



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

Primary Election Candidate Interview and Endorsement Procedure Established

By Jan Carpenter
Labor Council Trustee

The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board has established the procedure to be followed by 2019 primary election candidates who wish their candidacies to be recommended by the Executive Board to the Labor Council membership for endorsement.

The offices for which the Labor Council will consider endorsements are the office of County Commissioner and all county row offices: Clerk of Courts, Controller, Coroner, District Attorney, Prothonotary, Record of Deeds, Register of Wills, Sheriff and Treasurer. Endorsements will be considered for candidates from Beaver and Lawrence Counties.

Additionally, an endorsement will be considered for a judgeship on the Beaver County Court

of Common Pleas that is vacant as a result of the election of Judge Deborah A. Kunselman to the Pennsylvania Superior Court in the November 2018 general election.

Executive Board recommendations will be based in part on candidate interviews that the Executive Board will conduct on March 16th beginning at 9:00 AM. The interviews will be held at the IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill complex in Vanport.

Candidates who wish to schedule a specific time for an interview should make a request to Jan Carpenter at carpenterjm54@gmail.com. Requests should include the office desired and the party primary in which the candidate is entered.

Interviews will last up to twenty minutes. The Executive Board will ask candidates to respond to Labor related questions such as Paycheck Decep-

tion and "Right to Work."

Each row officer candidate will be asked to state a position on Section 1620 of the Pennsylvania County Code which allows elected row officers to reject contracts negotiated between unions representing their employees and county commissioners.

The Executive Board will decide which candidates have earned its recommendation for endorsement after the interviews are completed. Recommendations made will be announced at the March 18th Labor Council meeting prior to the delegates voting on endorsements.

All candidates interviewed on March 16th will be invited to the March 18th Labor Council meeting to give a three-minute presentation of their candidacies before

Continued on page 3

For The Record

By Lisa Alexander
Labor Council Recording Secretary

From the January Labor Council Executive Board meeting and Delegates' meeting –

Correspondences:

*Received a Christmas card from U.S. Senator Bob Casey.

* Received a thank you card from Trustee Alicia Craig.

Discussion:

* The Labor Council will sponsor the 1st Runner Up at \$500.00 for the Beaver Area Jaycees Distinguished Young Woman's Program.

* The William R. Livingston II Scholarship Fund-raiser Night at the Races will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at the Patterson Township Fire Hall; doors open at 6 PM, races start at 7 PM.

* Executive Vice-President Dan Onuska reported that Mike Rossi is running for Beaver County Pro-

thonotary. Dan also reported that Midland Borough Council passed a resolution in support of nuclear power and Dan is asking the Labor Council to likewise pass a resolution.

*President Galiano discussed primary election candidate interviews that will be held on Saturday, March 16th starting at 9 AM. The interviews will be conducted by the Labor Council Executive Board.

*Save the date: The Labor Council approved another Beer N Wing night for Thursday, April 11th at Robert's Roadside Inn, Bridgewater from 6:00 PM to 8 PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the cost of \$25.00 per person. Additional details will be announced later.

* The Labor Council now has 49 affiliated labor organizations. This number represents a significant increase from a few years ago.

UNION BUG

Published Monthly

An official publication of the
Beaver/Lawrence Central Labor Council

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.

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

* The Labor Council has tentatively scheduled a Beer and Wing Night on Thursday, April 11th at Robert's Roadside Inn in Bridgewater. The proceeds will benefit the Labor Council's COPE Fund and will be used primarily to support the Labor Council's endorsed candidates in this year's primary election. The decision to proceed with the Beer and Wing Night will be based on how much help the Council will receive from its delegates and affiliated unions. Please contact Labor Council Vice President Mark Benkart at 724-312-4387 or benkart-house100@comcast.net if you would like to help.

* The Labor Council sponsored the food and refreshments at the January Labor Council

meeting. Sponsors are needed for the February, June, September and October meetings. Local unions and other Labor organizations that would like to serve as a sponsor should contact me at their earliest convenience.

* Please remember that the February Labor Council meeting will be held at the PSEA Building in New Castle and that the delegate's meeting will be closed to non-delegates until after the financial report is given. No non-delegates who are not members of affiliated unions are scheduled to speak at the delegate's meeting. Non-delegates who are not members of affiliated unions must request permission from the Executive Board to speak at least thirty days before a meeting.



Anthony B. Fiorillo, MD, a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) addressing attendees at January Labor Council meeting after screening of "Off the Table: The case for H.R. 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All." Pittsburgh Chapter member Judith L. Albert, MD, and Tony Buba and John Rice, the film's producers, also addressed the attendees.

Endorsement Procedure

(Continued from page 1)

the delegates vote.

The Labor Council urges all candidates to take part in our interview and endorsement process. We are a non-partisan organization and not affiliated with any political party. We support candidates who we believe that will fight for public policies that are favorable to working families regardless of political affiliation.

The Labor Council will work to inform its 49 affiliated organizations and their members of any endorsements made. It will also work to inform the public of its endorsements.

Are You Next? – The 2019 PA AFL-CIO Legislative Conference

Reprinted from February 1st issue of PA AFL-CIO newsletter

On Tuesday, January 29, two hundred union delegates arrived in Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO's Biennial Legislative Conference at the Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey. President Rick Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder welcomed

conference attendees and state legislators at a reception on Monday evening.

At our Legislative Conference, union members in PA came together for one of the first times since the five-weeks-long government shutdown which devastated so many of our brothers and sisters. Though there has been a temporary end to the

(Continued on page 4)

PA AFL-CIO Legislative Conference

(Continued from page 3)

federal government shutdown, the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO held a food drive at the conference for local food banks. Federal workers had to rely on their unions and communities to support them throughout the shutdown, and members of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO sought to pay that gratitude forward. The historic attack on the working civil servants of our federal government brought the urgency of solidarity to our 2019 Legislative Conference. 800,000 federal workers and sub-contractors were held hostage during the shutdown, which was by no means the first attack on their economic rights. Federal workers, a third of whom are veterans, have had their collective bargaining rights undermined, their pay frozen (when it's not being withheld), their staffing levels cut, etc. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO asks, are you next?

The morning general session featured speakers from the state government including Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa, and House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody. Through the Labor 2018 electoral campaign, Pennsylvania was able to send more pro-worker legislators to Harrisburg. Elections are never the end of our work in the fight for a pro-union, pro-worker state government. Over the next two years, it will be up to the Commonwealth's union members to step up and demand action on the issues affecting working families.

It will be up to the Penn-

sylvania Union movement to ensure the right to organize and collectively bargain is upheld in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's workers will not be the next group taken hostage in a political attack. The union movement must remain vigilant in our fight for workers' rights. We will not be next.

Editor's Note: It is unclear as of this date (February 14th) if the shutdown will begin again. Please follow the news about the shutdown. In the event of a renewed shutdown, please contact the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, AFGE, IMAW or your local or international union for information about solidarity rallies in support of federal employees (represented by AFGE) and third-party contractors (represented by IMAW) affected by the shutdown.

Please see Page 6 of this issue of the UNION BUG for pictures of the January 18th solidarity rally held in the landside terminal of Pittsburgh International Airport. Public officials, including U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb (D-17), Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappella, and representatives of many unions, were among those attending the rally.

Right: PA AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingtondale addressing the attendees at the Legislative Conference. Recording Secretary Frank Snyder is seated at the head table.



Labor Council Ex. Vice President Dan Onuska and Labor Council delegate Nick Johanningmeir at the Legislative Conference.



Labor Council Ex. Vice President Dan Onuska with Rob Matzie, PA Representative (D - 16) at the Legislative Conference.



Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart
Community Services Chairman

January was special, not only for the new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, but also for the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday celebrations. On January 20th the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Committee's annual banquet was held at the Center Stage.

The Committee includes the Coordinator and Founder Eugenia Priest, the President, Eldress Mary Cuspard, and many others. Eugenia is a retired SEIU member.

The banquet's purpose each year is to award students, grades 4 through 12, for essays. Also, Women of Distinction, Community Services, Coordinator, and Men of Valor awards were presented this year.

Two of the honorees are familiar to many of us in the local Labor Movement. Mtume Imani, who works in the Beaver County NAACP office in Aliquippa, received a Woman of Distinction award. Also, Linwood Alford, a Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Vice-President and the Labor Council's Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice, received a Man of Valor award.

The evening was very enlightening with great food and many friends attending.

On January 21st, Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday was celebrated at the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. This event was sponsored by the Midland Women's Civic Club hosted a Dr. Martin Luther

King Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center.

After a very nice luncheon, the first speaker was Harold Hays, retired after a forty-year career in broadcasting, most notably at KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh. Harold discussed growing up in McKeesport and graduating from South Hills High School and the University of Pittsburgh. He also talked about his struggles to become successful in broadcasting.

The keynote speaker was Darieth Chisolm, a former CBS News anchor and host of CBS's Eye on Health. Presently, Darieth is a visibility and multimedia coach. She works with corporate professionals, coaches, authors, speakers and visionaries to help develop strategies that help build brand, influence and income. Darieth also helps assault and abuse victims release any shame that they may feel so that they can find their courage and live with confidence.

Darieth is a victim of cyber harassment and abuse. An ex-boy friend posted embarrassing pictures of her on a website that were taken without her knowledge. It took her years to have them removed. She now advocates for stricter and tougher enforcement of cyber sexual laws. Darieth's struggle is presented in her documentary "50 Shades of Silence," dedicated to victims of cyber harassment and abuse.

The Midland Women's Civic Club Celebration was another great

event.

Just a reminder, check out our Moral Mondays site on Facebook.



Labor Council Vice- Presidents Mark Benkart (L.) and Linwood Alford (R.) with Progressive Democrats of America 17th Congressional District President Tina Shannon at the Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration on January 20th. The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee presented Linwood with a Man of Valor Award at the banquet.



Labor Council Vice-President Mark Benkart, left, with U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb (D-17) at January 21st Martin Luther King Celebration sponsored by the Midland Women's Civic Club.



Labor Movement activists at Moral Monday meeting on February 12th: (L-R) Labor Council delegate Nick Johanningmeir, Labor Council Vice-Presidents Howard Thompson and Mark Benkart, and IBEW retiree Bob Jones. Mark is the chairperson of the Moral Monday Committee. Bob is Beaver County NAACP Vice-President.

Labor Movement and Friends Support Government Employees at January 18th Rally



State Senators Lindsey Williams (D - 38th Dist.) and Jay Costa (D - 43rd Dist.) holding Solidarity signs distributed by members of IUPAT District 57 at the January 18th rally in support of AFGE members furloughed or working without pay as a result of the partial federal government shutdown that began on December 22nd. The shutdown has temporarily ended as a result of a temporary three-week funding measure agreed upon by Congress and President Trump. The rally was held in the landside terminal of Pittsburgh International Airport. AFGE represents 45,000 TSA employee who, as essential federal employees, are required to work without pay during shutdowns.



Right: Philip Glover, AFGE District 3 National Vice-President, addressing January 18th rally. Standing behind him in solidarity were elected officials, including Allegheny County D.A. Stephen Zapella (third from left), Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald (fourth from right) and US Rep. Conor Lamb (third from right), and union activists, including Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council delegate Mike Cicconi, IMAW L.L. 1976, (right, holding sign).



January 18th rally participants.

In Brief



The first of the 100 A321 Airbus aircraft ordered by American Airlines arrives at Pittsburgh International Airport on February 1st. American Airlines has designated its Pittsburgh maintenance base as the facility that will perform acceptance checks on the aircraft. Approximately 540 Mechanic and Related members of IMAW L.L. 1976 work at the maintenance base. The local maintenance base has earned a reputation for its excellence. Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council delegate Mike Cicconi, L.L. 1976 Grievance Committee Chairman, stated in the Airport's Blue Sky newsletter: The talent is here. The expertise is here. We have a great track record. We've been doing maintenance here since the Allegheny Airlines days. We do everything in Pittsburgh. It's a go-to station." [Picture from Blue Sky newsletter]



USW Local 1211 President Bart Carr (L) and Vice-President Christ Atsidis (R) with USW District 10 Director Bobby "Mac" McAuliffe at USW District 10 Rapid Response Conference. The Conference was held at the Tropicana Resort in Atlantic City from January 13th to January 18th. Christ is a Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council delegate. Bart and Christ successfully completed Congressional Coordinator Training at the conference and are holding their Certificates of Completion in the picture. Coordinators are the key facilitators in the USW Rapid Response network. They distribute Information Alerts and Action Calls to Rapid Response representatives at USW local union halls. This allows for almost instant personal communication with every USW member on any given subject. The network has been able to impact the legislative process on many issues at all levels of government.



IUPAT District Council 57 staff representatives Tom Flook (L.U. 6) and Joe Hughes helping to install new signage at the Mt. Lebanon office U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb on January 14th. Also helping were District Council 57 staff representatives Giles Ginko (L.U. 749 Sign Painters) and Bill Fellabaum (L.U. 2006). Tom is a Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Trustee. District Council 57 also created the sign's vinyl lettering. Rep. Lamb was elected in November to serve as the representative from the reconfigured 17th Pa. District after having served as the representative from the 18th District. He began serving as the 17th District representative on January 2nd.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 02/17 Tabernacle Baptist Church Black History Month Program: 4:00 PM, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 630 Third Ave., Beaver Falls. Screening of "Struggles in Steel: A Story of African American Steelworkers." Call Linwood Alford, 724-843-6319, for additional details.
- 02/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; PSEA Bldg., New Castle
- 02/23 8th Annual Beaver County NAACP Black History Program: 11:00 AM, Holiness Church of Christ, 6349 Tuscarawas Road. Theme: "There's an army rising up!" Please call NAACP office at 724-378-2822 to reserve luncheon tickets (\$15.00 adult ticket).
- 03/12 Community Services/Moral Monday meeting: 7:00 PM; IBEW L.U. 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 03/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board Primary Election candidate interviews: 9:00 AM, IBEW L.U. 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport (See article on Page 1 of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional details).
- 03/18 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW L.U. 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on March 11th to be considered for publication in the March 2019 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.