



**PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO
UPDATE**

William M. George
President

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Secretary-Treasurer

April 20, 2007

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

**“WORKERS’ MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA”**

Thousands of workers will participate in ceremonies, observances, and memorials honoring the workers who were injured or killed on the job in Pennsylvania in the last year and to call for stronger laws protecting workers’ health and safety. Community and elected leaders will join union members to draw attention to the “unfulfilled promise” of worker safety, saying the laws that currently exist are being rolled back and are not properly enforced. Pennsylvania’s events, (listed below) are a part of hundreds of observances to be held worldwide as working families and union members commemorate workers who died on the job for the 19th Annual Workers Memorial Day

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Since 1970, more than 349,000 workers’ lives have been saved due to OSHA. Yet nationally in 2005, 4.2 million workers were injured and 5,734 workers were killed due to job hazards. Another 50,000-60,000 died due to occupational diseases. On an average day, 152 workers lose their lives as a result of workplace injuries and disease, and another 11,507 are injured.

“How many years do we have to call for stronger laws while workers die on the job?” said Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President William George. “The Bush Administration has weakened our nations’ health and safety laws and dragged its feet for too long. No one should be afraid of going to work in the morning.”

“This year we will be remembering those who were killed or injured by on the job hazards and demand prevention and stronger enforcement of job safety laws, defending the gains we have achieved and push forward to address the problems that remain,” Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Bloomingdale said.

A recently released International Labor Organization report recommends a labor inspector for each 10,000 workers in industrialized countries. In the United States, there are only 2,112 OSHA inspectors (818 federal and 1,294 state inspectors) for the approximately 130 million workers in the United States today- one inspector for every 63,670 workers.

Workers’ Memorial Day 2007 Events for Pennsylvania

PA. Federation of Injured Workers Press Conference

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 10:00 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

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
Rosann Barker (814) 455-4752

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) 19th 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, Sec.-Treas., 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, Reading/Berks Labor

Council, and United Community Service for Working

Families Workers’ Memorial Observance

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007 12:00 Noon

PLACE: Worker’s Memorial at Heritage Park
6th & Canal Streets, Reading, PA

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

Liaison, (717) 771-3806

Washington/Greene County Central Labor Council

Annual Labor Hall of Fame Banquet &

Workers’ Memorial Day Observance

DATE/TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2007, 5:00 PM

PLACE: Elks Lodge, # 776, 138 East Maiden St., Washington,
PA

SPEAKERS: Fred Redmond, Vice President, United Steelworkers
Union

Wayne Watson, President, Washington/Greene CLC

CONTACT: Wayne Watson, (724) 514-322

Allegheny County Labor Council Workers' Memorial Day Committee, United Steelworkers and Washington/Greene County Labor Council Workers' Memorial Day Observance

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
Rosemary Trump, President, PA Labor History Society

CONTACT: Joe Delale, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison,
(412) 456-6851

For the 2007 REPORT ON WORKPLACE SAFETY NATIONWIDE, contact the AFL-CIO Media Outreach Department at 202-637-5018.

United Steelworkers and two British Unions Agree to Work Toward a Merger

Create Counter-Force to Globalization and Unfair Trade

The United Steelworkers and two British unions last week agreed to work toward a merger that would establish the first trans-Atlantic labor organization and pave the way for a larger entity to represent workers worldwide. The Steelworkers and the two British unions, Amicus and the Transport and General Workers' Union, are expected to begin talks as early as June and could merge within one year, according to USW President Leo Gerard.

"As corporations globalize and global capital tries to flex its muscles...we have to build a counter-force," Gerard said.

The unions will form committees to study the hurdles they must overcome before starting to create "the first global union of the 21st Century," Gerard said. About five USW delegates are tentatively planning to travel to Britain in June, he said.

In December Amicus said it had signed agreements with the United Steelworkers, the International Association of Machinists and the German engineering union IG-Metall, aimed at eventual merger.

Ban on Mandatory Overtime in Hospitals Approved by the State House Labor Committee

The State House Labor Relations Committee approved House Bill 834 on a vote of 23-6 that would prohibit hospitals and other health care facilities from forcing nurses and other employees who provide direct patient care to work beyond their regularly scheduled shifts, except in the case of a real emergency. All Democratic members were joined by 6 Republicans in voting for the bill, sponsored by State Representatives Dan Surra (D-Clearfield) and Gene Digirolamo, (R-Bucks) which is supported by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and the unions representing direct care workers. The legislation will ensure the safer delivery of health care by limiting the number of required work hours for health care providers.

Republican-led Senate Filibuster Bars Medicare from Negotiating with Drug Companies for Lower Drug Prices

Last week Senate Republicans blocked Senate Bill 3 that would let Medicare negotiate lower drug prices for millions of older Americans, a practice that is now prohibited by the 2003 Medicare prescription law.

Initial findings of a year long study by the Pennsylvania Alliance of Retired Americans (PARA), indicate that Pennsylvania seniors who rely solely on Medicare Part D for their medications pay significantly higher co-pays and monthly premiums than those on VA or TriCare plans.

Senate Republican leaders used a filibuster to block the legislation which would allow the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices on behalf of 43 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Pennsylvania's U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Bob Casey, Jr sided with organized labor in supporting a motion to limit debate and proceed to consideration of the bill. They were among the 55 U.S. Senators, including six Republicans who voted to stop the filibuster. Thank Senators Specter and Casey for supporting workers.

Future Editions of Update to Focus on State and Federal Legislative Issues

Beginning in our next edition of the update the focus will be primarily on State and Federal legislative news to keep you informed of latest

developments and to help you respond accordingly. State legislative issues include Transportation funding, Governor's Health Care Reform proposal, privatization of State Liquor Control Board, PHEAA, Pennsylvania Turnpike, fair trade resolution in State House, protections against mandatory overtime, TABOR as well as other issues. Federal legislative issues include: No to Fast Track Trade Agreements, Employee Free Choice Act, Federal Minimum Wage, Medicare Part D, Raising the Minimum Wage as well as others that will require your support and action.

HOLD THESE DATES

Worker's Memorial Day and Mayday Eve

Anne Feeny Concert

April 30, 2007 – 7:00 PM

Pump House programs - Waterfront Drive, Munhall, PA

PA Alliance for Retired Americans First Triennial Convention

May 29th – 30th, 2007

Holiday Inn, Grantville, 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

20th Anniversary of Paperworkers Strike

Sunday, June 24, 2007

Lock Haven, PA

Contact: Lhadd@aol.com

PA AFL-CIO Community Services Institute

July 22 – 27, 2007

Crown Plaza, 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. 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

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

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>