



41st Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention News

Thursday, April 10, 2014

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Speakers



Richard Trumka
President
AFL-CIO

Rep. Gene DiGirolamo
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives



Rep. Frank Dermody
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives

SCHEDULE

General Session Opens 9:00 AM
General Session Concludes at the completion of business.



Lee Saunders, AFSCME International President
administers the oath of office to new Vice-Presidents.



It's Unanimous: Bloomingdale, Snyder Re-Elected to Second Term

By Don Shaffer, USW Local 3657

Rick Bloomingdale and Frank Snyder were fortified by a full chorus of support Wednesday morning as both were re-elected by unanimous acclamation and will begin their second terms as Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President and Secretary Treasurer, respectively.

Bloomingdale was nominated by David R. Fillman, Director of AFSCME Council 13. Fillman said, "I am proud to put into nomination one of my AFSCME brothers," adding, "we need Rick Bloomingdale to steer us through these troubled waters." Fillman's nomination was seconded by Don Siegel (IBEW), Michele Kessler (UFCW) and John Zanetti (USW).

Bloomingdale thanked the delegation for standing with him in the fight, paid an emotional tribute to his wife Karen, and thanked his predecessor Billy George for helping pave the road forward. "We have to fight every day to rebuild the middle class," Bloomingdale said. "But we can't lead if the people aren't with us. This is not something Frank and I can do alone. Thank you for building the labor movement and for fighting with us."

United Steelworkers International President Leo Gerard stood to nominate Snyder, calling him a third-generation steelworker who worked his way up through the rank and file and isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. Gerard's nomination was seconded by Ken Washington (LIUNA), Marge Krueger (CWA) and Fillman.

"I'm proud of what Rick and I have been able to accomplish over the last four years, I think we make a great team," Snyder said. "But, we have a lot of work to do and I'm excited about all the opportunities ahead of us. Your fight is our fight."



Lee Saunders

Lee Saunders, President AFSCME International

By Jenifer George AFSCME Council 13

Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, definitely brought energy with his address to the delegates. Kicking off with, "Are we ready to kick some ass?" "We need to show the extremists that those 'Welcome to Pennsylvania' signs are not for them." We have got to beat them. We must make a statement in Solidarity, through our community support and our work. "Right to work isn't going happen in Pennsylvania," said Saunders. "An attack on one is an attack on all." Billionaires are currently funding organizations like the Commonwealth Foundation and other 'Stink Tanks' in Pennsylvania, sinking tons of money into one goal to incapacitate us, leaving us defenseless to support working families. Saunders reenergized with, "We will continue to stand in their way!! We have got to do that Sisters and Brothers."

"Every right we have today is because union activists fought for it, or to put it another way, we built it." Saunders continued with "we've got to attack our challenges with fierce urgency of now," he spoke about the present Governor and the declaration we gave him, "One term Tom," following with a passionate, "if you come after us, let it be known whether you are a 'D or R', a 'Donkey or Elephant', if you come after us, we will damn sure come after you!!!" President Saunders concluded with, "Our success depends on Unity, no matter what the issue, Unity!!" "When we fight in solidarity, we will win."



Strength
in
Unity!

41st Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention

2014 Constitutional Convention Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

AUDITORS

Dennis Bomberger	BCTGM
David McLimans	USW
Thomas Higgins	IBEW
Joyce Culpepper	AFSCME
Mildred Saldana	SEIU
Daniel Woodall, Jr.	LIUNA

ALFS

Michele Kessler – AFSCME	NORTHEASTERN ALF
Dominic “Mickey” Sgro – AFSCME	CENTRAL PA ALF
Jack Shea – CWA	SOUTHWESTERN ALF
John Zanetti – USW	NORTHWESTERN ALF
Dave Schaaf – IBEW	SOUTHEASTERN ALF
Patrick Eiding – AWIU	PHILADELPHIA ALF

CONSTITUENCY GROUPS

Kim George	CLUW
A. Wayne Burton	PARA
Gwen Johnson	CBTU
Richard Womack, Jr.	APRI

VICE-PRESIDENT

CATEGORY 1 - Trades

James Cunningham	IAW	Michael J. Ventrone
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CATEGORY 2 (Entertainment/Security/Hospitality/Service)

William Cockerill	IATSE
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CATEGORY 3 (Manufacturing & Transportation)

Richard Baumcratz	GMP	Marion Bell
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AFGE

Keith Hill	Beverly Wilmer
Frances Wright	LaVerne English

AFSCME

Richard Caponi	Dominic “Mickey” Sgro
Herman “Pete” Matthews	

Carla Insinga	Michael Fox
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Henry Nicholas	Charlie Benn
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AFT

Ted Kirsch	Alison Ocrmand
Rosemary Boland	Nina Esposito-Visgitis
Jerry T. Jordan	Jack Steinberg

APWU

Thomas Molanick	Donna Welch
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ATU

Stephen Palonis	Sabatino “Sam” DiNardo
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BCTGM

Diane Carroll	Randy Bleiler
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BAC

Lester Kauffman, III	Jack Figured
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CWA

Ed Mooney	Jeff Reamer
James Gardler	Sandra Kmetyk

IAM

C. A. O’Brien	Tom Santone
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IAFF

Art Martynuska	Dave Schmidt
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IRON WORKERS

Thomas Melcher	Steven J. Atwood
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IBEW

Donald Siegel	Michael Dunleavy
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Marita Crawford	
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Michael Welsh	Sue Kimmel
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IBT

Ken Kertesz	Donald Despines
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IUOE

James Kunz, Jr.	William Cagney
Robert Heenan	Paul Scheb, III

IUPAT

Anthony DeStefano	Joseph Ashdale
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LIUNA

Abe Amoros	Tony Seiwel
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OPEIU

Dr. John Mattiacci	Dr. Robert Herpen
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PA BCTC

Frank Sirianni	
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PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS

Ken Broadbent	John Kane
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SEIU

Kathy Jellison	Roni Green
George Ricchezza	Jocelyn Lunney
Neal Bisno	Kim Patterson

SMWIA

Robert D. Greiner	Paul Pokrowka
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TWU

VACANT	VACANT
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UAW

Lauren Farrell	Thomas Ashton
Edward Balukas	Thomas Ashton

UFCW

Wendell Young, IV	Tony Zollo
Len Purnell	Chris Naylor
Anthony Helfer	Leslie Bond

UMWA

Ed Yankovich	Ron Stipanovich
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UNITE HERE

Robert McDevitt	VACANT
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USW

Robert McAuliffe	John Jeffers
George Piasecki, III	Thom Kott
Michael Saporito	Joe Padavan
Jim Savage	Jamaal Craig

UWUA

James Lewis	Robert Whalen
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Work and Family Breakfast Awardees: Barbara Cooper, Chair of the Committee, Nancy Flanagan (UFCW), Wendell Young IV, UFCW 1776 (On behalf of Wendell Young III, In Memorium), Adele Fullani and Rose Frullani-Bacon (On behalf of Bill Bacon In Memorium), John Meyerson (UFCW Local 1776, Man of the Year) Joyce Culpepper (AFSCME, Women of the Year), Barry Rudel, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (and Frank Snyder (PA AFL-CIO)



McDermott Energized Delegates to Keep Fighting to Make the AMERICAN Dream Real

By Chris Honoré Penn State School of Labor and Employment Relations

Activist Mark McDermott used Warren Buffett’s definition of class warfare, as a war being waged by the rich against working people in his speech Wednesday morning. An overwhelming sense of emotion and solidarity was in the air while McDermott gave listeners a thorough history lesson, reminding us about the struggles of early labor, including activists like his parents and grandparents who fought to build the middle class that we now work to protect. He said Corporate America is again trying to put their foot on the throats of workers, trying to take away everything that working families have fought for over generations.

Several recent victories in other states show us that what may seem impossible is possible just like huge organizing victories in the 1930’s, which doubled the size of the labor movement in 5 years. Imagine doubling our membership today in a few years? It can be done by organizing young workers. They see unions as the way to improve their jobs and their lives. McDermott said we need a strategy that brings us together to build power to counter the corporations and to rebuild the middle class for our children and grand children.

PA Auditor General DePasquale Pledges to Fight Injustice

By Carmine Solimini, Penn State School and Employment Relations

Eugene DePasquale, Auditor General for the Commonwealth for just over a year, spoke about the innovative ways his office turned a \$3.5 million dollar deficit into a \$2 million cash surplus in the short time since he took office. He thanked the PA AFL-CIO and its members for the contributions and support that helped get him elected. DePasquale talked about Pennsylvania’s schools. “There is a lot of work to do to make sure every kid has an equal opportunity.” DePasquale compared the cost for the average student to attend public school to the cost of a prison inmate per year. “If we don’t do a better job educating our kids now, we are going to get that \$35 thousand dollar price tag later on.” DePasquale said the Auditor General’s office has committed to ensure injustices are exposed. Their audits and investigations can save money for the Commonwealth and ensure that there is an even playing field for all.

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Convention News

Published by the PA AFL-CIO

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