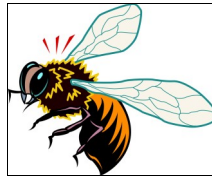


# UNION



# BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2018

## LABOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

- **President:**  
Richard Galiano
- **Ex. Vice President:**  
Dan Onuska
- **Recording Secretary:**  
Lisa Alexander
- **Secretary-Treasurer:**  
Eric Martin
- **Vice Presidents:**
  - John Howard Thompson
  - Bernie Hall
  - Linwood Alford
  - Mark Benkart
  - Kerri Theuerl
- **Trustees:**
  - Jan Carpenter
  - Laurie Fisher
  - Rev. Kevin Lee
  - Jody Kohser
  - Alicia Craig
  - Sara Dudash
  - Tom Flook

## Council Invites Supporters and Friends to Christmas Party

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council's annual Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, following the December membership meeting. The membership meeting begins at 7:30 PM and will be brief.

Each year the Labor Council invites its supporters and friends to enjoy the foods and refreshments served at the party. It is a way for the Labor Council to show its appreciation to those with whom it closely works for their support of the Labor Movement's agenda.

This year the Labor Council worked closely with its affiliated unions to defeat "Paycheck Protection" legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and against an adverse U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 case, including hosting a Working People's Day of Action on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Although the Supreme Court ruled against mandatory public employee fair share fees, we continue to work with our public union affiliates against the negative consequences of the decision. [Editor's note: See article Page 5]

We also supported Fair Districts legislation, Pa. Senate Bill 22 and Pa. House Bill 722, and encouraged union members to attend the presentations on gerrymandering endorsed by Fair Districts PA-Beaver County. Although the bills were not enacted into law during the 2016-2018 General Assembly session, the effort to pass the bills will continue into the next legislative session.

Our close cooperation with the Civil Rights Movement in Beaver and Lawrence Counties continued in 2018. Together

with the Beaver County NAACP and the New Castle NAACP, we served as a co-sponsor of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Mountaintop" speech, given one day before his assassination. The other co-sponsors of the commemoration were AFSCME Council 13, Beaver-Lawrence Moral Monday Coalition, Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, Pittsburgh A. Philip Randolph Institute and the United Steelworkers.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Banquet was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker was Nina Turner, President of Our Revolution, an organization that Bernie Sanders helped create after the

(Continued on page 3)



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



## IBEW “VISIONARY” ED HILL PASSES AWAY

Reprinted with permission from IBEW Media Department

“The labor movement has lost one of its great visionaries and leaders,” said **International President Lonnie R. Stephenson**, who succeeded Hill upon his retirement in 2015. “We join with President Hill’s friends and family in mourning his loss. But while this is a moment of great sadness, we draw inspiration and joy from President Hill’s nearly six decades of service to working families and the union that was the cause of his life: The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.”



Under Hill’s leadership, the IBEW held fast to its history and traditions while making key

changes to modernize and preserve the brotherhood’s influence as one of North America’s most powerful voices for working people.

Key to that influence was Hill’s laser-focus on organizing. When he ascended to the office of international president in 2001, he wrote:

“Some leaders in Washington revel in hobnobbing with the powerful. I recognize the importance of a strong presence in the halls of power, but I know that any power we wield comes from our strength in numbers and our solidarity as working people.”

It was a lesson Hill had learned over the course of his 54 years as an elected union officeholder, starting in 1961 at Beaver, Pa., Local 712 on the political action committee just a year after he topped out as a journeyman wireman.

A second-generation IBEW member from Center Township, Pa., Hill’s long belief in the collective power of working people carried him through decades of leadership that saw the labor movement subject to vicious attacks from union-

(Continued on page 5)

### UNION BUG

*Published Monthly*

An official publication of the  
Beaver/Lawrence Central Labor Council

P.O. Box A, Beaver, PA 15009

Editor - Victor Colonna  
v.colonna@comcast.net

Asst. Editor - Steven Kocherzat  
steven6700@comcast.net

#### NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Bernie Hall

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

Jody Kohser  
Mark Benkart

#### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

T Berry



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

\* IBEW International President Emeritus Ed Hill died on December 1<sup>st</sup> [see Page 2 article]. The officers and delegates



Jan Carpenter, Labor Council Healthcare Committee Chairperson, reporting to delegates at November Labor Council meeting on the growing congressional support for Medicare for All legislation. HR 676, the House of Representative bill, presently has 123 cosponsors and S. 1804, the Senate bill, presently has 17 cosponsors.

of the Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council will remember him for his lifetime commitment to our local, state and national Labor Movement. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Rosemary, and his entire family at this difficult time.

\* Thank you to AFSCME Local 2902 for sponsoring the

food and refreshments at the November meeting. The food and refreshments at the December meeting and Christmas Party will be sponsored by the Labor Council. Please encourage supporters and friends of the Labor Council to attend the Christmas Party which will be held immediately after a brief delegates' meeting.

\* Volunteers are needed to help with the set up for the Beaver Falls Christian Assembly's Christmas dinner, toy and clothing give away. The event is held each year at Beaver Falls High School. Volunteers are needed at 10:00 AM on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 23 at 1:00 PM. Please call Steve Salopek at 724-561-4802 if you would like to volunteer.

\* A memorial vigil for Vietnam War veterans will be held in Beaver from 1:00 PM on December 24<sup>th</sup> to 1:00 PM on Christmas Day. Seventy-three Beaver County service men and women were killed during the war. Labor Council Vice-Presidents Linwood Alford and Kerri Theuerl will attend the event on behalf of the Labor Council.

\* The 2018 Labor Council

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



Sara Dudash, Labor Council Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at November membership meeting reporting to delegates on the Committee's 2019 scholarships. The 2019 scholarship application submission deadline will be at the end of April. The Labor Council awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year. Recipients are selected by a committee of PSEA members.

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

## Invitation

(Continued from page 1)

2016 Presidential election. Approximately 280 people attended. In addition to members of the Labor Council's Community Services Committee, members of Beaver-Lawrence Moral Monday Coalition, Beaver County NAACP, Progressive Democrats

of America and Beaver County Peace Links, helped to make the banquet a success.

This year we invite those with whom we worked in the Labor 2018 primary and general election campaigns, including the candidates who we endorsed for Pennsylvania General Assembly seats. We also invite those who will seek our support during the 2019 election

cycle for county-wide offices in Beaver and Lawrence counties. These offices include County Commissioner (3), Coroner, Register of Wills, District Attorney, Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Controller and Sheriff.

Again, hoping to see the Labor Council's supporters and friends at our December 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

## Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart  
Community Services Chairman

As we are approaching the end of 2018, I thought it would be nice to reflect on this year's activities.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, an expelled student, nineteen year old Nikolas Cruz, entered Parkland High School in Florida and killed 17 people, mostly students, and wounded 14 others. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, a mass protest rally, led by Parkland students, but attended by thousands of students and adults from all over the country, was held.

On the same date, some Beaver High School students walked out of the school to rally in sympathy with the Parkland students. They called themselves Beaver County Students for Change. The organizers were Beaver students Bella Hampodarios, and Stella Bengal.

The rally was entirely run by students with many high school speakers. There was an estimate of about 250 people in attendance. Although the Labor Council did not participate in the planning, we supplied the Pa. system, and also there were many Labor Council and Moral Mondays attendees. Towards the end of the rally, one student, Zoltan Nencth, told the attendees that he would do a voter registration at Beaver High School.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I've been to the Mountaintop" speech. He was assassinated the next day. He was in Memphis to support the striking sanitation workers who were trying

to unionize with AFSCME Local 1733.

There was a rally in Memphis on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his speech. On that same evening, a presentation of the Mountaintop speech was held at the IBEW Local 712 Union Hall. Approximately 100 people attended. The presentation was sponsored by AFSCME Council 13, Beaver County NAACP, Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, New Castle NAACP, Pittsburgh A. Philip Randolph Institute and United Steelworkers and the Beaver-Lawrence Moral Mondays Committee.

After the film, there were several speakers, including our own Howard Thompson, who spoke on behalf of AFSCME Council 13. It was a great night, and also very educational.

There were many other activities in 2018, but the last that I will write about is our Human Rights Banquet, held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Fez. We were very fortunate to get Nina Turner as our keynote speaker.

She is nationally well known and is currently president of Our Revolution, an organization founded by Bernie Sanders to revitalize our democracy.

We gave a special award at the Banquet to the Hancock County, West Virginia teachers and school service personnel who walked out of work for nine days along with education personnel across the state due to pay issues, health insurance benefits cuts, and other issues. This was a very brave act, considering that West Virginia is a "right to work" state, and they were not permitted to strike.

Presenting the award was PSEA Midwestern Region Vice-President Rosetta Dufalla. Vice-President Dufalla presented the award to Hancock County Education Association President Melanie Donofe. President Donofe talked about the strike and its success.

Well, 2019 is upon us. Hopefully it will be a good year to look back on and write about next December.

*Please Join Us  
For Our Annual  
Christmas Party  
Monday, December 17th  
IBEW 712 Hall, Vanport  
7:30 PM*



## IBEW “VISIONARY” ED HILL PASSES AWAY

(Continued from page 2)

busting politicians, misleading campaigns from companies seeking to maximize profits on the backs of workers, and ultimately, the most devastating economic downturn since the Great Depression.

In large part, it was his response to that one-in-a-lifetime economic crisis that cemented Hill's status as a leader willing to think outside the box to preserve the Brotherhood and the labor movement he loved.

Whether it was rethinking the relationship between employers and unions that led to the creation of the IBEW's Code of Excellence and business development initiatives or his willingness to take on powerful voices within his own union with the market recovery measures that led to the successful alternative classification system, Hill was always ready to do what it took to put IBEW members to work.

“Ed Hill woke up every day with a singular focus,” Stephenson said. “That was making sure that he and his leaders and the international, district and local levels were doing everything they could to put IBEW members in a position to be successful. Sometimes that involved killing off a sacred cow or two, but Ed was fine with that as long as his union brothers and sisters came out on top.

“His efforts ensured that the IBEW not only survived through the toughest of times but expanded and grew,” Stephenson said.

That expansion wasn't by accident. Hill's experience, from his time as a local president and business manager through his rise to Third District Vice President, International Secretary and then International Secretary-Treasurer, taught him that growth in the face of adversity was the only way to maintain collective power.

As Secretary-Treasurer, he invested in the modernization of the IBEW's record-keeping and membership databases and worked with then-President J.J. Barry to add

*“His efforts ensured that the IBEW not only survived through the toughest of times but expanded and grew”*

needed resources to organizing. He continued that expansion when he succeeded Barry as the union's president in 2001, directing his leaders in the Membership Development Department to harness new technology and tools for organizers in every branch of the IBEW.

“The IBEW is where it is today because of the leadership of Ed Hill.” said International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper. “As Secretary and then as Secretary-Treasurer, Ed Hill gets much of the credit for bringing this Brotherhood into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He said early on that the old ways of doing things could be improved, and his leader-

ship even before his time as International President allowed the IBEW to keep its focus on the people who mattered most – the members.”

Hill's most lasting legacy, however, may be his thorough reevaluation of the relationship between employers, employees and the unions that represent them. He knew that organizing meant little if the IBEW couldn't put those members to work, so Hill took a nascent idea started in the Eighth District and breathed fire into it.

That idea was the Code of Excellence, a commitment from IBEW members and signatory contractors to set the gold standard for quality work in the electrical industry.

“Anti-union propaganda had created a perception that hiring union workers was bad for business, but we knew better,” Hill said at his retirement. “We just had to remind our customers, and truth be told, some of our members, that high standards of craftsmanship and productivity are hallmarks of the IBEW and the foundation of a profitable business.”

Under Hill's leadership, the Code grew from a single district and branch – construction – into a hallmark of the IBEW's identity across North America and all seven branches of the union. It also worked hand-in-hand with another of Hill's innovations: business development.

Early on, Hill noticed that IBEW signatory contractors were missing out on big construction projects, depriving

(Continued on page 6)

# Help AFSCME Council 13 Expose Janus Decision Scams

By Howard Thompson  
AFSCME Council Vice-President  
and Beaver-Lawrence Central  
Labor Council Vice President

Brothers and sisters, as most of you are aware, the U.S. Supreme Court's June 27th decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* had the effect of turning all public sector unions into "right-to-work" bargaining units. Now the organizations that initiated the *Janus* case are funding even more attacks to get workers to give up their rights and to cripple their unions. AFSCME and the other public sector unions affected by the *Janus* decision won't go quietly away. We will fight. Below is an edited reprint of an alert issued by AFSCME International President Lee Saunders on October 11th. The alert asks AFSCME members to help AFSCME track anti-union groups trying to trick them into quitting our union. It asks you to help us fight back against the anti-union groups:

"Have you been contacted by a group called the Freedom Foundation?

Don't be confused by their name – they're interested in crushing your freedom, not defending it. They're one of the anti-worker groups (funded by billionaires like the Koch brothers) spending tens of millions of dollars contacting us and trying to trick us into quitting our unions.

Have you heard from them: We want to know. [In Pennsylvania]

call the [AFSCME Council 13 Resource Center at 1-800-5-AFSCME] and let us know what you've experienced, so we can track these anti-union groups and their dirty tricks.

They might be targeting you online with ads on your computer. They might be emailing you, sending you mail, or calling you on the phone. They might even have shown up at your door.

They could be calling themselves by a different name – like "The Buckeye Institute," "the Illinois Policy Center," "Liberty Justice Center," "Mackinac Center for Public Policy," or the "Commonwealth Foundation."

No matter what misleading name they picked for themselves, their agenda is the same: Trick AFSCME members into leaving our union – so working families lose our seat at the table, and the same corporate fat cats funding these attacks grow richer and richer.

To fight back against their propaganda, we need to know what they're up to. That's where you come in: [Again, please contact the AFSCME Council 13 Resource Center] to report any contact you've received from these anti-union groups.

Thank you for helping us keep an eye on these con artists.

In solidarity,

Lee Saunders  
President, AFSCME

## Ed Hill

(Continued from page 5)

the industry's best-trained electricians of sorely-needed jobs, especially during the recession that started in 2008. His solution was to get the union involved in those sorts of projects at the planning stage, well before contracts were drawn up.

The IBEW's Business Development Department was created under Hill's leadership to build relationships with the owners of large projects and work with them from the early stages, leveraging the IBEW's significant influence in the halls of power to help make their projects a reality. The side benefit – for both sides – was the use of industry-leading IBEW electricians once ground was broken.

"I think of Ed as a pioneer, always looking for new ways to help IBEW members in this changing economic environment," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler said at Hill's retirement. Shuler, a member of Portland, Ore., Local 125 and one of Hill's former senior executive assistants praised her former boss's willingness to embrace the new and unfamiliar. "He often said, "Making mistakes is good. It's better to try something and fail, than not try at all – because if you're not failing once in a while, it means you're not doing anything new."

The officers, staff and entire membership of the IBEW wish to thank Brother Hill for his lifetime of service and commitment to the Brotherhood he so loved. Our thoughts, prayers and deep gratitude are also with his wife Rosemary, the couple's three children and grandchildren in this difficult time.

## “Off the Table: The Case For H.R. 676 Expanded And Improved Medicare For All” To Be Shown At January Labor Council Meeting

By Jan Carpenter  
Labor Council Healthcare  
Committee Chairperson

The film “Off the Table: The Case for HR 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All” will be shown at the Labor Council monthly meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The twenty-three minute film shows how Canadian style Medicare could cover everyone in the U.S. without co-pays, deductibles or premiums, and remove one of the biggest obstacles U.S. labor negotiators face in contract negotiations.

An interview with United Steelworkers International President Leo Gerard is included in the film. President Gerard points out that healthcare negotiations can take up to fifty percent of negotiation time during contract bargaining. He notes that concern about losing healthcare benefits is not an impediment to Canadian workers striking because they are covered by Canadian Medicare whether they are working or not.

Now that the midterms are over and the 2020 presidential campaign cycle is about to begin, the battle for Medicare for All will increasingly appear on the front burner of the political process.

At least 48 incoming members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives campaigned on expanding access to Medicare. 124 members of the House cosponsored H.R. 676 in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

(2017-2018). Senator Bernie Sanders’ Medicare for All Bill, S.1804, had 16 sponsors in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

John Thompson, International Representative, United Electrical, Radio and Machine

Workers of America (UE), will make brief comments after the showing. The UE is affiliated with the Labor Campaign for Single Payer Healthcare ([www.laborforsinglepayer.org](http://www.laborforsinglepayer.org)).

## Labor Council Vice-President To Receive MLK Celebration Committee Award

By Steven Kocherzat  
Union Bug Assistant Editor

The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee will present Labor Council Vice-President Linwood Alford with a Man of Valor Award at its annual Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration banquet on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The award is presented each year to three persons who, according to Celebration Committee Coordinator Eugenia Priest, “exhibit outstanding commitment towards fulfilling Dr. King’s Dream of diversity, peace and unity within the community.” Linwood serves as the Labor Council’s Director of Civil Rights and Economic Justice. Linwood’s commitment towards Dr. King’s Dream during the last several years has been exhibited by his efforts to increase minority employment in the Construction Trades, working to defeat Pennsylvania General Assembly Voter ID legislation that would have effectively disen-

franchised hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania voters and working to ensure the success of the Labor Council’s Human Rights banquets.

The banquet will be held at the Center Stage Banquet Hall in Center Township. It begins at 5:00 PM. Admission is \$35.00 per person and a table of eight is \$175.00. Please contact Committee Coordinator Eugenia Priest at 724-775-7734, [Eugenia.priest@verizon.net](mailto:Eugenia.priest@verizon.net), for tickets and additional information.



BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



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

## Calendar of Events

- 12/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712, Vanport.
- 12/25 25<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Dinner and Toy Giveaway hosted by Beaver Falls Christian Assembly CARE Outreach Ministry: Beaver Falls High School. Volunteers needed to help serve and clean. See President's Report on Page 3 of this issue of the UNION BUG.
- 01/08 Community Services/Moral Mondays meeting; 7:00 PM, IBEW 712 Hall; Vanport
- 01/20 Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Committee banquet: 5:00 PM, Center Stage Banquet Hall, 1495 Old Brodhead Road, Monaca. See article on Page 7 of this issue of the UNION BUG.
- 01/21 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and membership meetings: Executive Board - 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM; IBEW 712, Vanport.

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 January 14th to be considered for publication in the January 2019 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.



# Holiday Dining



*When you buy union, you're supporting good jobs in American communities, jobs that provide living wages and benefits, safe working conditions and dignity and respect for work. Look for these quality products, produced by union members, when you are preparing for your holiday celebration...*

## Set the Table



Homer Laughlin China (GMP)  
Fiestaware (GMP)  
Anchor Hocking (GMP)  
Libbey Glassware (USW and GMP)  
Claus Knives (USW)  
Pyrex (USW)  
Corning Ware (USW)  
Bennington Potters (UNITE HERE)

## For the Feast

### **Fresh Whole Turkey**

Butterball (UFCW)  
Foster Farms (UFCW)

### **Ham**

Appleton Farms Ham (UFCW)  
Black Forest Ham (UFCW)  
Butterball Ham (UFCW)  
Cook's Ham (UFCW)  
Farmland Old Fashioned Pit Ham (UFCW)  
Farmland Original Pit Ham (UFCW)  
Hormel Honey Roasted Ham (UFCW)  
Tyson Ham (UFCW)

### **Stuffing**

Manischewitz (UFCW)  
Stroehmann Bakery Products (BCTGM)

### **Vegetables**

Andy Boy (UFW)  
Muranka (UFW)  
Eurofresh (UFCW)  
Birds Eye (UFCW)  
Mann's (UFCW)  
Sunripe Produce (UFCW)

### **Cranberries/ Cranberry Sauce**

Ocean Spray (IAMAW)  
Dole (IBT)

### **Potatoes**

Dole Fresh Potatoes (IBT)  
Mann's Fresh Culinary Cuts Sweet Potato (UFCW)  
Betty Crocker Specialty Potatoes (BCTGM)

### **Bread**

Pillsbury Rolls (BCTGM)  
Stroehmann Bakery Products (BCTGM)  
Aunt Millie's Bread Products (UFCW)

### **Pie**

Entenmann's (BCTGM)  
Marie Callender's (UFCW)  
Pillsbury Pie Crust (BCTGM)  
Sara Lee (BCTGM)  
Banquet Fruit Pies (UFCW)

### **Pie Filling**

Kroger brand pumpkin puree (UFCW)  
Food Club canned pumpkin (UFCW)  
Del Monte Fresh Apples (IBT)

©Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO. All rights reserved

• Look for the Union Label •

815 16th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006

The Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, was founded in 1909 to promote the products and services produced in America by union members -- especially those products and services identified by a union label, shop card, store card and service button. We are supported by per capita payments from AFL-CIO National and International Unions.