



SOLIDARITY

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the answer.



2025 & 2026 NWPA ALF QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Wednesday, June 24, 2025

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

All meetings are in person and Zoom

6:00 PM Executive board

7:00 PM General Meeting

AFSCME District 85—Conference Room

1276 Liberty Street

Franklin, PA 16323

RSVP director.nwpa.alf@gmail.com

2025 GOLF OUTING

Thank you Riverside Golf!



NWPA ALF Interim Chair, Shane Clark - taking care of business. A motion was made to rename the Annual Golf Outing to the Andrew Harkulich Memorial Golf Outing beginning in 2026.













SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

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| UWUA 102J | Butler, PA | 724-992-4650 |
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Labor Day 2025

















LABOR
THE PEOPLE
THAT
BROUGHT
YOU THE
DAY

LABOR
The Good Jobs
that brought you the
DAY



PROGRESS
FOR ALL

WE
ARE
ONE



LABOR
UNION

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UNION

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UNION

UNITED STEEL WORKERS
USW
LOCAL 1660
MERCER COUNTY

YOUR

PUMPKIN SPICE DOESN'T FIX EVERYTHING

While many of us turn to pumpkin spice everything when fall rolls around, even a \$10 pumpkin spice latte may not fix what ails an injured worker. However, some people do NOT want to be on high doses of opioids or other such prescriptions to address their complaints. They turn to “non-traditional” medications or products that may be of benefit. Where does that leave them as far as payment by the workers’ compensation carrier?

A recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court case, *Schmidt v. Schmidt et al.*, holds that supplements prescribed by a physician will be reimbursable under the Act by the compensation carrier. In *Schmidt*, an attorney injured himself when loading a trial case with his hearing files. (YES, THEY CAN BE HEAVY!). As part of his ongoing medical treatment for his work injury, he was recommended opioid medication, which he took for a while, but then, as his provider wanted to increase dosages, he looked for other alternatives. He felt that opioids were not the best for someone who drives to and from compensation proceedings and must be able to concentrate/think quickly. He talked with his provider about other alternatives, and after trying some other treatments, CBD oil was suggested. Mr. Schmidt obtained the CBD oil from a natural remedy store, and presented the doctor’s prescription for same and his receipts to the workers’ compensation carrier. They refused to reimburse him. Being an attorney, he of course filed a Petition for Penalties.

The Judge hearing his case found that Attorney Schmidt had followed his provider’s recommendation. Further, the CBD oil, which had no THC in it nor any harmful side effects, was helpful to him. While Mr. Schmidt had a prescription, he did not go to a pharmacy for it, but the WCJ did not consider that a requirement, as the Judge found he was using it “in accordance with the directions on the packaging materials” and that it was of benefit to him in addressing his pain and helping him sleep.

The intermediate appellate body, the Workers’ Compensation Appeal Board, reversed the Judge’s decision, finding that CBD oil cannot be a “reasonable medical treatment” that must be reimbursed under the Act. The Board got bogged down in issues about letters sent to doctors and attorneys marketing CBD PRODUCTS for violating federal law, and other such tangents. Dissenting Commissioners of the Board urged that the Judge was correct in allowing the penalty, and pointed out that allowing CBD oil for Mr. Schmidt would eliminate or greatly reduce his need for opioid medication, clearly in line with the humanitarian purposes of our Workers’ Compensation Act.

The Commonwealth Court discussed many of the issues that the Board had relied upon to deny reimbursement, and then noted that the Board failed to address the most important issue: can we consider CBD oil a medicine or supply within the meaning of the Workers’ Compensation Act, such that reimbursement of its cost is required. Put simply, the Court said “yes.” Attorney Schmidt had argued that nothing in the Act requires that medicine and supplies as defined in the Act must come through a pharmacy. The compensation carrier argued that “supplies” under the Act have never been interpreted to include substances sold in health food stores for which a prescription is not generally required. The Court did find CBD oil to be a “supply”—not a DRUG such as a prescription medication would be. The Court recognized that this could “open the floodgates” for homeopathic remedies, but reminded that there had been a medical provider’s prescription in this case for Mr. Schmidt to use CBD oil for pain treatment. The Court further noted that there must be establishment of an injury and the need for the supply to treat the injury in order for it to be reimbursable. That was accomplished here.

There were Commonwealth Court Judges who filed dissenting opinions, concerned about the “legal status” of such substances as hemp derivatives, believing there to be important policy consideration—that is need for the Legislature to speak—on such matters. CBD oil, the dissenters argued, is not approved for all uses by the FDA; therefore making it a permissible “medicine or supply” in this case should not be allowed. The dissent considered CBD to be a “dietary supplement” when used orally as Mr. Schmidt did at times, and that it could not legally be marketed that way. Therefore, they did not believe it could be classified under the Act as a “medicine or supply.”

The case was accepted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for consideration. Please know that not every case where Supreme Court review is requested is accepted by our Justices. In a decision issued earlier this year, the Court affirmed the Commonwealth Court. In its opening paragraph, in fact, the Supreme Court stated:

For the reasons set forth below, we hold that
ANY ITEM that is part of a health care
provider’s treatment plan for a claimant’s
work-related injury falls within the purview
of THE BROAD ENCOMPASSING PHRASE
“medicines and supplies” as provided in [the Act].

As a practical matter, this means that injured workers who are more interested in non-traditional medical treatment MAY and please note that says MAY be able to have such treatment/medicine/supplies covered by carriers. But while the above quote looks like a mighty big blanket, there will likely be some rules placed. For example, many injured workers utilize massage as part of their treatment—in the past, the Court had held that massages that were provided by massage therapists (even those licensed) were not covered for treatment, but massages by physical therapists are. So this new holding may mean that it will depend on where the treatment/ medicine/supplies are obtained. And the essential part of the Supreme Court’s holding is that it must be part of a health care provider’s treatment plan for the work injury. A worker deciding on his/her own to try supplements or other such “supplies” or “medicines” will likely not have that cost reimbursed.

As always, it is the best plan to discuss any potential treatment/ supplement/ medication with the provider for the work injury and get the provider’s okay/prescription/ recommendation in writing. That way there is support for potential coverage. If there is a question about a medicine or supply the employee is using, it is worth discussing with counsel. If it should be reimbursed or could arguably be reimbursed, then steps can be taken to work toward that coverage.

Sadly, though, those Pumpkin Spice Lattes will likely not fall into the medicine or supplies category.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

Blaufeld Schiller & Holmes LLP

220 Grant Street, 7th Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

(412) 391-0775

1-800-343-9384

bsh@bshlaw.net

Congratulations!



Lonnie McFall (left) was nominated and elected to the vacant Mercer County Central Labor Council. Lonnie comes from a very extensive labor background. Former BA/ Representative for Eastern Atlantic States Council of Carpenters and UBC 420 Estimator/Project Manager for Fred Burns Inc. Currently, he serves as Recording Secretary Venango, Clarion, Warren, Forest Central Labor Council and serves on the EBoard for NWPA Area Labor Federation. Todd Clary (right) USW District 10 and Treasurer of Mercer County Central Labor Council. Congratulations Lonnie and many

Erie Crawford Legislative Picnic



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

38th Annual Labor Recognition Dinner

A Winning Team

|

Sunday, October 5th

Ferrante's Lakeview

6153 Rte. 30 West, Greensburg

Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres at 4:00 pm

Dinner at 5:00 pm

\$65

2025 Outstanding Labor Honoree

Gino Bosetti, President

Teamsters Local 30

Outstanding Government Honoree

Judge Christine Donohue

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Special Honoree

Vince Quatrini

Attorney, Quatrini Law

Keynote Speaker

Phil Glover

National Vice President, AFGE

*The Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council invites you
to join us to celebrate*

38th Annual Labor Recognition Dinner

A Winning Team

Sunday, October 5th

Ferranti's Lakeview Restaurant, Rt. 30, Greensburg

Fellowship & Cash Bar at 4:00, Dinner at 5:00

\$65

Number of Dinners at \$65 _____ Total Cost \$ _____

Reserve a Table of 8 for \$495 \$ _____

Program Ads

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Outside Back Cover \$ 450 _____ | Full Page (8 1/2 x 11) \$300 _____ |
| Inside Back Cover \$ 375 _____ | Half Page \$200 _____ |
| Inside Front Cover \$ 400 _____ | Quarter Page \$150 _____ |

Total Ad Cost \$ _____

Please call Michael Hartung ASAP to reserve cover pages in Program Book: 724-493-9964
Email ads to: gwclaborcouncil@gmail.com

Please Print and Complete:

Name /Organization or Union _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Contact Person _____

Email _____

If you know who is attending, please include their names on back of form.

Total Amount of Check \$ _____ Check No. _____

Make check payable to: GWCLC Special Events

Mail check and form to:

GWCLC, One Northgate Square, Suite 110, Greensburg, PA 15601

Proceeds from this event will help get AFL-CIO endorsed candidates elected

LABOR 2025

**SEPT
20**

Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council
Canvass and Phone Banks Pittsburgh West End
10:00 AM

ACLC office
1459 Woodruff Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

**SEPT
20**

Philadelphia AFL-CIO
Labor Walk
09:00 AM

Sprinkler Fitters 692 Hall
14001 McNulty Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154

**SEPT
27**

Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council
Canvass and Phone Banks Pittsburgh North Side
10:00 AM

ACLC office
1459 Woodruff Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

**SEPT
27**

Philadelphia AFL-CIO
Labor Walk
09:00 AM

Sprinkler Fitters 692 Hall
14001 McNulty Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154

DON'T GUESS
VOTE YES!





LOCAL 677
MACK TRUCKS WORKERS

SIGN THE PETITION



MACK TRUCKS: AMERICAN-MADE OR AMERICAN-BETRAYED? STATEMENT ON MACK TRUCKS DECISION TO BUILD IN MEXICO

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Macungie—and towns like ours—depend on U.S.-built Class 8 heavy trucks, for example, Mack Trucks, to keep goods moving, factories supplied, and stores stocked. Yet 40% of Class 8 trucks sold in America are built in Mexico and enter with no extra cost at the border. This puts U.S. factories—who pay higher wages, provide strong benefits, and meet strict safety standards—at a serious disadvantage.

Targeted tariffs on imported trucks would level the playing field, bringing production back home, protecting good jobs, and boosting our local economy. When American factories win, they invest in equipment, training, and our communities—supporting small businesses and working families.

We respect workers everywhere, but U.S. labor deserves fairness. Production often moves south to cut costs, not to meet demand. Tariffs reward companies that uphold strong labor and environmental standards.

Let's keep truck manufacturing strong in America. Contact your representatives and urge support for targeted tariffs on imported Class 8 trucks.

Thank you for standing with us.



Inform Chair Shane Clark
Sec Treas Phil Lasky
Vice-Chair Julie Barnett
Vice-Chair Maria Delgado
Vice-Chair William Palmer
Vice-Chair Maria Delgado
Vice-Chair Adam Copley
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IBEW/Trustee Declan Pape

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Rep OPEIU Jeffrey Hapke
Rep PAJBWU John Cochran Jr
Rep SEIU Mike Butler
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Rep UBC Lonnie McFall
Rep UFCW Rebecca Valvo
Rep UMWA Chuck Knisell
Rep USW Paul Pelc

Director NWPA ALF
Amy Alcorn

***NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION,
AFL-CIO'S***

CODE OF CONDUCT

*THE NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION, AFL-CIO IS
COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT FREE*

*FROM DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT, REGARD-
LESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION,
COLOR*

*SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DIS-
ABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, ANCESTRY,
PREGNANCY, OR ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTIC PROHIBIT-
ED BY LAW.*

*AS, THE AFL-CIO WILL NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATO-
RY, HARASSING OR OTHERWISE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAV-
IOR IN THE WORKPLACE OR AT ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES,
EVENTS OR MEETINGS. IT ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING
CODE O CONDUCT AND EXPECTS EVERYONE IN THE
WORKPLACE—AND THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF
ITS ACTIVITIES, EVENTS OR MEETINGS – ABIDE BY IT.*

THE LABOR SCHOOL

Labor Activist Academy



The Labor Activist Academy is a series of labor education workshops designed to better equip labor union rank-and-file members, stewards, and labor activists to meet the challenges facing today's labor movement. This series consists of four non-credit workshops designed to develop critical thinking skills, increase capacity for building power, and encourage networking with other activists.

Classes will be held 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. on Saturdays in 2025. Lunch will be provided.

Building Intergenerational Solidarity

Pittsburgh - February 22 | Philadelphia - March 1 | Erie - March 22

Our Rights and the Law: What Workers Need to Know

Pittsburgh - April 26 | Philadelphia - May 3 | Erie - June 14

Bargaining and Representation Essentials

Pittsburgh - May 31 | Philadelphia - September 6 | Erie - October 11

Organizing for Worker Power

Pittsburgh - October 25 | Philadelphia - November 8 | Erie - November 22



Registration is required. Participants can choose to register for one or multiple classes. The cost to attend one course is \$100. Participants who sign up for three or four courses will receive a discount on the third and fourth course.

For more information or to register visit bit.ly/NewLAA2025 or scan the QR code.

Questions? Please contact us at laborschool@psu.edu

**IN PERSON: AFSCME DC 8 HALL
1276 LIBERTY ST FRANKLIN, PA 16323 OR VIA ZOOM
RSVP 814-450-6520 OR DIRECTOR.NWPA.ALF@GMAIL.COM**

BEAVER-LAWRENCE CLC

MEETING 7:00 PM
MONDAY, 10/20/25
MONDAY, 11/17/25
MONDAY, 12/15/25
USW LOCAL 8183
1455 MARKET ST
BRIDGEWATER, PA 15009

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 724-971-7473

BUTLER COUNTY CLC

MEETING 7:30 PM ON
WEDNESDAY, 10/1/25
WEDNESDAY, 11/5/25
WEDNESDAY, 12/3/25
UAW 3303 HALL
112 HOLLYWOOD RD
BUTLER, PA 16003

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 724-355-5706

CLEARFIELD-ELK-CAMERON-

JEFFERSON (POTTER) CLC

BLENDED MEETING 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, 10/2/25 -

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION WITH
MARK HARMON, OSHA & BARB
HOLMES-BLAUFIELD, SCHILLER
& HOLMES, LLP**

THURSDAY, 11/6/25
THURSDAY, 12/4/25

IBEW LU5
1400 LEONARD ROAD
CLEARFIELD, PA 16830

ERIE-CRAWFORD CLC

MEETING 6:30 P M
WEDNESDAY, 10/1/25
WEDNESDAY, 11/5/25
WEDNESDAY, 12/3/25
ADMIRAL ROOM-BLASCO
LIBRARY 160 W. FRONT ST

ERIE ,PA 16507
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
814-602-4590

GREATER WESTMORELAND CLC

BLENDED MEETING 7:00 PM
MONDAY, 10/20/25
MONDAY, 11/17/25
MONDAY, 12/15/25
HEMFIELD VFD
421 THORNTON RD
GREENSBURG 15601

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 724-600-6266

INDIANA-ARMSTRONG CLC

BLENDED MEETING 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, 10/23/25
THURSDAY, 11/27/25
CANCELLED THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, 12/25/25
CANCELLED CHRISTMAS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER TBD

UMWA 1412
51 ELEVENTH ST
LUCERNEMINES, PA 15754

MERCER COUNTY CLC

MEETING 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, 10/16/25
THURSDAY, 11/20/25
THURSDAY, 12/18/25-HOLIDAY
PARTY
USW 1660 HALL
1028 ROEMER BLVD
FARRELL, PA16121

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR
TEXT
724-301-6850

VENANGO-CLARION CHAPTER

WARREN-FOREST (MCKEAN) CLC

BLENDED MEETING 6:00 PM
THURSDAY, 10/9/25
THURSDAY, 11/13/25
THURSDAY, 12/11/25
IAM 1842 HALL
24 FRONT ST
FRANKLIN 16323

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 814-671-4420.