

NWPA ALF News

December 2021 Edition

2021 Christmas Project for Ironworkers 851

The NWPA ALF with the assistance and support of our affiliates and our friends is working to make Christmas a little brighter for the 30 members of ironworker's 851 and their children. They are standing strong on the picket line at Erie Strayer, we can help! If we each just give a little we will accomplish a lot. We are hoping with your help to provide 3 gifts/gift cards per child a gift card for all of the families to help with Christmas dinner. At the party, we will have drinks, cookies, candy canes. And Santa will greet everyone. We will take pictures to give to the families. We will have filled stockings for every child that are made with American-made fabrics and were sewn by union members. While listening to festive music we will have an opportunity to socialize and build more solidarity.

What? A Christmas Party!

When? Saturday, Dec. 18th From 10:00 Am-Noon.

Where? VFW Post 470 at 1808 W 26th St., Erie 16508.

Who? The families of Ironworker's 851 who are on strike

Why? These union families have a need!

Honored guest: SANTA!

Gifts or gift cards for the children can be dropped off by December 15th at the NWPA ALF office in Franklin, the IBEW 56 hall 185 Pennbriar Dr in Erie, AFSCME DC 85 hall 1276 Liberty St in Franklin or email nwpaalf@gmail.com if special arrangements need to be made.

To make sure the members realize who made this possible we will be including a list of everyone donating, gifts, gift cards, supplies for the event, or funds at the event and in the tent at the picket line.

Sponsors of the event are encouraged to have someone volunteer. If you want to volunteer text 814-360-8336.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The NWPA ALF's jurisdiction covers 19 Pennsylvania Counties: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren and Westmoreland. We produce this newsletter for the members of our affiliates.

Any comments or questions about this newsletters or its contents should be sent to the NWPA ALF is located at 1276 Liberty St. Ste. 2 in Franklin, PA 16323.

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NWPA ALF MEETING

General Meeting 7:00 PM on
Wednesday, Dec. 15th
Our E-Board Meets at 6:00 PM
via ZOOM or in-person
AFSCME DC 85 Hall
1276 Liberty St., Franklin, PA 16323
Special speakers to be announced
RSVP to 814-360-8336 or
nwpaalf@gmail.com

CLC Meetings in NWPA ALF:

Beaver-Lawrence CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Monday, Dec. 20th
IBEW 712 Hall, 217 Sassafras Lane,
Beaver 15009
For more information call 724-971-7473.

Butler County CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Wednesday, Jan. 5th
UAW 3303 Hall 112 Hollywood Rd.,
Butler, PA 16003
For more information call 724-285-4883 ext. 233

Clearfield-Elk-Cameron-Jefferson (Potter)
CLC Meeting
7:30 PM on Thursday, Jan. 6th
via ZOOM
For more information call 814-937-2208.

Erie-Crawford CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Wednesday, Jan. 5th
USW 3199 Hall, 703 French St.,
Erie 16501
For more information call 814-823-9940.

Greater Westmoreland CLC Meeting:
7:00 PM on Monday, Dec 20th
431 Thornton Rd Greensburg, PA15601
For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Thursday, Dec.9th
51 Eleventh St Lucerne mines, PA 15745
For more information call 724-479-0923.

Mercer County CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Thursday, Dec. 16th
USW 1660 Hall, 1028 Roemer Blvd.,
Farrell 16121
For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter Meeting:
6:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 9th
IAM 1842 Hall, 24 Front St., Franklin 16323
For more information call 814-671-4420.

Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC:
Meeting 6:00 PM on Thursday, Jan. 6th
via ZOOM
For more information call 814-730-7558

Help Erie Strayer Strikers during WEEK OF ACTION, Dec. 13 – 17, 2021

We ask the members of organized labor to assist and support Ironworker's 851 during one or more of the events planned during the week leading up to their next negotiations session. When Erie Strayer sees the community support and Solidarity, it will impact their negotiations. Below is the list of events and how you can help!

Monday, December 13

Ironworker's 851 will host a Livestream event with Erie Strayer Strikers. The workers will speak to the Ironworker's Rising audience and the public. Their Staff Representative, Tracy Cutright will kick off the Livestream event and then turn it over to the workers one-by-one.

Location: In front of Erie Strayer gate

Time: 2:00 PM EST

If you are available, you could enhance the video by becoming part of the backdrop in Solidarity.

Tuesday, December 14

They will host a March and candlelight vigil through Kyle Strayer's neighborhood ending at his house. **Join us, a larger crowd is better!**

Location: 4888 N Wayside Dr., Erie, PA 16505

Time: 4:00 PM rally time to meet up at defined location nearby (TBD), step off at 4:15/4:30.

It will conclude whenever is appropriate.

Watch your emails and Facebook for more details as they become available.

Wednesday, December 15

We ask members of organized labor and the public to call Erie Strayer, echoing the workers' demands. A short script will be provided to supporters across the country for their use. **A high volume of calls just before the next bargaining session would be beneficial. Will you make a call in Solidarity?**

Thursday, December 16

Ironworker's 851 Caravan will follow a defined route throughout Erie. It will begin and end in the same location. Participants meet, tape signs on cars, and then line up for the caravan. **Please, join them to show your support.**

Location/Route: TBD

Time: TBD

Watch your emails and Facebook to see details as they become available.

SUPREME COURT FINDS COMPANY SOCIAL GATHERING TO BE WORK-RELATED FOR “TRAVELING EMPLOYEE.”

By Barb Holmes Attorney

The Commonwealth Court had determined, in *Peters v. WCAB* (Cintas Corp.) that an injury suffered in a motor vehicle accident on the way home from a company sponsored social event was not work-related, because the employee had passed the exit for his home when going to the restaurant where the gathering was held. In a very recent decision, the Supreme Court overturned that ruling, and found that Mr. Peters, a traveling employee by definition, was in fact covered by the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act, and should have been awarded benefits.

Mr. Peters worked for Cintas Corporation, as a uniform sales representative. He had a territory that he covered, while also having an office in Allentown and working from home at times. On the day of his injury, he was making calls in his service area, and then went to a “team building” event at The Tilted Kilt, a restaurant. Although he traveled there in a company van, and the company arranged for the event, benefits were denied by the Workers' Compensation Judge. The Judge found that Mr. Peters' presence at the event was not “required” and therefore he was not necessarily in the course of his employment while at the festivities. The Workers' Compensation Appeal Board affirmed the denial of benefits. The Commonwealth Court found that even though Mr. Peters was a traveling employee, whose “course of employment” is considered to be broader in scope, he was not covered at the time of the injury. Rather, the Court found that his actions, in passing the exit for his home to get to the restaurant, and then “socializing” at an event that was not a required part of his work duties, were so far removed from his work duties that they resulted in an “abandonment” of his employment, such that benefits were not appropriate.

In a decision issued on November 17th, the Supreme Court reversed this decision and remanded for the Judge to address some additional outstanding issues. In doing so, the Supreme Court affirmed the traveling employee doctrine that the Commonwealth Court had previously set out in other cases, beginning in 1992. This provides that when a traveling employee is injured after setting out on the business of the employer, it is presumed that s/he is furthering the employer's business at the time of the injury. This presumption in favor of the employee must be rebutted by the employer in order for benefits to be denied. There are affirmative defenses the employer can use, one of which is abandonment of the employer's business affairs, which was what Cintas Corporation argued in Mr. Peters' case. The Supreme Court found that Mr. Peters did not abandon his employment by attending the employer-sponsored social event at The Tilted Kilt, which had been scheduled to celebrate the end of the sales blitz week; instead, he remained in the course of his employment, furthering his employer's business objectives. The Court found that he did not “abandon” his employment even though (1) he had passed the highway exit to his home in order to get to the restaurant; and (2) his attendance was not mandatory. The Court reasoned that these types of events were regularly held by Cintas during sales blitzes.

Respectfully, the decisions below, including that of the Commonwealth Court, were simply wrong, particularly where a traveling employee—whose course of employment is broader because of the travel involved—was concerned. The Supreme Court exhaustively reviewed precedent and determined that Mr. Peters was entitled to benefits. However, the Court also cautioned that not every

traveling employee will be awarded benefits as a result of a motor vehicle accident and that the factual circumstances of each case need to be reviewed, explaining,

...an employee's “course of employment” does not cover all the time during the day”... “does not extend to intervals of time between regular working hours, nor to the interval between regular working hours and a new, additional, or different work to be under-taken at another period of time, in which intervals the employee leaves the premises... .”

Therefore, as we have often discussed in these articles, the factual underpinnings of cases, particularly course of employment cases, need to be carefully reviewed and analyzed. This case also has guidance for employees for whom travel is not part of their employment, as it discusses precedent concerning social events and other activities that may take an individual out of the scope of employment when an injury occurs. Again, these cases are very fact specific, and should an injury occur during travel to or from these types of events—even if drinking may have been involved—the claim should be discussed with an attorney with experience and knowledge of workers' compensation, course of employment and scope of coverage. There may be a compensation claim and a motor vehicle claim worth exploring!



Message from President Liz Shuler

Source: AFL-CIO DAILY BRIEF



The Build Back Better Act will hold accountable employers who attempt to union-bust with real financial penalties, making this the biggest win for the right to organize since the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935.

For too long, our economy has benefited the wealthy few and left many working people without access to basic needs like affordable child and elder care, health care and housing.

Now it's the Senate's turn to act. The AFL-CIO and our members are organizing, we are mobilizing, and we will not rest until the Senate passes the Build Back Better Act.

The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

PROTECTS WORKERS' RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT WORK



- ★ Ensures employers face real penalties for firing workers who come together to make their jobs better
- ★ Makes it easier for workers to form a union without fear of retaliation
- ★ Holds corporate executives liable when they violate workers' rights
- ★ Restores tax deduction for union dues

AFL-CIO

Venango County Christmas Dinner

On Thursday December 16th at the Venango County Museum (270 Seneca St. in Oil City, 16301) from 6-8 PM the Venango County Democrats and the Venango-Clarion CLC will be co-hosting a Christmas Dinner for working families in Venango County. It is Free! Rsvp to 814-657-3108 or jkluck14@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!



Protect the USPS!

reprint from progressamerica.us

The United States Postal Service's promise of universal service and public ownership has been eroded under the leadership of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and USPS Board of Governors Chairman Ron Bloom.

With President Biden's decision not to re-nominate Bloom as Chair, we have an opportunity to reaffirm the promise of universal service and public ownership that has been the hallmark of the USPS' enduring popularity.

As the U.S. Senate considers President Biden's nominees to fill the two vacancies on the USPS Board of Governors, we demand that they get firm commitments that, if confirmed, the nominees will take the following steps to protect our public Postal Service:

- Reverse the postal slowdown that was formalized this year
- Commit to prioritizing election mail, including ballots, registration forms, and absentee requests
- Expand the postal banking pilot program to provide more banking services to more unbanked or underbanked communities
- Seek to expand existing postal infrastructure into a community hub for services, rather than shutting down or privatizing aspects of it
- Maintain the USPS as a source of good, living wage jobs for our communities
- Provide real oversight to Postmaster General DeJoy's financial conflicts of interest

It's critical that every member of USPS leadership remain committed to our Postal Service. That's why your signature is so important today!

Workers' Compensation Benefits: Hearing Loss

By Rudberg Law Offices, LLC

Many industrial and factory workers suffer from work-related hearing loss due to the noise exposure they experience on the job. Despite this, many are never compensated for this damage. In order to recover for this type of hearing damage, there are several hurdles that the worker must overcome.

Currently, to receive workers' compensation benefits, you must have a work-related hearing loss of greater than 10%. If you have a hearing loss in one ear that was caused by a traumatic work event, you may also be entitled to benefits. The amount of loss is determined by comparing an employee's audiogram (hearing test) results with the AMA Guide to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

For every percentage of hearing loss, a worker who has been exposed to loud noise may recover 2.6 weeks of workers' compensation benefits. Weeks are calculated by calculating the average of the three highest quarters of work prior to the date of the injury. For 2022, the maximum workers' compensation rate is \$1,205.00. Also, if you prevail in your claim hearing aids and medical treatment related to the noise exposure will be covered.

All hearing loss claims must be filed within three years from the last exposure to loud noise at the subject employer. There are many variables in a hearing loss case, but it is certainly worth looking into and not a benefit that the employer will disclose to you at the time you retire. It must be pursued by the employee.

If you believe that you have suffered a hearing loss due to occupational noise exposure, it is necessary to file a workers' compensation claim within three years of your last exposure to noise. It is also necessary to show that there has been exposure to long and continuous levels of noise. **Be advised that there is a three-year time limit on claims.**

If you believe you have suffered a work-related hearing loss, please contact Rudberg Law Offices at 412.488.6000 or toll free at 1.866.306.2667. If you have any questions about hearing loss or any other work-related injury, stop by the Union Hall on the first Wednesday of each month.

Workers' Compensation benefits may be available to workers for injuries, aggravations of pre-existing conditions, occupational diseases such as **Mesothelioma**, **Lung cancer** or **Leukemia**, which may be caused by toxic substances such as asbestos or benzene, **facial scarring** from burns or surgery, **loss of use of fingers or toes** and **hearing loss**.

In order for you to protect your rights, you need to know your rights so that you and your family are protected and do not suffer financially and otherwise if an injury prevents you from working.

This article is not meant to be a substitute for legal advice and each individual case may differ. If you have any questions about a work-related injury, please feel free to contact Attorney Signe Rudberg or Don Rudberg, Coordinator at RUDBERG LAW OFFICES toll free at 1.866.306.2667 or email at srudberg@rudberglaw.com



Main Office: 2107 Sidney Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Branch Office: 215 S. Main Street, Suite 1, Zelienople, PA 16063

412.488.6000 Fax 412.488.8020 Toll Free 1.866.306.2667

www.rudberglaw.com

Know your Rights!

Protect your Rights!

Labor 411's Holiday Gift Guide 2021

Labor 411
MAKING IT EASY TO SUPPORT GOOD JOBS
LOS ANGELES | SAN FRANCISCO | WASHINGTON, D.C. | PHILADELPHIA | NEW YORK

For Him

All those stereotypes about men wanting tools, booze, hogs and sports equipment under the tree? They are all perfectly true. OK, we're half kidding here, but most of us have at least one guy on our list who is at home on the field, over the grill or under the hood. Our guy-items span the gamut of interests and price ranges, and they're guaranteed to delight the men on your to-buy list.

<i>Tools</i>	Black & Decker Tools	UAW
	Channelock	IAM
	Craftsman	IBEW
	Klein Tools	IBEW
	SnapOn Tools	IBEW, UAW
	Stanley Hand Tools	IBEW
	Warwood	IBEW
<i>Sports & Leisure</i>	American Athletic Gym Equipment	UAW
	Nordic Track	IBT
	Standard Golf	IAM
	Wilson Sporting Goods	Workers United
<i>Clothing</i>	All American Clothing	IBEW
	American Roots	USW
	Brooks Brothers	UNITE HERE!
	Danner Boots	UFCW
	Joseph About	UNITE HERE!
	Red Wing Shoes	UFCW
<i>Libations</i>	Jack Daniel's	UAW
	Jim Beam	UFCW
	Wild Turkey 101	UAW
	Sazerac	UFCW
<i>Wheels</i>	Harley Davidson	USW
	Ford Mustang	UAW
	Jeep	UAW

www.Labor411.org

For Her

She's been nice all year and Santa has been paying attention. Oh sure, there will be women who will covet an item on our "gifts for him" list, but this is for the ladies who want something a bit more...well...girly. Running the gamut from fashion to indulgences, from cosmetics to spirits, the items below are sure to put smiles on the faces of all the ladies on your list.

<i>Fashion</i>	American Roots	USW
	Bosca Fine Leather Goods	IBT
	Carolina Women's Boots	IBT
	Majestic Athletic Apparel	UNITE HERE!
	Naturalizer Shoes	UFCW
	Nunn Bush Shoes	UFCW
	Pendleton Woolen Mills	Workers United
	Timex Women's Watches	IAM
<i>Beauty Products</i>	Avon Cosmetics	UAW
	Caress Beauty Products	UFCW
	Dove Beauty Products	UFCW
<i>Sweets</i>	Ghirardelli Chocolate	BCTGM
	Almond Roca Chocolate	BCTGM
	See's Candies	BCTGM
<i>Wine & Spirits</i>	Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine	IBT
	St. Supéry Wine	UFW
	Columbia Crest Chardonnay	UFW
	Eagle Rare Bourbon	UAW
	Four Roses Bourbon	UFCW
	Basil Hayden	UAW, IBT

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For The House

Nothing says the holidays like the sweet smells of baking wafting through the house, the peals of laughter as you play board games with the kids, music filling the house or the mad dash to fix up your home to make it cozy for all those visiting friends and family. Some of our union-made products below should help you in your task. That'll put a big smile on everyone's face.

<i>Housewares & Appliances</i>	All-Clad Cookware	USW
	Cecilware	UAW, IBEW
	Cutco Knives	USW
	Fiesta Dinerware	USW
	GE Profile Refrigerators	IBEW
	GE Washing Machines	IBEW
	GE Dishwashers	IBEW
	Hoover	IBEW
	Pyrex	USW
	Sealy Mattress	CWA
	Sharp Microwaves	IBEW
	Thermador	Boilermakers
<i>Musical Instruments</i>	Steinway Pianos	UAW
	Yamaha Musical Instruments	UAW
<i>Indoor & Outdoor Lighting</i>	Legion Lighting	IBEW
	Manning Lighting	IBEW
<i>Mattresses</i>	Serta	IBT
	Sealy	CWA

www.Labor411.org

For Kids

Kids love toys. Adults love to give kids toys. These are no-brainers. Many of the most classic toys and games also happen to be union made. So when they tear open the wrapping and their faces light up, you can share that delight. (The following games and toys are represented by RWDSU/UFCW.)

Games

Barrel of Monkeys
 Battleship
 Candy Land
 Chutes and Ladders
 Clue
 Connect 4
 Cranium
 The Game of Life
 Hasbro Toys
 Hi Ho! Cherry-O
 Hasbro Toys
 Monopoly
 Mouse Trap
 Operation
 Pictionary
 Risk
 Scrabble
 Sorry
 Taboo
 Twister
 Yahtzee

Toys

Baby Alive
 Beyblade
 Captain America
 Easy Bake
 G.I. Joe
 Lite Brite
 Marvel
 Milton Bradley Toys
 Mr. Potato Head
 Nerf
 Play Doh
 Spider-Man
 Star Wars
 Super Soaker
 Tinkertoy
 Tonka

For Pets

The great thing about giving your pet a gift is that he'll most likely show his appreciation by devouring it immediately. He might even chew through the wrapping paper. These union pet products – edible and non-edible – should induce a tail wag and a cat's meow.

Pet Care

9 Lives	UFCW
Alpo	BCTGM, UFCW
Beggin Strips	UFCW
Chew-eez	BCTGM, UFCW
Fancy Feast	BCTGM, UFCW
Fresh Step	UFCW
Friskies	UFCW
Litter Green	UFCW
Milk-Bone	BCTGM, UFCW
Nature's Recipe	UFCW
Purina	BCTGM, UFCW
Science Diet	UFCW
Snausages	UFCW
Skippy Dog Food	UFCW
Tidy Cats	UFCW

Find more fabulous holiday gift ideas at www.Labor411.org

Shopping Our Values This Holiday Season

10% Is All We Ask

The old saying goes that "it is better to give than receive." But really, who are we kidding? We all like to receive. Be it a small but heartfelt knick-knack from a coworker, something sparkling and dazzling from a partner, or a really cool toy from the Jolly Ol' Elf himself, receiving an expression of gratitude topped with the perfect bow brings as much warmth as that cup of cocoa or glass of spiked eggnog.

Gift giving is a key tenant of the Holiday Season, but we could all do a little better job with the buying. Oh, we have no trouble spending money – just look at the crowded malls and bloated credit card bills. But it's how and where we spend our dollars that could use some work.

When we as consumers buy something, we are doing more than selecting an item – we are casting a vote in favor of the company that made that product. Considering that, shouldn't we throw our support behind companies that share our values?

Labor 411 is about supporting good jobs through consumer activism. We believe that when we spend our hard-earned money on products made by businesses that treat their employees fairly with good pay and benefits, we are making a difference. We are supporting businesses that support good jobs, thus strengthening the middle class and strengthening America.

This Holiday Season, Labor 411 challenges consumers to allocate at least 10% of their spending on goods produced by companies that treat their workers well, or at establishments that do the same. Just imagine the impact that would have!

In the following pages, you'll find plenty of gift ideas that support Labor 411's mission. By purchasing the items in the Labor 411 2021 Holiday Gift Guide, you'll be making a difference that goes beyond simple gift giving.

Happy Holidays!

Labor 411

Happy Holidays

from your friends at Labor 411



Labor 411

MAKING IT EASY TO SUPPORT GOOD JOBS

LOS ANGELES | SAN FRANCISCO | WASHINGTON, D.C. | PHILADELPHIA | NEW YORK

www.Labor411.org

Union Plus Hardship Help - Here When You Need Us

Union Plus partners with brands you know and trust to offer special union member protections for participants in the Union Plus Mortgage, Credit Card, Personal Loan or supplemental insurance programs. You may be eligible for additional hardship assistance through any of the additional Union Plus hardship programs of which some are highlighted below:



Strike Benefits

If you're on strike, you may be eligible for a grant that you'll never need to repay.



Debt Management

Debt and budget experts can help you get back on your feet when you're drowning in debt.



Hospital Grant

You may be eligible to receive a grant to help pay your hospital bills.



Layoff or Furlough Assistance

If you've been laid off, you may be eligible for a grant and other benefits to help cover your bills.



Save My Home Hotline

If you're facing mortgage payment problems, talk to a HUD-certified housing counselor. It's free and confidential.



Disability Benefits

We're here with help for eligible union members who are out of work due to a disability or illness.



Mortgage Assistance

If you're concerned about missing a house payment because of a strike, disability or other valid reason, mortgage assistance may help.



Credit Counseling

Get a free consumer credit counseling session to help you catch up on your credit card bills.



Medical Bill Negotiating Service

If you're struggling to pay doctor and hospital expenses, get help negotiating medical bills.

Here is the link to learn more about the Union Plus Hardship Benefits; https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/hardship-help?utm_source

Happy New Year!

(next year will be better as long as we work together.)

When Should I Apply For Social Security Disability and Do I Need An Attorney To File The Application For Benefits?

By Rhett Cherkin

Social Security Disability Insurance or as it is commonly referred to SSDI and Supplemental Security Income or SSI pay benefits to individuals who the Social Security Administration deem to be disabled. SSDI is an earned benefit which you qualify for by working and paying Social Security taxes. SSI is not tied to your work earnings but has strict income and resource limits. It is a need-based benefit.

The process of applying for and being awarded either SSDI or SSI benefits can easily take a year or longer. In March 2021, the average processing time for SSDI applications was 166 days, or about 5 1/2 months. The Social Security Administration denies as many as 66% of initial applications for benefits. The next step after an initial application is denied is to file for reconsideration which will take another several months. If the disabled person is denied on reconsideration, they can expect to wait another 8 to 12 months for a hearing in the Pittsburgh region. The wait time can vary greatly, depending on where you live. We always advise our clients who have been forced to stop working due to a work-related injury or a non-work-related disability and expect to be out of work for an extended period of time to file for benefits as early as possible. To be entitled to benefits you must be unable to work for 12 months because of your disability or expected to be out of work for 12 months due to your disability. If you do return to work in less than 12 months, you can

always withdraw your claim. However, waiting to file could result in economic hardship since the system to obtain benefits can be slow.

When a disability does force you to stop working, having an attorney assist with and advocate for your SSDI or SSI claim can make a substantial difference in your chances of recovering benefits. An attorney can help you fill out the initial SSDI or SSI application. They can review your application for mistakes or omissions that might make it harder to get benefits. Once the Social Security Administration knows you have an attorney representing your interests, it will work directly with that attorney and send the attorney copies of any paperwork sent to you. The attorney can respond when needed to the Social Security Administration and ensure you do not miss any deadlines that would delay or harm your claim.

Having an attorney represent you is especially important if the Social Security Administration disagrees with your application and finds that you are not disabled. If an initial application is denied, you will need to file a request for reconsideration within 60 days and if that request is denied then you will need to request for hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. A 2017 study by the Federal Government Accountability Office found that individuals who were represented at a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge were three times more likely to be successful in obtaining benefits.

Finally, the attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman work on a contingent fee basis which means that if you are not awarded benefits, you do not have to pay for their services or any costs incurred with your claim. If you are awarded benefits, your attorney is paid out of your past-due benefits. The fee is capped by the Social Security Administration at 25% of your past-due benefits, or \$6,000.00 -- whichever is less.

If you, a friend or family member is considering filing a claim for SSDI or SSI, contact Attorney Rhett Cherkin at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman for a free consultation. Rhett or any the attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman are available to speak with you, your friend or family member and will take the time necessary to explain the process of applying for SSDI or SSI. We are here to help you present the strongest case possible to the Social Security Administration. Rhett Cherkin can be reached toll-free at 1-800-222-8816 or by email at rcherkin@cbmclaw.com. You may also find more information about filing a Social Security disability claim on our website at www.cbmclaw.com

CAROSELLI BEACHLER & COLEMAN, LLC

REPRESENTING INJURED PERSON AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGHOUT WESTERN PA SINCE 1972. NO FEES UNLESS DAMAGES ARE RECOVERED.

LOCAL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.

412-391-9860

1-800-222-8816

www.cbmclaw.com

Mercer CLC Fundraiser

\$1,000.00 GIFT CARD

from **Shenango Valley Meats**

All Proceeds Benefit The

Anna Rickert Memorial Scholarship & Education Fund

WINNER DETERMINED BY THE PICK 3
7:00 P.M. REGULAR PA DAILY LOTTERY NUMBER ON

Monday, November 15, 2021

Donation \$5.00

ALL UNSOLD TICKETS ARE PROPERTY OF MERCER CLC.
Thank You For Your Support!

The Mercer CLC wants to thank everyone who purchased or helped sell tickets that benefited their scholarship fund. The CLC raised enough to continue their scholarship. Andrew Harkulich wanted to make sure everyone know that the winner was Brad Steele he has the winning number of 866. Congratulations Brad!

Did You Know
Two of every 3 serious
workplace violence
events are suffered by
women.

#PassBothBills

Working people in America have waited long enough. We passed the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** now we need to pass the **#BuildBackBetter Act**.

Make the Call:

➔ 844-994-4554

AFL-CIO



LABOR QUOTE:

The only thing workers have to bargain with is their skill or their labor. Denied the right to withhold it as a last resort, they become powerless. The strike is therefore not a breakdown of collective bargaining-it is the indispensable cornerstone of that process. -- Paul Clark

The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

LOWERS COSTS AND PROTECTS FAMILIES



- ★ Helps working families afford child care and provides universal preschool
- ★ Guarantees workers get paid family and medical leave
- ★ Expands the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit
- ★ Helps families afford college
- ★ Expands free school meals

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The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

PROTECTS WORKERS' RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT WORK



- ★ Ensures employers face real penalties for firing workers who come together to make their jobs better
- ★ Makes it easier for workers to form a union without fear of retaliation
- ★ Holds corporate executives liable when they violate workers' rights
- ★ Restores tax deduction for union dues

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The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

INVESTS IN CLEANER, BETTER HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



- ★ Reduces on-road greenhouse gas emissions
- ★ Reconnects underserved communities cut off by transportation barriers
- ★ Funds high-speed rail
- ★ Provides a tax credit for U.S. union-made electric vehicles

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The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

MAKES HEALTH CARE AND HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE



- ★ Caps seniors' Medicare prescription drug costs at \$2,000 per year
- ★ Expands Medicare to cover hearing benefits
- ★ Lowers health care premiums and expands coverage
- ★ Improves home care for seniors
- ★ Makes housing more affordable

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The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

MAKES CORPORATIONS PAY A FAIR SHARE OF TAXES

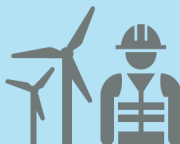


- ★ Assesses a 15% minimum tax on very large corporations
- ★ Stops rewarding corporations that ship jobs and profits offshore with tax breaks
- ★ Taxes corporations that enrich shareholders with stock buybacks

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The #BuildBackBetter Act Explained

COMBATS CLIMATE CHANGE AND CREATES UNION JOBS



- ★ Lowers the risks of catastrophic weather events by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ★ Saves American families money as we transition to clean energy
- ★ Creates hundreds of thousands of good-paying union jobs in the green economy

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SPECIAL THANKS

On December 2nd, with the help of Blaufeld Schiller and Holmes LLC we were able to hold an educational class on Social Security via ZOOM. Their firm specializes in both Workers' Compensation and Social Security. With decades of experience litigating cases on these topics they were the perfect choice to teach this class and as always they were eager to help. The class was filled with a vast amount of information that will be of great value to our members that are nearing retirement age or considering retirement. We learned about benefits from Social Security DIB and SSI which may help others we know. But equally important we learned details about the benefits of having the assistance of an attorney when applying for Social Security.

The Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC moved their meeting to 5:00-6:00 pm to accommodate the schedule for the class. We thank both Blaufeld, Schiller, and Holmes LLC and the Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC for all that they do!

NWPA Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
 1276 Liberty St. Ste 2
 Franklin, PA 16323

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xSec Treas	Phil	Lasky
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Vchair	Mike	Travis
vchair	Julie	Barnett
vchair	Richard	Galiano
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Employee		
aDirector NWPAALF	Rosann	Barker

Here's how Build Back Better fights corporate greed and inflation:

- CORPORATE PROFITS ARE UP**: fattest margins since 1950 (Bloomberg)
- CORPORATE TAXES ARE DOWN**: Effective Corporate Tax Rate
- BUT PRICES ARE STAYING HIGH**: America's biggest companies can't stop bragging to investors about how they're charging you more (INSIDER). Includes logos for Unilever, P&G, and Kroger.
- BUILD BACK BETTER WILL LOWER COSTS**: Includes images of medicine bottles and a 'PAST DUE' envelope.
- PAID FOR BY FAIRER TAXES ON COMPANIES**: Includes an image of a pile of cash.
- NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY LOBBY**: Big business is making last-ditch effort to kill Biden tax increases (MarketWatch).

211 Services Provided in PA

PA 211.org provides services that benefit many in our communities, especially during the stressful holiday seasons. Below is a list of some of the services provided. If you can benefit from please reach out to

www.pa211.org,

- 24/7 Crisis hotline
- Transportation
- Clothing
- Community
- Disaster
- Disability
- Financial
- Family
- Food
- Health
- Housing
- Legal
- Mental Health
- Reentry Services
- Senior Services
- Substance Abuse
- Utilities
- Veterans

For more information go to www.pa211.org