



41st Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention News

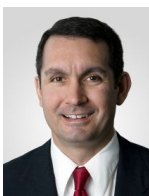
Wednesday, April 9, 2014

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Mark McDermott
Community Activist &
Motivational Speaker

Lee Saunders
International
President
AFSCME



Eugene DePasquale
Pennsylvania's
Auditor General

TONIGHT!

COPE Honoree Awards Dinner

Honoring:

Leo W. Gerard

International President - USW

Kathy Jellison

President, SEIU Local 668

Michael Dunleavy

Business Manager, IBEW Local 5

Wednesday, April 9th
6:00pm Reception, 7:00pm Dinner
Grand Ballroom

Contribution: \$250 per person

Proceeds benefit the PA AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education



Tickets can be purchased at the PA AFL-CIO Ticket Table
in the exhibit area or at the door.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

General Session Opens	9:00 AM
Nominations and Elections	
Recess	1:30 PM
Cope Honorees:	
Reception	6:00 PM
Dinner	7:00 PM

*Tickets can be purchased at the PA AFL-CIO Ticket table
in the exhibit area or at the door.*

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McGarvey Says Our Members are Skilled and Ready

By Don Shaffer, USW Local 3657



Sean McGarvey

Tuesday morning's keynote speaker – Sean McGarvey, President of the AFL-CIO North American President of Building and Construction Trades – brought an upbeat message to Pittsburgh and the 41st Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention.

McGarvey, a Philadelphia native, told delegates that a 10-year effort to create a new pathway to the middle class is beginning to “deliver value.” Across the 14 trades, more than a billion dollars is being spent each year training workers at 1,600 North American sites – all while focusing on a mantra of pride, performance and professionalism.

The result is that “the most highly-skilled, most-productive workforce in the world” is ready to take advantage of a recovering economy. McGarvey cited a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report that shows more than 95,000 trades' jobs have been added in the last year.

While things are slowly improving on the jobs front, McGarvey also sees an opportunity for the voters of Pennsylvania who will be electing a new Governor this fall.

“All I ask is this: whoever we support, our relationship with them has got to be outcome based,” McGarvey said. “The days of supporting candidates with amnesia has got to stop; the people we elect have got to be held accountable for their actions.”

Father Jack O'Malley Honored Citizen of the Year Award

By John J. Rudiak, AFSCME Subchapter 8401



Father Jack O'Malley

Born in 1936 in Pittsburgh, PA AFL-CIO Chaplin Father Jack O'Malley had a normal childhood attending school, playing sports, and later even trying out as a free agent for the Detroit Pistons. But while attending college Father O'Malley made the decision to enter the priesthood and become a labor advocate for the people.

Humorously and with humility in accepting the honor, he cited Pope Francis's words when being proclaimed Pope by his fellow Cardinals “May God forgive you for what you have done.”

Father O'Malley reminisced how his father marched with the labor priest Father James R. Cox for the rights of veterans and workers, and was even baptized by him, thus instilling labor's legacy into him at a very early age. He thanked his family, teachers, mentors, and friends along with prominent labor priests Donald W. McIlvane, and Charles O. Rice, and local and national leaders.

He also remembered Cesar Chavez and the farm workers who lived in his church. The farm workers would proclaim, “People who provided the food for the nation, didn't have enough food to feed themselves.” And he reiterated that no one, anywhere, should have to work two jobs without healthcare and be away from their families.

Father O'Malley thanked the delegates with gracious humility for the award saying “You energize my soul, you are the citizens of the year, you are the wind behind my back!”



Strength
in
Unity!

41st Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention

A Seat At the Table is Constant Fight For Us

By Jennifer George, AFSCME Council 13

President Bloomingdale reminded the Delegates that, “the most meaningful word for workers is Solidarity,” a quote that founder of ILWU Harry Bridges often stated. He said, “Don’t forget how to get to the bargaining table; we have earned our seat, not through entitlement, but through fighting for many years.”

“All of the attacks on workers rely on the “divide and conquer” tactic. Our solidarity has startled our enemies,” Bloomingdale said, recapping the press conference in Harrisburg.

“It was a great day, but we didn’t stop there and we won’t stop. These fights are won in your district offices; we have the people and the Unity!! Let’s continue the fight.”

IBEW Local 459 and Lehigh Valley CLC Honored



Mary Perdue, IBEW Local 459 Recording Secretary and Business Manager Paul Cameron accept the PA AFL-CIO Boyer-Uehlein-George Award for community services. Greg Potter, Lehigh Valley Central Labor Council President also received the award that recognizes local unions and central labor councils for their outstanding activities and programs that help families in need and helps strengthen their communities.

Since 1983, the IBEW Local 459 committee collected nearly \$200,000 in donations and non-perishable foods for the food pantry. Thousands of volunteers and local unions in the Lehigh Valley participated in the various projects and collaborations to meet the needs of the communities.

Mayor Peduto, “We need to rebuild the middle class.”

By John J. Rudiak, AFSCME Subchapter 8401

Mayor “Bill” Peduto reviewed the history of struggle of workers in Pittsburgh. His grandfather, a member of the United Steel Workers was fired for standing up for dignity.

He said that today too many workers have to rely on public subsidies to survive even though they are working 40 hours a week or more. “Working people need to take action to restore the value of work and the middle class, we won’t survive with anything less. Pittsburgh is a city in transition from heavy industry to one of ‘eds, meds, and technology.’” No one is quite sure what that next phase will be but labor must be part of the solution.



Mayor Peduto

Shea Welcomes Officers, Delegates to 41st Convention

By Michael H. Reese AFSCME RPEP #8809

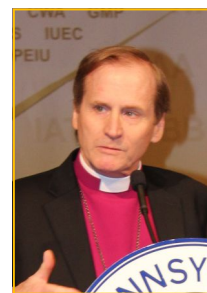


Jack Shea

The opening of the 41st Constitutional Convention was called to order promptly at 9:30 a.m. by Jack Shea, President of the Allegheny County Central Labor Council, by introducing the 60 Vice Presidents who represent over 900,000 workers in PA.

The Right Reverend Dorsey McConnell, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh started his invocation by reminding the hundreds of delegates about the first labor negotiations ... when Moses asked Pharaoh to grant the slaves some time off.

The impressive Color Guard and Bagpipes from Pittsburgh Firefighters Local 1 presented the colors prior to a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Alize Williams, a 10th grader from Perry Traditional Academy.



Rev. Dorsey McConnell

Thursday, April 10th



Richard Trumka
President AFL-CIO



Rep. Gene DiGirolamo
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives



Rep. Frank Dermody
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM General Session Opens

General Session Concludes at the completion of business

Convention News



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