

# UNION BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 10

JUNE 2022

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## SEIU NURSING HOME WORKERS: RESPECT US. PROTECT US. PAY US. STAFF US

By Jan Carpenter  
Beaver-Lawrence CLC  
Healthcare Committee  
Chairperson

SEIU Healthcare PA members rallied in front of the Beaver County Courthouse on June 8<sup>th</sup> for safe nursing home staffing and accountability for nursing home funding.

According to SEIU Healthcare PA: A nursing home crisis “has been building for years, brought about by years of understaffing, underfunding and bad-actor nursing home owners. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed how fragile the system is and

now, with Pennsylvania’s senior population expected to reach 4 million by 2030, it’s essential we have safe, reliable, and quality options for all Pennsylvanians to receive long-term care in the settings of their choice.”

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, over 200 union nursing home workers from across Pennsylvania rallied in front of the state capitol building in Harrisburg while the state legislature was in session planning the state budget. They demanded that the legislature do its part by passing reforms that ensure:

\* Safe Staffing Rati-



os for CAN and LPNs

\* Full Funding: \$300M in permanent, recurring investment into quality care

\* Real accountability for our tax dollars, so we know 70 cents of every dollar that nursing homes spend must go to resident care.

The June 8<sup>th</sup> rally in front of the Beaver County Courthouse was part of a National Day of Action designed to draw attention to the fact that the nursing home crisis is happening throughout the



SEIU Healthcare PA represented nursing home workers rally in front of Beaver County Courthouse on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

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# President's Report

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

\* Congratulations to Angela Ferrito upon her assumption of the presidency of the PA AFL-CIO on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Angela was elected as PA AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer at the PA AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in March. She assumed the presidency after president-elect Frank Snyder announced his retirement at the end of May. Frank had been elected president at the March Convention. Angela, an Erie native is a member of AFSCME, where she served as the president of her local union before joining the AFSCME Council 13 staff in 2010. Beaver-Lawrence CLC Vice-President Howard Thomp-

son is the current president of the Council 13 board.

\* Congratulations to George Piasecki upon his unanimous election by the PA AFL-CIO Executive Council to serve as PA AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer after the position was vacated by Angela Ferrito upon her assumption of the federation's presidency. The election was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. George was born and raised in Delaware County. He served 5 terms as a full-time president of USW Local 12698 before being appointed by USW President Leo Gerard in 2014 to serve as District 10's Rapid Response Coordinator and PAC Coordinator. He was appointed Assistant to District 10 Director Bernie Hall in 2021. I have worked with and

under George as an USW staff representative and know that he will serve the working men and women of Pennsylvania well.

\* The Labor Council will resume its regular schedule of monthly meetings at the PSEA building in New Castle beginning with the August meeting. Four Labor Council monthly meetings are held at the PSEA building each year – February, May, August and November. The building was unavailable to the Labor Council during the Covid-19 pandemic.

\* Thank you to Carpenters Local 420 for sponsoring the food and refreshments at the May Labor Council meeting. The food and refreshments at the June meeting will be sponsored by IBEW Local 720.

## UNION BUG

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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.

# IN BRIEF



IUPAT District 57 members in support of Chris DeLuzio's candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the 17<sup>th</sup> District U.S. House seat. Chris' candidacy for the Democratic nomination was endorsed by the AFL-CIO Executive Council. The Executive Council also endorsed the Democratic primary candidacies of Josh Shapiro for governor, Austin Davis for lieutenant governor and Rick Telesz for 16<sup>th</sup> District U.S. House seat. Josh and Austin's candidacies were successful but Rick's candidacy fell short. The Executive Council will make general election endorsements in July.



USW 2022 Your Union, Your Voice town hall meeting held the USW Local 8183 union hall in Bridgewater on May 19<sup>th</sup>: (L-R) Dennis Powell, USW -Steelworkers Pension Trust; Todd Clary, USW District 10 staff representative; Bernie Hall USW District 10 Director; Colton Smith, USW Local 1016 vice-president and Tim Yesko, USW Local 1016 president. Todd, Tim and Colton gave the attendees a presentation focused on the global economy and international trade, collective bargaining, health care, domestic issues, workplace safety and health retirement security, and workplace polices. Bernie added comments and took questions after the presentation.



Labor Council Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice Linwood Alford at the Beaver Falls reunion sponsored by the City of Beaver Falls and the Beaver Falls Reunion Committee. The event was held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Linwood was the Grand Marshall of the event. In his remarks to the assembled attendees, he noted the important role that the Labor Movement plays in keeping communities vibrant and together.



PA AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer-elect George Piasecki (L) in Beaver County on January 28, 2020. George was a presenter at the USW 2020 Your Union Your Voice town hall meeting at the USW Local 1211 office in Baden. George served as USW District 10 Rapid Response Coordinator at the time. Also appearing (L-R) are USW Local 1211 President Bart Carr, then USW Local Vice-President Christ Atsidis and then District 10 Director Bobby McAuliffe.

## SEIU NURSING HOME WORKERS RALLY

Continued from page 1

country and not in any one state or region.

The rally began at 3:15 PM and ended at 4:00 PM. It included a speaking program and

displaying signs to cars passing on Third Street in front of the Courthouse. Many drivers honked their horns in support. Denise Cox, SEIU Healthcare PA internal organizer, helped organize the rally. Denise is a Beaver-Lawrence CLC delegate.

Many of us have unfortunately seen the effects that poor nursing home care has had on members of our families and friends. It may be our turn one day. Please contact your state legislators and urge them to pass the SEIU demanded reforms.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



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

## Calendar of Events

- 06/18 Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls; 3<sup>rd</sup> & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C. RSVP at [poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18) to attend, either virtually or in person. Please see national AFL-CIO event flyer at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 06/18 Juneteenth Celebration. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Playground, Beaver Falls. Sponsored by the City of Beaver Falls, Second Baptist Church and Beaver Falls Reunion Committee.
- 06/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM. IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 06/28 NWPA ALF 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting/Convention. 6:00 PM; VFW Hall, 411 Ninth Street, Franklin 15323. See article on Page 3 of March issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 07/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM. IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at [jkohser@verizon.net](mailto:jkohser@verizon.net), by 6:00 p.m. on July 12th to be considered for publication in the July 2022 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.

# **Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls**

On June 18, please join the **AFL-CIO** at 9 a.m. ET as we support The Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls.

During the march, hosted by the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we will come together in Washington, D.C., with state leaders, faith communities, moral allies and partnering organizations to not only take substantive action, but also to make our voices heard and demand an end to systemic inequality in all its forms.

We will declare an ongoing, committed moral movement to:

- Shift the moral narrative.
- Build power.
- Make real policies to fully address poverty and low wealth from the bottom up. It is imperative that this country live up to its possibilities and promises so every person can live a life of dignity and respect.

**Be sure to RSVP now.**

**RSVP at [poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18](https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18) to attend, either virtually or in person.**