

# UNION



# BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2025

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IBEW 29
- **Recording Secretary:**  
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- **Secretary-Treasurer:**  
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  - Joe DeAngelis  
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  - Jody Kohser  
SEIU 668
  - Linwood Alford  
LIUNA 833
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IBEW 712
  - Tom Flook  
IUPAT 530

## STRIKING P-G WORKERS RECEIVE GOOD NEWS AS THE LONGEST ONGOING WORK STOPPAGE IN AMERICA CONTINUES

*Special to the Union Bug  
By Andrew Goldstein  
Pittsburgh NewsGuild-  
CWA Post-Gazette Unit  
delegate chair*

Workers striking the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette received good news on several fronts this holiday season as they continue the longest ongoing work stoppage in America.

The workers, from the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh (NewsGuild-CWA 38061), Pittsburgh Typographical Union (CWA 14842), Pittsburgh Mailers (CWA 14847), and Press Operators (PPPWU), have been on strike against the Post-Gazette since October 2022 because of several unfair labor practices by the company, including bad faith bargaining, illegal declaration of impasse, illegal imposition of work rules and surveillance.

The National Labor Relations Board on

Dec. 20 filed for a rare 10(e) emergency injunction in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia on behalf of the Newspaper Guild, the union that represents the PG's newsroom employees. The injunction would, if granted, restore the union's previous contract and compel the company to bargain a successor agreement in good faith, in addition to a variety of other actions that could help end the strike. A date has not been set for a judge to hear the case.

The Labor Board was able to file for a 10(e) injunction because of a ruling made by the full five-member Board in September that upheld and expanded upon a ruling from an administrative law judge on the Guild's UPL charges that went overwhelmingly in favor of the union.

While the three other unions do not yet have a decision from the five-member board, the

NLRB is seeking 10(j) injunctive relief for them based on positive rulings they received from an administrative law judge. That injunction would work in much the same way as the Guild's.

The injunction hearing for the three unions - which is PG ad sales representative, mailers and press operators - began in federal court in Pittsburgh in November and is expected to end in January. A decision from a federal judge is expected a short time after the conclusion of the hearing.

These cases in the federal court are of great importance to the strike, and news of the recent action taken by the NLRB has buoyed the approximately 60 workers who remain on the picket line. But there was more positive news for the strikers elsewhere this holiday season.

Continued on page 4

# For The Record

By Sheila Bronson  
Labor Council Recording Secretary

approved the expenditures made by the Executive Board.

## From the 12/16/2024 Executive Board meeting:

\*Approved a motion to recommend a \$250 donation to the Woman's Shelter of Beaver County and a \$250 donation to Arise of Lawrence County.

\*Approved a motion to recommend a \$500 donation to Christian Assembly Church to assist with their annual Christmas Dinner.

\*Approved a motion to recommend a \$300 donation to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette striking workers.

## From the 12/16/24 Membership meeting:

\* A quorum being present, the delegates

\*Joe DeAngelis, IBEW Local 29 Labor Council delegate, was elected by the delegates as a vice-president of the Executive Board. Joe assumes the position held by Mark Benkart. Mark resigned from the position due to relocation.

\*Plans for the 2025 Human Rights Banquet are underway; we are looking for committee members to assist with the planning.

\*Labor Council polo shirts and hoodies will be ordered next month. If interested in purchasing a shirt for \$10, please contact Sheila Bronson at 724-601-2267.

\*Contracts for the 2025 meeting spaces have been finalized. Eight meetings will be held at the USW Local 8183 hall in Bridgewater and four meetings will be held at the PSEA Midwestern Region Office in New Castle.

## 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.

# President's Report

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

\* The AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) have announced "that they are reuniting to launch a new, long-term effort to make it easier for workers to win a voice on our jobs with their unions." The official announcement was made on January 9 at a roundtable discussion held in Austin, Texas, in advance of the AFL-CIO's Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference. SEIU and several other international unions withdrew from the AFL-CIO in 2005 to form the Change to Win federation. The AFL-CIO permitted Change to Win local unions to remain in AFL-CIO central labor councils. The SEIU locals affiliated with the Beaver-Lawrence CLC, SEIU Local 668 and SEIU Healthcare PA, continued their participation in the Labor Council. In July 2016, the Labor Council



Joe DeAngelis at December Labor Council membership meeting. Joe was elected and installed as a Labor Council vice president at the meeting. Joe is a member of IBEW Local 29 and serves on its executive board.

and its affiliates were well represented at the rallies sponsored by SEIU Healthcare PA as it fought to negotiate a fair contract with the Heritage Valley Health System in Beaver. The Labor

Council has supported Healthcare PA's efforts to secure fair contracts at local nursing homes. We stand ready to help SEIU Local 668 when called upon by it to help settle a fair contract for Local 668 members working in the Beaver County Courthouse. SEIU Local 668's predecessor, SEIU Local 585, played a key role in the revitalization of the Labor Council in the 1980's in response to the Reagan administration's attacks on the Labor Movement. It helped mobilize local participation in the historic 1981 Solidarity Day March on Washington in response to the firing of PATCO members and the 1983 March on Washington to commemorate the August 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs, Peace and Justice. It also helped arrange a congressional hearing in Aliquippa on full employment legislation in response to the closing of many steel industry plants in the early 1980's. Welcome back SEIU into full participation in the AFL-CIO. We must work together as closely as possible when the new presidential administration takes office on January 20.

\* Thank you to those Executive Board members who helped at the Free Christmas Day Dinner at Beaver Falls High School: Rick Galiano, Dan Onuska and wife, Mel Ice and wife, Sheila Bronson, and Linwood Alford.

\* The 2025 Labor Council calendars are still available for distribution. Please attend the January Labor Council meeting or contact me if you would like to receive a calendar.



Beaver Falls Free Christmas Dinner. The Labor Council donated \$500 to the Beaver Falls Christian Assembly Care Outreach Ministry to help defray the cost of the dinner. Several Labor Council Executive Board members served at workers at the dinner. At the bottom of the page insert the Dr. King article.



## REP. DELUZIO INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO TRANSFORM RAIL NETWORK

By Christ Atsidis  
Labor Council Legislative  
Committee Chairperson

Thank you to Rep. Chris DeLuzio (PA 17) for introducing the "All Aboard Act" into the U.S. House of Representatives for its consideration.

Rep. Deluzio introduced the Act on December 17. Sen. Edward J. Markey (Mass.) introduced the Act into the Senate at the same time.

The Act would dedicate "\$200 billion over five years to build high-speed rail, expand existing passenger rail service, and electrify the most heavily polluting railyards and corridors.

The legislation includes critical labor protections for the existing union labor workforce and creates a rail personnel training grant program for rail workers.

"The American people ought to have a rail system that is safe, gets folks quickly where they want to go, and keeps the economy moving – all while slashing road traffic," said Rep. Deluzio when the Act was introduced.

"I am proud to join with Senator Markey to introduce the All Aboard Act to make transformational investments in the United States rail network like electrification. This bill will make American passenger and freight

rail a lot safer and cleaner and will invest in the rail workers who make it all happen."

The Act is supported by numerous labor and community groups. Supporting labor organizations including IBEW, UE, IAM, TWU, AFSCME, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways Employees Division (BMWED), SMART-Mechanic, and SMART-Transportation.

The rail industry has a large presence in Beaver and Lawrence Counties, with major railyard yards in Conway and West Pittsburgh. SMART Local 12 and TWU Local 2035 are members of our Labor Council.

## STRIKING P-G WORKERS

Continued from page 1

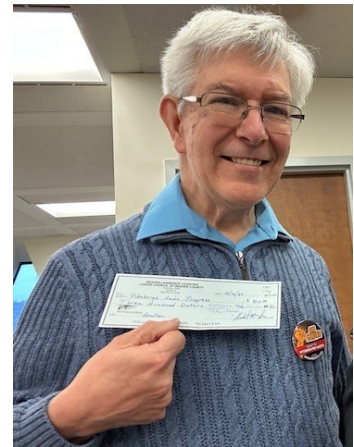
The New York Times Tech Guild, which represents workers who make the Times' cooking, app, Wordle, and other popular products, donated \$114,000 to the Pittsburgh strike – the remainder from funds that were raised during their own strike in November. The grand gesture stunned the striking workers and came at a time when their funds were running low despite generous donations from supporters around the world over the two-plus years of the work stoppage.

A small portion of the donation from the Tech Guild was used to supplement a modest holiday stipend for the striking workers; the rest of it will go to the strikers who need help paying for essentials such as rent and mortgages, utility bills, vehicle payments and food.

The striking workers continue to put pressure on the company and raise awareness for the strike outside the realm of the courts, including with their strike publication, the Pittsburgh Union Progress. A week before Christmas, the Union Progress reported that the publisher of the Post-Gazette, John Robinson Block, told a striking worker that he was dissatisfied with the company's bargaining team – attorneys from the notorious union-busting law firm King and Ballou of Nashville – and said "we should try something different."

While that's not entirely Block's call, it's an indication of the pressure that the Block family is under to settle the strike. The striking workers are encouraged by these developments and feel that they have captured momentum as they head into the new year and what will likely be the final few months of what's

believed to be the longest strike in Pittsburgh's history.



Ed Blazina, Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh First Vice-President, with Beaver-Lawrence CLC Pittsburgh Striker Fund donation check in the amount of \$300. The issuance of the check was authorized at the Labor Council's December membership meeting. Labor Council Vice-President Jan Carpenter delivered the check to the Post-Gazette strikers office in the USW Building in Pittsburgh on December 20. Labor Council affiliate IBEW Local 712 donated \$250 to the Fund in December. Donations to the Pittsburgh Striker Fund can be made online at [pghguild.com/donate-strike-fund-post-gazette-union](http://pghguild.com/donate-strike-fund-post-gazette-union) or sent by surface mail to The NewsGuild-CWA, 501 Third St. NW, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 200, Attn: Elyse Endlich.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



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

## Calendar of Events

- 01/20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday holiday
- 01/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM. Membership – 7:00 PM. USW Local 8183, 1455 Market St., Bridgewater, PA 15009.
- 02/16 Beaver Falls Tabernacle Baptist Church annual Black History Month presentation: “Black History in Transition.” Stratton Nash, President, Daniel B. Matthews History Society, will give keynote presentation. Beaver Falls Tabernacle Baptist Church, 630 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. 4:00 PM. Light refreshments to be served. Contact Church Trustee Linwood Alford at 724-843-6319 for additional information.
- 02/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM. Membership – 7:00 PM. Midwestern Region PSEA Office, 3033 New Butler Road, New Castle PA 16101.

## MARKING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY: “ALL LABOR HAS DIGNITY”

Michael K. Honey's “All Labor Has Dignity,” provides a collection of Dr. King's speeches on labor rights and economic justice. The book is a must read for all those who want to understand why the Labor Movement commemorates Dr. King's birthday each year.

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 February 12th to be considered for publication in the February 2025 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.