



A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2019

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- **Recording Secretary:**
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- Tom Flook
IUPAT 530

IUPAT General President Kenneth E. Rigmaiden to Keynote Human Rights Banquet

By Mark Benkart
Community Services
Committee Chairperson

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades General President Kenneth E. Rigmaiden has accepted the invitation of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council and its Community Services Committee to serve as the keynote speaker at our seventh Human Rights Banquet. The Banquet will be held at The Club at Shadow Lakes on April 18th.

The IUPAT represents men and women in the United States and Canada who work in the Finishing Trades – Industrial & Commercial Painting, Drywall Finishing, Glazing & Glass Work, Sign & Display and Floor Covering Installation, and many more careers in the construction industry and public sector.

IUPAT Local 530 is a member of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, and IUPAT District Council 57 is a

member of the Beaver County Building Trades Council and the Lawrence County Building and Construction Trades Council.

General President Rigmaiden began his career with the IUPAT upon graduating from California State University in San Jose in 1977. He immedi-



Caption: IUPAT General President Ken Rigmaiden addressing general session of the 2018 Pa. AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh.

ately enrolled in a floor covering apprenticeship training program and received certificates of completion in 1980. In the following six years he worked as a floor covering installer and served as an executive board member, trustee, vice president and eventually president of his local union.

He subsequently was elected as his local

union's business representative and then as its business manager. In 1996 he was selected to serve as an IUPAT general representative and shortly thereafter as an assistant to the IUPAT general president with specific duties in national agreements and jurisdiction maintenance.

In 2002 he was elevated to the position of executive general vice president and in 2013 unanimously elected to the office of general president by the IUPAT General Executive Board.

General President Rigmaiden is known throughout the Labor Movement as a thoughtful and eloquent speaker. His passionate address to delegates attending the 2018 Pa. AFL-CIO Convention was printed in the July 2018 issue of the UNION BUG. He recently addressed the Texas AFL-CIO Convention.

IUPAT is recognized throughout North

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For The Record

By Lisa Alexander
Labor Council Recording Secretary

From the November Executive Board meeting:

1. Approved a motion to purchase a banquet table, one-half page ad and a donation of \$200, with a cap of \$500, to each of the United Way of Beaver County and United Way of Lawrence County.
2. Received a thank-you card from the United Way of Lawrence County for purchasing a table for the "Taste of the Town."
3. Received a thank you card from the Boy Scouts of America for a donation of \$200 to the Laurel Highlands Council.
4. Discussed the Christmas Dinner at Beaver Falls High School sponsored by the Beaver Falls Christian Assembly CARE Outreach Ministry (time is from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM). Volunteers are needed to act as Santa's helpers, serve dinners and bus tables. Volunteers are also needed from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM to take leftover food to shelters. Approved a motion to donate \$500 for

the Dinner.

5. Approved a motion to purchase up to four tickets at \$35 each and a one-half page ad for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee's Youth and Community Banquet on January 19th.
6. Approved a motion to purchase up to 4 tickets at \$20 each for the Midland Women's Civic Club's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 20th.

From the November Membership meeting:

1. President Galiano reported on a resolution to support public sector OSHA legislation in Pennsylvania, House Bill 1082 and Senate Bill 464. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the delegates adopted a resolution in support of the legislation.
2. The following were nominated for Labor Council offices for two-year terms beginning after installation immediately following an election at the December membership meeting:

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The opinions expressed in Union Bug articles are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council or its officers.

President's Report

By Rick Galiano
Labor Council President

* Please remember that elections for two-year Labor Council Executive Board positions will be held at the December membership meeting. Nominations for the sixteen positions were made at the November membership meeting. [Ed. Note: A list of the nominees is included in the "For the Record" report on Page two of this issue of the UNION BUG.] Nominations may be reopened at any time prior to the election by a majority vote. The newly elected Executive Board will be installed immediately after the elections are completed.

* The Labor Council's annual Christmas Party will be held

following the December membership meeting. The membership meeting will be brief. Each year the Labor Council invites its supporters and friends to enjoy the food and refreshments served at the party. It's a way for the Labor Council to show its appreciation to those with whom it closely works for their support of the Labor Movement's agenda.

* The 2020 Labor Council wall calendars are now available. Please contact any Labor Council officer if you want a calendar for your local union or home.

* The food and refreshments at the November Labor Council meeting were sponsored by the Labor Council. The food and refreshments at the Decem-

ber meeting and Christmas party also will be sponsored by the Labor Council. Please contact me if your local union would like to sponsor a meeting in 2020.

* Beaver County will be one of five counties nationwide that NBC News will cover in a special project focused on 2020 presidential battleground states. Let's strengthen our activism in 2020 so that NBC News makes our activities a part of its coverage.

* On behalf of the Executive Board and the members of the Labor Council, I would like to wish all of you and your families Happy Holidays and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Unions and Legislators Launch PA Workers' Bill of Rights Package

Reprinted from PA AFL-CIO 11/9/19 News Release

(HARRISBURG) Every worker has the right to a voice at work. Advancing workers' rights must include strengthening and expanding access to collective bargaining, the pursuit of fair consideration for our time and our labor, and protections for safety and health on the job. Employers who violate the rights of workers should not be rewarded for offensive labor practices, instead, workers should be recognized as stakeholders in their own right.

With these principles in mind, the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, representing 700,000 union members, has joined with workers' rights defenders in the state legislature to proactively expand worker dignity in our Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, joined by union members and state legislators, held a press conference on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 in the Main Capitol Rotunda announcing the Pennsylvania's Workers' Bill of Rights.

The officers of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO made the following comments on the package of legislation:

"Labor unions are leading the way in strengthening and expanding workers' rights across our Commonwealth. This legislative package, Pennsylvania's Workers' Bill of Rights, is the most proactive agenda for workers our Commonwealth has seen in decades. Workers and the unions that represent them are committed to fighting for a stronger voice on the job," stated President Rick Bloomingdale.

"Defense does not put points on the board. With the support of Labor champions in the state legislature, Pennsylvania workers are demanding change. Unions and workers have been faced with attacks from anti-worker special interests that seek to keep working men and women from having a voice. We are fighting for the dignity of all workers, and a place at the table. This Bill of Rights agenda is only the beginning," added Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder.

IUPAT Gen. Pres. to Keynote Banquet

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America for its dedication to activism to further the issues, campaigns and causes that it believes will benefit the Labor Movement and our communities. It places the fight for fair wages, benefits and the right to organize front and center.

IUPAT considers diversity as one of the strongest assets that a union can possess. It works to diversity by fighting for the issues that matter to the com-



IUPAT District 57 at a solidarity rally on March 6th. The rally was held in Wilmerding in support of striking UE members in Erie. From left Giles Grinko, Local 47 Business Representative; Joe Hughes, Local 751 organizer; Donald Slabe, Local 6 member.

munities that it wants to welcome into the union.

In western Pennsylvania, IUPAT solidarity posters have become staples at Labor Movement supported rallies.



(L-R) IUPAT District Council 57 field representatives Steve Olash (Local 530), Joe Hughes (Local 751) and Tom Flook (Local 6) at Working People's Day of Action rally. The rally was held at the Beaver County Courthouse on February 26th, 2018.

Recently, under the direction of General President Rigmaiden, IUPAT has created an original documentary series, "We Are Union: From the Front Lines," focusing on Labor's fight to pro-

tect workers from diverse backgrounds, organize politically and repair America's crumbling infrastructure. Weaving stories of rank-and-file members, union apprentices and organizers on the ground, the series gives an inside look at the work that the Labor Movement is doing across the U.S. and Canada.

Please see the IUPAT website: www.iupat.org/weareunion to watch the excellent episodes of the series.

Banquet invitations will be mailed out in January. Anyone who is interested in serving on the banquet committee should contact Labor Council Community Services Committee Chairperson Mark Benkart (724-312-4387), Labor Council Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice Linwood Alford (724-843-6319) or Labor Council Trustee Tom Flook (412-600-9860).

For The Record

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- Vice-President** - Mark Benkart (IBEW)
- Vice-President** - Jan Carpenter (SEIU)
- Vice-President** - Linwood Alford (LIUNA)
- Vice-President** - Mike Ciccone (IAMAW)
- Trustee** - Sarah Dudash (SEIU)
- Trustee** - Laurie Fisher (AFSCME)
- Trustee** - Kevin Lee (IBEW)
- Trustee** - Jody Kohser (SEIU)
- Trustee** - Tom Flook (IUPAT)

All nominees accepted at the time of nomination or by letter.

In Brief



Claire M. Cohen, M.D., left, with Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council members Linwood Alford, Jan Carpenter and Christ Atsidis at a screening of "Power to Heal: Medicare and the Civil Rights Movement." The movie traces the dramatic and effective desegregation of American hospitals as a result of Medicare's implementation in the 1960's. The movie was screened on Dec. 7th in Pittsburgh by the Pittsburgh Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program. Dr. Cohen was one of the four physician post-movie presenters. Linwood is the Labor Council's Director of Civil Rights and Economic Development, Jan is the Labor Council's Healthcare Committee Chairperson and Christ is vice-president of USW 1211.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE
CENTRAL LABOR
COUNCIL



We're on the Web:
pa.aflcio.org/349


Calendar of Events

- 12/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings; Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.
- 12/18 NWPA ALF 4th quarter meeting: AFSCME DC 85 Hall, 1276 Liberty Street, Franklin, Pa. 16323.
- 12/25 Christmas Dinner and Toy Giveaway; Beaver Falls High School. Please see the flyer attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG.
- 01/14 Community Services/Moral Mondays meeting: 7:00 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport
- 01/19 Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Committee banquet: 5:00 PM, Center Stage Banquet Hall, 1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca. Contact Eugenia Priest at 724-775-7734 for additional information and tickets.
- 01/20 Beaver/Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport.

Merry Christmas



Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at jkohser@verizon.net, by 6:00 p.m. on January 10th to be considered for publication in the January 2019 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.

 **DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED FOR THE
26th ANNIVERSARY
FREE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

Held on:

Wednesday, December 25

11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

at

Beaver Falls High School

1701 8th Avenue

♥Hosted by

Christian Assembly

CARE Outreach Ministry

(724) 846-3751



What is needed? Hygiene products, blankets, NEW items of warm clothing such as scarves, gloves, socks, sweats and hats... they do not need to be wrapped. Also, monetary gifts are greatly appreciated to purchase whatever is not received. Last year, over 1,300 people spent the day with us and enjoyed a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship. Please help us to continue this wonderful outreach! Hope to see YOU!