

Wednesday, April 11, 2018



43rd PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO CONVENTION NEWS PITTSBURGH, PA



Text SAFETY to 235-246 to get a link to our petition demanding safe workplaces for all!

SPEAKERS



**Kenneth
Rigmaiden**
**General
President**
IUPAT

Leo Gerard
**International
President**
USW



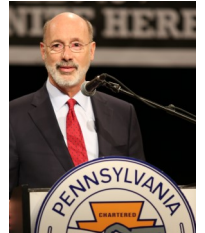
**Richard
Trumka**
President
AFL-CIO



Governor Tom Wolf Delivers Powerful Message

By Tim Ream, SWAPS

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf addressed the 43rd Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in Pittsburgh, PA the day after receiving the Executive Council's endorsement for reelection. His message was one of unity, strength, and democracy for organized labor in Pennsylvania for all employees, whether public or private sector, and their families. With an emphasis on unity and democracy for working families and the Labor Movement, Governor Wolf garnered the support of the convention delegates. . . Read the full statement on reverse.



Gov. Tom Wolf

AFT-WV Local President

By Madison Slupe, SWAPS



Stacey Strawderman

On Equal Pay Day, AFT West Virginia Vice President and Marion County Local President Stacey Strawderman addressed delegates on the recent work stoppage in West Virginia, and the rampant workplace inequalities faced by a predominantly female workforce. Inciting a nationwide movement, teachers and public sector employees banded together to demand respect for women in the workplace.

Starting as a simple Facebook page, educators across the state banded together to fight for wage increases and healthcare funding. Teachers were underpaid and classrooms underfunded, with just \$170 a year for supplies. In all counties, teachers faced wage inequalities, stagnant pay, and underfunded healthcare. Discontent mounted, but the straw that broke the camel's back, as characterized by Strawderman, was the implementation of the Go365 health care plan. Educators began strategizing on their options as West Virginia does not grant its public-sector workers collective bargaining rights. Teachers statewide took action. "It was illegal to strike—but that didn't stop us," said Strawderman... Read the whole story at paafcio.org.

Today's Schedule

7:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Work and Family Breakfast King's Garden 1/2/3
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Delegate Registration King's Landing
9:00 AM to 1:30 PM	General Session Grand Ballroom
1:30 PM	Executive Council Meeting King's Garden 1
3:00 PM	CLC/ALF Meeting King's Garden 2
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Constituency Group Meeting Sterling's 1
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	COPE Honoree Awards Reception Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:00 PM	COPE Honoree Awards Dinner Grand Ballroom

Convention News

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and Tim Reams

Two CLCs Recognized for Community Service

By William Kauffman, AFSCME Council 13



Ron Oliver

On Tuesday, the Bucks County and Erie-Crawford Central Labor Councils (CLC) were recognized with the Boyer-Uehlein-George Award, which is named after the President Emeriti of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, and recognizes local unions and CLCs for their outstanding involvement in their communities.

As Erie-Crawford CLC Financial Secretary and Community Services Chair, Ron Oliver said during his acceptance speech, "community service is the backbone of organized labor." Labor organizations work year-round to help those in need. "We give up many hours away from our families to make our communities better," said Oliver. Both the Bucks and Erie-Crawford CLCs have made remarkable contributions to their communities in the last year. "We're taking care of our own. When sisters and brothers are out of work, we bring them gifts to let them know their union hasn't forgotten about them," Bucks CLC President Tom Tosti remarked. Congratulations to these sisters and brothers, and thank you for all that you do!



Tom Tosti

NEXT DAY SPEAKERS



**W. Gerard
Oleksiak**

Secretary

Department of
Labor & Industry

Josh Shapiro

**Attorney
General**

Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania



Sarah Nelson's Passion and Fire for Labor Resonated

By Chris Carver, SWAPS



Sarah Nelson

Though Sarah Nelson's message was sent via recorded video it did not have any effect on her presence on the first day of the 43rd Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention. Her passion and fire for the labor movement was palpable and felt by all, who share her vision for the movement. The motif of her recorded video was straightforward; the days of sex-based pay differentials for the same work and sexual harassment in the workplace are over. In the recording, she emphasized, unions are and will continue be the pathway to equity regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. However, in order for unions to function at their highest levels they must be unified. It will take love and compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters in order to fight against power structures that continuously hold us back. We have to be sensitive to the plight of each other, in order to mobilize together. The final words of her message were keen to this idea. Nelson yelled emphatically three times "Workers united can never be defeated". With that being said let us stay united and face the problems of unequal pay and sexual harassment in workplaces together as one.

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Officially Endorses Governor Tom Wolf

On Monday, April 9, 2018 the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO officially endorsed the reelection campaign of Governor Tom Wolf.

President Rick Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder issued the following joint statement:

"For the past three years, Governor Tom Wolf has been a true friend and partner to Pennsylvania's working people. The Officers and Vice-Presidents of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO are proud to endorse Governor Tom Wolf for a second term. We look forward to continuing to work with him to advance economic justice, workplace safety and dignity for the next four years. The Labor movement is energized and committed to electing candidates who are as dedicated to the values of fairness, equality, and respect, as we are."

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf received a standing ovation after vowing to veto any 'right-to-work' legislation, should it come before him. "We have got to stand up and actually make the case that [right-to-work legislation] doesn't make any sense. It's not just wrong, it's stupid, really, really stupid". He called the Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31 case, an assault not only on public-sector unions, but on democracy itself.

Local Officials Welcome Delegates to Pittsburgh

By Calista Kelso, SWAPS



The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO was so fortunate to be welcomed to the Steel City by both Allegheny County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald and Pittsburgh Mayor, Bill Peduto. Mayor Peduto addressed the struggles anticipated in the coming year. Many new laws from Washington are making their way down to reverse the work of the labor movement; to regress the rights that our parents & grandparents have fought and died for. However, he is deliberate in reminding all that we cannot take our eye off of the immense progress that has been made. In these coming years, we can look forward to the vast opportunities arising for individuals who have never had labor rights or insurances before.

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald began by thanking the labor movement for the work they have accomplished this year. "We need to recognize what gets done around here." Fitzgerald acknowledged the advancements in technology, medicine, infrastructure, etc. that have been made in Pittsburgh this year; "Advancements that would **not** have happened with out the work of the labor union." Executive Fitzgerald further backs his statement by recognizing PennDOT and the construction workers that are working around the clock to aid & repair the effects of the major landslide that devastated Route 30 this past

Public sector employees deserve same protections as private sector counterparts

By Billy Kauffman, AFSCME Council 13

Many people, including legislators, are not aware that the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) does not cover public sector workers. House Bill 1082, otherwise known as The Jake Schwab Worker Safety Bill, seeks to provide the public sector with those same protections. The bill is named after Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority bus mechanic Jake Schwab, who died on the job after the bus safety airbag he was working on exploded. The belief is that OSHA protections could have avoided this tragedy.

On December 4, 2017, State Rep. Patrick Harkins (the bill's sponsor), Tiffany Schwab (Jake's widow), ATU Local 568 President John Renwick and AFSCME Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman, testified to the Pennsylvania House Labor and Industry Committee in favor of HB 1082.

"After the accident, all I could think about was that no one should have to go through the pain his family and I went through. It wasn't supposed to happen that way. Please make all workplaces safe environments for everyone by voting for this bill," Tiffany testified.

Renwick and Fillman urged the committee to stop treating public sector employees like "second class citizens," and act quickly to pass this bill. Unfortunately, the bill remains stuck in committee. Everyone should urge their legislators to support HB 1082, so all workers can have a safe workplace.