

NWPA ALF News

April 2022 Edition

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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.

<https://nwpaalf.paafcio.org/>
www.facebook.com/nwpaalf
or text 814-360-8336

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NWPA ALF CONVENTION

On Tuesday, June 28th, the NWPA ALF will hold its 16th Annual Meeting/Convention in the VFW at 411 Ninth Street in Franklin, PA. Registration begins at 6:30 PM. The buffet-style dinner will be catered by John Kluck Catering, it opens at 6:45 PM. We ask the delegates, alternates, and guests to go through the buffet line and take their seats before the convention begins.



The Convention will convene at 7:00 PM and conclude when our business has been completed. The Delegates will meet and discuss issues of importance to labor in our region. They will share information, events, and discuss how to work together to help grow the labor movement in our area.

We will hold the nominations and elections of our officers and members of the executive board, as required. Our officers are elected by the delegates present via a roll call vote. The executive board members are elected by caucuses: first, the locals of each international will caucus and elect their representative; next the affiliates of each CLC will caucus to elect their representative; then the various constituency groups (B&CTCs, Retiree Groups, CLUW, etc.) will caucus to elect their representatives. All ballots will be turned in to the election committee. Note: Only the NWPA ALF delegates of our affiliated Local Unions, CLCs, and Constituency Groups in good standing will be eligible to attend and/or run for office.

We are excited to announce that our Keynote Speaker will be Iron Workers International's General President Eric Dean! Other highlights of our convention will be; the awarding of our scholarships to the winners of our three essay contests and a presentation to the NWPA ALF Labor Leader of the Year.

Our silent auction will benefit the VFW in Franklin and VFW Post 470 in Erie. If your organization would like to donate an item, it would be appreciated.

Our convention booklet will include the winning essay of our scholarship contests. Your organization may wish to place an advertisement and include a line to thank President Eric Dean, congratulate our Labor Leader of the year, or our scholarship winners.

Convention calls are mailed in the 2nd week of April to all eligible affiliates in good standing (not more than 2 months in areas).

2022 NWPA ALF MEETINGS

Delegates Meetings are held 7:00 PM on the following Tuesday, June 28th Convention, Wednesdays, September 28th, and Dec. 14th. Our E-Board meets at 6 PM on the same days,

Meetings are held in the AFSCME DC 85 HALL
1276 LIBERTY ST. FRANKLIN, PA 16323.
* *The Tuesday June 28th meeting will be at the VFW Hall located at 411 Ninth St in Franklin.*

Attendees may join us in person or via ZOOM.

Special speakers: TBD

RSVP to 814-360-8336 or nwpaalf@gmail.com
Please Mark Your Calendar & Plan to Join Us!

CLC Meetings in NWPA ALF:

Beaver-Lawrence CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Monday, April 18th
IBEW 712 Hall
217 Sassafra Lane Beaver 15009
For more information call 724-971-7473.

Butler County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 6th
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, April 7th
Via ZOOM

For more information call 814-937-2208.

Erie-Crawford CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 6th
USW 3199 Hall 703 French St. Erie 16501
For more information call 814-823-9940.

Greater Westmoreland CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, April 18th
Hempfield Fire House #2,
421 Thornton Rd. Greensburg 15601
For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 28th
UMWA 1412 51 Eleventh St., Lucernemines
15754
For more information call 724-479-0923.

Mercer County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 21st
USW 1660 Hall, 1028 Roemer Blvd. Farrell 16121
For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter:

Meeting 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 14th
IAM 1842 Hall
24 Front St. Franklin 16323 or via ZOOM.
For more information call 814-671-4420.

Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC:

Meeting 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 6th
IUOE 95 Hall, 116 Dobson Ave. Warren 16365
For more information call 814-730-7558

Message from President Liz Shuler



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler
(middle row, wearing pink shirt)

Organizing is the lifeblood of our movement. It's about going out and meeting with workers in our workplaces in every part of the country, talking to them about the power we have when workers come together and making the case for joining a union.

There are still too many barriers in the way of organizing. We need to make it easier—not harder—for more workers to form unions. And that's why the U.S. Senate must pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act.

If we aren't waking up every day thinking about organizing, especially in this moment when working people are showing true courage by standing up and demanding change like never before, then shame on us. We are in a moment and we have the momentum!



ETHICAL CLEANING SUPPLIES

Source<: Labor 411.org

It may not be spring, but with Americans still dealing with an unprecedented health pandemic, every season is cleaning season. Whether your home is still your work space or whether you're back in an office, the following products will help keep your space clean get the job done. These ethical cleaning supplies are made by companies who treat their workers fairly and give them a voice on the job.

Keep it clean, stay safe and let's all help build a stronger America.

Ajax (IBT, IUE-CWA)
All Laundry Detergent (IBT)
Borateem Laundry Detergent (UFCW, IBT, USW)
Bowl Fresh Toilet Bowl Sanitizer, Deodorizers (IBT, IBB, ICWUC-UFCW)
Clorox (IBT, ICWUC-UFCW)
Craftsman (IBEW, IBT)
Final Touch Fabric Softener (IBT)
Liquid Plumber (IBT)

Lysol (IBT)
Mop & Glo (IBT)
Purex (IBT, UFCW, USW)
Renewenz Dishwashing Detergent (IBDW, IBT, USW)
Rit Dye Laundry Treatment (IUE-CWA)
Snuggle (ICWUC-UFCW, IBT)
Soft Scrub (IBT)
Sunlight Detergent (IBT)
Surf Detergent (IBT)
Tide (IBT)

NO PROBLEM I'LL JUST SUE THEM!

by Barb Holmes, Blaufeld, Schiller & Holmes LLP Attorney At Law

One of the most frequent questions we get when discussing workers' compensation with a client/potential client/someone who is injured at work is whether he or she can sue the employer for the work injury, in addition to, or instead of, workers' compensation benefits. The answer to that in all but very few cases is a resounding NO.

Workers' compensation in Pennsylvania—as in most of the individual United States—is an exclusive remedy. That means that, when someone is injured at work, that employee does not have a choice whether to sue the employer in the Court of Common Pleas, or at the Magistrate, or file a workers' compensation claim. Only a workers' compensation claim can be used to address the injury at work. This has been the case since 1915 here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, when the Worker's Compensation Act was adopted; it was part of "the grand bargain" that seeks to get injured workers a prompt resolution of claims. In exchange for this exclusivity, employers cannot raise defenses of contributory negligence and other such defenses against a worker that would be available in a civil trial—workers' compensation is a "no fault" law. However, this also means that the employer's negligence in general cannot be argued in an effort to obtain additional benefits, such as a greater compensation rate, or pain and suffering, which is available in a civil action.

The Courts of the Commonwealth continually

enforce this exclusivity provision when injured workers attempt to pursue a claim outside of the realm of workers' compensation. Both Federal Courts in Pennsylvania, and Courts of Common Pleas in various counties have dismissed complaints filed by injured workers when the employer raises the "bar" of exclusive remedy—that is, the civil action is "barred" by the employee's coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act. Even a challenge arguing that access to the courts is guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Constitution, was dismissed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court nearly 40 years ago confirming that the employer is immune from common law liability and that our Workers' Compensation Act is exclusive.

This immunity extends to those that are or might be considered "co-employees" under the Act except for "intentional wrong." For example, medical providers who treat the employee in the plant dispensary or medical center will not be liable for negligence in treatment of an injured worker.

In recent years, some very narrow exceptions to this general immunity provision have been carved out, but those are only in the most limited circumstances; the most recent claim dealt with the employer's fraudulent concealment of test results of an employee who was suffering from significant lead exposure. That case was originally dismissed by the trial court on the basis of exclusive remedy, but on appeal, the Superior Court determined that fraudulent misrepresentation by the employer

resulting in this disease was a separate recognized claim and could proceed at trial.

Please understand that this immunity for the employer extends only to claims where the employee has been injured, and workers' compensation would apply. A claim for discrimination or wrongful discharge or remedies under OSHA are not precluded by the exclusivity provision of the Act. However, any claim that flows from or is rooted in a work injury will, in most circumstances, not withstand the challenge of employer immunity in a courtroom.

An injured worker who believes s/he has another remedy outside of the workers' compensation system should discuss that potential claim with an attorney who understands the exclusivity provision of the Act and the narrow exceptions before undertaking the time, effort and expense of civil litigation. In those other actions, attorneys may require a retainer of several thousands of dollars, and may request that the injured worker pay for the medical records, investigative reports, and other such materials necessary for the evaluation of the civil claim, along with the filing and service fees, only to have that suit dismissed at the outset. Not every injured worker is going to be able to hurdle the exclusive remedy bar of the Workers' Compensation Act—in fact very few will be able to do so. It is best to know and understand this before going forward on a separate, expensive and likely doomed undertaking.

Who is responsible for a work related car or truck accident?

By Fred Soilis

When you are involved in a work-related car or truck accident, you may be unsure of how to proceed. Are you entitled to workers' compensation benefits? Do you file a claim with your own automobile insurance company? Do you file a claim with the other driver's insurance company? Plus, you may be worried about how you are going to pay your medical bills and provide for you and your family if you are unable to work.

Will my employer be responsible for the accident if I am on the job when the accident occurs?

Workers' compensation is usually the primary coverage - meaning that a worker injured in a motor vehicle accident would usually make claims for medical treatment and lost wages through the employer first. However, the employer will only be responsible if the employee was acting within the course and scope of his/her employment at the time of the accident. The "going and coming rule" usually prevents employers from being responsible for accidents that occur when an employee is travelling to or from work. Also, accidents which occur when driving to get lunch or dinner are generally not considered work related injuries. However, exceptions do exist. Such exceptions may come into play if your employer pays you to drive to and from work or you are in a company vehicle when the accident occurs.

Workers' compensation benefits cover medical expenses that are incurred because of the work injury and any loss of wages that occur while the worker is recovering from the injury. To receive workers' compensation benefits for an injury that occurs from a work-related motor vehicle accident, the injured worker must submit a claim in accordance with Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act. In order to collect benefits from day one of your

injury, you need to report your injury within 21 days to a supervisor.

If a worker is killed in a work-related motor vehicle accident, the Workers' Compensation Act allows the spouse, children and dependents of the deceased worker to receive workers' compensation death benefits if a claim is properly submitted and worker was within the course and scope of his or her employment. In addition to the regular death benefits, the Workers' Compensation Act also provides families with up to \$7000.00 to cover funeral and burial expenses.

Can I seek damages from the person who caused the accident and assert a Workers' Compensation claim?

An individual injured in a work-related motor vehicle accident can pursue a personal injury claim while also pursuing a workers' compensation claim. If your work-related motor vehicle accident is covered by workers' compensation, then it will not matter who is at fault for the accident. This is not true in a personal injury claim against a third party; in a personal injury case, you must prove that the other party was negligent in causing the accident. If a third party was negligent in causing the motor vehicle accident and this negligence caused you to suffer injuries and damages, you can recover not only economic losses (such as medical bills, lost wages, out-of-pocket expenses) but also damages for your pain and suffering. Thus, a third-party claim against another driver will allow the injured individual to seek damages that are not permitted under the Workers' Compensation Act.

If I recover damages in my personal injury case, do I have to pay the workers' compensation carrier back?

Because an injured worker can file both a workers' compensation claim and a third-party claim, there is the potential for double recovery. To prevent this, the workers' compensation carrier has a right to subrogation. This means that if the injured worker prevails in a third-

party case, the employer's workers' compensation carrier may collect repayment for the benefits it has paid out.

Pennsylvania courts have granted public employers immunity from subrogation claims. This means that if your third-party suit is against a government entity such as the Port Authority of Allegheny County or the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, you may be entitled to keep the full amount of the recovery obtained through a settlement or trial.

Should I report the accident to my own insurance company even if the accident occurred while I was within the course and scope of my employment?

We do recommend that you or your attorney communicate with your automobile insurance carrier and advise them of the accident. This will protect your rights down the road if you need to make a claim for benefits under your own automobile insurance policy.

Individuals who are involved in car and truck accidents while on the job often have legal rights to seek financial recovery beyond workers' compensation benefits. If you are injured in a work-related motor vehicle accident which is caused by another driver, you may be able to file both a workers' compensation claim and a third-party lawsuit. The experienced attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman, LLC can help you navigate the legal system and collect the maximum benefits to which you are entitled.

CARSELLI 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.cbmcclaw.com

I.B.E.W. Local 827 2022 Golf Outing

- Golf:**
- Individual Registration \$175.00
 - Foursome Registration \$600.00
- Ad Journal:**
- 1/2 Page \$175.00
 - Full Page \$250.00
- Sponsorships:**
- Tee Box sign \$250.00
 - Hole/Greens sign \$400.00
 - Hand rolled cigars \$1000.00
(Includes sponsorship banner)
 - Gift Bag \$1500.00
(Includes sponsorship banner)
 - Breakfast \$2500.00
(Includes 2 golfers and sponsorship banner)
 - Lunch \$5000.00
(Includes 4 golfers and sponsorship banner)
- Lunch:**
- Meal only -- Begins at 2pm \$50.00

Outing Limited to 144 Golfers

Accommodations

Colts Neck Inn Hotel
191 Route 537 West • Colts Neck, NJ 07722
(732) 409-1200

<http://www.coltsneckinnhotel.com/en-us>

Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Registration Type

Individual Foursome

Ad Journal

1/2 Page Full Page

Sponsorship

Tee Box Sign Hole/Greens Sign
 Cigars Gift Bag
 Breakfast Lunch

Lunch

Payment Information

Cash Check # _____

Payment can be made by check to:

IBEW Local 827
263 Ward Street
East Windsor, NJ 08520
(609) 443-4100

Please return registration form with payment.
Payment and Journal Ad artwork no later than May 13, 2022.

Rental clubs are limited, please reserve with course in advance.

IBEW Local 827
2022

GOLF OUTING

Thursday, May 26, 2022

Pebble Creek Golf Club
40 Route 537 East
Colts Neck, NJ 07722
(732) 303-9090

www.pebblecreekgolfclub.com

Check-In and
Continental Breakfast
7:30am

Shotgun Start
9:00am

Barbecue Lunch,
Gift Auction,
and Prizes
2:00pm



NMPPA Area Labor Federation
1276 Liberty Street Suite 2
Franklin, PA 16323

1632281573 0003

1632281573 0003



IBEW Local 827
2022

GOLF OUTING

Thursday, May 26, 2022



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION

The numbers don't lie:

Worker Power ^{ON} THE Rise

RIGHT NOW UNION APPROVAL RATE IS AT 68% NATIONWIDE – THE HIGHEST IT HAS BEEN SINCE 1965!

A UNION CARD IS THE BEST DEFENSE AS THE COSTS OF RAISING A FAMILY CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

- Non-union workers only make on average 83% of workers who are represented by a union.
- This averages out to union members earning almost \$200 more a week – or \$10,000 a year.

UNIONS ARE VIEWED AS THE SOLUTION TO INCREASING THE WELL-BEING OF WORKERS' FAMILIES.

- 50% of workers would join a union today if they could, if it weren't for anti-union bosses and their endless legal challenges.
- 5,000 workers organized into unions in Pennsylvania in 2021.

WORKER POWER AND SOLIDARITY ARE KEY TO BREAKING THE UNJUST ROADBLOCKS IN OUR WAY.

- 74% of likely voters "approved of employees going on strike in support of better wages, benefits, and working conditions."

(Data sourced from: Gallup Poll - August 2021; Data For Progress - October 2021; MIT Sloan School of Management - 2018; Bureau of Labor Statistics; & the National Labor Relations Board.)

LIFE IS BETTER WHERE LABOR IS STRONGER – THAT'S WHY WE SAY UNION YES!



YOUR UNION: FIGHTING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S WORKING FAMILIES

AFL-CIO

For more information, contact 814-360-8336 or visit www.aflcio.org.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NWPAA AREA LABOR FEDERATION

**TELL YOUR SENATORS TO
SIDELINE THE
FILIBUSTER AND**



PASS VOTING RIGHTS

American democracy is under threat today. To save it, we need real democracy in the U.S. Senate. That means passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 and the Freedom to Vote Act. These bills will protect our sacred democracy.

It shouldn't be this hard to pass laws that help people. It should take a simple 50-vote majority, but an outdated procedure in the U.S. Senate called the filibuster is stopping us. We need our senators to come together and sideline the filibuster in order to pass this vital legislation.

The choice is clear: Sideline the filibuster—not the hopes, aspirations and representation of America's people.

**CALL YOUR SENATORS AT
1-866-832-1560**

**TELL THEM TO SIDELINE THE FILIBUSTER AND
PASS VOTING RIGHTS**

For more information, contact 814-360-8336 or visit www.aflcio.org.

AFL-CIO
29TH AFL-CIO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER
JUNE 12-15, 2022

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE • MORE DETAILS AT AFLCIOCONVENTION.ORG

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Convention Committee Meetings
Executive Council Meeting
State Federation and Central Labor
Council Advisory Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

AFL-CIO Unity Summit
Global Organizing Symposium
Richard L. Trumka Tribute

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 LEADING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Interfaith Breakfast
Convention Opens at 1 p.m.
Opening Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 13

BUILDING AND MOVING AMERICA FORWARD
Convention Committee Meetings (as needed)
AFL-CIO Convention Reconvenes
Meany-Kirkland Human Rights Award Dinner

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

LABOR'S FUTURE IS NOW
Convention Committee Meetings (as needed)
AFL-CIO Convention Reconvenes

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 WINNING THE MOMENT

Convention Committee Meetings (as needed)
AFL-CIO Convention Reconvenes
Convention Concludes at Noon

AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
President

FREDRICK D. REDMOND
Secretary-Treasurer

TEFERE A. GEBRE
Executive Vice President



AFL-CIO

WORKERS

UFCW Local 1776 Fights for You , .

In the wake of recent attacks on the PA Liquor Control Board (PLCB) from privateers who want to destroy 5,000 PLCB jobs, our team and our members have stepped up to send a clear message that UFCW Local 1776 will never, ever stop fighting to protect your jobs and this asset that is owned by all Pennsylvanians.

The attacks from privateers are just the beginning. We know that the Wall Street money and the big box store special interests, along with Rep. Natalie Mihalek and other lawmakers who want to eliminate your job, are just getting started.

Rep. Natalie Mihalek's bill (HB 2272) would privatize the PLCB and end your job using a constitutional amendment which means a short, two sentence question at the bottom of the general election ballot would end the whole system.

They are not going to go away, and neither are we.



What [UFCW] has been able to do for these decades is wield their immense amount of power, but we're not going to let that stop us, we're not going to back down from this.

- Rep. Natalie Mihalek, KDKA, January 25, 2022



HOW CAN I STOP THIS?

- Become a full member of UFCW. Your dues will help drive this fight - because they won't back down, but neither will we.
- Contact your state Representative and state Senator by going to www.ufcw1776.org/FindMyStateRep, and let them know how important your job at Fine Wine & Good Spirits is to you and your family.

Governor's Office Update:

Unemployment Rate Lowest Since February 2020 Pre-Pandemic Level:

[On Friday](#), The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) released its preliminary employment situation report for February 2022. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down three-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 5.1 percent in February, marking the 22nd consecutive month without an unemployment rate increase. The U.S. unemployment rate was down two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in February. The commonwealth's unemployment rate was 2.2 percentage points below its February 2021 level and the national rate was down 2.4 points over the year. Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – decreased 1,000 over the month. The employment count rose 12,000 (to 6,042,000) while resident unemployment declined 13,000 (to 328,000). From April 2020 through February 2022, Pennsylvania has recovered approximately 82% of jobs lost due to the pandemic.

Additional Day for Filing Nomination Petitions:

[On Tuesday](#), Acting Secretary of State Leigh M. Chapman announced that the nomination petition-filing location for state legislative candidates and state committee candidates will be open an additional day – from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 27, 2022. Nomination petition-filing is taking place in the Keystone Building, 400 North St., Harrisburg. On Sunday, March 27, candidates must enter the Keystone Building via the Forster Street entrance and proceed to the atrium for check-in. Nomination petitions must be received at that filing location no later than the deadline of 5 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022. Candidates must be in line with their completed nomination petitions by 5 p.m. to file. Candidates can create nomination petition forms online using the Department of State's [Candidate Survey](#) webpage. [Important election dates](#) also can be found on the [department's website](#). Candidates should also actively monitor the Department of State's [website](#) for additional information.

Minimum Wage Act Regulations:

[On Monday](#), Gov. Tom Wolf commended the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) for its unanimous approval of final-

form regulations to update Pennsylvania's Minimum Wage Act by changing rules about how employers pay tipped workers and ensure that salaried employees with fluctuating schedules are appropriately compensated for overtime. The regulations will now be submitted to the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Upon OAG approval, the regulations will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will become effective 90 days after. The final-form regulation covers five primary areas for tipped workers, including:

- An update to the definition of "tipped employee," adjusted for inflation since 1977, that increases the amount in tips an employee must receive monthly from \$30 to \$135 before an employer can reduce an employee's hourly pay from \$7.25 per hour to as low as \$2.83 per hour.
- Alignment with a recent federal regulatory update governing employer tip credits to allow employers to take a tip credit under certain conditions, including that the employee spends at least 80 percent of their time on duties that directly generate tips, commonly known as the 80/20 rule.
- Alignment with a recent federal regulatory update to allow for tip pooling among employees but in most cases excluding managers, supervisors, and business owners.
- A prohibition on employers deducting credit card and other non-cash payment processing transaction fees from an employee's tip left with a credit card or other non-cash method of payment.
- A requirement for employers to clarify that automatic service charges are not gratuities for tipped employees.

This final-form regulation also updates the definition of "regular rate" for salaried employees whose overtime pay is determined by the fluctuating workweek method, clarifying that for the purpose of calculating overtime the regular rate is based on a 40-hour work week.

This regulatory proposal is part of [Governor Wolf's broader worker protection agenda](#) and the administration's commitment to fighting for workers to have fair wages, paid sick leave, safe workplaces and quality jobs. Governor Wolf has called on the General Assembly to pass S.B. 12, sponsored by Sen. Tina Tartaglione, or H.B. 345, sponsored by Rep. Patty Kim, to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 an hour with a path to \$15 and

remove local pre-emption. The governor also supports the elimination of the \$2.83 an hour minimum wage for tipped workers and establishment of one fair wage for all Pennsylvania workers.

Charter School Regulations:

[On Monday](#), Gov. Tom Wolf applauded the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's approval of charter-school regulations developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to increase transparency, equity, quality and accountability in implementation of the Charter School Law (CSL). The regulations clarify several elements of the state CSL to align public charter school operations and oversight with that of traditional public schools.

The regulations:

- Provide clear application requirements for entities seeking to open a charter school, regional charter school, and cyber charter school;
- Ensure that all Pennsylvania students are able to access charter schools;
- Clarify the ethics requirements for charter and cyber charter school trustees;
- Require school districts and charter schools to follow the same fiscal management and auditing standards;
- Streamline the process for charter schools to request tuition payments from school districts and the state; and
- Provide a consistent, common-sense method for charter schools to meet the employee health care requirements in state law.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) began developing the regulations in August 2019. Nearly 2,000 comments from charter schools, school districts, professional organizations, lawmakers, and the public were considered as part of the process. Since taking office, Governor Wolf has been committed to addressing the state's broken Charter School Law, which is regarded as the worst in the country. The Wolf Administration's plan to fix the law protects students by holding low performing charter schools accountable, protects taxpayers by reining in skyrocketing charter school costs and improves the public trust by increasing transparency of for-profit companies that manage some charter schools.

Flood Mitigation Funding:

[On Monday](#), Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania will receive \$5 million, through President Biden's Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law, to support Pennsylvania in mitigation against future damage from natural disasters. Properties that are covered by a policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and have sustained repetitive losses due to flooding are eligible for the new Swift Current initiative, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Homeowners who are interested in this program should contact their local municipality or county emergency management agency for more information. The local government in which the property is located is considered the sub-applicant and will work with interested property owners to develop a sub-application. The local government will submit the sub-application to the state on property owner's behalf, and the state will submit the application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA will select projects based on eligibility and funding available in each state. Participation in the Swift Current initiative is voluntary. The following project types are eligible to participate in Swift Current even if an insurance claim has been filed:

- Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition/Relocation;
- Nonstructural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities;
- Structure Elevation;
- Mitigation Reconstruction; Dry Flood proofing of Historic Residential Structures or non-residential Structures; and
- Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings.

The exact process and timeline for project implementation will vary based on the project type. Once the property has been selected for mitigation, the local government will contact the property owner on how to move forward with the project. Per FEMA, the application period opens April 1, 2022 and ends on October 3, 2022.

Funding for Broadband Infrastructure in Unserved Areas:

On Tuesday, Governor Tom Wolf today announced the approval of \$10 million for 19 projects through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) for nongovernmental entities to deploy middle-mile and last-mile high-speed broadband infrastructure to unserved areas in Pennsylvania through the [Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program](#) (UHSB). Approved UHSB awards in the Northwest Region include:

- **Erie County**
- \$111,084 to Spectrum Northeast, LLC to construct wired infrastructure for unserved areas in Girard Township.
- \$32,577 to Spectrum Northeast, LLC to install hybrid fiber-coaxial wireline to serve 17 residents in North East Township.
- **McKean County**
- \$530,248 to SkyPacket Networks, Inc., to install fixed wireless broadband infrastructure in Hamlin, Keating, and Sergeant Townships.
- **Mercer County**
- \$69,891 to Spectrum Northeast, LLC to construct wired infrastructure for unserved areas in Wayne Township.
- \$266,455 to Windstream Services, LLC to construct wired infrastructure for unserved areas in Perry Township.

Donation of Body Armor to Ukraine:

On Wednesday, Gov. Tom Wolf commended the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Pennsylvania Capitol Police for their effort to donate used body armor to Ukraine. The donated equipment will be delivered to the Vermont State Police and then, pending federal regulatory approval, will be shipped to Ukraine. The Wolf Administration is working with federal partners to obtain approval. The equipment will then be used for those assisting in humanitarian and life-saving efforts as they work throughout the war-torn country. PSP is donating approximately 90 used, nearly expired vests that were scheduled to be destroyed. The Capitol Police donated 24 similar used ballistic vests and 15 ballistic helmets. "This equipment will be put to use by those who desperately need it," said PSP Colonel Robert Evanchick. "The ballistic vests were recently replaced by new body armor and were scheduled to be destroyed. We are heartened to know they can still be put to good use." [Learn more about the Wolf Administration's support for Ukraine.](#)

Supporting Healthcare Workers:

On Wednesday, The Wolf Administration shared details of the \$225 million appropriation in Act 2 of 2022, which will support the health care workforce needs of hospitals and behavioral health providers. This legislation received bi-partisan support in the General Assembly, and Governor Wolf [signed it into law in January](#). Funding will come from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and will be distributed to eligible hospitals and

behavioral health providers across the commonwealth. In recent months, Pennsylvania's health care workforce has been under extreme stress as hospitals and health care facilities reach and exceed capacity while seeing patients with higher levels of acuity. Staffing shortages and high numbers of patients have contributed to community and psychiatric hospitals reaching capacity and needing to divert patients to other equally burdened facilities. In response, hospitals and health care systems asked the commonwealth for funding specifically for recruitment and retention of key personnel. Act 2 of 2022 appropriated \$225 million to support the following health care areas:

- \$100 million to be distributed to acute care, critical access, and children's hospitals licensed by the Department of Health on a per-bed basis. The funding will be used strictly for recruitment and retention payments to direct care staff.
- \$110 million to be distributed on a per-bed basis to high-Medical Assistance hospitals, designated Critical Access Hospitals, and inpatient and residential behavioral health facilities for recruitment and retention payments to key staff.
- \$15 million to quadruple the funds available for the [nurse loan forgiveness program](#) at Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), a high-demand program which has already received more than 20,000 applications by the March 1st deadline. Further details on hospitals and facilities receiving allocations are available on [DHS's website](#).

Reprinted with permission from the Governor



Check with your local CLC to see if there is an Workers Memorial Service in your area.

Please PRINT legibly.

Name _____ Student ID # _____ Name of the School that you will attend _____

attend Address of Student _____

Phone Number for student _____ E-Mail _____

Address Name and address of school you are currently attending? _____

Union Affiliation /union name and local # _____ union member _____ relationship _____ phone number for the union member _____

I am applying for the following: **NWPA ALF Scholarship** **David A. Bielski Educational Scholarship** **Dr. David Ferster Educational Scholarship**

Complete: this application, a 500-word essay in MS Word (on the appropriate question) and mail to NWPA ALF 1276 Liberty St. Ste 2, Franklin, PA 16323 or email copies of both to nwpaalf@gmail.com. The deadline for the receipt of the essay and application is Friday, May 6, 2022.

2021-2022 Scholarship Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

Clearfield-Elk-Cameron-Jefferson (Potter) CLC	DAVID A. BIELSKI
AFSCME 2902	Ironworkers Local 3
Insulators Local # 2	IUOE 66
Indiana-Armstrong CLC	IUOE 95
IAFF 114	LIUNA 833
IAM 2430	USW 150T
IBEW 712	Venango-Clarion Chapter


Bronze Sponsors

Butler & Venango B&CTC	IBEW 5
Butler County ULC	NALC 84
IAM 1842	UBC 420
IBEW 201	

2021-2022 Scholarship Judges

Andrew Harkulich	Laurie Fisher
Anthony Modaffare	Lisa Alexander
Darrell Niemensi	Phil Lasky
Daryl Busch	Rachel Sternfeld
Dave Conklin	Rich Barrett
David Foor	Rick Galiano
Frank Telesz	Ron Buechel
Jeff Hapke	Scott Johnson
Jesse Burns	Shane Clark
Ken Vybrial	TJ Sandell

Scholarship Application Forms and the accompanying Essay MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, May 6, 2022.



For more information call 814-360-8336 or email: nwpaalf@gmail.com.

Produced by NWPA ALF//RKB on 1/6/2022

2021-2022 NWPA ALF Scholarship Essay Contests



NWPA ALF Scholarship (2022 Graduating High School Senior)

David A Bielski Scholarship (Post-secondary student)

Dr. David Ferster Scholarship (Graduate Student)

Note: See additional eligibility requirements inside

Essay Contests for the 2021-2022 NWPA Area Labor Federation Scholarships

The NWPA ALF offers three (3) different scholarships. The purpose of our Scholarships is to offer an opportunity for a member and/or their dependents and grandchildren of affiliated local unions of the NWPA ALF to earn a scholarship by winning one of the essay contests. Our questions are designed to make the applicants learn more about the labor movement and plan for their place in society after completion of their continued education.

What Are The Eligibility Requirements ?

All award recipients must be a union member, dependent of a union member or grandchild of a union member in good standing of a local union affiliated and in good standing with the NWPA ALF. Award recipients must be a full-time student furthering education for the 2021-2022 school year.

NWPA ALF Scholarship applicants must be a **Graduating High School Senior** who is a full time student furthering their education.

David A. Bielski Educational Scholarship applicants must be a full-time **Post-Secondary Student**.

Dr. David Ferster Educational Scholarship applicants must be a **Graduate Student**.

Scholarship Awards

The winners of all three scholarships will receive an award of \$500.00.

How Can You Apply?

To apply, you must complete the application form and write a 500 word essay on the topic specified in the section of this brochure titled "Essay Topics" for the Scholarship you are eligible to receive.

- ♦ **Essays must be typed in MS Word and void of identification.** Your essay must address the question for your scholarship, as it appears in this brochure. (Tip; use the question as your title to keep you focused.)
- ♦ **Email your MS Word file containing your essay** and a scanned in PDF copy your **completed application form** to nwpaalf@gmail.com or mail to the address below. Email confirmations will be sent to confirm receipt of your application and essay.
- ♦ Essays and applications. **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the deadline of **Friday, May 6, 2022.**
- ♦ Presentation will beat our June 2022 Meeting.

Direct Questions & Send Your Essay And Application To:

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

Phone: 814-360-8336
E-mail: nwpaalf@gmail.com

Essay Topics

NWPA ALF Scholarship (Graduating Senior)
How has a Union impacted your life? Please explain.

David A. Bielski Educational Scholarship (Post-Secondary student)
How has COVID impacted the Labor Movement?

Dr. David Ferster Educational Scholarship (Graduate Student)
Describe the impact of the political polarization which is dividing our country and its effect on Labor?

Note: A Post-Secondary Student is someone continuing their education past their first year of continued education. (I.e. Sophomore in college until graduation from college with their Bachelor's degree)

A Graduate Student is someone continuing their education past their 1st degree (Bachelor's Degree to their Master's Degree).

For the purposes of eligibility, **Continued Education** includes Colleges, Universities, Apprentice Programs, and Trade Schools as long as they are accredited programs.



Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Serving our affiliated Unions in Erie and Crawford Counties in PA, since 1960.
32 West Eight Street Suite 604 - Erie, Pennsylvania 16501
Phone (814) 455-4752 - Fax (814) 455-4192

**ERIE-CRAWFORD CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL'S
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
55th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

Please join us in honouring **Rick Bloomingdale** at the 55th Annual Erie-Crawford Central Labor Councils Community Services Committee Awards Banquet. **** Rick's retirement will be at the end of May 2022****

**Guest Speaker will be PA AFL-CIO President Frank Snyder
Live Entertainment to follow!
4 Meat Buffet**

The following college scholarships will also be awarded to high school seniors; the John David Dever Scholarship,, the Theo Sabin Meyer Scholarsjip, and the Tom Wagner Memorial Scholarship.

We will have a Program Book for more information see the advertising contract on page 15 .

Tickets: \$30.00 per person

Funds support our scholarships and community service projects including a Veteran's Breakfast and Christmas Dinner along with gifts for the homeless.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 14, 2022. Cocktails at 5:15 PM, & Buffet Dinner at 6:00 PM.

LOCATION: Siebenbuerger Club, 2114 French St., Erie, PA.

	In Solidarity,	
Jack Lee	Bill Reynolds	Ron Oliver
President	Co-chairman Community Services	Financial Secretary
Erie-Crawford CLC	Erie-Crawford CLC	Erie-Crawford CLC

ERIE-CRAWFORD CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL-CSC DINNER RESERVATION

Enclosed is check # _____ for _____ tickets. Mail tickets or hold at door:

Name _____

Address _____

City /State/Zip _____

THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE
ERIE-CRAWFORD CLCIL, AFL-CIO

Advertising Contract For:

Organization or Business _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Please submit camera-ready art (high resolution/jpeg/tiff/PDF) to
Biroscak Printing Company email: biroscakprinting@verizon.net

Please mention it is for the Erie-Crawford CLC Banquet

Rates:

____ \$200.00 Full Page (7 X 9.5 ") ____ \$50.00 Quarter Page (3 ¼ X 4 ¾ ")
____ \$100.00 Half Page (7 X 4 ¾") ____ \$25.00 Business Card (3 ¼ X 2 ")

DEADLINE: Friday, April 29, 2022

SUBMIT ALL PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Erie-Crawford Community Services Committee
32 West 8th Street Suite 604
Erie, Pa 16501



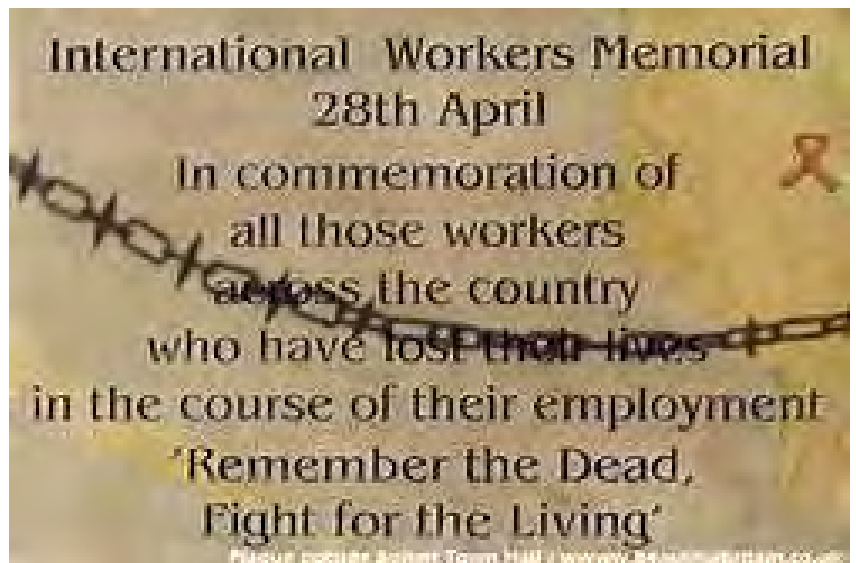
GWCLC welcomes CWA 88022 as a new affiliate and administer the delegates oath to their Delegates William Palmer and Casey Villa.



GWCLC welcomes a new delegate, who was elected as their Vice-President, John Cerra pictured here taking his oath. Congratulations!



PA AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale proudly administers the oath of office to his successors, Angel Ferritto as Secretary-Treasurer and Frank Snyder as President of the PA AFL-CIO during their Convention. Thanks to Walter Geiger, President of the GWCLC for the pictures on this page.





Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council

Invites you, your colleagues and friends to

Breakfast with the Candidates Sunday, April 24th

Coffee and Fellowship at 8:00 a.m.

Ferrante's Lakeview -- Route 30 East, Greensburg

\$30 per person

Includes *Delicious Breakfast Buffet*

Our Council has invited all Labor-friendly candidates

Governor, Lt. Governor

US Senate

US Congress

PA State Senate & Representatives

Please complete the bottom portion

For ? call 724-423-2878 or email: ellenberger@zoominternet.net

Make Check Payable to: **GWCLC Special Events,**

Send Form and Payment to: GWCLC, c/o Harriet Ellenberger, 170 Holly Place, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

2022 Breakfast with the Candidates

Local Union or Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Number Attending @\$30 ____ Would you like to make a Donation? \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Groups of 7 – we will reserve your table and do our best to seat a candidate at your table

All proceeds will go to get Labor Endorsed candidates elected -COPE

One Year Later and UMWA Workers are Still Fighting for The Dignity They Deserve

Source: UMWA 3/31/22 Press Release



[TRIANGLE, VA] Commenting on tomorrow's one-year anniversary of the beginning of the strike at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

“As a result of some poor decisions by upper management to purchase unprofitable foreign coal operations and a weak market for metallurgical coal, Walter Energy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2015. American bankruptcy laws are written to allow companies to shed obligations to workers, vendors, the government, and everyone else. This bankruptcy followed that pattern at first. And then it got worse.

“Private equity came into the picture. At the demand of Apollo, Blackstone, KKR, and others operating as “Coal Acquisitions,” Walter Energy filed motions to terminate the UMWA’s collective bargaining agreement and asked that the mines be sold “free and clear.” The bankruptcy judge also terminated any obligation the company had to pay for retiree health care and pensions, putting Alabama retirees’ lives at risk.

“The new company that emerged from bankruptcy as Warrior Met Coal was not required to hire any of the current workforce. Apollo and its private equity partners finally did agree to bring the workforce back, but they forced the workers to accept a contract worse than any other union coal mine in the nation.

“The workers gave up more than \$1.1 billion in order to pull the company out of debt. It was reasonable to assume that once the company became profitable, a fair and decent contract would be negotiated in 2021. But the corporate team Apollo left in place – the same team that drove the company into bankruptcy in the first place – appears to have no intention of doing that.

“Which brings us to today. Coal prices have skyrocketed, coal companies across the nation are getting record prices for their coal, yet Warrior Met has already lost more than a billion dollars in potential coal sales over the last year because it has refused to settle this. The company brought in high-priced, anti-labor law firms like Akin Gump to sit at the bargaining table instead of bringing back the skilled workforce that could increase sales by as much as a billion dollars a year at current prices.

“This is what happens when Wall Street comes to town. I am so sick of dealing with out-of-state lawyers who could care less about Alabama families and Alabama values. These workers have lived the last six years with abusive management, working six and sometimes seven days a week and little or no time for their families.

“Management is setting up the company to fail. Alabama workers are not going to work long for a coal company that pays less, offers fewer benefits, less vacation time, and forces miners to work more hours than the mines right down the road.

“Why would anyone want to work for Warrior Met? Since the beginning of the strike safety violations have skyrocketed and turnover rates are substantially increasing. They are spending money trying to recruit unskilled workers from West Virginia and Kentucky to work in these mines because no self-respecting Alabama miner would agree to work in these conditions.

“I have been at this a long time. I have negotiated contracts with just about every coal company that has been around the last 30 years, including contracts with difficult operators like Don Blankenship and Bob Murray. I remain prepared to do that at Warrior Met. But the company refuses to make any substantial changes to their offer which was rejected 95 percent to 5 percent last April.

“It’s time for the company to put aside the New York lawyers whose job it is to avoid reaching an agreement. It is time for the people who matter to come to the table and sit down for as long as it takes to resolve this. Stop holding these workers, their families, and their communities hostage. Let’s get a contract done here.”

###

The NWPA ALF made a small donation to their strike fund recently and encourages others to do the same. If we each give a little they will truly benefit from our Solidarity!

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

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Rep USW	Paul	Pelc
Employee		
aDirector NWPAALF	Rosann	Barker



Thank you from two IUE-CWA Locals

“IUE-CWA Locals 22 and 144 ratified their contract earlier this afternoon with CBC Latrobe Acquisition, LLC with 78% of the membership in favor of. We would like to thank the Latrobe Community, Greater Westmoreland Central Labor Council, Allegheny-Fayette Labor Council, NWPA ALF, CWA, Frank Snyder from the AFL-CIO, Westmoreland County Commissioner Gina Cerilli, candidate Michelle Mcfall, as well the Latrobe Police and Fire Departments for their tremendous support during this difficult week. The outpouring was overwhelming and humbling. What happened here in Latrobe is a testament to how powerful a statement people can make when they come together to support a cause. With that said, we still must make it clear that even though we settled a contract today, the Unfair Labor Practice charges we have against the Company are still pending and being investigated by the NLRB. We expect to hear a ruling on those in the near future.

Thank you,

Bill Palmer
 President
 IUE-CWA Local 22

Bob Charette
 President
 IUE-CWA Local 144”