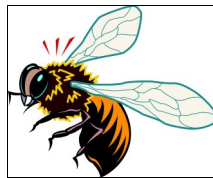


UNION



BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 8

APRIL 2021

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USW 9305
- **Ex. Vice President:**
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IBEW 29
- **Recording Secretary:**
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SEIU HCPA
- **Secretary-Treasurer:**
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SOAR
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 - Linwood Alford
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USW 8183
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 - Alicia Craig
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 - Jody Kohser
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AFSCME 2902
 - Sara Dudash
SEIU 668
 - Tom Flook
IUPAT 530

April Monthly Labor Council Meetings To Be Held In-Person

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council will resume its regular schedule of in-person monthly meetings in April. The April Executive Board and Membership meetings will be held on April 19th. The Executive Board meeting will begin at 6:00 pm and the membership meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Both meetings will be held, weather permitting, on the patio outside the main entrance to the IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex in Vanport. Tables and chairs will be brought outside from the auditorium. The Covid-19 safety protocols followed by Local 712 will be observed.

The April meetings will be the first in-person Labor Council meetings since June 2020. The June 2020 meetings were

the first in-person Labor Council meetings since February 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic began. All Labor Council in-person meetings between July 2020 and last month were canceled because of the resurgence of the pandemic.

The Labor Council Executive Board has held several conference call meetings between July 2020 and last month. These conference call meetings have helped maintain the Labor Council's community presence and financial stability during the pandemic.

An important item on the agenda of the Membership meeting will be a review and vote on accrued and pending expenditures since the last in-person membership meeting.

Todd Barbiaux, USW Local 1196 President, will give remarks at the meeting concerning

the unfair labor practices strike by approximately 1300 USW members working in Allegheny Technologies, Inc. plants in five states. The strike began on March 30th. Local 1196 represents approximately 450 ATI employees at ATI's Brackenridge plant in Allegheny County. Labor Council Vice-Presidents Mark Benkart and Jan Carpenter, and USW Local 1211 Vice-President and Labor Council delegate, Christ Atsidis, visited the Local 1196 union hall on April 10th.

Affiliates that would like to request the assistance of the Labor Council in any matter should contact me or Labor Council Recording Secretary Kerri Theuerl. My contact number is 724-759-8870 and Kerri's contact number is 412-651-3484.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

National AFL-CIO Statement

On April 28, the labor movement will once again observe Workers Memorial Day to remember workers killed or injured on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections.

Fifty years ago on April 28, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect after the tireless efforts of the labor movement, who drew major attention to work-related deaths and injuries, organized for safer working conditions and demanded action from their government. The OSH Act and Mine Safety and Health Act promised 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 and saved lives. But there is much to be done before the promise to keep all workers safe on the job can be fulfilled.

Worker safety and worker voice go hand in hand. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, workers have come together and used our collective voice to demand and win job safety protections from this highly contagious virus. This year, America's labor movement and our allies are launching a full-scale national campaign to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would give the tens of millions of workers who want to form a union a fair path to do so.

In the 50th year of OSHA this April 28, we focus on the need to renew the promise of safe jobs for all of America's

workers. We must continue to fight and push forward to ensure safe jobs for all workers through strong unions and strong laws. Each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more suffer injury or illness because of our jobs. Far too many workers die from preventable hazards and many more workers get sick from exposure to toxic chemicals. Many employers and workers never see OSHA in their workplace. Penalties are still too low to be a deterrent. Workplace Safety agencies have been decimated by a reduction in staff and a stagnant budget. Workers are not adequately protected without retaliation to speak out against unsafe working conditions and to freely join a union.

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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.

Solidarity Calendar

* USW Local 1016-03 has sent the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council a letter thanking it for support given to Local 1016-03 during its strike at the NLMK Pennsylvania plant in Farrell. A copy of the letter is attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG. The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor supported the members of Local 1016-03 during the strike by arranging a Labor Day picnic for the members and their families, making monetary donations to the Local's October 24th Strike Solidarity Spaghetti Dinner and the NWPA ALF's 2020 Union Families Christmas Project, and visiting the strike headquarters in Wheatland and the main picket line in Farrell.

* The strike of UAW Local 1311 at Langeloth Metallurgical Company in Langeloth (near Burgettstown, Washington County) continues. Local 1311 has been on strike since September 9, 2019.

* AFT Pennsylvania has released a webform for educators, staff, students, parents and community members to report non-compliance with the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health's November 24, 2020,

Order Directing Public School Entities in Counties with Substantial Community Transmission to Attest to Health and Safety Protocols. For more information or to report non-compliance, visit <http://pa.aft.org/report-non-comply>.

* TNG-CWA Local 38061's (Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh) long struggle to settle a fair contract with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette continues. The Newspaper Guild's contract with the Post-Gazette expired on March 31, 2017 and the parties have met more than 20 times since. Please help the union journalists at the Post-Gazette by visiting the Newspaper Guild website at www.pghguild.com to email a letter to the Post-Gazette encouraging it to return to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith.

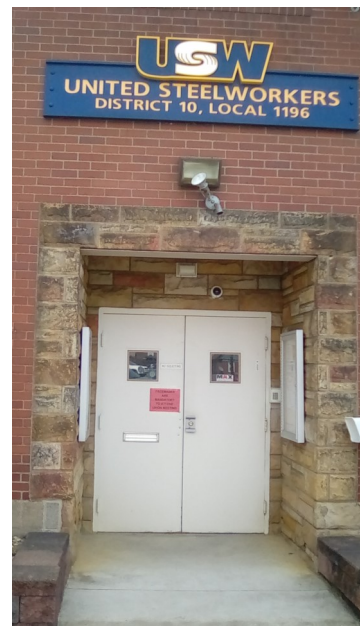
* Beaver- Lawrence CLC Recording Secretary Kerri Theuerl, Vice-President Jan Carpenter and several delegates attended a SEIU Healthcare PA rally on March 26th in support of nursing home residents and caregivers. The rally was a part of SEIU Healthcare PA's continuing effort to strengthen Pennsylvania long-term care regulations. The rally was held on March 26 in front of the Beaver County Courthouse. In addition to speeches given by several union members employed by Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb and Pa. State Rep. Rob Matzie spoke in support of SEIU Healthcare

PA's effort.

* USW Local 1196 President Todd Barbiaux will address the April Labor Council Membership Meeting to report on the strike of USW members against Allegheny Technologies, Inc. The strike of approximately 1300 workers began on March 30. Local 1196 represents approximately 450 workers at ATI's Brackenridge plant in Allegheny County.



Labor Council delegate and USW Local 1211 Vice-President Christ Atsidis and USW Local 1196 Treasurer Scott Laliberte and President Todd Barbiaux at Local 1196 union hall on April 10th. Christ presented President Barbiaux a copy of Local 1211's resolution endorsing the Medicare for All Act introduced in the U.S. Senate by Bernie Sander and in the U.S. House of Representatives by Pramila Jayapal. Enactment of the legislation would take healthcare off the table during contract negotiations. Local 1196 has been on strike against Allegheny Technologies, Inc. since March 30th.



SEIU Healthcare PA Internal Organizer (L) and SEIU Local 668 Organizer Dan Sainovich (R) with SEIU caregiver members at March 26th Rally in Support of Nursing Home Residents and Caregivers.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 04/19 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings; Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 04/28 Workers' Memorial Day (see article appearing on Page 2 of this issue of the UNION BUG).
- 05/07 Last day to file NWPA ALF scholarship applications. See application attached to the end of February issue of the UNION BUG.
- 05/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings; Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; PSEA Building, New Castle.
- 05/18 **Primary Election Day.**
- 05/21 Last day to file Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council scholarship applications. See application attached to the end of February issue of the UNION BUG.

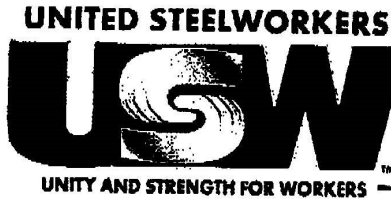
PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

[Editor's Note: The UNION BUG will announce the candidacies of union members running for primary election nominations. A candidate or his local union must submit a brief informational statement to the UNION BUG for an announcement to be published.]

* USW Local 1211 has endorsed its member, William M. Braslawce, for the vacant district justice

position in Beaver County Magisterial District 36-2-02. The district includes Beaver, Brighton Township, Vanport, Industry, Glasgow, Midland and Ohioville. Bill is an attorney who has worked as a public defender in Beaver County since 1995 and who also operates his own full services law firm. He is a member of the Beaver County Veterans' Court Board, serves on the Beaver County Drug and Alcohol Board and is the solicitor for the Beaver County NAACP Executive Committee.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on May 10th to be considered for publication in the May 2021 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



PO Box 577
107 Broadway Avenue
Wheatland, PA 16161

Local Union 1016

Dear Beaver - Lawrence County Labor Council

We are writing this letter to you to let you know that the support your business has shown for us during our unfair labor practice strike is truly appreciated and has not gone unnoticed. The strike lasted over six months and was a very difficult time for our members. If it wasn't for the positive support from members of our community, and local businesses such as yours, the outcome could have been much different for us. Instead, you have shown that our surrounding communities are continuing the area's rich history of supporting labor and the efforts made to secure good jobs and benefits for current and future generations. All of our members, families, and friends will remember how your business stepped up in our time of need and we look forward to supporting your business for years to come.

Thank You,

Jim Wells - Unit President

Colton Smith - Unit Rec. Secy

Matt Gunter - Bargaining Cmte.

Jamie Maxwell - Bargaining Cmte.

Terry Day - Bargaining Cmte.

Mike Alexander - Bargaining Cmte.

Todd Clary - Staff Representative

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RENEW THE PROMISE

SAFE JOBS FOR ALL

FIFTY YEARS AGO on April 28, Workers Memorial Day, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job. The law was won because of the tireless efforts of the labor movement, which organized for safer working conditions and demanded government action. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer and saved lives. But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions suffer injury or illness because of dangerous working conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inextricable link between workplace safety and health and our communities. The virus has killed more than 500,000 people in this country so far—devastating working families, with a disproportionate impact on people of color. Unions and our allies stepped up to demand and win job protections from this highly contagious virus. We organized for safe jobs and the right to speak out against unsafe working conditions. We demanded access to the ventilation, respirators and other measures that protect workers from inhaling the virus at work. Given the lack of federal action, unions won protections in states and held state and local leaders accountable. Organized labor and our allies were key to strengthening job safety to save lives.

Worker safety and workers' voice go hand in hand. The popularity of unions is at 65%—one of the highest marks since the OSH Act was implemented in 1971—and 60 million nonunion workers say they would vote for a voice on the job today. That is why America's labor movement is leading the campaign to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would give all workers who want to form a

union a fair path to do so. Strong unions hold employers and the government accountable to keep workers safe. Strong unions raise the baseline level of job safety protections for all.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the lack of resources and accountability for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to ensure workers are protected on the job, as well as the structural failures that have prevented workers from organizing for safer working conditions. Workplace safety agencies have been hollowed out with a reduction in staff and a stagnant budget. Many workers never see OSHA in their workplace. Penalties are too low to be a deterrent. Workers are not adequately protected to speak out against unsafe working conditions and to join a union without retaliation. As we look to the next 50 years of national worker protections, Congress must strengthen workplace safety agencies to renew their promise to working people, and issue life-saving protections against workplace violence, infectious diseases, heat illness, silica in mining and toxic chemicals—preventable hazards that kill tens of thousands of workers each year.

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO will observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job, and to renew the fight for safe jobs. We will mobilize to pass the PRO Act, so workers have a voice on the job. We will stand united to strengthen workers' rights and protections, and demand resources and actions needed for job safety enforcement. We will fight for the right of every worker to a safe job, until that promise is fulfilled.

OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28 PASS THE PRO ACT