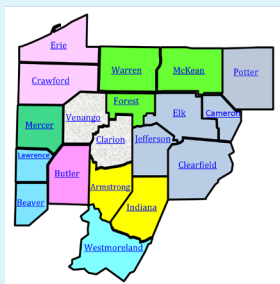


NWPA ALF News

August 2021 Edition



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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LABOR LOSSES A CHERISHED LEADER

Source; Obituary and AFL-CIO email

AFL-CIO President Richard Louis Trumka died on Thursday, August 5th, 2021 at the age of 72. Rich was born on July 24, 1949 in Nemaocolin, Pennsylvania. He was a beloved son, father, grandfather, husband, friend, colleague, and leader of organized labor.

He was doing what he loved, spending time with his family, celebrating his grandson's birthday.

Rich was a legend, from his early days as president of the United Mine Workers of America to his unparalleled leadership as the voice of America's labor movement. Rich loved workers. And he knew there was nothing more powerful than workers standing together for a better life.

If you ever watched Rich at a rally or on a picket line, his face would light up with excitement and hope. He never forgot who he was working for. He never forgot who he was fighting for. America's working people were his guiding light for more than 50 years.

Rich believed in the power and possibilities of state feds and CLCs. That's why he made unprecedented investments in your infrastructure. That's why he held calls with you every week. He saw you as partners, and that will continue.

He also understood the importance of the power of a unified labor movement. At the 2017 AFL-CIO Convention, he reminded us: "That's what our movement has always been about—we're in this movement for workers and our families. That's why I fought for a better and more secure life for coal miners and why I ran for office. It is what drives me today. Our labor movement is more unified, more focused, more fiscally sound...because of the work we've done together. Now we're ready to write the next chapter. Because no matter what we hear from the naysayers, we ain't done yet."

We are not done yet. Rich would never allow it.

Now more than ever, we must come together, as one federation, to carry out the mission Rich devoted his life to. That's how we honor his legacy.

NWPA ALF MEETING

Meeting 7 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 29th
Our E-Board Meets at 6:00 PM
in-person and/or via ZOOM
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, August 16th
IBEW 712 Hall, 217 Sassafras Lane,
Beaver 15009
For more information call 724-971-7473.

Butler County CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Wednesday, August 4th
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, August 5th
via ZOOM
For more information call 814-937-2208.

Erie-Crawford CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Wednesday, August 4th
USW 3199 Hall, 703 French St., Erie 16501
For more information call 814-823-9940.

Greater Westmoreland CLC Meeting:
7:00 PM on Monday, August 16th
via ZOOM
For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Thursday, August 26th
51 Eleventh St Lucernemines, PA 15748
For more information call 724-479-0923.

Mercer County CLC Meeting:
7:30 PM on Thursday, August 19th
USW 1660 Hall, 1028 Roemer Blvd.,
Farrell 16121
For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter Meeting:
6:00 PM on Thursday, August 12th
in-person and/or via ZOOM
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, March 4th
in-person and/or via ZOOM
116 Dobson Ave., Warren, PA 16365
For more information call 814-730-7558

NEW LEADERSHIP OF AFL-CIO

On August 20th, the AFL-CIO Executive Council met to elect a new president and a new secretary-treasurer for our federation. AFL-CIO Acting President and Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler (IBEW) was elected president. Fred Redmond (USW) was elected AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer. Tefere Gebre (UFCW) continues on as AFL-CIO executive vice president.



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler message which was delivered with the White House in the background.

We're going to build a modern labor movement to meet this extraordinary moment. And we want working people to know we

represent hope. Our movement is where every working person in every kind of job can have a voice. Because we are at an inflection point. We're building a bridge between our incredible history, our time-honored traditions and a bold, cutting-edge future.

I believe in my core that the labor movement is ready to overcome any obstacle when we join together. Our movement has the power to transform our society, to bring women and people of color from the margins to the center, and to foster new ideas that will create a fairer economy for all workers.

There's no doubt about our direction. We're moving forward, to a future defined by and for working people. The path we're paving is wide and accessible—everyone is included, no one's left behind. Our power to get there depends on moving as one. It depends on our unity.

I am humbled, honored and ready to guide this federation forward.

Presidents throughout the history of the AFL-CIO
Only 11 men have served as President, we owe them a great deal for their leadership. Below are the former AFL-CIO Presidents:

Richard L. Trumka (1995-2009)
John Sweeney (1995-2009)
Thomas R. Donahue (1995)
Lane Kirkland (1979-1995)
George Meany (1955-1979)

AFL and CIO Merged in 1955 creating the AFL-CIO. Below are the former Presidents of each of those organizations:

George Meany (AFL: 1952-1955) Walter Reuther (CIO 1952-1955)
William Green (AFL 1924-1952) Philip Murray (CIO 1940-1952)
Samuel Gompers (AFL 1895-1924) John L. Lewis (CIO 1938-1940)
John McBride (AFL 1894-1895)
Samuel Gompers (AFL 1886-1894)

Many of you are currently sharing your memories of President Richard Trumka. We are sure some of you have memories of other presidents too.

IS SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY FOR ME?

By Barb Holmes, Attorney

There are times when a person may be injured or ill, off work for weeks to months or unable to return. Many believe if they simply contact Social Security under those circumstances, benefits will be paid automatically. However, that is not generally true for disability benefits. Social Security benefits can be obtained, but it is not a simple matter, and one that should be done without an attorney at the appropriate stage.

The two general types of Social Security disability benefits are disability and Supplemental Security Income or SSI. "Supplemental" does not mean these benefits are automatically paid along with other benefits. SSI is based on disability, but also require the applicant meet a certain level of financial need. Therefore, someone off work and getting short or long term disability may eclipse the financial threshold for SSI. If the applicant is married and his/her spouse is employed, s/he likely will not qualify for SSI.

Social Security disability benefits are payable to those "disabled or expect to be disabled for a period of a year or more." That means that an individual who breaks his arm at work and will be off for six weeks will not meet the duration requirement. Similarly, a person still working but diagnosed with RSD who wants to "test the water" for disability benefits before she goes off work is not going to meet Social Security's criteria, because she is not "disabled" yet.

Please understand that, even though FICA taxes have been deducted from wages while working, an individual is not automatically entitled to Social Security disability benefits. Retirement benefits are payable based on reaching a certain age, but Social Security disability benefits are not. An individual seeking disability benefits must prove that s/he is disabled, and not just from the last job worked, but from any job "which exists in significant numbers in the national economy." More on that later.

If a person believes that s/he is going to be unable to work for a significant time, an application for Social Security benefits can be filed by phone through the local Social Security District Office (no walk-ins are being accepted) or on line at ssa.gov. The applicant should assemble information about current medical providers, diagnostic tests had/scheduled, medications, etc.

Additionally, Social Security will send forms that ask in-depth questions about past work, current activities, pain and limitations. A release will be signed for Social Security to contact providers to get medical records.

Please also know that Social Security looks at people by age and education. A younger individual (up to 49 years old) has a more difficult course for obtaining benefits than does an individual in his/her late 50's. (Children's claims are reviewed on a different basis and are not discussed here.) An individual at age 42 who is off due to a work injury and unable to return to work because modified duty is not available and who can do light work may not be eligible for Social Security disability. It is not "automatic" just because there are restrictions that don't allow for a return to that employer. Being unable to find another job does not mean an individual is disabled. Receipt of short or long term disability benefits does not automatically qualify an individual for Social Security disability. Social Security does not even have to accept a person's treating doctor's opinion that he or she is "disabled."

Once information is assembled—generally 90 to 120 days—an initial determination is made. If the claim is denied a Request for Reconsideration is filed. Social Security's Bureau of Disability Determination then obtains additional medical evidence, sends more forms, and may even schedule the applicant for an examination (at no cost) for physical or mental health conditions. After another 90-120 days, a decision will be issued. Some cases are granted on reconsideration, particularly if significant additional medical evidence is obtained. If the claim is denied again, a Request for Hearing is filed.

The case is be assigned to a hearing office and after file work-up a hearing will be scheduled. Social Security is to provide 75 days' notice of a hearing. Hearings are currently by telephone rather than in person. An applicant should not file the Request for Hearing or attend a hearing without counsel who know and understand Social Security's rules and regulations.

An attorney will obtain updated medical evidence, at times including reports and questionnaires (if the doctor will do them) in advance of the hearing. The applicant will testify at hearing regarding his/her medical conditions, past work, and activities of daily living. The Judge may question the individual or may allow the attorney to do the bulk of the

questioning. Please understand that even though a Social Security hearing is supposed to be "non-adversarial"—there is no attorney on behalf of Social Security to "cross examine" the disabled person—some Judges do not seem to understand that and can be quite confrontational in questioning the applicant!

Also present at the hearing will be a vocational expert. That individual testifies about work the employee has done in the past. The Judge then formulates questions based on his/her assessment of the medical evidence as to what types of work—light, unskilled, for example—the applicant could do. The vocational expert then provides opinions as to jobs "which exist in significant numbers in the national economy" which that individual might be able to perform. It doesn't matter if those jobs exist in the area where the applicant lives. The applicant's attorney also gets to question the vocational expert. This is important, as points can be made about additional limitations, as well as factors that may take a person out of work more than an employer can tolerate.

Ultimately, if the Judge believes that the individual is disabled, an award of benefits will be made. Please note, attorney's fees are fixed by statute and are calculated only on past due benefits, not the individual's ongoing monthly benefit amount. However, if the Judge believes that individual could perform some level of work, benefits will be denied. An appeal can be filed, but appellate reviewers generally do not disturb a Judge's findings particularly if the Judge has articulated the reasons why that Judge believed the applicant was inconsistent when his/her testimony was compared with his/her medical records.

While a claim can be filed on line or by phone by the applicant, preparing for and attending a Social Security disability hearing is best done with the assistance of an attorney willing to spend the time and effort in obtaining all available medical evidence, and reviewing the file to prepare the individual to address any issues in those records in testimony at hearing. An attorneys should be engaged at the reconsideration stage, if possible, and always at the time the request for hearing is filed. Social Security disability benefits can be achieved in many instances—not all—and it is worthwhile to explore the possibility of applying for them. However, it is a process, best attempted with assistance of knowledgeable counsel.

2021 Labor United CELEBRATION

TWO DAYS OF FAMILY FUN AT NORTHMORELAND PARK

Free Admission & Free Parking

Sunday, September 5

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

and Monday, September 6

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Chuck Blasko & The Vogues

A Labor Day Tradition!
Monday, Sept. 6
3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.



The Townsmen Plus One

Big Band / Variety
Monday, Sept. 6
12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

\$4 All Day Activity Pass

Access to: Carnival Rides, Circus, Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, Obstacles Courses, Rock Climbing Wall, and more



Bone Jacked

Classic/Southern Rock
Sunday, Sept. 5
12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Thieves

Classic Rock Hits
Sunday, Sept. 5
3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.



Zerbini Family Circus

An old-fashioned one-ring Circus!
Activity Pass Wristband Required
Sunday and Monday
12:00, 3:30, and 5:00 p.m.

Arts & Crafts Marketplace

Giant Two-Day Flea Market

Food & Refreshments

Bingo

Northmoreland Park is located in Allegheny Township and is accessible via State Route 356 from State Routes 56 & 66.



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Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners

Website: www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks Facebook: @WestmorelandParkandRec Instagram: @MarchforParks

What to do if **INJURED** **AT WORK**

Prepared by Rudberg Law Offices, LLC

These are the most important points that an injured employee will need to know to initially report an injury:

- Notify your supervisor immediately regardless of the nature or severity of the injury. Based on state law you have up to 120 days to give notice to your employer of a work-related injury.
- This notice protects and preserves your rights to file a claim within three years.
- Make sure that an accident report is filed immediately.
- Your employer has 21 days to accept or deny your claim.
- You must treat with one of the employer's healthcare providers (from a list of six names) for 90 days from the date of the initial visit. Thereafter, you can treat with a healthcare provider of your choice, as long as you notify your employer within 5 days of your initial visit with your healthcare provider.
- If your claim is denied, you can treat with your own healthcare provider.
- If your disability lasts more than 7 calendar days and wage loss benefits are not paid within 21 days of the onset of your disability, then you should contact a qualified attorney or your union representative.

It is also imperative the employer issue the Bureau approved LIBC forms to either acknowledge the work injury or deny the work injury. The employer has 21 days to issue the appropriate paperwork and provide a copy to the employee from the time the employee has given notice. This period runs from the date the employee gives notice to the employer.

An employer may issue a Notice of Compensation Payable, Notice of Compensation Payable Medical Only, Notice of Temporary Workers' Compensation Payable or a Notice of Denial. Each of these Notices will dictate the type of case and the rights and benefits the injured worker may be entitled to into the future.

If no document is forthcoming from the employer, it may be necessary to file a claim petition to have the rights and benefits defined by a Workers' Compensation Judge.

If you need assistance with any work comp or injury issue, please feel free to contact the Attorneys at RUDBERG LAW OFFICES, LLC toll free at 1-866-306-2667 or email srudberg@rudberglaw.com

Know Your Rights!

Protect Your Rights!



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

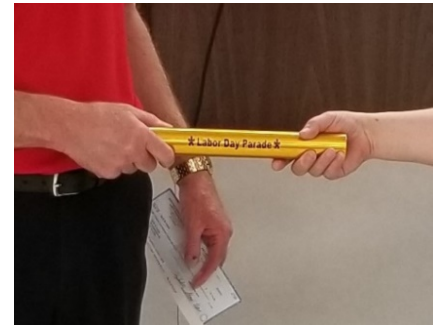
412.488.6000 Fax 412.488.8020 Toll Free 1.866.306.2667

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THE 2021 LABOR DAY PARADE IN ERIE, PA

In 2015, the NWPA ALF reestablished the Labor Day Parade in Erie, PA with the help of many union coordinators, labor leaders, activists, and volunteers. It has been an incredible community event that has helped educate the public about unions and build Solidarity within the broader Labor movement. We thank every person who helped in any way.

Earlier this year, we decided if this parade was going to continue for perpetuity that we need to mentor someone to carry on the tradition. We wrote in our newsletter, spoke about it at the meeting, and were hoping to get someone or some group to step up so we could work closely with them and at the end of the parade pass them the baton.



Unfortunately, a situation arose making it impossible for us to continue this year. Luckily for all of LABOR, two people (Jim Nuber and Terry Baker from IBEW Local 56) who have served on the parade committee for many years have decided this tradition must carry on! We truly thank them for stepping up and taking on this monumental task!



On Thursday, July 1st we had the opportunity to "Pass the Baton" to Business Manager, Jim Nuber. We thank IBEW 56 for continuing the tradition of a Labor Day Parade in Erie, Pa. We have shared much-needed information with them to assure they can be successful and donated, too. They will be hosting the 2021 Erie Labor Day Parade and could use your help both as a coordinator for your union/unit and if possible serve on the parade committee.

It would be fantastic if all of labor would join them on Monday, September 6th creating the biggest and best parade to date. We know you can do it if you work together in solidarity!

Jim Nuber invites everyone to join them for the 2021 Labor Day Parade Committee Meeting on July 28th at 5:00 PM in the IBEW Local 56 Union Hall, which is located at 185 Pennbriar Drive, Erie, PA 16509. They will discuss the coordination of volunteers for the parade. Please feel free to contact him at 814-825-5505 with any questions or ideas you may have with this year's event.

ENFORCEABILITY OF LIABILITY WAIVERS AND RELEASES

By Susan A. Meredith, Esquire

It has become commonplace to sign a waiver of liability or check a box acknowledging your agreement of an electronic waiver when you engage in activities such as skiing, whitewater rafting, entering a running or bike race, joining a gym or going to a trampoline park. Most people sign these waivers without reading the details and in some cases without reading the language at all. Often such waivers are enforceable and will bar you from suing a business or entity when you are injured while engaging in such recreational activities, even if your injury is caused by the business's or entity's negligence.

Waivers of liability, or as they are commonly called, "exculpatory clauses", will be enforceable if (1) the language of the waiver does not contravene public policy; (2) the agreement is between parties relating entirely to their private affairs; and (3) when each party is a free-bargaining agent to the agreement.

(1). Public Policy.

Pennsylvania courts have found that signing a pre-injury waiver of liability will release a business or other entity from ordinary negligence, and such waivers are not against public policy. Pennsylvania courts have found that participating in a recreational activity such as skiing or working out at a gym is a voluntary activity, and you can simply choose not to engage in the activity if you do not want to sign the waiver. However, liability waivers do violate public policy when they seek to release a business or other entity for reckless conduct or gross negligence. This is because immunizing a business for recklessness or gross negligence would jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of people by removing any incentive for businesses and private entities to adhere to minimum standards of safe conduct.

Reckless conduct means the actor

knew or should have known his conduct or lack of conduct is likely to create a risk of injury. Similarly, gross negligence is found when an actor's conduct is intentional, careless or reckless. For example, if a ski resort has a ski lift which is known to malfunction and the resort nonetheless lets patrons continue to use it, this could be reckless behavior. In contrast, if a ski resort employee fails to stop a ski lift when a patron is having trouble boarding the lift, this will generally just be ordinary negligence. Waivers that seek to relieve a party of liability for reckless conduct or gross negligence contravene public policy.

(2). Private Affairs.

Generally, a waiver of liability must be between private parties and not related to a matter of interest to the public or state. Athletic and recreational activities are consistently found to be "private affairs". Whereas matters that relate to an employer-employee relationship, public service, public utilities, common carriers and hospitals are matters of interest to the public or state.

(3). Free Bargaining Agent.

A contract prepared by one party and signed by another who lacks an ability to bargain or negotiate the terms of the contract is called a "contract of adhesion" and can be ruled unenforceable because both parties were not free bargaining agents. Consumers are often a party with little or no bargaining power; however, Pennsylvania's highest Court has held that people who voluntarily participate in athletic or recreational activities are not compelled to do so. They voluntarily assume the risk of entering into the release and in turn of sustaining an injury while engaging in the activity. Again, according to the view that the courts have taken, one can choose not to engage in activities such as skiing, whitewater rafting, or entering a gym to work out.

Liability Waiver Language.

There are some legal arguments that can be made to invalidate an

otherwise valid liability waiver. The language of such waivers must be clear and explicit as to what and who is being released of liability. For example, a patron who fell in a shower at a health club was not barred from pursuing a claim when the waiver language did not clearly apply to all activities at the health club.

A liability waiver also cannot immunize parties from the consequences of violating a statute or regulation intended to preserve health and safety. A residential lease that purported to relieve a landlord of liability was not enforceable when the landlord failed to supply a fire escape required by local regulations and the building resident was burned during a fire.

Other Considerations.

Failure to read: Failing to read or understand a liability waiver will not make the waiver unenforceable.

Children: Parents can enter into liability waivers on behalf of their children. The parent must be the legal guardian of the child. A waiver signed only by someone under the age of 18 will not be valid.

The attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman handle a range of personal injury cases and have experience fighting the application of liability waivers in personal injury claims. If you, a family member or friend is injured as a result of another's negligence while engaged in an athletic or recreational activity, contact the attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman to discuss your claim. Simply because you signed a liability of waiver form does not always mean that you cannot pursue a recovery for injuries caused by another party.

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CAMP IT UP THIS SUMMER WITH ETHICAL OUTDOOR SUPPLIES

Ah, the lure of the great outdoors! Got your tent? Insect repellent? Sleeping bag? How about all those other supplies you'll need to tame the wilderness (and perhaps your stomach)? If you're heading for the wild be sure to stock up on all of the camping essentials made by companies who treat their workers well and give them a voice on the job. Those s'mores will be even "s'more" tasty to you since you'll know you are supporting good jobs and a stronger economy.

Labor 411

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

Happy camping, stay safe and let's all work to build a stronger America.

S'mores

Honey Maid Graham Crackers (BCTGM)
Campfire Marshmallows (IBT)
Chocolate - Ghirardelli, Hershey, Cadbury
 (BCTGM, UFCW)

Grill

Weber (IUANPW)

Hammocks

Algoma Net (UFCW)

Outdoor Clothing

All American Clothing Co. (IBEW)
Carhartt (IBT)

Coffee

USA Coffee Company (UAW)
Millstone Coffee (UAW)
Eight O'Clock Coffee (UAW)
Folgers (UAW)
Maxwell House (UFCW, UAW, IBT)

Hot Cocoa

Swiss Miss (UFCW)
Ghirardelli (UAW)

Coolers

Rubbermaid (IBEW)

Sunscreen

Coppertone (IBT)
Bain de Soleil (AFGE)

Find more union-made products at www.Labor411.org



Dear Affiliates of the Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council;

Over 41 years ago, your Labor Council, the County Commissioners, and the Parks Department gave birth to Labor United -- a two day Celebration of Labor Day at Northmoreland Park. Each year thousands of folks come to the picnic and enjoy the circus, carnival, bingo, flea market, great food, and are entertained by wonderful music.

For many years most of the food booths were sponsored and manned by Labor Unions. These were union members and their families that gave their time to provide reasonable prices on their hamburgers, hot dogs, meatball sandwiches -- all kinds of food so that working families could enjoy their day at our Labor United Celebration.

As the years have passed less and less of the food booths are sponsored by local unions-- and we see fewer union members volunteering to help. The Labor United committee is worried that too soon the Celebration will cease to be a **Labor** event. We need your Union to be involved and make sure that Labor United will continue.

This is where your Union can help:

- **Sponsor a Food Booth -- We are looking for a union sponsored Hamburger Stand this year! The Parks Dept. provides the booth and sets it up - whatever profit you keep to help your local union. - Your Banner will be displayed at the entrance -(Labor United will pay for the banner and the Labor Council will help with your first year's up-front costs, if needed)**
- **Become a Union Banner Sponsor -- for \$500 your Labor Union will have a banner as folks enter the picnic - as well as your name in our program -**
- **Union area - - The Labor Council has a special UNION! booth- We need information for the promotional booth that will highlight Union careers and information on how to become an apprentice and join your union. Have members volunteer to tell prospective members about your union. Also any items that we can give away at our booth will be appreciated.**
- **Sponsor a fun activity - \$200 -- along with a Children's Activity/Diaper Changing Station -this year we will again have a Rock Climbing Wall, Obstacle Course, and a Nerf Battlefield . Signs with your Union will be placed in front of your sponsored activity.**
- **Join us and Volunteer -- we need union members and their families to sell ride passes, work in the Labor Council Beer Stand, sell raffle tickets, and help staff the activities that we sponsor.**
- **All of the above -- we welcome your union to become a part of Labor United**

This is a great opportunity to participate in an event that celebrates Labor's contributions. Please show your support through sponsorship and join Labor United to make the two Labor Day event special for working families.

Please contact me today by phone at: 724-423-2878 or email: ellenberger@zoominternet.net.

In Solidarity,
Harriet Ellenberger
Chair, Labor United

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

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Rep UFCW	Daryl	Bush
Rep USW	Paul	Pelc
Employee		
Director NWPA ALF	Rosann	Barker

TAKE A MINUTE TO TAKE ACTION

The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) will determine whether to approve or disapprove the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) regulation on September 1, 2021. Working in partnership with the Power PA Jobs Alliance - a coalition of labor, consumer and business leaders - we have set up a TAKE ACTION WEBSITE that will allow you to send your comments IRRC in opposition to RGGI to IRRC.

Please click on the following link - <https://powerpajobs.com/engage/oppose-rggi> - and communicate your strong opposition to RGGI ASAP. And PLEASE pass this along to friends, family, neighbors who share your support for blue collar energy jobs and commitment to ensure that all electricity consumers continue to have access to reliable, low cost power.

As explained on the Power PA Jobs Alliance website, if not stopped, RGGI will prematurely eliminate thousands of blue collar jobs who work in and support Pennsylvania coal and natural gas electric generation plants. It will also effectively preclude the construction of new natural gas plants within Pennsylvania. Organized labor built \$14 billion worth of natural gas plants in the past 10 years. Many of these jobs will be lost to neighboring, pro-coal and pro-natural gas states, like Ohio and West Virginia. Additionally, electric rates will increase for Pennsylvania consumers - residential, commercial and industrial - as much as 18 percent as a result of RGGI.

Please take action now.

