

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

### **VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8**

### APRIL 2018

#### LABOR COUNCIL **OFFICERS**

- President: **Richard Galiano**
- Ex. Vice President: Dan Onuska
- Recording Secretary: Lisa Alexander
- Secretary-Treasurer: Eric Martin
- **Vice Presidents:**
- John Howard Thompson
- Bernie Hall
- Linwood Alford
- Mark Benkart
- Kerri Theuerl
- Trustees:
- Jan Carpenter
- Laurie Fisher
- Rev. Kevin Lee
- Jody Kohser
- Alicia Craig
- Sara Dudash
- Tom Flook

### Gov. Wolf Endorsed By PA.AFL-CIO **Executive Board; Addresses** 43<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Convention

By Rick Galiano Labor Council President

The Pennsylvania

Council endorsed

**AFL-CIO Executive** 

the reelection cam-

paign of Governor

Tom Wolf at its

meeting held on

Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

The next morning

Governor Wolf ad-

session of the 43<sup>rd</sup>

Pennsylvania AFL-

with a message of

support for all working

families and the Labor

received a standing

to veto any "right to

ovation after he pledged

work" legislation enact-

ed by the Republican

controlled General As-

sembly. "We have got

make the case that

sense. It's not just

[right-to-work legisla-

tion] doesn't make any

wrong, it's stupid, really,

really stupid." He called

the Janus v. AFSCME

to stand up and actually

Governor Wolf

**CIO** Convention

Movement

Council 31 case an assault not only on public sector unions, but on



National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumpka addressing Convention delegates.

democracy itself.

After the speech, President Rick Bloomingdale and Secretary-**Treasurer Frank Snyder** issued the following joint statement: "For the past three years, Governor Tom Wolf has been a true friend and partner to Pennsylvania's working people. The Officers and Vice-Presidents of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO are proud to endorse Governor Tom Wolf for a second term. We look forward to continuing to work with him to advance economic justice, workplace safe-

ty and dignity for the next four years. The Labor movement is energized and committed to electing candidates who are as dedicated to the values of fairness. equality, and respect, as we are."

The Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> convention session opened with addresses by Kenneth

Rigmaiden, IUPAT General President, and Leo Gerard, USW International President. President Rigmaiden's speech focused on the need for the Labor Movement to maintain union density by reaching out to its community allies. President Gerard's speech focused on unfairly subsidized imports.

The Wednesday session also included the election by

(Continued on page 8)

# For The Record

### By Lisa Alexander Labor Council Recording Secretary

### Correspondences Reviewed at March Executive Board meeting:

1. Received a letter that The Union Edge, Labor's Talk Radio, is going off the air after more than ten years of broadcasting. The Executive Board approved the purchase of a one-half page ad in the April 13<sup>th</sup> Labor Radio Goodbye Benefit program booklet thanking The Union Edge for its service to the Labor Movement.

2. Received a letter from the Midland Women's Civic Club thanking the CLC for its contribution to the Civic Club's 2017 Martin Luther King Day event.

3. Received letter from the Beaver Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4, for its Beaver County Golf Scramble to be held on May 4, 2018.

4. Received a request for a Mud Slide Spaghetti Dinner to be held at the Rochester VFW on Friday, April 6, 2018, from 4-8 p.m. to benefit Patrick Young and Family. Their house was destroyed by a landslide and house insurance does not cover landslides. The Executive Board approved the purchase of 5 tickets. All delegates are asked to attend and show support.

5. There will be a breakfast with the candidates for political office to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at the Lakeview Restaurant starting at 8:00 a.m. sponsored by the Greater Westmoreland Labor Council. The Labor Council approved purchase of 4 tickets for anyone interested in attending.

# Reports Given at March Executive Board Meeting:

Linwood Alford reported that on May 26, 2018, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Park in Beaver Falls, there will be a ceremony to rename the park to honor Calvin Smith, who was a former Tuskegee Airman with the Air Force, VFW and Legion member. It will be held from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. and he is asking for support from the CLC. Refreshments will be provided.



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.

### **President's Report**

By Rick Galiano Labor Council President

\* The Union Edge Radio Program with Charles Showalter is going off the air. The Union Edge will be hosting one last event on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. to thank everyone involved with it over the years and to say a final good bye to its friends. Proceeds will benefit laid-off emplovees and contribute to back benefits owed at this time. The event will be held at the N.A.L.C. Branch 84 Building, 841 California Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212. The Labor Council has purchased a one-half page ad in the event booklet thanking the Union Edge for its support of the Labor Movement over the years. Contact Charles Showalter at Charles@tuemedia.com if you are interested in attending.

\*The U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to stop the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's congressional redistricting order is a victory for fairness. The next step towards ensuring redistricting fairness is the passage of Fair Districts legislation by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The Labor Council passed a resolution supporting Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722 at the Council's July, 2017, membership meeting. Fair Districts PA will hold a rally in support of the two bills on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, in Harrisburg. For the rally agenda and information contact: https:// www.fairdistrictspa.com/ events/2018/04/16/reclaimingour-democracy-rally

\*SEIU Healthcare Pa. sponsored the food and refreshments at the March Labor Council meeting.





UFCW Local 23 Staff Rep. Ed Auer reporting to March Council meeting that Local 23 and UFCW Local 1976 will merge on May 1<sup>st</sup> to become UFCW Local 1976 KS. The KS stands for Keystone Strong. Ed and Dan Wagner, Local 23 Council delegate, also reported on the negotiations between Local 23 and Riverbend Foods for a new contract between Local 23 members at the former HJ Heinz plant on Pittsburgh's Northside and Riverbend Foods.



Ray Linsenmayer, candidate for the Democratic nomination for the newly created Pa. 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat, addressing March Labor Council meeting. Ray's father was a member of the USW while working in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office.



Labor Council Trustee Jody Kohser reporting to March Council meeting that SEIU Local 668 members employed by the Beaver County Department of Human Services have begun bargaining for a new contract. A key issue is healthcare benefits.



Labor Council Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice Linwood Alford announcing that the Council has agreed to serve as a sponsor of the May 26<sup>th</sup> ceremony naming a park in Beaver Falls for resident Calvin Smith who served with the Tuskegee Airmen during the second world war.



Amy Fazio, candidate for the Democratic nomination for 14<sup>th</sup> District Pa. House seat, addressing March Labor Council meeting. Her campaign will hold a meet and greet on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Vanport.

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# Workers Memorial Day

Reprinted from AFL-CIO America's Unions website

tories by working people from attacks by right-wing Republicans and business groups. We will commit to fighting until all workers have safe jobs and the freedom to form unions to seek a better future.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act and Mine Safety and Health Act promise workers the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality - winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more suffer injury or illness because of their jobs. Workplace fatalities are on the rise again.

After years of struggle we won new rules to protect workers from deadly silica dust and beryllium, a stronger coal dust standard for miners and stronger antiretaliation protections for workers who report job injuries.

All of these hard-won gains are now threatened. The Trump administration has launched an all-out assault on regulations. The president has ordered that for every new protection, two existing safeguards

must be removed.

President Trump and Re- are in danger. publicans in Congress have over-On April 28, the unions of turned worker safety rules issued cannot and will not let them turn the AFL-CIO observe Workers by the Obama administration back the clock and destroy the Memorial Day to remember those Protections against beryllium and progress we have made to make who have suffered and died on coal dust have been targeted for jobs safer and save lives. the job and to renew the fight for weakening. Agency budgets and safe jobs. This year we will come enforcement programs are on the Memorial Day as we continue the together to defend hard-won vic- chopping block. The safety and fight for safe jobs.

health of workers and the public

We must fight back. We

Please join us on Workers

### Join Your Union's PAC Today

**By Christ Atsidis** USW Local 1211 Vice-President

the political process that exert their power to undermine the core values, standard of living and the benefits that the Union

Movement fights for every day. Therefore, it is imperative that our unions be as organized in the political arena as they are at the bargaining table. Federal

law prohibits union dues dollars

from being used for political pur- and healthcare. poses, which is why unions have established political action committees. My international union, the United Steelworkers, has established the USW Political Action Committee.

USW PAC is entirely funded by voluntary member contributions. These contributions make it possible for our union to run what we consider to be one of the most effective.

bor. PAC contributions are There are many forces in used to keep members informed and support member-based pro-

member-driven political action

committees in all organized la-

grams to combat attacks on our values and communities. A portion also is used to support can-



didates for public office who have pledged to represent union values and protect our right to collectively bargain for better wages. safe working conditions

The best way for union member to contribute to their union's political action committee is through automatic payroll deductions. This option is only available when your local union has bargained "checkoff" language in your contract. USW member can go to www.usw.org/districts to contact

their District's USW PAC Coordinator to contribute.

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### **Community Services Report**

By Mark Benkart Community Services Chairman

Hi everyone. There were a lot of activities in Beaver County during March and the beginning of April.

\* On March 20th, the Labor Council sent out invitations for our sixth Human Rights Banquet. The banquet will be held on June 9th at the Fez in Hopewell Township. Copies of the invitation, and a reservation and program booklet advertisement form, are attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG.

Please contact me at <u>benkarthouse100@comcast.net</u> or 724-312-4387 if you need any additional information about the banquet.

\* On March 24th, the Young Democrats of Beaver County held a 'March for our Lives' rally in front of the Beaver County Courthouse. The rally also was sponsored by Beaver-Lawrence Moral Mondays Coalition.

The rally was held at

the same time as the rally in Washington D.C. organized by Stoneman Douglas High



Students holding signs at March 24<sup>th</sup> rally.

School students and other high school students from all over



Labor Council Vice-President Howard Thompson and wife Mira at March  $24^{\rm th}$  rally.

<image>

Between 300 and 350 people attended the March 24<sup>th</sup> rally.

the country. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people attended the Washington D.C. rally.

Between 300 and 350 people attended our local rally. Local students spoke at the rally. There was a counter, progun rally across Third Street from the Irvine Park Gazebo at the same time as our rally. This is America and we are privileged to have the First Amendment, which is Freedom of Speech. Unfortunately, some of our rally attendees who walked by the pro- gun rally

were harassed verbally. \* On April 3rd, there was a commemoration at the IBEW Local 712 Union Hall marking the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's Mountaintop speech and his assassination the next day. The attendance was 97. The Commemoration was sponsored by AFSCME Council 12, Beaver County NAACP, The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor

Lawrence Central Labor Council, Beaver-Lawrence Moral Monday Coalition, Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, New Castle NAACP, Pittsburgh A. Philip Randolph Institute and the United Steel Workers.

Labor Council President Rick Galiano introduced the speakers at the rally. The final speaker was Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference President, Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn.

Thank you to all who helped to make the Commemoration possible.

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# **APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> MLK Commemoration: "We Are One"**

By Steven Kocherzat Union Bug Assistant Editor

"We are one," Joan Duvall-Flynn, Pennsylvania NAACP State Conference President, stated in the concluding presentation of the Labor Council cosponsored April 3rd Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's Mountaintop speech. "The Labor taintop") the next day. The video Movement is a Civil Rights movement. The NAACP is a Civil Rights organization. We are

hour from when it was originally given. A video presentation consisting of pictures of Dr. King's civil rights activities was played simultaneously with audio presentation of the speech. The video concluded with the filmed last minutes of the speech in which Dr. King foreshadowed his death ("I've been to the mounpresentation was created by Joe Bosh, Beaver County Democratic Committee Secretary.

members.

On February 1, 1968, Echol Cole and Robert Walker climbed into the back of their garbage truck to get out of a storm. The compactor malfunctioned and crushed them. Workers had complained about unsafe equipment many times but their complaints were ignored.

This time they had had enough and VOTED TO STRIKE. The members of the AFSCME Local 1733 adopted a



all looking for the same things: we want fair wages, we want decent housing, we want equitable education for our children, protection at work so we can't be tossed out of our jobs and to live in dignity and peace."

The sponsors of the Commemoration, in addition to the Labor Council. were: AF-SCME Council 13, Beaver County NAACP, Beaver-Lawrence PA Moral Monday Coalition, Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, New Castle NAACP, Pittsburgh A. Philip Randolph Institute and United Steelworkers (USW). The Commemoration

Dr. King's Mountaintop speech was played in its entirety exactly 50 years to the day and

The audio and video presentations were preceded by the introductory remarks of Howard Thompson. AFSCME Council phis to support the striking work-13 Vice-President and a Labor Council Vice-President, who noted that Dr. King was in Memphis to support striking sanitation workers because he believed that the needs of African-Americans are identical with the needs of the Labor Movement:

"Sanitation workers in Memphis had long suffered with low wages and terrible working conditions. Things were about to get worse. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1968, Henry Loeb was sworn in as was held at IBEW Local 712 Hall. mayor and he refused to recognize the union or address any of the worker's issues, including allowing dues checkoff for union

simple but powerful slogan, I AM A MAN.

Dr. King traveled to Memers. Dr. King believed that African-Americans needs were. "identical with Labor's needsdecent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children & respect in the community."

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. King gave his mountaintop speech. It was to be his last. The next day he was assassinated. At the same time as we are gathered here, a coalition of labor, faith,

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# Labor Must Flex Political Muscles

By Mike Cicconi Legislative Chair I.A.M.A.W.L.L.1976

"Will strike if provoked" is a notable labor motto most unionized employees are familiar with. It harkens back to a time when men and women fought for a better life. They demanded safer work places, decent wages, healthcare and retirement. When those fundamental benefits weren't being obtained through the negotiation process, workers withheld labor in protest. Not every battle was won, but overall success was realized, resulting in rise of the middle class and workplace standards.

But once the fight to make things better was won, the fight to keep things better began. In essence, that is where we are today. Once again, we struggle

to ensure OSHA regulations are enforced, fair and living wages are paid, decent healthcare plans are offered and a dignified retirement awaits us at the end of our career.

was fought on the shop floor, weapons were picket lines and protests, with victory found in a strong union contract. Today, the war is waged against workers seen traces of that here in PA. in Congress and State Houses, their weapon is legislation that rolls back rights and their victory squeezes the life out of the middle class.

But working people are still the largest population block in this country. We can still "strike if provoked." Instead of withholding our labor, we flex our l'll convey our demands to suppolitical muscle and let our weapon be our vote. Politicians can't aet into office if we don't elect

them, and they can't stay there if they don't support out issues.

There has been a couple pieces of pro-worker legislation introduced in this Congress. The WAGE Act and the Butch-Lewis Back in the day, the battle Act will protect workers' rights to organize and stabilize unsure pension plans. In contrast, some states are pushing anti-union Right to Work legislation. We've

Next month I will be attending the IAM's Legislative Conference and meeting with elected representatives. Rest assured I will be advocating on behalf of every member of LL 1976 and every member of the Unions affiliated with the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council. port pro-worker legislation and our intent to strike back with our vote if they don't.

# **Union Label Report**

#### By Mark Benkart Community Services Committee Chairperson

A few years ago, I talked about Hanover Foods at one of our Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Meetings. This is a good time to revisit that talk. When I started to write Union Label articles a few months ago. I thought that it would be best to concentrate on a few items that people can remember the next time that they shop.

Hanover Foods is located in Hanover. Pa. Its workers are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers. Most of the frozen vegetables that I purchase are Hanover Foods products. Lately, even though super-

markets have a section for them, will always remember about Don there is less variety.

One thing about Hanover Foods - their prices are very competitive with other brands. What I am asking is the next time you go food shopping, consider buying Hanover Products, if only one or two. This could make a big difference; after all, it is about supply and demand. Also, if you live in Beaver County, consider shopping at either the Chippewa or Rochester Giant Eagles. They are both represented by the UFCW.

A long-time friend of mine who is no longer with us. Don McNutt. chaired the Labor **Council Union Label Committee** for many years. One thing that I

is his ending remarks when giving his Union Label reports at Labor Council meetings. He would say: If possible buy Union Made products, if not, buy Pennsylvania products, and last, buy products made locally. Hanover Foods is located in Eastern Pennsvlvania. Two out of three is not bad.



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## **MLK Commemoration**

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and community organizations are gathered in Memphis to honor the memory of those brave members of Local 1733 and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Willie Sallis, Beaver County NAACP President, and Sylvia C. Wilson, Allegheny **County Labor Council Executive** Vice-President and President of the Pittsburgh A. Philip Randolph Institute, also spoke at the Commemoration. Tina Shannon. Beaver-Lawrence Moral Monday Coalition, introduced the Galiano served as M.C.



sponsoring organizations, dignitaries and clergy in attendance. Labor Council President Rick

> Left: Pa. NAACP State Conference President Joan Duvall-Flynn address-ing April 3<sup>rd</sup> Martin Luther Kind Commemoration. Also pictured is Howard Thompson, a Labor Council and AFSCME Council 13 Vice-President, who provided the attendees with a history the AFSCME-led sanitation workers strike that brought Dr. King to Memphis at the beginning of April, 1968

### **AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention**



(L-R) USW District 10 Director Bob McAuliffe, Labor Council President Rick Galiano, Labor Council Delegate Mike Cicconi and Labor Council Trustee Jan Carpenter at Convention.



Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Vice-President Dan Onuska (center) with Pa. AFL-CIO Sec.-Treasurer Frank Snyder and President Rick Bloomingdale at Convention

(Continued from page 1)

acclamation of President Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Snyder to their respective positions. They were administered the oath of office for fouryear terms by national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

One of the resolutions passed at the Convention calls for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to make every effort possible to maintain a diversified system of electricity and development. Council affiliate IBEW Local 29 was a co-sponsor of the resolution and Council Executive Vice President Dan Onuska spoke on the floor of the Convention in support of the resolution.



IUPAT District Council 57 field representatives Tom Flook (Local 6) and Steve Olash (Local 530) with IUPAT General President Kenneth Rigmaiden (center) at Pa. AFL-Cl0 Convention. President Rigmaiden addressed the second day session of the convention. He focused his remarks on need for the Labor Movement to reach out into the community, including electing union members to political office, in order to maintain union density.

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### BEAVER/LAWRENCE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL



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

### **Calendar of Events**

- 04/13 Union Edge Labor Radio Goodbye Benefit: 6:00 PM; N.A.L.C. Branch 84 Building, 841 California Ave., Pitts burgh, Pa.15212. (See President's Report on page 3 of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.)
- 04/16 Fair Districts PA Reclaiming our Democracy: Rally to end Gerrymandering: All day event in Harrisburg. (See Presi dent's Report on page 3 of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.)
- 04/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712, Vanport.

04/28 Workers' Memorial Day

- 05/21 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; PSEA, New Castle.
- 06/09 Labor Council Human Rights Banquet: 6:00 PM, The Fez, Hopewell Township. See the flyers at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at <u>jkohser@verizon.net</u>, by 6:00 p.m. on May 11th to be considered for publication in the May 2018 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



### Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council

P.O. BOX A • BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA 15009 (724) 770-0606

February 27, 2018

TO: All Labor Organizations, Civil Rights Organizations and Guests

On behalf of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, we cordially invite you to attend the sixth Human Rights Banquet of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Community Services Committee to be held on Saturday, June 9, 2018, at the Fez Banquet Hall in Hopewell Township. Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Nina Turner, a champion of human rights causes, will be the banquet's keynote speaker. Ms. Turner serves as president of Our Revolution, an organization created after the 2016 Presidential election to revitalize our American democracy.

Ms. Turner is a former member of the Ohio State Senate, where she was known as a fierce advocate of protecting voting rights. She has decades of experience as a college professor and motivational speaker. She has appeared on numerous national television and radio shows such as "Meet the Press," "The Breakfast Club," and the "Thom Hartman Radio Show." She is also a commentator on CNN, appearing frequently on "The State of the Union with Jake Tapper" and "CNN Tonight with Don Lemmon."

Ms. Turner's remarks will focus on the importance of voting rights and what happens when voting rights are taken away.

Enclosed for your convenience is a reservation and AD book form. Please make your check payable to the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council and mail to the United Way Office, 223 North Mercer Street, New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101,

In Solidarity.

්රියාද කියිමේ Rick Galiano Beaver-Lawrence CLC President

(724) 910-8092

Mark Benkart Beaver-Lawrence CLC Community Services Committee Chairperson (724) 312-4387

Linwood Alford Beaver-Lawrence CLC Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice (724) 843-6319

**Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO** 

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS BANQUET**

Ms. Nina Turner – Keynote Speaker

Saturday, June 9, 2017

The Fez Banquet Center (724-378-1810) 2312 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15003

| Social Hour | 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Dinner      | 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm |
| Program     | 8:00 pm            |

There are no tickets for this Banquet, only Reservations.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, May 25, 2017

Reservations are \$40.00

Tables of 8 are \$300.00

Name of Organization

Contact Number

Number of RSVP's\_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 =

#### PROGRAM BOOKLET ADS

Program booklet size is 8 1/2" by 11"

Camera ready ads can be emailed to bpcolor@aol.com

If your ad is emailed, please send a hard copy with this form, or emailed to saradudash@comcast.net

Ad copies should be in by Tuesday, May 29, 2017

Full Page \$150.00

Half Page \$100.00

Quarter Page \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to: Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council

And mail to: United Way of Lawrence County 223 N. Mercer Street New Castle, PA 16101

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Benkart, 724-312-4387 or Sara Dudash, 724-730-7402.