

Thursday, April 12, 2018



43rd PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO CONVENTION NEWS PITTSBURGH, PA



Text BETTERPAY to 235-246 to get a link to our petition to raise PA's minimum wage!

SPEAKERS



**W. Gerard
Oleksiak**
Secretary

Department of
Labor & Industry

Josh Shapiro

**Attorney
General**

Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania



SAVE THESE DATES

Community Services Institute
July 11th—14th
Crowne Plaza—Pittsburgh South
164 Fort Couch Rd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

PA AFL-CIO Annual COPE Institute
August 17th –19th
Conference Center at Shippensburg
University
500 Newburg Rd.
Shippensburg, PA 17257

PA AFL-CIO Golf for COPE
Thursday, September 20th
The Madison Club
519 Yukon Club
Madison, PA 15698

Convention News

Published by the PA AFL-CIO

Richard Bloomingdale, President
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer

Co-Editors: Rosann Barker and
Samantha Shewmaker

News Staff:

Stu Bass, Diane Carroll,
Jennifer George and William Kauffman

Penn State School of
LER (Studies) Volunteers:

Brianna Angeles, Chris Carver,
Connie Conboy, Calista Kelso,
Madison Slupe, Conner Porterfield,
and Tim Reams

State Federation's Officers Reelected Unanimously

On Wednesday, April 11th, President Richard W. Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder were reelected by acclamation at the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO 43rd Constitutional Convention. National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka swore in the State Federation's Executive Council Vice Presidents, Auditors, Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder and President Rick Bloomingdale.



The officers, President Bloomingdale and Secretary-Treasurer Snyder, issued the following joint statement:

"We are honored to be elected to a third term as the officers of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. We are proud to work with and serve union activists and working people across the Commonwealth. Looking forward, our goals to advance the causes of working people, fight for economic fairness, and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. For the next four years, the Pennsylvania labor movement will move forward to tackle issues facing working people together, united in our fight. Your fight is our fight."

The election of the state federation's officers follows two of the day's featured speakers, General President Kenneth Rigmaiden of IUPAT and International President Leo Gerard of USW. President Rigmaiden highlighted the moral consciousness of society's current moment and social movements that are intertwined with the Labor Movement. President Gerard's remarks focused on the revitalization and future of the industrial heartland.

Prior to the Future of Work Panel, National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka addressed the General Session. "We are the last, the only, and the best organized voice for working people in America. We don't duck and run, we don't run and hide. We are the American labor movement and we will not be denied!"

Future of Work Panel

By Conner Porterfield and Stuart Bass

Sec.-Treas. Snyder hosted a panel to discuss on how automation and artificial intelligences impact the future workplace. AFL-CIO President Trumka addressed wealth distribution and the priority for profits from advanced technologies to be equally distributed among workers. Workers need strong, independent unions ready to fight the challenges of machines replacing people and threatening jobs or corporations looking for new ways to squeeze more profits out of workers. It is up to the AFL-CIO and strong unions to confront this economic insecurity and defend the freedom of working people to make a decent living, to receive quality job and skills training, to support our families, to have work-life balance, quality health care, and to retire with dignity. **Read more at paaficio.org.**

Fighting For Today's Workers Into Tomorrow's Workplaces

PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
VICE PRESIDENTS AND AUDITORS
(elected on April 10, 2018)

Vice Presidents			Alternates	
Abraham	Amoros	LIUNA	Ryan N.	Boyer
Steven	Atwood	Iron Workers	Gregory	Bernarding
Jeffrey	Binz	UAW	Thomas	Ashton
Rosemary	Boland	AFT	Nina	Visgitis
Frederick J.	Boltz	BCTGM	Diane	Carroll
Leslie	Bond	UFCW	Anthony	Helfer
Ryan	Boyer	CBTU	Frederick	Wright
Ken	Broadbent	UA	John	Kane
Willie	Brown	TWU	Brian	Pollitt
Richard	Caponi	AFSCME	Tom	Tosti
Steve	Catanese	SEIU	JoAnne P.	Sessa
Robert	Cellucci	C-1 - Insulators	Martin	Williams
William E.	Cockerill	C-2 - IATSE	Paula	Gregg
Marita	Crawford	IBEW	Robert	Bair
Anthony "Rocky"	DeStefano	APWU	Joseph	Ashdale
Michael R.	Dunleavy	IBEW	Don	Siegel
Patrick	Eiding	PHILA-ALF-AWIU	James	Gardler
Angela	Ferritto	CLUW		
Geoff	Foringer	SMWIA	Don	Dunne
Kerri	Gallagher	NE ALF-AFSCME	Liz	Bettinger
James	Gardler	CWA	Edward F.	Mooney
Philip W.	Glover	AFGE	James	Fogle
Andrew	Harkulich	NWALF-USW	Daryl	Busch
Robert	Heenan	IUOE	Paul	Scheb
Carla	Insinga	AFSCME	Kerri	Gallagher
Jerry	Jordan	AFT	Ed	Olson
Lester W.	Kauffman, III	BAC	Clay	Roach
Darrin	Kelly	SWPA ALF-IAFF	Richard	Caponi
Kenneth	Kertesz	BLET-IBT	Timothy	Laveing
Michèle	Kessler	Pride at Work	Adanjesus	Marin
Ted	Kirsch	AFT	Candy	Lerner
James	Kunz, Jr.	IUOE	Keith L.	Thurner
Herman "Pete"	Matthews, Jr.	AFSCME	Bobby	Davis
Dr. John A.	Mattiaci	OPEIU	Dottie	Miller
Robert	McAuliffe	USW	Richard	Galiano
C. Robert	McDevitt	Unite Here	Susan	Scattaregia
Gabe	Morgan	SEIU	Andi	Perez
Henry	Nicholas	AFSCME	Fred	Wright
C. A.	O'Brien	IAM	Rich	Howell
George	Piasecki	USW	Dan	Nunzir
Leonard M.	Purnell	UFCW	Linda	Bello
Bennett	Sallemi	C-3 - GMP	Marion Tina	Bell
Michael	Saporito	USW	Liz	Bettinger
Dominic "Mickey"	Sgro	CPA ALF-AFSCME	Kirby	Artz
Bryon	Shane	ATU	Sabatino	DiNardo
Ralph	Sicuro	IAFF	John J.	Gardell
Frank	Sirianni	PA BCTC		
Toni	Staten	LCLAA		
Joe	Swenglish	UWUA	Gerald	Sachs
Dwayne	Thomas	PARA		
Michael	Trofa	SEPA ALF-UA	Dave	McLimans
Donna	Welch	APWU	Joshua	Luther
Michael D.	Welsh	IBEW	Kenn	Bradley
Richard	Womack, Jr.	APRI		
Frances	Wright	AFGE	Lilas M.	Soukup
Edward D.	Yankovich, Jr.	UMWA	Chuck	Knisell
Matthew	Yarnell	SEIU	Silas	Russell
Wendell W.	Young, IV	UFCW	Chris	Naylor
Auditors				
Dennis A.	Bomberger	BCTGM		
Joyce A.	Culpepper	AFSCME		
Thomas H.	Higgins	IBEW		
Dave	McLimans	USW		
Mildred	Saldana	SEIU		
Daniel	Woodall, Jr.	LIUNA		

Work and Family Breakfast Honorees



Pictured are the honorees : Keith Hill of AFGE, Marjorie Krueger of CWA, Dominic "Mickey" Sgro of AFSCME; Shirley Yates of CBTU/AFSCME, DeWitt Walton of USW/APRI/County Council, Rosann Barker of UFCW/NWPA ALF and Working Families Committee. A special memorial tribute was also made

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka Energizes Convention with Call to Action

By Michael Gillis, AFL-CIO

National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, a SW PA native, addressed the convention on Wednesday. In his remarks, President Trumka congratulated the Pennsylvania Labor Movement on the recent victory in the special election that sent Conor Lamb to Congress. "If you want to know the power of unions here in Pennsylvania, I have two words for you: Conor Lamb" Trumka said. "That's right, brothers and sisters, working people and the power of a union-run, member-to-member campaign are what carried the 18th Congressional District," he said. "That's how Conor Lamb won and it's a loud wake-up call for anyone hoping to do the same in 2018 and yes, 2020," Trumka said.



Trumka reiterated the important work ahead of the Labor Movement including important issues like health care, trade, immigration, infrastructure and taxes. "Our work has never been more important," he said. "We are the last, the only, and the best organized voice for working people in America".

Leo Gerard Energizes the Convention with Powerful Speech

By Connie Conboy, SWAPS



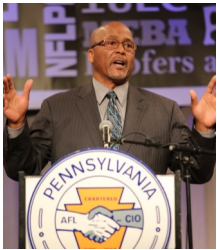
USW Pres. Leo Gerard

On Wednesday, the AFL-CIO's Constitutional Convention welcomed Leo Gerard, the International President of the United Steel Workers Union. Gerard's speech contained powerful messages towards collective action, embracing political movements, and the difference that the labor movement needs to make in the declining manufacturing industry. He urged everyone to stand and fight for the progression of the labor movement in order to prevent the destruction of the trade industry. His message of "What's right is right, what's wrong is wrong" is truly the backbone of the movement that labor unions stand to represent. He recognized that America, and countries across the globe, have the responsibility of everyone involved in the labor movement to take on the challenges that will be exhausting but are key to making a difference in the world.

Standing on The Shoulders of Giants

By Connor Porterfield, SWAPS

Kenneth Rigmaiden, General President of The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), delivered an inspiring call for unity to lead off Wednesday's events. Rigmaiden stressed the importance of maintaining solidarity through the current tumultuous economic climate— emphasizing "education, communication, and mobilization." Through collective action, workers can adequately address the rising challenges that are associated with workplace automation. He shrewdly identified anti-worker euphemisms such as "innovative bidding and value engineering" as corporate ploys to undermine union strength in the evolving workplace.



Rigmaiden followed his plea for collective action by highlighting the fundamental principle of the labor movement, "opportunity is not a gift, it is a right." This basic—but crucial—concept is essential for not just unions, but for preserving the American dream and its promises of economic prosperity for all who are willing to work for it. "All we want is the opportunity to work", said Rigmaiden. American workers ask for nothing more than the ability to apply their trade and earn a decent living wage in return. **See complete article on www.paafclcio.org.**