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## Labor Council Executive Board Adopts Resolution Calling on Gov. Wolf to Stop Privatization of County-Based Area Agencies on Aging

By Jody Kohser  
SEIU Local 668 Staff  
Representative

The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board has adopted a resolution calling on Governor Wolf to stop the privatization of County-based Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).

The resolution was adopted on July 19<sup>th</sup> in response to SEIU Local 668's July 12<sup>th</sup> press release asking that calls be made to Governor Wolf demanding that he stops the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services from outsourcing and privatizing AAA work.

The July 12<sup>th</sup> press release notes: "The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is poised to award an Area Agencies on Aging contract to Maximus, an out-of-state for-profit company. The contract outsources the county-based Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)'s clinical

Assessment work – work that determines the level of care seniors with disabilities need.

Unfortunately, this decision will eliminate hundreds of AAA jobs held by our members. Handing Maximus this work will be detrimental to seniors, especially those with significant medical needs across Pennsylvania.

Currently, AAA caseworkers meet clients in person to assess their level of care for Medicaid funded long-term care services. Doing this work has given AAA caseworkers significant knowledge and extensive networks of local resources from which seniors benefit, and which Maximus can't match.

In 2016, Maximus was awarded a contract to handle other work performed by local AAA caseworkers. When Maximus started, they eliminated face-to-face outreach, and instead mailed

individuals complex applications and provided limited assistance to complete them. Maximus also lost documents which led to a delayed service. The company's failure to handle this work drew widespread condemnation from both parties and chambers of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Please reach out to the Governor's office and demand that he stop the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service from outsourcing and privatizing AAA work. Call Governor Wolf at 717-787-2500 and tell him:

Don't privatize the AAAs."

The Labor Council Executive Board adopted resolution resolves that:

"1. We support the efforts of the Area Agencies on Aging, Union, and other advocacy agencies on keeping assessment work with the AAAs.

Continued on page 3

# RICHARD L. TRUMKA (1949 – 2021)

*AFL-CIO Statement appearing on the  
AFL-CIO website*

Our brother and leader Richard Trumka pass away on August 5, 2021, at the age of 72.

The labor movement, the AFL-CIO and the nation lost a legend. Rich devoted his life to working people from his early days as president of the United Mine Workers of American to his unparalleled leadership as the voice of America's labor movement.

He was a relentless champion of workers' rights, workplace safety, worker-centered trade, democracy and so much more. He was also a devoted father, grandfather, husband, brother, coach, colleague and friend. Rich loved and beloved.

The 56 unions and 12.5 million members of the AFL-CIO mourn the passing of our fearless leader and commit to honoring

his legacy with action. Standing on Rich's shoulders, we will pour everything we have into building an economy, society and democracy that lifts up every working family and community.

*[Editor's Note: Richard Trumka was the keynote speaker at the Beaver County Labor Council's 1987 Fall banquet. He had been elected president of the UMWA in 1982 and it was clear by 1987 that he was a rising star in the labor movement. He was invited to speak by President John Morabito (Carpenters Local 422) and Executive Vice-President Marc Winters (IBEW Local 272). The banquet was held on October 15, 1987, at St. Philomena's Hall in Beaver Falls. The banquet hall was filled beyond capacity and the excitement generated by his appearance was great.]*

## UNION BUG

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

## President's Report

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

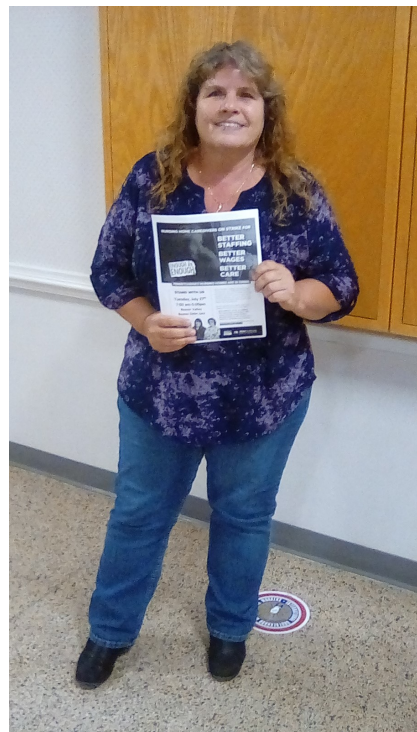
\* The Executive Board has canceled the August in person Executive Board and Membership meeting because of the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Executive Board will meet virtually at its regularly scheduled date and time, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. No official business was conducted at the July Executive Board and Membership meetings because of a lack of quorums.

\* The Allegheny-Fayette CLC Labor Day Parade and the Westmoreland County Labor United Celebration will resume after being canceled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Allegheny-Fayette parade will be held on Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>. It will take place in downtown Pittsburgh. It begins at 10:00 at the PPG Paints Arena and ends at the USW Building on the Boulevard of the Allies. The Labor United Celebration will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Northmoreland County Park, Apollo, PA 15163. It runs from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Sep-

tember 5<sup>th</sup> and 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Labor Day. The annual NW PA ALF parade held in Erie was canceled last year and has been canceled again this year.

\* Thank you to SEIU Healthcare PA Internal Organizer Denise Cox for attending the July Labor Council meeting. Denise reported that nearly 1500 SEIU Healthcare PA members in 20 nursing homes across Pennsylvania were planning a one-day strike to be held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. She passed out a flyer, attached to end of this issue of the UNION BUG, which states that the purpose of the strike was to send a message that the striking SEIU Healthcare PA members need: "Better staffing to care for our resident. Fair starting wages and training to retain workers and build a strong workforce. Affordable healthcare. We can't take care of others if we cannot take care of ourselves." In Beaver County, SEIU Healthcare PA members intended to strike at Beaver Valley Nursing and Rehab and Beaver Elder Care. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, SEIU Healthcare PA put the strike on hold after a tentative contract was reached with Priority nursing homes. SEIU

Healthcare PA members will now meet over the next few weeks to review the details of the tentative contracts at 53 nursing homes that have been reached. Ratification votes will be held after the contracts have been reviewed.



SEIU Healthcare PA internal organizer Denise Cox at July Labor Council meeting holding leaflet announcing one day strike of nursing home workers.

## Stop Privatization of County-Based Area Agencies on Aging

Continued from page 1

2. We call on Governor Wolf to stop privatization to Maximus & instead direct DHS to award the Assessment contract to the AAAs through its LLC-

Aging Well.

3. We will stand in solidarity of future actions until this issue is resolved."

A copy of the resolution is attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG. Please copy

the resolution and ask your local union to adopt it and notify SEIU Local 668 of the adoption. Please call Governor Wolf and demand that he stop the outsourcing and privatization of AAA work.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



We're on the Web:  
[pa.aficio.org/349](http://pa.aficio.org/349)

## Calendar of Events

- 08/16 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings are canceled due to Covid-19 resurgence. Executive Board will meet virtually at 6:00 PM. See President's Report on Page 3 for additional details.
- 08/27-29 Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Community Services & COPE Institute: Wyndham Grand Hotel, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
- 09/06 Labor Day: See President's Report on Page 3 for information about the Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council sponsored parade in Pittsburgh and the Labor United two-day celebration in Westmoreland County.
- 09/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings are canceled due to Covid-19 resurgence. Executive Board will meet virtually at 6:00 PM.

**Correction:** The awardee of the 2021 Beaver-Lawrence CLC Scholarship is Renee Croushore. The article appearing on Page 3 of the July UNION BUG incorrectly reported her given name as "Nicole."

Calendar of Events submissions must be emailed to Jody Kohser, Calendar of Events Coordinator, at [jkohser@verizon.net](mailto:jkohser@verizon.net), by 6:00 p.m. on September 14th to be considered for publication in the September 2021 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.