

UNION



BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

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 - Jody Kohser
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 - Lisa Alexander
AFSCME 2902
 - Sara Dudash
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 - Tom Flook
IUPAT 530

MOST DIVERSE LEADERSHIP TEAM IN AFL-CIO HISTORY

Excerpted from August 20
AFL-CIO Staff Statement

The AFL-CIO Executive Board today [August 20th] elected Liz Shuler, a visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, to serve as president of the federation of 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation. The Executive Council also elected United Steelworkers (USW) International Vice President Fred Redmond to succeed Shuler as secretary-treasurer, the first African American to hold the number two office. Tefere Gebre will continue as ex. vice president, rounding out the most diverse team of officers ever to lead the AFL-CIO.

The election of Shuler and Redmond comes after the unexpected and untimely passing of Richard Trumka, who served as AFL-CIO president from 2009 until his death on Aug. 5.

... In 2009 [Shuler] joined forces with Trumka, becoming the first woman elected to the position of secretary-treasurer at an AFL-CIO convention and the youngest woman ever on the federation's Executive Council. As secretary-treasurer, she also served as the chief financial officer, turning deficits into surpluses and steering the federation through multiple fiscal crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

... As [USW] international vice president for human affairs, Redmond oversaw the Civil and Human Rights Department, as well as the union's shipbuilding, health care and public sector bargaining, and worked with USW allies across the country in responding to attacks on voting right and in combating economic inequality. Redmond has a long history of leadership on various boards, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the A. Philip Randolph Institute. In 2021, Redmond was elect-

ed president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, a prestigious international post.

... The terms of the three executive officers run through June 2022, when delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention in Philadelphia will elect leaders for new four-year terms.

[Editor's Note: Vice President Redmond's support as USW international vice president for human affairs was a key factor leading to the success of the first Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Human Rights banquets. He helped secure speakers, promoted attendance and spoke at the banquets. He also supported the Labor Council's efforts in 2013 to encourage local legislators to vote against the Voter ID Law that became law and then was invalidated by a state appellate court. His support included attending a demonstration in front of Sen. Elder Vogel's office before the State Senate vote on the Voter ID bill.]

UNION BUG Completes Seventh Year of Publication

By Victor Colonna
UNION BUG Editor

The September 2021 issue of the UNION BUG marks the beginning of our eighth year of publication.

We at the UNION BUG firmly believe that the Labor Movement's successes and ongoing challenges need to be presented to the public. Our goal is to report the successes and challenges in the context of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council and its affiliated labor organizations and community partners.

During our 2020-2021 publication year, we have created a Solidarity Calendar that reports on strikes, lockouts and requests for solidarity from un-

ions negotiating contracts. Through the Solidarity Calendar, we reported on the activities of the Beaver-Lawrence CLC to support the striking USW members in Farrell and striking USW members at the ATI plants in Western Pennsylvania. We also reported on the requests of other unions for attendance at contract demonstrations.

We hope that union organizations seeking solidarity with their efforts to settle fair contracts or to build support for the Labor Movement's agenda will contact us and provide us with information that we can present to our readership. Your input will make the UNION BUG more precise, interesting and unique.

Without your input, we are more prone to misreport the

events around us. For example, in the August issue of the UNION BUG, it was reported that the Labor Day celebration in Westmoreland County was the only celebration in Western Pa. We have since learned that two other celebrations were held. IBEW Locals 56, 827 and 1319, Steamfitters Local 449, Erie-Crawford CLC. Plumbers Local 27, Operating Engineers Local 66, Teamsters Local 397 and the PA AFL-CIO were the prime sponsors of the annual Erie Labor Day Parade. The Mercer CLC participated in the annual Hermitage Labor Day Parade.

We look forward to your input in the coming publication year.

UNION BUG

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NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

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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.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



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

Calendar of Events

- 09/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings are canceled.
- 09/29 NW PA ALF meetings: Executive Board meets at 6:00 PM. Membership meeting at 7:00 PM. In-person at AFSCME DC 85 Hall at 1276 Liberty Street, 1st floor, Franklin 16623 or via Zoom. Special speakers to be announced. RSVP to 814-360-8336 or nwpaalf@gmail.com
- 10/02 Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council's Community Services Committee 54th Annual Awards Banquet: 5:00 PM, Siebenbuerger Club, 2114 French Street, Erie 16501. Guest speaker will be PA AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale. See flyer at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 10/10 Greater Westmoreland Labor Council 24th Annual Labor Recognition Dinner: 5:30 PM, Lakeview Restaurant, 6153 Route 30 West, Greensburg. See flyer at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 10/15 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Please check with Executive Board for status of meetings.
- 11/02 **Election Day**

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on October 12th to be considered for publication in the October 2021 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.

ERIE-CRAWFORD
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL'S
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
54TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Please join us in honoring Erie City Councilman Mel Witherspoon along with Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13, David Henderson at the 54th annual Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council's Community Services Committee Awards Banquet.

Guest speaker will be PA ALF-CIO president Rick Bloomingdale

Live entertainment to follow!

4 Meat Buffet!

The following college scholarships will also be awarded to high school seniors: the John 'David' Dever Memorial Scholarship, Theo Sabin Meyer Memorial Scholarship, and the Tom Wagner Memorial Scholarship.

Advertisements are due by September 23, 2021 to biroscakprinting@verizon.net.

\$200 Full page (7x9.5 inches)

\$50 Quarter page (3.5x4.75 inches)

\$100 Half Page (7x4.75 inches)

\$25 Business Card (3.5x2 inches)

*Funds support our scholarships and community service projects-including a Veteran's Breakfast and Christmas dinner along with gifts for the homeless.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, October 2, 2021. Cocktails at 5:15 PM, buffet dinner at 6:00 PM.

LOCATION: Siebenbuerger Club, 2114 French Street, Erie PA 16501

ERIE-CRAWFORD CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed Check # _____ (circle one) Mail Tickets or Hold at Door

of tickets needed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

*The Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council
is pleased to invite you to our*

34th Annual Labor Recognition Dinner
this year
***Celebrating the Past -
Looking Forward to the Future***

Sunday, October 10

Lakeview Restaurant

6153 Rte. 30 West, Greensburg

Cash Bar at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

\$65

2021 Outstanding Labor Honoree

Rick Bloomingdale, President PA AFL-CIO

Outstanding Government Honorees

Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Westmoreland County Commissioner

Special Recognition

Judge Maria McLaughlin

Special Invited Guests --

Courts Matter!

Timika Lane, Candidate for Superior Court

Lori Dumas & David Spurgeon, Candidates for Commonwealth Court

Call Harriet Ellenberger, Dinner Chair, 724-423-2878

email: ellenberger@zoominternet.net