



**PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO
UPDATE**

William M. George
President

Richard W. Bloomingdale
Secretary-Treasurer

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231 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1110

(717) 238-9351

Fax (717) 238-8541

IMPORTANT!
**MAKE COPIES AND DISTRIBUTE THE PENNSYLVANIA
AFL-CIO UPDATE TO ALL UNION ACTIVISTS**

**AFSCME's Gerald McEntee and USW's Leo Gerard to
Speak at Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Biennial Legislative Conference
Feb. 26 – 27, 2007**

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
For More Details and to Register Today Contact:
Secretary-Treasurer Richard Bloomingdale at (717) 231-2851

Leo Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers, USW, and Gerald McEntee, International President of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, headline the list of top union leaders who will be speaking at the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Biennial Legislative Conference on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Other key union speakers include David Fillman, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13; Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President William George and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Bloomingdale. Congressman Joe Sestak, D-7th C.D.; State Rep. Robert Belfanti, Jr., D-107th Dist.; State Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, R-18th Dist.; Rosemarie Greco, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform; and Naomi Walker of the National AFL-CIO will also be speaking to the Conference with attendance expected to exceed over 250 unionists. On Monday the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council will meet in the morning and afternoon. The Legislative Conference starts Monday evening with legislative reception from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to give conferees the opportunity to meet and discuss their issues and concerns with both members of Congress and State Legislators. On Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. the Conference will resume and run throughout the day until about mid afternoon. The Conference agenda will also include establishing a pro-active legislative agenda for Pennsylvania workers in the areas of: affordable quality health care, pensions and retirement security, fair trade, good jobs and restoring the freedom to join and form unions.

**Pennsylvania Unions Will Be Participating in Nationwide
Week of Action**

In Support of Employee Free Choice Act

U.S. House Expected to Pass Bill on Tuesday, Feb. 27

Unions across the nation are planning 93 events next week as part of a nationwide Week of Action in support of members of Congress who are co-sponsoring the Employee Free Choice Act which is expected to be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The legislation introduced by Rep George Miller D-CA with bi-partisan support has 230 co-sponsors, enough to secure passage in the House.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Central Labor Councils, and Area Labor Federations will join community leaders and activists at public events with the news media in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg to thank the members of Pennsylvania's House delegation who have signed on as co-sponsors. Workers who have been involved in organizing campaigns will speak about their own experiences and tell why the legislation is essential for restoring workers' freedom to join and form unions to bargain collectively for a better life.

You are encouraged to attend and/or send representatives of your union to join with other workers at the area events listed below to demonstrate worker broad based support for the freedom to organize for decent wages benefits and safe jobs. Note: Some of the events have not

been finalized. You can call the contacts listed for each event for additional information.

All 11 Democratic members of Pennsylvania's U.S. House delegation are co-sponsors and unions leaders and activists are still being asked to try and get Republican members and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter to co-sponsor and support the legislation. Democratic Senator Bob Casey, Jr. is a co-sponsor of a companion bill in the Senate which will soon be introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy. It will take at least 60 Senators to overcome procedural tactics that could kill the Senate legislation.

Week of Action – Employee Free Choice Act Pennsylvania Events

**Allegheny County Labor Council/AFLCIO
and Southwestern PA. Area Labor Federation**

EVENT: Worker Roundtable / Press Conference
SPEAKERS: **Leo Gerard**, Int'l President, United Steel Workers
Jack Shea, President, Allegh. Co. CLC
Cong. Jason Altmire, D-4th C.D.
Worker Stories: USW and CWA
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007
TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
PLACE: United Steelworkers Headquarters
5 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: David Vinski, S/W ALF Field Staff,
(412) 281-7450

Philadelphia AFL-CIO and Southeastern PA. Area Labor Federation

EVENT: Worker Roundtable / Press Conference
SPEAKERS: **Patrick Eiding**, President, Philadelphia AFL-CIO
Steven Sarno, Chair, Southeastern PA Area Labor Fed.
Cong. Robert Brady, D-1st
Cong. Chaka Fattah, D-2nd
Cong. Allyson Schwartz, D-13th
Worker Stories: IBEW, CWA, and UFCW
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Philadelphia AFL-CIO Headquarters
22 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA
CONTACT: Liz McElroy, Phila CLC, (215) 665-9800 x-205
Fred Shaeff, President, Reading/Berks Co. CLC
(610) 374-2725

**Greater Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Council and
Northeastern PA. Area Labor Federation**

EVENT: Thank You Reception
SPEAKERS: **Sam Bianco**, President,
Greater Wilkes-Barre CLC
Area Member of Congress
Workers Involved in Organizing
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007
TIME: To Be Decided
PLACE: To Be Decided
CONTACT: Chris Snyder, Northeastern PA ALF, Field Staff

Johnstown Central Labor Council / AFL-CIO

EVENT: Thank You Breakfast
SPEAKERS: **Ernie Esposito**, President, Johnstown CLC
Congressman John Murtha, D-12th C.D.
DATE: Friday, Feb. 23, 2007
TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Aces Lounge, 316 Chestnut St. Johnstown, PA
CONTACT: Ernie Esposito, President, (814) 535-7621

**Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Biennial Leg. Conference and
Harrisburg Region Central Labor Council**

EVENT: Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Biennial Legislative Conference
SPEAKERS: **Leo Gerard**, International President, United Steelworkers
DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007
TIME: During the PA AFL-CIO Legislative Conference
PLACE: Red Room, Great Conference Hall,
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

For more information on the Employee Free Choice Act visit:
www.employeechoice.org

Double Digit Increases in Health Care Costs Expected This Year

The cost of health care benefits could rise more than 10 percent in 2007 unless employers change their plans, according to a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Many employers already are shifting more costs to employees or pushing employees to participate in health and wellness programs, according to the report, based on a survey of health insurance carriers, the firm's research and government data.

For 2007, costs for preferred provider organizations, are expected to rise 11.9 percent. Under PPO plans, subscribers are offered a network of providers. Those who select providers outside the network pay more.

Costs for health maintenance organizations are expected to rise 11.8 percent. Under HMO plans, coverage is provided if subscribers stay in the network.

Costs for "consumer driven plans", in which participants pay high deductibles, are offered tax protected health savings accounts and take on more of the direct costs of their care, are expected to rise 10.7 percent.

What are the Health Insurance Costs for Employers and Employees?

*Increases in Employer-based Health Insurance Premiums In Pennsylvania, 2000-2006**

Premiums by Source of Payment	2000	2006	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Family Coverage				
Total Premium Spending per Worker (Employer and Worker Share)	\$6,721	\$11,801	\$5,080	75.6%
Share of Premium paid by employer	\$5,424	\$9,394	\$3,970	73.2%
Share of Premium paid by worker	\$1,297	\$2,407	\$1,110	85.6%
Individual Coverage				
Total Premium Spending per Worker (Employer and Worker Share)	\$2,467	\$4,236	\$1,769	71.7%
Share of Premium Paid by Employer	\$2,094	\$3,474	\$1,379	65.8%
Share of Premium Paid by Worker	\$373	\$762	\$390	104.7%

* Numbers may not add up due to rounding
 Source: Families USA, Premiums versus Paychecks: A Growing Burden for Pennsylvania Workers

Harley-Davidson Cancels Health and Life Insurance of 2,700 Locked-Out Workers

Negotiators Announce "Some Progress" according to news reports

Unions and individuals wanting make donations in support of locked-out Harley-Davidson workers can mail checks to: IAMAW LL 175, 3200 East Prospect Road, York, PA 17402. Checks should be made out to IAMAW Local 175 and noted "Strike Fund" on the check. For more information contact: Mike Hopwood, Financial Secretary by phone (717) 600-1198 at the District 98 office

On Monday Feb. 12, company officials announced that it was canceling the health and life insurance of locked-out Harley-Davidson workers with no regard for the health and well-being of dedicated workers and their families especially workers with pre-existing medical conditions and those who rely on maintenance drugs. Negotiators for the union and company met on Thursday, Feb. 15 with federal mediators and reported some progress. They were scheduled to meet again on Friday, Feb. 16.

Labor and community support for approximately 2,700 workers, members of Machinists Lodge 175, at Harley-Davidson in York, PA

continues to remain strong and united as area unions continue to show their solidarity by joining their picket lines and sending coffee, hot food hand and foot warmers to workers staffing the picket lines. Thousands of e-mails continue pouring in from across the nation in support of the workers who are taking a stand to protect their wages, health care and pensions.

Last weekend members of Hershey workers Local 464 joined the picket lines to show their appreciation and support for the workers. It was the second time in less than a week that the Hershey union workers joined their brothers and sisters. During the Hershey strike in 2002 Harley Davidson workers as well as many area unions joined the Hershey workers picket lines and participated in several rallies. In another display of unity and support the Harrisburg Region Central Labor Council contributed a \$500 donation to the unions strike fund.

New State Action Resource Web-Site Address For State Federations, Central Labor Councils and Union-Friendly Legislators

The AFL-CIO has switched to a new State Action resource website. This new, password-protected site provides resources, on state and local legislation including:

- Up-to-date information about state legislative issues – model legislation, talking points, op-eds, letters to the editor, worksite fliers and more.
- Information on state defensive battles, including "right to work" for less and paycheck deception.
- State legislative resources.
- And much more!

Register Today
<https://privatenet.aflcio.org/stateaction>

SOLIDARITY CONCERT
Starring
ANNE FEENEY
Legendary Folksinger, activist

7:00 PM Saturday, March 10, 2007

Steelworkers' Hall
200 Gibson Street, Steelton, PA 17113

\$10 per ticket
(Proceeds to benefit United for Progress)

Ticket Information: Rick Smith (717) 448-1953 or email at
RickSmith@unitedforprogress.com

PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO LOBBYISTS' MEETING
Meetings are held Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
At the PA AFL-CIO Headquarters

Mar: 12, 19, 26; Apr: 16, 23, 30; May: 7, 21; June 4, 11, 18, 25

Session Days:
PA House
 March 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
 April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30(NV)
 May 7, 8, 21, 22, 23
 June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

PA Senate
 March 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
 April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30
 May 1, 2, 7, 8, 21, 22
 June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

***The Legislative Session schedule is subject to change without notice.**

WORLD WIDE WEB
 Visit the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO home page at: <http://www.paaflicio.org>
 Visit the PA Legislative Website at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>