



RESOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 8

OBSERVE WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY – APRIL 28TH

WHEREAS, recognizing the right to safety and health protections on the job is a fundamental tenet of the union movement; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the extraordinary impact of the COVID 19 global pandemic and the unprecedented workplace health and safety challenges American workers face in this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, April 28, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Unions and our allies fought hard to make safe workplaces a reality, and won protections that saved millions of lives and prevented a tens of millions of workplace injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, working people have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis since day one. Workers in healthcare and other essential services are doing their part to fight this crisis, and their safety on the job has been neglected and compromised.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on April 28th, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers' Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the unions of the AFL-CIO will fight to ensure that workers with an elevated risk of occupational exposure to COVID-19 and other infectious agents are provided the appropriate personal protective equipment; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Convention delegates observe a moment of silence for workers killed on the job and for those workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

Submitted by: AFSCME COUNCIL 13

Referred to: Health and Safety Committee

Committee Action:

Convention Action:

RESOLUTION NO. 9

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

WHEREAS, on average 15 workers lose their lives and more than 12,000 workers are injured or made ill on the job every day;

Immigrant workers toil in some of the most dangerous occupations and are being killed and injured in atrocious numbers, and

Fatality rates for all workers have declined since 1992, but fatality rates for Hispanic workers have increased; and

The Labor Movement remains respected as the voice of workers on safety and health issues; and

The Labor Movement's accomplishments in occupational safety and health extends beyond members of labor unions to affect all workers in the United States; and

The Labor Movement has played a primary role in the passage of federal and state safety and health and workers' compensation laws; and

The Labor Movement secured and maintained millions of dollars annually in training grants; and

An assault continues against safety and health protections for American workers through efforts to gut OSHA and increase funding for voluntary programs rather than enforcement; and

Workers' lives and on-the-job safety and health are threatened by such actions; and

Workplaces with union representation and collectively bargained safety and health committees are more than twice as safe as workplaces with no union or safety and health committees; and

Unionization provides workers the voice, skills and collective strength necessary to secure safer and healthy workplace and do not go to work to die;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO continues to protect workers' lives and health through a strong commitment to Occupational Safety and Health.

Submitted by: PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Referred to: Health and Safety Committee

Committee Action:

Convention Action:

RESOLUTION NO. 10

RAIL SAFETY - TWO PERSON CREW

WHEREAS, in order to provide safety on the rails for union members and the public; and

WHEREAS, we support legislation for the safety of our members and the public; and

WHEREAS, Representative Martina White has introduced HB1324, PN 1753 that requires two persons on a freight train traveling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Senator John Sabatina has introduced a companion memo.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the PA AFL-CIO support the passage of HB 1423, PN 1753 and its companion legislation in the Senate.

Submitted by: PA BLET

Referred to: Health and Safety Committee

Committee Action:

Convention Action:

RESOLUTION NO. 11

PROTECTING PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

WHEREAS, public sector employees are entitled to healthy and safe workplaces; and

WHEREAS, in general, private business is covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and public employees are not; and

WHEREAS, on average, fifteen workers lose their lives, and more than twelve-thousand workers are injured or made ill on the job every day; and

WHEREAS, support is crucial for Representative Pat Harkins' House Bill 1082, the Jake Schwab Worker's Safety Bill, which is named after an Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) member who lost his life due to a workplace incident; and

WHEREAS, the labor movement remains a respected voice of workers on safety and health issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and its affiliated Unions call for enacting Pat Harkins' House Bill 1082, providing on-the-job safety protection to public employees by establishing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) equivalent safety rules for public employers, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all legal subdivisions, public schools, transit systems, and any nonprofit organization currently exempt from OSHA standards; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry would have the authority to enforce such an act, performing workplace safety inspections and levying fines; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the legislature provide adequate funding for the enforcement of the law.

Submitted by: AFSCME COUNCIL 13

Referred to: Health and Safety Committee

Committee Action:

Convention Action: