



**PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO
UPDATE**

William M. George
President

Richard W. Bloomingdale
Secretary-Treasurer

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

**Workers' Memorial Day is
"Good Jobs, Safe Jobs, and It's Time"**

In 1989 the AFL-CIO designated April 28th as Workers Memorial Day to mourn workers who were killed or injured on the job and focus attention on the need for safer jobs. The theme of this year's Workers' Memorial Day is "Good Jobs, Safe Jobs, and It's Time"

"The change in control of the Congress means that hostile legislative attacks on job safety protections are no longer an imminent threat. But with President Bush, still in office, major improvements in protecting workers will be difficult," Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President William George said.

It took eight years and the threat of a lawsuit filed by the AFL-CIO and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union to finally force the Bush Administration to end the delay in requiring employers to pay the costs of personal protective equipment, (PPE's). The Secretary of Labor is legally committed to issue the final rule in November requiring employers to pay the costs of protective clothing, lifelines, face shields, gloves and other equipment used by an estimated 20 million workers to protect them from job hazards

According to OSHA's own estimates, 400,000 workers have been injured and 50 have died while the rule was in limbo. "We expect a strong final rule this November," George declared.

More than three decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. The late George H.R. Taylor former Director of Occupational Safety and Health for the AFL-CIO helped draft the legislation. He thought the law, if aggressively administered, would do a great deal but as years passed he concluded "that it just hasn't lived up to its promise" But that never stopped Taylor or millions of workers from fighting for improvements.

OSHA has saved hundreds of thousand of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries. Nonetheless, the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses, and death remain enormous.

"This year we will remember those workers who have died or have been injured on the job and demand strong enforcement of job safety laws, defending the gains that have been achieved, and pushing forward to address the problems that remain," Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Bloomingdale said.

The problems include:

- Weak penalties for companies that repeatedly break job safety laws, killing workers.
- Out of date and inadequate standards.
- Failure to address long recognized hazards and no attention to new hazards
- Ergonomic hazards still cripple and injure more workers than any other hazard.
- Coal mine deaths have doubled.

- Hispanic and immigrant workers are being killed in record numbers.
- Millions of workers have no OSHA protections
- Nine million health care workers and responders face the threat of a flu pandemic

Thousands of workers will participate in actions, observances, and memorials to honor fallen workers and to renew the fight for safe jobs and good jobs. Pennsylvania events are:

**Allegheny County Labor Council Workers Memorial Day
Committee, United Steelworker and Washington/Greene County
Labor Council**

Workers' Memorial Day

DATE/TIME: Monday, April 30, 2007, 12:00 Noon

PLACE: Market Square, Pittsburgh, PA

SPEAKERS: Leo Gerard, President, United Steelworkers

Jack Shea, President, Allegheny County Labor Council

CONTACT: Joe Delale, (412) 456-6851

**Erie/Crawford County Central Labor Council
Workers' Memorial Day Observance**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007, 2:00 PM

PLACE: Erie City Council Chambers, 626 State St., Erie, PA

SPEAKER: Paul Lemmon, Field Mobilization, AFL-CIO

CONTACT: Mathew Gress, President, Erie CLC or
Roseanne Barker (814) 455-4752

**Harrisburg Region Central Labor Council
18th Annual Workers' Memorial Day Observance**

DATE/TIME: TBA (tentative)

PLACE: UA of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 520
7193 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA

SPEAKER: TBA

CONTACT: Robin Fry, President, Hbg Region CLC (717) 773- 2549

PA. Federation of Injured Workers Press Conference

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

PLACE: State Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA

SPEAKERS: Mike Kerstetter, Director, PA Fed. Of Injured Workers
Dennis Straub, President, PA Fed. Of Injured Workers

CONTACT: Dennis Straub (610) 376-7942

**Greater Johnstown Regional Central Labor Council
18th Annual Workers' Memorial Day Banquet and
Essay Contest Scholarship Award**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007, 6:00 PM

PLACE: Christ the Savior Educational Center
307 Garfield Street, Johnstown, PA

SPEAKERS: John DeFazio, Director, District 10, United Steelworkers
Ernest Esposito, President, Johnstown CLC

CONTACT: Ernest Esposito (814) 535-7621

**Lehigh Valley Labor Council
Workers' Memorial Day Observance**

DATE/TIME: Sunday, April 29, 2007, 1:00 PM

PLACE: Bethlehem Rose Garden, 8th Ave. & Union Blvd.,
Bethlehem, PA

SPEAKER: Hon. Jack Panella, Superior Court Judge

CONTACT: Pete DePietro, Pa Fed. Of Injured Workers,
(610) 739-2480

John Werkheiser, UFCW Local 1776, (610) 513-9969

**Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health
(PhilaPosh) 18th Annual Workers' Memorial Day Breakfast
and Memorial Procession**

DATE/TIME: Friday, April 27, 2007, 8:30 AM

PLACE: Sheet Metal Workers Hall, 1301 S. Columbus Blvd.,
Phila. PA

SPEAKERS: Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO
Patrick Eiding, President, Phila Council, AFL-CIO

CONTACT: Patrick Eiding, (215) 665-9800 or
Barbara Rahke, Dir. PhilaPosh, (215) 386-7000

**United Steelworkers Local 6996 and
United Community Service for Working Families
Workers' Memorial Observance**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007 12:00 Noon
PLACE: Workers Memorial at Heritage Park
6th & Canal Streets, Reading, PA
SPEAKERS: Fred Shaeff, President, Reading/Berks Central Labor
Council
Tom O'Brien, Attorney
Dennis Straub, President, PA Federation of Injured
Workers
CONTACT: Brian Driesbach, USW Local 6996 (610) 375-3355

**York/Adams County Central Labor Council
Workers' Memorial Day Observance**

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007, 10:00 AM
PLACE: Kiwanis Lake, Parkway Blvd. & N. Newberry Street,
York, PA
SPEAKERS: State Representative Eugene DePasquale
CONTACTS: Kittie Hake, Teamsters Local 776, (717) 843-8911
Clarke Ruppert Jr., President York/Adams CLC,
(717) 600-1198
Alan Vandersloot, AFL-CIO Community Services,
(717) 771-3806

Note: This is a preliminary list of events. If your event is not listed or if the information listed is incomplete contact Jim Deegan, editor, direct phone (717) 231-2867 or e-mail: editor@paaficio.org. Thank you

**Unions and Civic Groups Call on Wal-Mart to
Put America's Security Above Profits**

Stop Blocking legislation for 100% Scanning of Cargo Containers

Last week National AFL-CIO President John Sweeney joined other union leaders and the leadership of the Philadelphia Branch of the NAACP in calling on Wal-Mart to stop blocking efforts to improve security at U.S. ports.

Sweeney was in Philadelphia to be honored by the Peggy Browning Fund a non profit corporation that provides educational fellowships to law students interested in pursuing careers in the service of worker rights.

Before that event Sweeney joined Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Bill George and Secretary-Treasurer Rick Bloomingdale; UFCW Local Presidents Wendell Young, IV and Sam Ferriano, Jr; J. Wyatt Mondesire, President and Rev. Carl Fitchett, Vice President of the Phila. NAACP at news conference exposing Wal-Mart's primary role in blocking 100% inspection of cargo containers that enter U.S. ports including the port of Philadelphia.

"As the largest importer in our nation, Wal-Mart has spent millions of dollars itself and through its retail trade association to oppose 100 percent scanning of cargo containers, posing a major risk to our homeland security, threatening our ports, our workers and the American public," Sweeney said. "Right now only five to six percent of the cargo containers entering our country are scanned. In comparison since 9/11, airport security has screened 100% of passengers to prevent 100% of all known threats."

Young called Wal-Mart's refusal to drop its opposition to 100% scanning another sad example of the company's failure to do the right thing. "This company has compiled the worst record in the nation in violation of child labor laws; in fighting the largest gender discrimination suit in U.S. history; in replacing good-paying jobs with part-time low-wage jobs, and unaffordable benefits and now leaves our ports and our workers in jeopardy by refusing to put America's security first."

Wal-Mart and its lobbying group, the Retail Industry Leaders Association has led the charge against 100 percent scanning. Legislation phasing in full scanning during five years H.R. 1 has passed the U.S. House of Representatives but is blocked in the Senate. Unions and civic organizations in ports across the nation are exposing Wal-Mart's opposition to full scanning and requesting the U.S. Senate to include it in the final legislation to be hammered out between House and Senate conferees.

PA Alliance for Retired Americans

Supports Expanding Quality Home Care for the Elderly

After detailing his own and his sister's personal experiences with providing in-home care for their 98 year old mother who suffers from dementia Ed Pace, Zone Nine Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans made two suggestions for correcting elderly care in Pennsylvania to the House Majority Policy Committee, Chaired by State Rep. Todd Eachus and hosted by Pittsburgh area State Rep. Chesla Wagner on March 29th.

There should be a fifty-fifty emphasis between at-home care versus institutional care not the current seventy/thirty institutional care emphasis irregardless of the wailing of the Nursing Care Lobby. Pace said the change is desirable for aging parents and their children for several reasons, including:

- Reputable Nursing Homes offering compassionate care will remain essential for those unable to stay at home.
- Quality affordable home care will give more elderly people the option of living at home instead of being forced to live in nursing homes and it will be less expensive.
- This will offer small and large Nursing Homes the opportunity to expand extended form of care in home assisted care. They already have an extended pool of trained workers to staff these ventures.

HOLD THESE DATES

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)

April 18, 2007

Hilton, Harrisburg, PA

2007 Bureau of Workers' Compensation Conference

May 30 – June 1, 2007

Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA

Keystone Research Center's 6th Sol Hoffman Awards Dinner

June 7, 2007

Hilton, Harrisburg, PA

PA AFL-CIO Conference on Workforce Development

June 12, 2007

Dixon University Center, Harrisburg, PA

PA AFL-CIO Community Services Institute

July 22 – 27, 2007

Crown Plaza Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

PA AFL-CIO Cope Golf Outing

September 20, 2007

Westmoreland County, Madison Club, Madison, PA

PA AFL-CIO COPE Institute

October 1-3, 2007

Harrisburg East Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA

PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO LOBBYISTS' MEETING

Meetings are held Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

At the PA AFL-CIO Headquarters

Apr: 16, 23, 30; May: 7, 21; June 4, 11, 18, 25

Session Days:

PA House

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

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

WORLD WIDE WEB

Visit the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO home page at: <http://www.paaficio.org>

Visit the PA Legislative Website at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>