Brien Rudberg

412.877.6688

email

srudberg@edgarsnyder.com.

Know Your Rights! Protect Your Rights!

PA Unemployment Claims Filing Tips

by Office of Governor Tom Wolf

New Claim

- Claims are effective for 1 year. (the BYB date of your claim – Benefit Year Begin date)
- Say No to being a seasonal worker. A “seasonal worker” is a very specific agricultural job in unemployment law.
- When choosing your union from a drop-down list, if it is not listed, there is a box to check where you can enter it, manually.
- Non-Union employees must register with the CareerLink and complete the work search requirements if you do not have an exact recall date in writing.

Reopening your claim

- The process is the same for opening a new claim and reopening a claim. The system will know which it is after you submit the application.
- **THIS IS A CHANGE:** If reopening a claim, you must reopen during the week of unemployment, then file the weekly benefit starting Sunday.
- If your work schedule is “on and off,” meaning you work some weeks but not others, you must reopen your claim in situations where you work less than you did the prior week:
 - You worked part-time and claimed partial benefits, but the next week you worked very little or not at all.
 - You worked full time but are at least partially unemployed the next week.
 - Your Employer information needs to be reentered for every period of employment even if it is for the same employer.

Filing weekly and Payments

- You need to file weekly claims to receive payments.
- If you are unable to claim a week, your claim may need to be

reopened.

Work Registration and Work Search

- Union employees who receive jobs through a union hiring hall are not exempt from registration with the CareerLink, you are exempt from work search requirements and the work search question should not appear when you file weekly claims. If the question does appear, you should indicate “yes,” you have met your requirements.

Victim of Fraud

- If you were unable to open a claim because a fraudster opened one using your information, you must first file a fraud report.
- If your claim has been identified as being hijacked by a third party, you **MUST** create a new Keystone ID and password following the guidelines in the Keystone ID section.

Dashboard

- The dashboard section of your claim, is where you can find communication from the UC program, including Monetary determinations, determinations regarding a separation from employment, or a message from a UC representative.

Keystone ID

- If you are attempting to use a Keystone ID and password that was created with PA CareerLink and you cannot log in to your claim with the existing password, you will not be able to use the password reset function within PA Unemployment. The security questions used to create the password for that Keystone ID reside on the PA CareerLink website. You must visit the PA CareerLink website to update your security questions and change the password to one that meets PA Unemployment’s password requirements shown below. Once that has been done, you will be able to log in to PA Unemployment with your existing Keystone ID.
 - Keystone ID user names

passwords and answers to Security Questions should not contain:

- Any part of your name, social security number, address, phone number or email address.
- Double letters such as: mm, tt, nn, oo, etc.
- Do not include any part of your new User Name within your password or answers to security questions.

If you experience a looping issue creating your Keystone ID:

- Carefully review your Keystone ID, Password, and answers to Security Questions to ensure the above guidelines were followed.
- Once you have identified the error(s), begin the process again by creating a new User Name that has not been attempted in the past. Change any information that was in conflict and continue until you can successfully access your claim.

Examples of information that would be conflicting within a profile:

Profile:

John Doe Phone
Number: 123-456-7890
12 Main St
Date of Birth: 01/02/1999
Anytown PA 98765

Conflicting info with above profile:

User Name:
Company@1999 (any is included in Anytown and 1999 is in Date of Birth)
Password: Mickey#12 (12 is included in street address)
Answers to Security Questions:
What is your mother’s maiden name? Stowe (tow is included in the city)
Where were you born? Maine (Main is included in street address)
Where did you first meet your spouse? Johnstown (John is included in name)

LOOKING FORWARD...

Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer of the PA AFL-



CIO, is looking forward to the future and decided to run for President of the PA AFL-CIO after Rick Bloomingdale said he would not seek re-election. Frank has been an activist and leader coming from the rank

and file of the steelworkers, moving up in his union, working for the AFL-CIO, and then to his current position. He has earned the respect of his peers and mentored many throughout the labor movement.

Pennsylvania has always been a key state legislatively and politically. Frank has worked with others in developing projects /plans like Path 2 Power and Labor Programs that have brought Pennsylvania into the spotlight nationwide. We need to continue with this kind of leadership.

Frank chose Angela Ferritto, a young activist and



leader in AFSCME as his running mate. She will serve as Secretary-Treasurer when elected at the 2022 Convention of the PA AFL-CIO. Angela has worked her way up from the rank and file of AFSCME,

starting as a Taxpayer Assistance Technician. She is a member of CLUW and served as their representative on the PA AFL-CIO Executive-Board.

Her character and activism earned her the respect and admiration of her coworkers and leaders. She served as an organizer with AFSCME Council 13 and currently is their Resources and Events Planner.

We believe they are deserving of our support and will do an excellent job in moving the labor movement forward in Pennsylvania.



Today is Lunar New Year and the first day of Black History Month. So we want to talk about both our communities.

Black and Asian American communities have worked proudly together for working people and for civil rights for many years.

In the 1960s, Asian Americans were dubbed the “model minority.” This racial hierarchy is used to disregard Black Americans when they talk about the racism they face.

In this pandemic, we’re told that the rise in violence

against the Asian American community is mainly coming from the Black community. This is not true.

Don’t believe the attempts to divide us—our communities have struggled and worked together for decades.

Frederick Douglass spoke against anti-Chinese immigration policies.

Grace Lee Boggs fought for civil and worker rights and helped organize Black autoworkers in Detroit for more than 60 years.

Asian organizers created Letters for Black Lives to talk about anti-Blackness with Asian families in their own language.

So today, we share a holiday. And our fight for justice will be shared until the day we are all free.

Happy Year of the Tiger! Happy Black History Month!

In Solidarity,
Team AFL-CIO



Rev. Manning's Dream

Rev. Gary Manning has a dream to have something in Meadville that honors the legacy of Martin Luther King in the form of a sign with an inspirational quote, which is not just for the African American community. It is for everybody. Rev. Manning would like to have it placed somewhere significant and appropriate, as the Second District Elementary School because of its importance concerning desegregation.

Working with city officials, Manning plans to donate the sign pictured above to the city. The city controls the right of way where we hope they will place the sign. Though both the City of Meadville and the Crawford Central School District support the idea, neither will permit the sign to be placed on their property because of concerns about liability, maintenance, and the use of MLK's image and quote. Last week, Manning was optimistic he had cleared this hurdle when the sign maker he hired helped him find an image of King from a public domain source. The city's attorney must confirm that the words can be used. Until then, approval for the sign won't be on the agenda for a City Council meeting. Interim City Manager Maryann Menanno said it's likely the sign would be approved in the relatively near future but, she added, "There's no guarantee." Members of organized labor realize that the strike of the Unionized Sanitation Workers after the death of two of their members is the reason that Martin Luther King went to Memphis, stood with labor, and supported their rights.

USW 1917 President Paul Pelc heard the interview with Rev. Manning on TV and was moved to help. He reached out to the NWPA ALF and asked us to join him and Rev. Manning to see how we could help. After a discussion with Rev. Gary Manning, we concluded the best way we can help is to make sure the approval of the sign gets on the agenda for a Meadville City Council Meeting.

Paul Pelc has already reached out to the elected officials, but a diverse and large group will be more successful in getting the approval of the sign on the agenda and not left on the back burner. Remember, this is not a racial issue. It is about honoring the life of a great man who fought for all workers.

If you agree this sign should be proudly displayed in Meadville, honoring Martin Luther King, you can help by commenting to the elected officials of the City of Meadville. Their names and emails are below.

Mayor Jamie Kinder jkinder@cityofmeadville.org
 Deputy Mayor Larry McKnight lmcknight@cityofmeadville.org
 Council Member Gretchen Myers gmyers@cityofmeadville.org
 Council Member James Roha jroha@cityofmeadville.org
 Council Member Autumn Vogel avogel@cityofmeadville.org

You can stop into City Hall Offices from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, send letters to 894 Diamond Park, Meadville, PA 16335, call them at 814-724-5000, or attend the Meadville City Council Meetings, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers of the former Meadville City Hall located at 984 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335. With your help, we can be successful. Will you help?

Sources: Mike Crowley Meadville Tribune Oct 2, 2021 article; Rev. Gary Manning; Paul Pelc; and www.cityofmeadville.org.

PennDOT Announces Job Fairs Throughout Northwest Region

Source; PennDot, shared by Jack Lee

Oil City, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will host a series of job fairs throughout the District 1 northwest region in the coming weeks.

Those interested in a career with PennDOT are encouraged to attend the event to learn about the various opportunities available. District employees will be on hand to answer questions regarding employment and assist attendees with the application process. Applicants should bring an updated copy of their resume.

PennDOT is looking to fill a variety of positions in various counties throughout the region, including highway maintenance workers, civil engineers, construction inspectors, and transportation technicians, and is particularly interested in talking with applicants for openings as CDL operators or mechanics.

Applicants can see the current available positions by going online to www.employment.pa.gov.

Open house job fairs will be held on the following dates:

- February 9 – Noon to 5:00 PM, Venango County Maintenance Facility, 1460 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin;
- February 15 – 1:00 to 6:00 PM, Crawford County Maintenance Facility, 18492 Smock Highway, Meadville;
- February 23 – Noon to 5:00 PM, Mercer County Maintenance Facility, 215 Maple Street, Mercer; and
- February 24 – 1 :00 to 6:00 PM, Erie County Maintenance Facility, 9031 Peach Street, Waterford.

The job fairs are open to persons with disabilities. Any person requiring special accommodations are requested to contact the PennDOT District 1 office at 814-678-7114 prior to a week before the event you would like to attend.

Subscribe to PennDOT news in Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties at www.pennidot.gov/District1.

Follow PennDOT's northwest region on Twitter at www.twitter.com/511PAerie or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northwestregionpennidot>.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jill Harry, 814-678-5035

Message from President Liz Shuler

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler (third from left)



A fair economy is what we fight for in the labor movement. In 2021, there was an awakening. Workers realized we don't want to put our health and our families' well-being at risk for a bad job with low pay.

The pandemic truly laid bare the inequities of our economy. This system, where we have CEOs making nearly 300 times more money than their average worker, is just unsustainable.

Working people are looking at our jobs in a new way. We have a renewed sense of power and leverage that we haven't seen in a long time. Now, we have to organize to make the most of it.

NWPA Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
 1276 Liberty St. Ste 2
 Franklin, PA 16323

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FREE ZOOM Educational Classes in NWPAALF

The NWPA Area Labor Federation is excited to be able to offer the following classes via ZOOM, as a result of our collaboration with the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Services (FMCS), and Commissioner Tim McNamara who is always eager to assist labor. He is coordinating the these classes with the assistance of other commissioners.

[Stewards Training](#) on Tuesday, March 1st 6:00-7:30PM

[Grievance Training](#) on Tuesday, March 8th 6:00-7:30PM

[Collective Bargaining](#) on Tuesday, March 15th 6:00-7:30PM

[The Impact of Legalization of Marijuana & the Unions Role](#) Tuesday March 22nd 6:00-7:30PM

[Effective Communications](#) on Tuesday, April 5th 6:00-7:30PM

[Understanding the Family Medical Leave Act](#) on Tuesday, April 12th 6:00-7:30PM

[Understanding the importance and purpose of Labor Management Committees and How to Start One](#) on Tuesday, April 19th 6:00-7:30PM

Some of you may have met Tim at one of our earlier classes. We are sure you will come to appreciate him as much as we do.

We are delighted to have such a variety of classes to offer. These classes were suggested by members at CLC meetings. We need a minimum of 10 people throughout the NWPA ALF for each class. Handouts will be sent via email before the class if possible.

If you are interested in attending any of the classes send an email to Rosann at nwpaalf@gmail.com with all of your contact information including your Union and local # and the list of classes you would like to attend.

ZOOM registration links will be sent to everyone interested via email. You can join us on a computer, laptop, or your phone.

If you have any questions call 814-360-8336.