



The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO 56th Annual Community Services Institute

Daily News



July 22-25, 2015

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, ALLENTOWN, PA

PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

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Welcome To The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO 56th Community Service Institute!



Rick Bloomingdale
President
PA AFL-CIO

We extend our sincerest thanks and greetings to you for attending our 56th Community Service Institute. We are here to develop the leadership skills, through which we can educate our members and encourage everyone to get involved in building stronger community groups.



Frank Snyder
Sec.-Treas.
PA AFL-CIO

Our objectives are to develop skills to conduct meaningful labor-based community service events, build community partnerships, educate about the longstanding partnership between the AFL-CIO and the United Way, understand how politics affect our communities and our lives, and to establish and strengthen the community service committee within local unions or central labor councils.

You will meet people from all around Pennsylvania who, like you, strive to make our communities a better place to live and to work. For those attending for the first time, we welcome you and hope that you enjoy your time here, as well as learn as much as you can. For those who have attended before, we ask that you share your experience with those who are new, and give them insight of what to expect. You will learn a lot over the next few days, too many things to list. You need to make certain that you take the information and knowledge that you have gleaned, back home in order to strengthen and improve your community and union.

The Lehigh Valley Labor Council Welcomes You To Allentown!

By Gregg Potter



Gregg Potter
President
Lehigh Valley Labor
Council

On behalf of the executive board, officers, delegates and over 41,000 union members, we welcome you to the Lehigh Valley for the annual Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Community Services Institute. For those of you who traveled here in 2001, you will find that much has changed and for the better! Over \$1 billion of new construction has completely changed the face of Allentown. Over 95% of the work was done by union members and we are extremely proud of the results and believe that you will enjoy your stay here. We have procured some guides from Discover Lehigh Valley and one will be given to you upon your registration. As you explore Downtown Allentown, you may want to visit some of the newer restaurants and attractions. Enclosed, on page 2, is a sampling of what you can find with a brief description and phone number.

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You can check out <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/allentown/centercity/mc-restaurants-around-the-ppl-center-20140909-htmlstory.html> for some restaurant ideas.

Below are brief descriptions on some popular downtown locations.

- **Dime Restaurant in the Renaissance.** (*Upscale bar & restaurant with a great view of downtown Allentown*) \$\$\$\$
- **Roar Social House; 732 Hamilton Street.** (*Check out the speakeasy!*) \$\$\$\$
- **The Hamilton Kitchen; 645 Hamilton Street.** (*Outdoor bar & entertainment.*) \$\$\$\$
- **Chickie's & Pete's; 701 Hamilton Street.** (*Famous pub fare with a crab-heavy menu.*) \$\$\$
- **Tony Luke's; 806 W. Hamilton Street.** (*Food only*) \$\$
- **Crust Pizzeria; 701 Hamilton Street.** (*Full bar and pizza & Italian menu*) \$\$
- **Fegley's Brew Works; 812 Hamilton Street.** (*Full bar with craft beer*) \$\$\$

On Thursday, July 23rd the Labor Council will be hosting a reception at Stooze's Bar located at 2105 Liberty Street in Allentown. We will have appetizers and open bar from 6:00 to 8:00 and there is no charge for delegates!! The raffle prizes which will be given out on Saturday, have been donated by the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and TDS Technologies. TDS workers are represented by the IBEW Local 375.

In addition to the daily 50/50 raffle, the Labor Council will be donating a T-shirt and a golf shirt at each drawing.

Although the Renaissance is not a "union" hotel, it was built all union. One particular union was approached about organizing this location and they told us that it was too small. There will no doubt be organizing attempts in the future. In the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to your servers, housekeepers, maintenance workers to explain the many benefits of trade unionism.



There are many other great locations throughout the Lehigh Valley within a short distance from our hotel. The Bethlehem Sands Casino & Resort is a short drive as is Coca-Cola Park, home of the AAA Lehigh Valley IronPigs, a Philadelphia Phillies affiliate.

Regardless of your choice, we are glad to have you here this year and encourage you to attend ALL of the classes; work hard & party hard. We will do our best to make your stay as enjoyable as possible. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about local establishments that you may have. I can be reached at 610-360-9491.

Gregg J. Potter
President, Lehigh Valley Labor Council

EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Variety the Children's Charity

Delegates, you will not want to miss the **Thursday, July 23rd**, General Session featuring Charlie LaVallee of Variety the Children's Charity. He will provide a heartwarming story about the children using the "My Voice" program. Mickey Sgro, AFSCME Council 13, is partnering with Charlie. Mickey has an update on the success of the "My Bike" program. Over the last 12 months, Labor has been sponsoring many adaptive bikes which have been presented to children with disabilities. Our 2014 Institute's classmates sponsored one of these bikes.

Mother Jones Rolling into the 2015 Community Service Institute

You can look forward to Mother Jones, as she makes her appearance at this 2015 Institute. "She'll be

Coming Around the Mountain” to meet up with you, **Friday, July 24th**, in the Renaissance 2 conference room. Students Anjini Patel and Megan Forst, East Hills Middle School, Bethlehem, will be escorting Mother Jones on this grand occasion. Mother Jones was a union organizer and a progressive activist at the turn of the 20th Century.

Improve Community Literacy by Donating a New Book

At this Community Service Institute, we encourage you to become active and engaged with the Allentown community. Before the end of the conference, drop off a new or gently used children’s book in the collection boxes placed beside the conference room door at Renaissance 2. The books will be distributed by the Allentown COPs and KIDs Program. Thank you for your generosity.

Remember to Drop off Your Unused Hotel Toiletries Before Checkout

The working families at the Allentown’s Turning Point Women’s Shelter, thank you in advance for donating your unused hotel room toiletries. When you check out Saturday, **July 25th**, just drop off your shampoos and soaps in the designated collection box. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

You are cordially invited to a reception as the guest of the Mayor of Allentown

Hot Dang - Allentown Mayor, Ed Pawlowski is rolling out the red carpet for our 2015 Institute’s delegates, Thursday, **July 23rd, at 6 pm**. Our Allentown Mayor, the Lehigh Valley Labor Council members, and Capital Blue Cross are your hosts for this evening. Don’t miss the optional, free to delegates, event! Come on over to the Stoooges Bar and Grill, 2105 Liberty



Our thanks to Karen Overly Smith for her help in submitting these pieces and ensuring that everyone is aware of some of the amazing events that are available!



AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

Thanks to our sponsors:
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