

# UNION



# BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2021

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## UNION SOLIDARITY AT CHRISTMAS

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

The Northwest PA Area Labor Federation is assisting the members of Ironworkers Local 851 in Erie to settle a fair contract with their employer, Erie Strayer Company. The members of Local 851 have been on strike since October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council has donated to the NWPA ALF's Christmas Project for Local 851. We urge our members, affiliates and friends to support the Christmas Project. The following NWPA ALF statement describes the Christmas Project and how you can help:

"The NWPA ALF with the assistance and support of our affiliates and our friends is working to make Christmas a little brighter for the 30 members of Ironworkers 851 and their children. They are standing strong on the picket line at Erie

Strayer, we can help! If we each just give a little we will accomplish a lot. We are hoping with your help to provide 3 gifts/gift cards per child a gift card for all the families to help with Christmas dinner.

At the party, we will have drinks, cookies, candy canes. And Santa will greet everyone. We will take pictures to give to the families. We will have filled

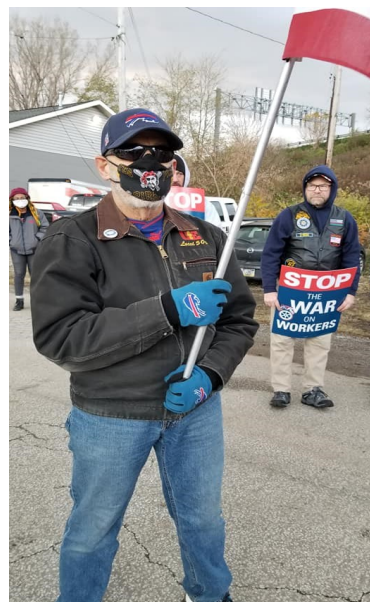
stockings for every child that are made with American-made fabrics and were sewn by union members. While listening to festive music we will have an opportunity to socialize and build more solidarity.

What? A Christmas Party! When? Saturday, Dec. 18th From 10:00 Am-Noon. Where? VFW Post 470 at 1808 W 26th St., Erie 16508. Who? The families of Ironworkers 851 who are on strike. Why? These union families have a need! Honored guest: SANTA!

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

To make sure the members realize who

Continued on page 2



Striking Ironworkers Local 851 members on picket line.

## UNION SOLIDARITY AT CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 1

made this possible we will be including a list of everyone donating, gifts, gift cards, supplies for the event, or funds at the event and in the tent at the picket line. Sponsors of the event are encouraged to have someone volunteer. If you want to volunteer text 814-360-8336.”

The NWPA ALF is also asking for assistance and support for Local 851's Week of Action during the week prior to their next negotiation session. The Week of Action begins on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see the two attachments at the end of this issue of the Union Bug for a description of the Week of Action

events and how you can participate.

\*\*In addition to supporting striking union members, another way to strengthen the Union Movement is to support good jobs through consumer activism. Please look at the list of Christmas presents attached to the end of this issue of the UNION BUG. These gifts are made by companies that treat their employees fairly with good pay and benefits. Let's support businesses that support good jobs.

\*\*Nominations for election to the Executive Board were made at the November Labor Council Membership meeting. Please see the November issue

of the UNION BUG for a list of those persons nominated.

The Executive Board election will be held at the Membership meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Labor Council bylaws allow nominations to be reopened by a majority vote of delegates prior to the time of the election.

Refreshments will be served at the December meeting if the Covid-19 situation at the time of the meeting permits.

\*\*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.

### 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.

# Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart  
Labor Council Community  
Services Chairperson

\*\* The Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council lost a dedicated member recently. His name is Alex de la Cruz. Most current members of the Labor Council did not know Alex and the contributions that he made to the Labor Council and our community and country.



Alex de la Cruz grilling at the Labor Council's annual picnic meeting on June 19, 2017. The picnic was held at Brady's Run Park.

Alex was a quiet guy, but his actions were huge. He was a retired member of the United Steelworkers Local 1212 who had been employed by Crucible Steel in Midland.

When I began serving as a Labor Council delegate and was given the job as the Community Services Chairperson, one of my duties was to help set up for the for the Labor Council's annual craft show. Joe Spanik, who was the Labor Liaison for the Beaver County United Way, introduced me to Alex. The two of us were going to set up the signs for the craft show, which at the time was located at the Beaver County Community College Dome.

Setting up the signs was not an easy task back then because the signs were 4x4 plywood, mounted on a 2x4 skids, with sandbags holding them in place. We set up approximately 15 signs around Beaver County, and course, after the show, we dissembled them.

Throughout the years Alex was always there to help setting up signs and pitch in whenever the Community Services Committee and Labor Council needed help.

Alex was also a volunteer for the American Red Cross. He worked at many disasters caused by hurricanes, tornados, and floods. Alex was always someone that you could count on and will be missed.

\*\* At the present time, there are many Unions striking across the country. They are fed up with corporate greed and corporations that do not share their success with the very people who are responsible for their profits. One strike is of particular concern – that of 1400 workers at four Kellogg Corporation plants, including one plant in Pennsylvania located in Lancaster.

The workers are represented by the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) Local 374G. They walked out on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

A tentative agreement with a 3% wage increase with incentive to

earn more was overwhelming rejected by the rank and file in a vote held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The main complaint centered around a two-tier wage system. Kellogg then announced that it will hire permanent replacement workers (scabs).

Let us support the members of Local 374 G. Please tell all your friends and fellow workers to not buy Kellogg's products. Also please contact Local 374 G in Lancaster for how you can contribute to its strike fund or RSVP a visit to its striking members. Solidarity letters can be sent to [fsbctgm@BCTGM374G.comcast.biz.net](mailto:fsbctgm@BCTGM374G.comcast.biz.net).

\*\* On a positive note, a Starbucks in the Buffalo area voted to form a Union. They are the first of 9,000 locations to be unionized.



BCTGM Local 374 G rally.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



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

## Calendar of Events

- 12/13-16 Ironworkers Local 851 Week of Action. See Page 1 article above and two attachments at the end of this issue of the UNION BUG for additional details.
- 12/18 NWPA ALF Christmas Party for Ironworkers Local 851. See Page 1 article above for additional details.
- 12/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM. IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport. Election of 2022-2023 Executive Board will be held.
- 12/25 Christmas. Holiday greetings to all from the Labor Council.
- 01/17 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- 01/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:00 PM; Membership – 7:30 PM. IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, 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 10th to be considered for publication in the January 2022 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.

# IRONWORKERS WEEK OF ACTIONS HELP WHEN YOU CAN, PLEASE



**STRIKERS SPEAK OUT!**

Erie Strayer Ironworkers speak directly to the world about their struggle and fight for a fair contract.

WATCH on Facebook Livestream at [facebook.com/ironworkersrising](https://facebook.com/ironworkersrising)

**FOLLOW US!**

@iworganizing  
@ironworkersrising

**12/13**  
LIVE at 2 pm EST.

[www.eriestrayerstrike.com](http://www.eriestrayerstrike.com)



**CALL KYLE STRAYER,  
PRESIDENT/CEO OF ERIE STRAYER**

Show support for striking workers by calling the Erie Strayer Company. The best time to do this is December 15th – just before negotiations – during the hours of 8 AM and 3 PM Eastern.

**Here's how:**

- Call 814.456.7001. If a person answers, ask to speak to Kyle Strayer. If you get the automated menu, please choose '5' to leave a voicemail.
- Leave a clear message for Kyle: "I support ironworkers on strike at Erie Strayer, and I'm asking for you to end this strike now by negotiating a fair deal."

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## CONTINUED DAYS OF ACTIONS FOR IRONWORKERS 851

# MARCH & VIGIL FOR LABOR AND PEACE

March with Ironworkers and the Erie Community, and pray for a speedy resolution and end to the Erie Strayer Ironworker Strike.

### *Join us.*

Meet up at the corner of N. Wayside Dr. and Asbury Rd. You can park your vehicle on Duncan Rd or Wave Rd, near Wayside Presbyterian Church.

# 12/14

4 pm EST at corner of N. Wayside Dr & Asbury Rd, Erie, PA



Livestream

[facebook.com/ironworkersrising](https://facebook.com/ironworkersrising)

# CAR RALLY HONK FOR HAROLD AND KYLE!

# 12/16

Join us at 4 PM at 924 West Erie Plaza Dr. where we'll deck out our cars and caravan through our community honking to support Erie Strayer Ironworkers!

4 PM EST



*Bring your ride, signs and show up IRON strong for Erie Ironworkers.*



REMEMBER IT IS ONLY WHEN WE WORK AS ONE THAT WE HAVE SOLIDARITY & POWER!!! SEE YOU THERE.



## Shopping Our Values This Holiday Season

### 10% Is All We Ask

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy Holidays!

**Labor 411**

2021 Holiday Gift Guide

[www.Labor411.org](http://www.Labor411.org)

## For Kids

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

### Games

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

### Toys

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



2021 Holiday Gift Guide

[www.Labor411.org](http://www.Labor411.org)

# For Her

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

<i>Fashion</i>	American Roots	USW
	Bosca Fine Leather Goods	IBT
	Carolina Women's Boots	IBT
	Majestic Athletic Apparel	UNITE HERE!
	Naturalizer Shoes	UFCW
	Nunn Bush Shoes	UFCW
	Pendleton Woolen Mills	Workers United
	Timex Women's Watches	IAM

<i>Beauty Products</i>	Avon Cosmetics	UAW
	Caress Beauty Products	UFCW
	Dove Beauty Products	UFCW

<i>Sweets</i>	Ghirardelli Chocolate	BCTGM
	Almond Roca Chocolate	BCTGM
	See's Candies	BCTGM

<i>Wine &amp; Spirits</i>	Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine	IBT
	St. Supéry Wine	UFW
	Columbia Crest Chardonnay	UFW
	Eagle Rare Bourbon	UAW
	Four Roses Bourbon	UFCW
	Basil Hayden	UAW, IBT

# For Him

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

<i>Tools</i>	Black & Decker Tools	UAW
	Channellock	IAM
	Craftsman	IBEW
	Klein Tools	IBEW
	SnapOn Tools	IBEW, UAW
	Stanley Hand Tools	IBEW
	Warwood	IBEW

<i>Sports &amp; Leisure</i>	American Athletic Gym Equipment	UAW
	Nordic Track	IBT
	Standard Golf	IAM
	Wilson Sporting Goods	Workers United

<i>Clothing</i>	All American Clothing	IBEW
	American Roots	USW
	Brooks Brothers	UNITE HERE!
	Danner Boots	UFCW
	Joseph Aboud	UNITE HERE!
	Red Wing Shoes	UFCW

<i>Libations</i>	Jack Daniel's	UAW
	Jim Beam	UFCW
	Wild Turkey 101	UAW
	Sazerac	UFCW

<i>Wheels</i>	Harley Davidson	USW
	Ford Mustang	UAW
	Jeep	UAW