



NWPA ALF News

March 2023 Edition

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NWPA Area Labor Federation Officers

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Vice-Chair	Shane	Clark
Vice-Chair	Richard	Galiano
Vice-Chair	Julie	Barnett
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OPEIU Rep/Trustee	Jeffrey	Hapke
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Rep CECJ (P)CLC	Jeff	Miller
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Rep M CLC	Lonnie	McFall
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Rep W-F (M) CLC	Richard	Barrett
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Rep Retiree Groups	Daryl	Busch
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Rep UBC	Lonnie	McFall
Rep UFCW	Rebecca	Valvo
Rep UMWA	Chuck	Knisell
Rep USW	Paul	Pelc

Employee

Director NWPALF	Rosann	Barker
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The NWPALF'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 NWPALF is located at 1276 Liberty St. Ste. 2 in Franklin, PA 16323.

<https://unionhall.afcio.org/nwpaalf>
www.facebook.com/nwpaalf

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NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION'S MARCH 29TH BLENDED MEETING!

This meeting will be extremely important and your input is needed. Here are a few highlights of the meeting;

1. We will be introducing our new Director. Our executive committee is currently reviewing the resumes of the 6 applicants, will hold interviews, and hire someone to replace Rosann before she retires. She is looking forward to working with the new Director for a few weeks to assure we have a smooth transition.
2. We will be discussing upcoming events like our Golf Outing.
3. We will be asking for your input on other events you would like to hold.
4. We are hoping the CPA Audit will be completed in time for our meeting.
5. For the past several meetings we have been discussing the possibility of investing in our Education/Scholarship Fund. We found that we needed to set up a trust and since our December meeting, we have been working with an attorney, an investment broker, and the AFL-CIO to have a trust document created. We will be ready to share this information with you, and get your input and vote at this meeting.



The trust document will assure that the education/scholarship funds can never be used for any other purpose than the investment of the funds, related expenses, and scholarship awards. The investment broker said the fund may be close to being perpetually funded if invested in an annuity which is a less risky investment.

Our only goal is to ensure we will always be able to offer our scholarships for our members, dependents, and grandchildren of our affiliates in good standing who live and/or work in our jurisdiction.

Please make sure you attend this meeting, we need your input.

NWPA ALF MEETING

Meeting 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 29th
 Our E-Board Meets at 6:00 PM
 In person at AFSCME DC 85 HALL
 1276 LIBERTY ST. FRANKLIN, PA 16323 or
 Via ZOOM:

Special Topic- Education Scholarship Fund Trust

RSVP to 814-360-8336 or nwpaal@gmail.com

CLC Meetings in NWPA ALF:

Beaver-Lawrence CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, March 20th
 IBEW 712 Hall
 217 Sassafras Lane Beaver 15009
 For more information call 724-971-7473.

Butler County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 5th
 UAW 3303 Hall
 112 Hollywood Rd. Butler, PA 16003
 For more information call 724-285-4883, 233

Clearfield-Elk-Cameron-Jefferson CLC

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 6th
 IBEW LU5
 1400 Leonard Rd. Clearfield 16830
 For more information call 814-937-2208.

Erie-Crawford CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 5th
 USW 3199 Hall
 703 French St. Erie 16501
 For more information call 814-823-9940.

Greater Westmoreland CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, March 20th
 Hemfield VFD #2,
 421 Thornton Rd. Greensburg 15601
 For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 23rd
 UMWA 1412
 51 Eleventh St., Lucernemines 15754
 For more information call 724-479-0923.

Mercer County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 16th
 USW 1660 Hall,
 1028 Roemer Blvd. Farrell 16121
 For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter:

Meeting 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 9th
 IAM 1842 Hall
 24 Front St. Franklin 16323
 For more information call 814-671-4420.

Warren-Forest 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 attends an event to reintroduce the PRO Act in Congress.

On Tuesday, labor leaders and workers joined a bipartisan group of members of Congress on Capitol Hill to reintroduce the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

The PRO Act would strengthen protections for workers' right to organize a union and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Unions have our highest approval rating in more than 50 years. But broken labor laws are inhibiting working people from coming together in greater numbers.

This legislation would empower millions of Americans to stand together and ensure hardworking people are getting our fair share of economic growth.

President Biden nominated Julie Su!



President Biden nominated Julie Su, the current deputy secretary of labor, on Tuesday to become our nation's next labor secretary. The AFL-CIO is thrilled with her historic nomination.

"Simply put: There's no one more dedicated and qualified to defend the fundamental rights of working people than Julie Su," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler in a statement.

"From her beginnings protecting immigrants and other vulnerable workers, to fiercely combating wage theft and the abuse of low-wage workers in California, to her leadership of the U.S. Department of Labor with Secretary Marty Walsh, Su has distinguished herself as a principled fighter for the basic rights of every worker, no matter where we're from or what kind of work we do. At this pivotal moment in history, that's precisely the leadership America's working people need in our next secretary of labor.

"We commend President Joe Biden on this hugely important nomination. Biden realizes the challenges working people face, the opportunities before us and the critical need for the kind of deep expertise and creativity Deputy Secretary Su brings to his Cabinet. This nomination was driven by the administration's desire to do everything in its power to strengthen workers' rights, including the freedom to form and join unions.

"Julie Su is the right woman, at the right time, for this job. We thank Secretary Walsh for his service to workers and look forward to Su building on his success as secretary of labor."

HURT ON MY LUNCH BREAK—IS IT COVERED?

While the Pennsylvania Courts continue—at least it seems—to expand the course of employment for injured workers, “lunchtime” may still be somewhat in question, depending on how big a BREAK it actually is.

In a recent case, *Henderson v WP Ventures*, an employee worked in a senior center in the middle of a small park. When he was unable to complete his work duties due to a roof leak in the center itself, he decided that he would go get a sandwich at a sandwich shop out of the park. Walking there, on a sidewalk/path through the park, he slipped on ice, fell and was injured.

The Court, in discussing his injury and finding it compensable, first noted that these kinds of cases are very fact specific and must be evaluated on a “case by case basis.” The Court discussed the long-standing “personal comfort” doctrine, which allows an employee to administer to his/her personal needs—restroom, getting lunch, even a cigarette break—without necessarily stepping outside the course of employment, so that an injury occurring then will be compensable.

As part of its opinion, the Court did what it often does, which is discuss other cases concerning somewhat similar facts, and explain why those cases come to a different conclusion than the case at hand. In a case like *Mr. Henderson’s* where the employee—*Mr. Cozza*--did not have a set lunch break, but was injured on his way back to work, the Court held that his injury was not compensable, finding him outside the course of employment. Like *Mr. Henderson*, *Mr. Cozza* did not have a set lunch break, but he had gone to a restaurant to eat and then made some other, non-work-related stops. It was on his way back to work, falling after one of these additional stops, that he was injured. The Court found in that case that the injured worker “did more than merely take a lunch break,” and

was therefore outside the scope of his employment.

The Court also explained that an individual on a set lunch break might not be covered for an injury occurring during that period. In those cases, the Court reasoned, the employee was, “by the rules of the employment, free from the duties of his employment.” Those cases made the specific distinction that the employee was considered by everyone to be away from work:

In [that] case, when claimant left her employer’s premises, with the express or implied consent of her employer, and selected her own place to lunch, her employment ceased and she was then engaged on a personal mission which had no relation to the business in which her employer was engaged. ... Her leaving the premises was a matter that was purely personal to her and bore no relation to the duties which she was required to perform.

These set, specific lunch break cases are older precedent, and could potentially be decided differently under the current course of employment/ personal comfort rationale. However, the more distinct the break from the workplace and work duties, the more likely it is that the Workers’ Compensation Judge and/or Appeal Board or Court could find that the “lunch break” is not within the course of employment, and find an injury during that time not compensable. The more “personal errands” that are tacked onto a lunch break—particularly after eating—the more likely that a Court (or WCJ) might not place liability for the injury on the employer who had no control whatsoever over the injured worker at the time of the injury.

This would seem to be true even in our current “remote work” world. While the course of employment for someone working at home would seem to be expanded to that individual’s premises, and even to “errands” that might be required by his/her workday while working remotely, the Court may look at leaving the house to pick up children

from school or to run an errand or two as specific/distinct/significant breaks from actual work duties. These “breaks” would not be considered to be in furtherance of the affairs of the employer, and therefore not covered by the Workers’ Compensation Act. Where a gray area may emerge is the remote worker who is on a telephone call with the employer/a customer when s/he needs to leave the home (now also work) premises for a “personal” errand—could the course of employment expand to encompass that injury? It likely could—and maybe should. Those cases have not occurred yet, or if they have, they are not yet before the Commonwealth Court, to discuss what rationale should be followed. As discussed earlier, the Court made plain that in many prior precedents that these cases must be evaluated based on the specific facts presented, and then analyzed as to the relationship to work duties, the length of the break, and the activities performed during that break.

The course of employment is seemingly in Pennsylvania an ever-expanding doctrine. Therefore, an injury occurring even when not at the work station—maybe even at lunch—should always be evaluated as possibly related to work and compensable. The facts may allow a WCJ to find in favor of an injured worker in a situation which, at first blush, would seem to be unrelated.

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Top 6 Reasons to Speak with a Workers' Compensation Attorney the Day of Your Work Injury

by Rhett Cherkin

The golden rule is that you should speak to a Workers' Compensation attorney immediately when you are hurt at work, whether your employer has paid you or not. Many injured workers do not think they need an attorney when their employer accepts their claim, begins to pay wage benefits, and covers medical expenses. But do you think your employer's goodwill will necessarily continue if your recovery is not quick? It is not in your employer's best interest to keep paying workers' compensation benefits for the long term. They will want you to return to work, and they may seek to have you return before you are physically ready. Here are just 6 reasons you should always call an experienced workers' compensation attorney the day you are injured:

1) To confirm that your employer or its insurance company has legally accepted your injury.

Your employer or its insurance company is required to provide you with certain paperwork related to your injury. An attorney can determine if the employer has filed and issued the appropriate paperwork and if necessary, fight to have your injury recognized if your claim is denied.

2) To confirm that ALL your injuries have been properly describe in the Notice of Compensation Payable.

The employer may issue a Notice of Compensation Payable (NCP. This will list the legal description of the work injury. It is critical that the NCP correctly describes your injury. Consider the following example: a NCP is issued for a back strain but the employee not only suffered a back injury but also an injury to his arm. If the description of the injury is not corrected, expenses related to the arm injury may not be covered. Further, if the back injury is more serious than a strain, the employee could also have problems obtaining specialized treatment. An attorney can ensure the paperwork issued by the

employer or its insurance company fully protects your rights as your claim proceeds.

3) To confirm your Average Weekly Wage and Workers' Compensation Rate have been correctly calculated. You will want to confirm your employer has correctly calculated your workers' compensation payments. Specifically, the NCP will state the amount of the injured worker's average weekly wage, upon which the wage loss benefit is calculated. An attorney can help confirm your wage loss benefit was calculated accurately.

4) To help you navigate a system that may require you to see a "panel doctor" or work with a nurse case manager. Some employers have "panel doctors" that you must initially see for your injury. If your employer has posted a list of at least 6 designated health care providers, no fewer than 3 of whom are physicians, you are required to treat with one or more of these medical providers for a period of 90 days from the date of the first visit to the provider. After 90 days, you should seek medical treatment with your own doctor.

A nurse case manager assigned by the insurance company to your claim may act like your best friend. They will tell you they are there to help you, but a nurse case manager is hired by the employer's insurance company and will report to and work closely with the insurance adjuster assigned to your claim. Their goal is to keep you on a track that will save the insurance carrier money. This could limit your rights or end your claim before you have recovered. Some nurse case managers will even want to come with you to your medical appointments and may try to influence the doctor to release you back to work. An attorney can help answer any questions or concerns you have with seeking treatment from a panel physician or dealing with a nurse case manager.

5) To help make sure the employer does not force you to return to work before you are ready. If the employer or insurance company receives medical evidence indicating that you can return to work in some capacity, you may be sent a Notice of Ability to Return to Work. It indicates that you have an obligation to look for available

employment and that proof of available employment may jeopardize your right to receive ongoing benefits. The Notice does not mean you are supposed to go back to your previous job. It just means that the employer or insurance company has a medical opinion from a doctor that you can work in some capacity.

The employer can also make your previous job or another job available to you. If you return to work but continue to sustain wage losses, the employer or its workers' compensation insurance carrier should continue paying two-thirds of the difference between your post-injury and pre-injury wages. If, after returning to work (either regular duty or light duty), you become disabled once again due to your work-related condition, you are entitled to total disability benefits. An attorney can help you navigate return to work notices and the paperwork associated with any modification in your benefits.

6) The most compelling reason to speak with a workers' compensation attorney is that there is no attorney fee for counseling an injured worker for #1-5!!!

You will not be charged a fee until a Workers' Compensation Judge approves an attorney fee agreement. If your claim does not go before a Workers' Compensation Judge then no fee will be owed for helping you to navigate any issue that arises with your claim. If you, a family member or friend have been injured at work, please contact us at 1-800-222-8816.

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CALL FOR SUPPORT!

Penns Manor Teachers ON STRIKE
effective Feb. 27 unless a contract is reached by then.



WAYS FOR PSEA LOCALS AND THE LABOR COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT PMEA:

Join us on the picket lines starting at 8AM on Feb. 27!

Penns Manor School District
(Along the Route 403 Entrance)
6003 Rte 553 Highway, Clymer, PA 15728

**Contact PMSD School Board Members and urge them
to reach a fair agreement with the teachers!**

**Food and refreshment donations will be accepted at
the Strike Headquarters**

Pine Twp Firehall, 6485 Route 403 Highway N, Heilwood, PA
*To coordinate donations or for more information, contact PSEA Region
Advocacy Coordinator Annie Briscoe at abriscoe@psea.org*





Ways You Can Support The Penns Manor Striking Teachers:

• Stop by the strike headquarters

- Pine Township Firehall: 6485 Route 403 Highway N, Heilwood, PA
- Drop-off food and refreshments
- Take advantage of their shuttle to get to the picket line

• Join the teachers on the picket line

- Penns Manor School District, Rte 403 Entrance: 6003 Rte 553 Highway, Clymer, PA 15728
- Starting Mon 27 Feb: 8:00am-11:30am & 1:00-3:00pm, until a contract is reached
- Consider taking the shuttle from the strike headquarters, there's little parking at the picket line

• Contact the PMSD School Board Members (The contact information below is listed on the [school district's website](#)):

- Mr. Robert Packer, President (Cherry Hill Twp): packerro@pennsmanor.org
- Mrs. Jill Eckenrode, Vice-President (Pine Twp): jill_eckenrode@hotmail.com
- Mrs. Debora Tate, Treasurer (Clymer Boro): Tatede@pennsmanor.org
- Mrs. Tammy Dalton, Member (Pine Twp): Dalton.T@pennsmanor.org
- Mr. John Hardesty, Member

(Clymer Boro): hardesjo@pennsmanor.org (Phone: 724-388-0607)

- Mr. Richard Polenik, Member (Pine Twp): poleniri@pennsmanor.org
- Mr. Jody Rainey, Member (Cherry Hill Twp): Rainey.J@pennsmanor.org
- Mrs. Lisa Smiley, Member (Clymer Boro): smiley.l@pennsmanor.org
- Mrs. Wendy Williams, Member (Cherry Hill Twp): wwilliams@pennsmanor.org

• Share this information!

- Share the attached flier by email, on social media, etc.
- Let the members of your local union know what's going on
- Let your friends and family who support quality education and good benefits for the educators doing this hard work know

Share the attached flier with your locals! Please follow our [CLC's Facebook page](#) and the [PMEA Facebook page](#) for the latest updates. And feel free to reach out to me or Annie Briscoe (copied here) with any questions you have.

We know how much work you all do to support the members of your own union and the labor movement broadly. Thank you for all your support now and always. **The Board is holding their monthly meeting on Wed., March 8 so we are asking for more supporters to turn out and speak there!**



TEACHERS ARE ON THE PICKET
LINE AND NOT IN THE
CLASSROOM BECAUSE...

**OUR STUDENTS DESERVE TO KEEP HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS
IN THIS DISTRICT FOR CONSISTENCY IN THE CLASSROOM!**

*With a statewide teacher shortage, we want to secure a contract that makes
Penns Manor competitive with other districts in the county - not at the bottom.*

**OUR TEACHERS DESERVE A FAIR CONTRACT THAT
DOES NOT STRIP AWAY CURRENT BENEFITS!**

*The district continues to propose eliminating spouses from our healthcare. We even agreed to
pay more to maintain the family coverage we currently have, and the district still rejected it.
No other teacher contract in the county includes spousal exclusion, and we won't be the first.*

THIS IS NOT ABOUT MONEY: IT'S ABOUT THE DISTRICT'S EGO.

*The district estimated that excluding some spouses from healthcare coverage would save
only \$55,000 a year. So we found a way to bring them that amount of savings - yet they still
rejected it. For a district with an operating budget of \$18 million, they are failing to reach a
settlement over a meager 0.3% of their annual budget!*

IF SUPPORTING THE PICKET LINE, PLEASE REPORT TO STRIKE
HQ AT THE PINE TOWNSHIP FIREHALL TO PARK YOUR CAR.
PINE TOWNSHIP FIREHALL, 6485 ROUTE 403 HIGHWAY N, HEILWOOD, PA

*To coordinate donations or for more information,
contact PSEA Region Advocacy Coordinator Annie Briscoe at abriscoe@psea.org*



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR:
A Community Celebration of Service

Celebrating 16 years of Public Service to the
Shenango Valley by:

THE HONORABLE

MARK A.

LONGIETTI

6:00 PM-8:30 PM

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Hickory VFW Post 6166

5550 East State Street

Hermitage, PA

Tickets \$30

Tickets may be purchased at the following locations:

Italian Home, Farrell

Prince of Peace Center, Farrell

Hickory VFW Post 6166, Hermitage

Nick's Inn 62, Hermitage

Community Food Warehouse, Sharon

Sharon Maennerchor Club

Muscarella's Restaurant, Sharpsville

Or, by mail at MCDP, P.O. Box 1213, Hermitage, PA



We are asking those able to contribute to the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter Building Fund in Mark's name c/o:
Community Foundation, 7 West State Street, Suite 302, Sharon PA 16146





Butler County Workers Announce Intent to Strike on March 15

MARCH 3, 2023

Butler County workers deserve a fair contract now.

Yesterday, SEIU Local 668 union members notified the Butler County Board of Commissioners of our intent to strike on March 15, 2023.

Over 97 percent of votes cast by Butler County members authorized a strike on March 15, 2023. The collective bargaining agreement expired on December 31, 2022, and county workers have been without a contract for months.

SEIU Local 668 represents over 300 public employees at the County Courthouse, Children and Youth Services, Area Agency on Aging, 911, the District Magistrate offices, Parks and Recreation, the County Jail, and various other county government offices.

Despite the union's best efforts to build a respectful dialogue for a fair contract, the actions of the County's chief negotiator, Chris Gabriel, have damaged the relationship and eroded workers' trust in the employer. The union

will continue to pursue every opportunity to re-establish a productive conversation and demonstrate our commitment to good-faith collective bargaining.

"Our members work hard to serve the public and provide critical services and support to working families across our county. Throughout the pandemic, many of our members and fellow essential workers continued performing their jobs when our community needed them most. We deserve a fair contract with living wages and increases that reflect the rising cost of living due to inflation. Since Butler County representatives are unwilling to address the reality of our needs and concerns, we have decided to strike," stated Eric Dodd, chief shop steward and Butler County employee for more than 34 years.

"CYS workers play a vital role in keeping Butler County's children safe. They address complex family relationships to determine whether a child is in a safe and healthy environment, and that is not an easy job for any worker. It is important that we get a good contract that reflects the real value of our work." added Laura Gellner, a caseworker for Butler Children and Youth Services for more than nine years.

"9-1-1 dispatchers are the unseen, often forgotten, first link in an emergency chain of events. We understand this is part of our job, but we refuse to be forgotten by the County Commissioners at the

bargaining table. Just an hour away in East Palestine, we've seen how important a strong emergency response is to protect our families and neighbors. We want a fair contract that recognizes our critical role in public safety for Butler County residents and its visitors," said Terry Sweeney, 911 Supervisor and county employee for 31 years.

"Union members in Butler County have done everything possible to resolve these issues throughout contract negotiations. Still, the County's attorney Chris Gabriel has repeatedly demeaned these workers at the bargaining table and has demonstrated that he would rather act in bad faith than treat them with the respect they have more than earned. The workers have done their part; now it's time for the County Commissioners to step in and do theirs," remarked SEIU Local 668 President Steve Catanese.

For media inquiries and interview requests, please contact Samantha Shewmaker at samantha.shewmaker@seiu668.org.



Join us, when we stand together in Solidarity we gain the power and influence to get a fair contract!



The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is Under Attack

In **July 2010**, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The law – often referred to as the Dodd-Frank Act – created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the CFPB). Unlike a majority of agencies, the CFPB does not get its funding from the annual budget process in Congress. Instead, it is funded **directly by the Federal Reserve**. The agency's budget is capped at 12% of the total operating expenses of the Federal Reserve System.

The Act also provides the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) with rule-making authority and, with respect to entities within its jurisdiction, enforcement authority to prevent unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices in connection with any transaction with a consumer for a consumer financial product or service, or the offering of a consumer financial product or service. In addition, the CFPB has supervisory authority for detecting and assessing risks to consumers and to markets for consumer financial products and services. The Act also provides the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) with rule-making authority and, with respect to entities within its

jurisdiction, enforcement authority to prevent unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices in connection with any transaction with a consumer for a consumer financial product or service, or the offering of a consumer financial product or service. In addition, the CFPB has supervisory authority for detecting and assessing risks to consumers and to markets for consumer financial products and services.

The CFPB is a unit of **the Federal Reserve System** charged with protecting families and honest businesses from illegal practices by financial institutions, and ensuring that markets for consumer financial products and services are fair, transparent, and competitive.

Over the past decade, that the CFPB has been in existence, it has collected more than \$1,488,823,618 in penalties from people and companies that deceive and cheat consumers. That money is then deposited into the Civil Penalty Fund and distributed to consumers who were victims of those companies found in violation.^[1]

That's more than a billion dollars paid back to people across the country.

The Supreme Court announced that they will take up the case in which a right-wing appeals court attacked the funding mechanism of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a decision that, if left standing, would destroy the ongoing work of this vital agency. The Supreme Court at

least recognizes the gravity of the situation, namely that the lower court has produced a decision that threatens consumers, honest businesses, and the financial system itself.

Over the decade it has been in existence, right-wing politicians and their corporate donors have done everything they can to attack the CFPB. This most recent round of attacks, however, could be the ones that stick.

But we won't know the Supreme Court's actual decision on the case until next year! In the meantime, that gives Wall Street and their Republican allies an opportunity to attack the CFPB in Congress. HR 6409 is known as the "Repeal CFPB Act" is in the House Committee of Finance Services. The Republican chair of the House Financial Services Committee has already announced support for a bill that would gut the CFPB of its independent funding and give it a more Wall Street-friendly structure.

Please contact your U.S. Congressional legislators and tell them to oppose H.R. 6409.





March is Women's History Month, and this year's theme – Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories – is an incredibly timely one, as MWM seeks to gather the stories of each and every servicewoman who has served our country.

This month, we invite you to join us in honoring those women who have been active in telling and sharing the stories of America's servicewomen. We are honored to participate in recognizing women across various communities who have broken barriers in efforts to bring the stories of women's service to the nation to the forefront.

Thanks to each and every member of this community for allowing us to continue highlighting the stories of the many servicewomen who have defended our country. Your support is critical to our ongoing operations and mission to honor and tell the story of every woman who has served in our nation's defense.

Help us celebrate your accomplishments and theirs by registering your service and that of another servicewoman today.

[REGISTER YOUR SERVICE](#)

[Read the Full Article](#)

**PA Labor History Society & Battle of Homestead Foundation
Annual Commemoration of the History of Working People**

UMWA Strike for Union Recognition 1922-23

April 1, 2023

**Slovak Educational Club
1300 Jackson Ave.
Windber, PA 15963**

Coffee & Donuts -- 9:30 am

10:00 Pennsylvania Labor History Society Executive Board Meeting

10:30 Labor Songs..... Tom Breiding, the Coal Miners' Balladeer

**11:00 Welcome.....James Young, President PLHS &
John Haer, President BHF**

**11:15 Panel Discussion "Women in Coal & Steel".....Kipp Dawson, UMWA, Steffie Domike USW &
Bonnie Boyer, UMWA**

Lunch

**1:00 John Brophy and Labor Education Presentation.....Presenter – Elizabeth Ricketts,
Indiana, PA APSCUF**

**2:00 Open Discussion "Eastern Europeans & American Labor History".....Charlie McColleston,
Ken Wolensky, Catherine Evens, Millie Bike & Nick Molnar**

3:00 Awards Presentations

**Mother Jones AwardPresenter – Steffie Domike
*Kipp Dawson***

**Irwin Marcus Worker Education AwardPresenter – Elizabeth Ricketts
*John Lepley***

**William Sylvis Labor Award..... Presenter – Nick Molnar
*Amy Niehouse***

4:00 Rededication of marker at the Miners Park honoring the 1923 Coal Strike

**All Day – On the First Floor –Display of Coal Mining Tools from the 1800's to the present –
presented by Carson Bruening, retired Secretary/Treasurer WMWA District 2, & Michelle Bruening
Visit the Slovak Educational Club's Museum**

We hope you enjoyed today's celebration and will join us tomorrow in Lilly

PA Labor History Society & Battle of Homestead Foundation
Annual Commemoration of the History of Working People

The Lilly Anti-Klan Riot - 1924

April 2, 2023

FREE - Everyone is Welcome!!

Community Center/Library
101 Memorial Drive
Lilly, PA 15938

Noon - Walking tour of the Miner's Memorials and the Civil War Memorial

Snacks in the Community Room

Music - Jason Kendall, nationally known instrumentalist and vocalist

*The programs in Lilly remember the struggle of women, immigrants, and African Americans
in their fight to get the vote and overcome discrimination.*

- 1:15 IntroductionThomas Mardula, President Local 1318 UMWA
Guest SpeakerChuck Knisell, International Vice President
UMWA District 2
- 2:00 Presentation "A Vote is a Fire Escape" the Untold Story of How Women took the Vote.....
Jacqui Cavalier, Professor of History CCAC, Vice President PFT-AFT
- 2:30 Presentation "the Struggle of Women and African Americans in the Workplace"
Kipp Dawson, UMWA Coal Miner, PFT-AFT Teacher, and Activist
- 3:00 Discussion "The Attack by the KKK on the Community of Lilly".....
Joe Szalansky, Battle of Homestead, and author Millie Beik - audience is encouraged to participate
- 4:00 Tour of Three Monuments in Lilly portraying the History of Lilly
The Nobility of Labor, The Nobility of Women, the Nobility of Public Service
- 4:30 Visit the Memorial of the April 5th 1924 Anti-Klan Riot.....site of former Railroad Station.

*We hope that your have enjoyed today's presentations and will join the PA Labor History Society
to learn about future events.*

Membership \$10 year - Contact Howard Scott - 412-580-6980 - cahoscott@aol.com

The PA Labor History Society invites you to join us to commemorate

UMW Strike for Union recognition 1922-23

Saturday, April 1 – Windber, PA

Registration \$25 includes Lunch

The Lilly Anti-Klan Riot 1924

Sunday, April 2 – Lilly, PA

FREE -- everyone is welcome!

This year the Pennsylvania Labor History Society is holding a two-day celebration of the history of the working people of the Cambria and Somerset County region. 2023 is the 100th year anniversary of the Windber miners who held a mass strike for the right to organize, and the people of nearby Lilly, Pa., who battled and defeated anti-labor forces and the Ku Klux Klan.

Need a place to stay overnight?

Comfort Inn - 814-472-6100

111 Cook Road

Ebensburg

25 minutes to Windber, 15 minutes to Lilly

Holiday Inn Express – 814-266-8789

1440 Scalp Avenue

Johnstown

10 minutes to Windber

Program Ads

Outside Back Cover \$ 450 _____

Inside Back Cover \$ 350 _____

Inside Front Cover \$ 375 _____

Full Page (7"x8") \$ 400 _____

Half Page (7"x4") \$200 _____

Quarter Page \$100 _____

Please call James Young for ? and to reserve cover pages in Program Book - 717-580-8680

Email ads to Brittany at: sheets.b16@gmail.com

Make check payable to: PA Labor History Society

Mail check and form to: John Werkheiser, Treasurer

1943 Catasauqua Road, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Name /Organization or Union _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Names of Attendees _____

Program Ad \$ _____ Size of Ad _____

Attending both April 1 & 2 _____ \$25 person Attending one day – April 1 _____ April 2 _____

Can not attend, but would like to make a donation to the PA Labor History Society \$ _____



Indiana-Armstrong Central Labor Council

AFL-CIO

February 17, 2023

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters and Friends:

OFFICERS

Rachel Sternfeld
Fred Bartlebaugh
Bertha Cecconi

TRUSTEES

Joe Catanese
Cal Cecconi
John Cochran

It's that time of year again. Time to shine up those clubs and hit the driving ranges in preparation for a full-fledged golf season. It's also that time of year the Indiana-Armstrong Central Labor Council begins planning their 18th Annual Golf Tournament Scramble. I know many of you have participated in the past and your attendance has continued to make a world of difference in our local community through the CLC's work. For those of you that might be considering the event for the first time, let me just say that there is not another event that brings people together from our area who are concerned about labor and the communities in which we live.

Those that have been with us for many years will see that we have worked hard to make our 2023 golf scramble not only as enjoyable as in past years, but also even more potentially rewarding. We are incorporating new and novel prizes and challenges into this event. (Sorry no past or current pros or amateurs that have competed in an NCAA Intercollegiate Golf Tournament in the last five years are eligible.) These include:

- **Million Dollar Prize shot sponsored by Mytrysak Family Tree Farm** – golfers will register to have their name drawn to be the one person who will qualify for this prize challenge (paid off in an annuity) if he or she is successful in sinking a hole-in-one on a tournament selected par three.
- **\$50,000 Prize sponsored by Mytrysak Family Tree Farm** – Four golfers will also be drawn from those registered to try their luck at achieving a hole-in-one on the par three designated for this prize. These prizes are payable in full to any or all of these four that achieve this feat.
- **\$10,000 prizes** to any golfer that buys a chance and succeeds in scoring a hole-in-one on the par three designated for this prize award.
- **Three bonus prizes** of an Apple iPad, Scotty Cameron Phantom X Putter and a Yeti Tundra 75 Hard Cooler.

All this is in addition to the customary prizes and give-a-ways that are done at the Indiana-Armstrong CLC yearly golf scramble. Plus, the fun and camaraderie that always accompanies this event. We want to continue to make this event better, and we believe we have taken steps this year to do just that.

The only thing missing from this upcoming event at this point is **YOU!** So, please complete the attached form and submit it with your check to the Indiana-Armstrong CLC. We are looking forward to seeing you in person on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Meadow Lane Golf Course, Indiana, PA.

Cal Cecconi is chairing the committee organizing this event. You can reach him at 724-388-0316 if you have any questions. Come join the fun and help us raise money for the many worthwhile causes in our community that the Indiana-Armstrong CLC supports! All proceeds benefit the Indiana-Armstrong Central Labor Council's General Fund and COPE Fund.

In Solidarity,

Rachel Sternfeld, President
Indiana-Armstrong Central Labor Council

Contact Information

51 Eleventh Avenue
P. O. Box 104
Lucernemines, PA 15754
IndianaCLC@yahoo.com





Become a grassroots co-sponsor of the Social Security Expansion Act of 2023

Social Security is one of the most popular and successful government programs in the history of our country. For more than 80 years, through good times and bad, Social Security has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American on time and without delay.

In 2021, Social Security lifted 26.3 million Americans out of poverty, including more than 18 million seniors. Before it was created in 1935, about half of our nation's seniors were living in poverty. Today, the senior poverty rate is 10.3 percent.

Yet, despite this success, tens of millions of seniors and 25 percent of people with disabilities are still struggling to get by, and many older workers fear that they will never be able to retire with security and dignity.

The most recent evidence indicates that nearly 40 percent of seniors rely on Social Security for a majority of their income and one in every seven seniors rely on it for more than 90 percent of their income. And to make matters worse, nearly half of Americans age 55 and older have no retirement savings. Meanwhile, the average Social Security benefit is only \$1,688 a month.

Social Security is not going broke. Social Security has a \$2.85 trillion surplus in its trust

fund and can pay every promised benefit to every eligible American until the year 2035. After that, the Social Security Administration estimates that there will be enough funding available to pay 80 percent of promised benefits.

Given this reality, Congress must not to cut Social Security. Congress must expand Social Security and extend its solvency so that everyone in America can retire with the respect that they have earned and deserve after a lifetime of hard work. That's what the Social Security Expansion Act, introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Rep. Jan Schakowsky and Rep. Val Hoyle, is all about.

The Social Security Expansion Act would:

- **Extend the solvency of Social Security for 75 years** by requiring the wealthiest American households to pay their fair share of taxes. Today, because of the earnings cap on Social Security taxes, a CEO making \$20 million a year pays the same amount of money into Social Security as someone who makes \$160,200 a year. This legislation would lift this cap and subject all income above \$250,000 to the Social Security payroll tax. Under this bill, over 93 percent of households would not see their taxes go up by one penny.
- **Expand Social Security benefits across-the-board for current and new beneficiaries.** Under this bill, Social Security benefits for current and existing recipients would be increased by \$2,400 a year.
- **Increase Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments (COLAs).** This bill would more accurately measure the spending patterns for seniors by adopting the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). Older Americans, by and large, are not going out on

spending sprees buying big screen TVs, laptops, or the latest high-tech gadgets. Rather, they spend a disproportionate amount of their income on health care and prescription drugs, which would be reflected in the formula for calculating COLAs under this legislation.

- **Require millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share into Social Security.**

Currently, workers have 12.4 percent taken out of each paycheck and contributed to the Social Security trust fund, half paid by the employer and half by the worker. This bill would require the wealthy pay the same 12.4 percent on their investment and business income, by increasing the net investment income tax by 12.4 percent and applying it to certain business income not already covered by payroll taxes.

- **Improve the Special Minimum Benefit for Social Security recipients.** This bill would help low-income workers stay out of poverty by increasing the Special Minimum Benefit and indexing the benefit level so that it is equal to 125 percent of the poverty line, or over \$18,000 for a single worker who had worked their full career.
- **Restore student benefits up to age 22 for children of disabled or deceased workers,** if the child is a full-time student in a college or vocational school. This legislation would restore student benefits to help educate children of deceased or disabled parents that were eliminated in 1983.
- **Combine the Disability Insurance Trust Fund with the Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund** to help senior citizens and people with disabilities.

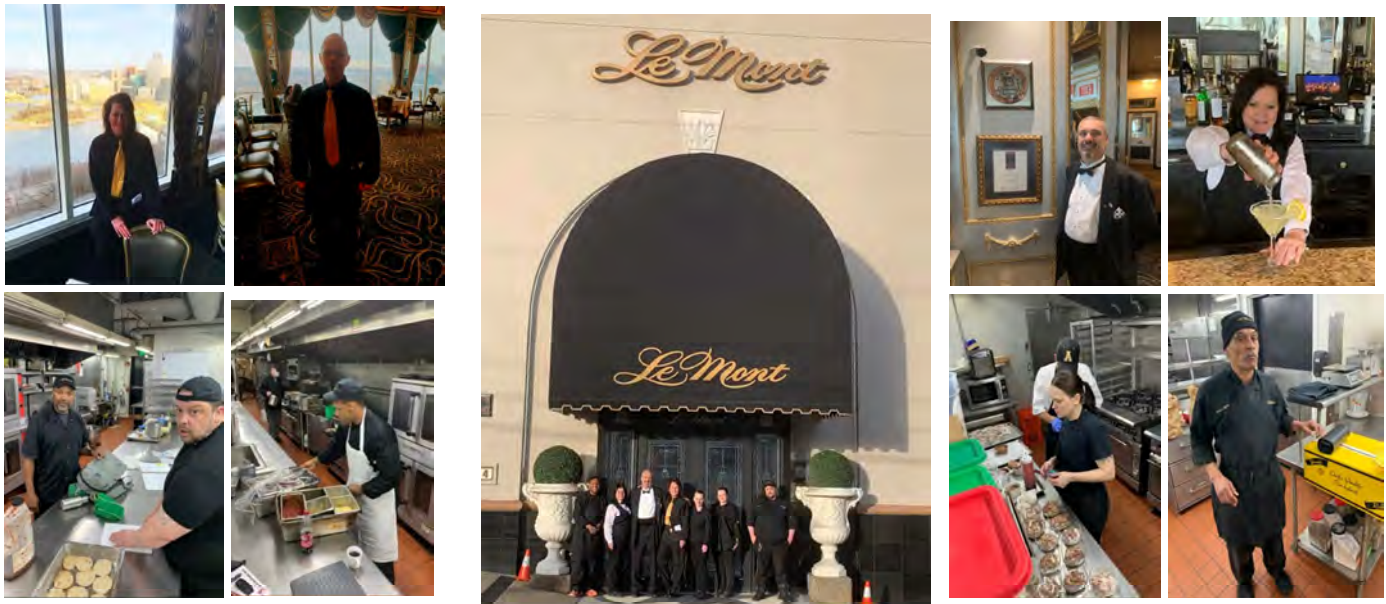
[ADD YOUR NAME: Become a Grassroots Endorser of the Social Security Expansion Act of 2023!](#)

Solidarity Needed for Your Union Brothers and Sisters at The LeMont

The LeMont is Pittsburgh's most luxurious unionized restaurant. Members of labor strive to do their best and make sure their products and services are the best. The 43 members of Pennsylvania's Joint Board of Workers United have been doing so for decades. Many of us have been to the LeMont for events over the years, the service, food, and scenery are extraordinary. Quality costs more and in these tough economic times, many of us have tightened our budgets, combined with several unforeseen circumstances the business is having some struggles. The Union is doing all it can to try to help them remain open.

Our union brothers and sisters employed at the LeMont are reaching out to labor allies and labor-friendly businesses to help increase business at the LeMont and to lift up their coworkers at this time of uncertainty. If you are ever in need of a place to have a banquet, dinner, or any kind of event (personal or professional), or if you know of anyone else that is, please consider the LeMont as your venue. Your Business/Solidarity will make a difference in the future of their jobs.

Kelli Trent is their Staff Representative and she would be happy to connect you with General Manager or the banquet coordinator if you are interested in having an event at the LeMont. You can reach her at 717-966-2798 ktrent@pajbwu.org.



We look forward to serving you!

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration and for all that you do!



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Saturday, May 13th



NATIONAL PARTNERS





Warren Report Exposes Insurance Industry Ploy to 'Scam Millions of Seniors'

Private insurance giants are offering luxury vacations and other incentives for agents to "push seniors into the most expensive Medigap plans," the Massachusetts senator found.

JAKE JOHNSON

Mar 02, 2023

Democratic Sen. [Elizabeth Warren](#) released a [report](#) Wednesday highlighting the splashy incentives—from luxury vacations to cash bonuses—that private insurance companies offer agents and brokers for enrolling seniors in potentially higher-cost Medigap plans.

Medigap is [federally regulated](#) supplemental health insurance offered by for-profit

companies such as UnitedHealthcare, Humana, and Aetna.

According to Warren, the Medigap marketplace is rife with "incentive trips and other perks for brokers and agents" who—in pursuit of such rewards—could be motivated to "push seniors into the most expensive Medigap plans, regardless of whether those plans meet their needs."

The senator found that the estimated 32 private companies that entice agents with vacations and other incentives to boost Medigap sales provided the supplemental insurance to around 6.6 million people in the U.S. in 2021 and raked in nearly \$16 billion in premiums from beneficiaries that year.

Warren acknowledged that her report "may underestimate the prevalence of incentives and rewards in the Medigap insurance industry" given that insurers and third-party companies are often not

transparent about their incentive practices.

In a [statement](#), Warren lamented the weak federal and state regulations that are giving insurance giants "free rein to scam millions of seniors in Medigap, offering agents lavish vacations to steer unknowing beneficiaries into more expensive plans."

"Regulators must act to make sure seniors aren't getting fleeced," said Warren, who noted that around 40% of Medigap enrollees had less than \$40,000 in annual income in 2018.

The senator's report highlights several specific examples of the kinds of perks agents and brokers are being offered to peddle Medigap plans, which are often used to supplement traditional Medicare coverage.

Read the entire article at:

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/warren-insurance-medigap-scam>

Care Can't Wait Coalition Delivers Petitions to Congress



Care Can't Wait coalition press event.

There are 53 million people in this country who are unpaid caregivers for a loved one. Too often, they are forced to make difficult decisions about their jobs so they can support the people they love.

On Tuesday, the AFL-CIO joined other Care Can't Wait coalition partners and delivered petitions to elected officials demanding Congress to invest in care this year. We need universal paid leave to care for one's self and loved ones; affordable and available child

care; and accessible in-home and community care for seniors and people with disabilities.

Care work makes all other work possible, and a better care system will ensure care workers, family caregivers, older adults and people with disabilities aren't left behind.



Support Striking Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Workers

The workers who are responsible for designing, printing, distributing, advertising sales, accounts receivable, and content creation for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette are on strike. They have not had a pay raise in over 15 years and went on strike over the illegal, unilateral cuts to their healthcare made by the Block family -- the Toledo-based, millionaire owners of the paper.

Here's how you can support the striking workers and their families.

Boycott the Post-Gazette

If you subscribe to the Post-Gazette, cancel your subscription.

If you read stories on the Post-Gazette website, don't visit the site until the strike is resolved.

Sign the Boycott Pledge

Subscribe to the Pittsburgh Union Progress

Pittsburgh Union Progress is the publication of the striking workers at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. It covers the labor dispute and other news and serves as a voice for the people of Pittsburgh.

Subscribe for Free

Write to Major Post-Gazette Advertiser UPMC

One of the last large advertisers with the Post-Gazette is the \$24 billion health care giant UPMC. We're calling on the largest employer in PA to drop its ads in the PG until our demands are met, and we need your help.

Send a Message to UPMC

Tell C-SPAN to Boot Post-Gazette Boss Allan Block from its Board

The head of the paper's parent company is refusing to comply with a judge's order to respect his workers' rights. He also interfered in coverage of the January 6th insurrection at the PG and Toledo Blade. C-SPAN can help itself and the strike by kicking him out of its board room.

Send a Message to C-SPAN

Send a Solidarity Message

Your support for the striking workers and helps keep the strike strong, and it shows the Block family that we are not alone.

Send a Personal Message to the Strikers

Donate to the Strike Fund

Donations to the Pittsburgh Striker Fund will be used exclusively to assist striking Pittsburgh Post-Gazette families with special needs who are facing very difficult financial circumstances.

Make a Donation

Join a Picket Line

Location: Post-Gazette Production and Distribution Center, 2201 Sweeney Dr., Clinton, PA 15026

Times: 24 hours, every day

Location: Post-Gazette Headquarters, 358 North Shore Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Times: 9am-5pm, M-F

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SOLIDARITY
— WITH —
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE WORKERS
ON STRIKE



The Trump Administration wanted the U.S. Postal Service to be taken over by private corporations -- such as UPS and FedEx -- because a private postal service would be more inclined towards “innovation and improved services.” You may laugh at that line but with the power of Wall Street backing it up, the right reaction is to get ready for a fight.

A few months later, Donald Trump appointed Louis DeJoy Postmaster General, becoming the first postmaster in over two decades without prior experience in the USPS.

In 2021, DeJoy released his 10-year USPS restructuring plan, “Delivering for America,” to raise postal rates, delay mail, and shut down local post offices around the country to “save” money.[1]

By design, it’s a gift to Wall Street -- a 10-year plan to privatize the post office.

DeJoy’s plan to privatize the USPS

is already in its second year and -- with right-wing Republican extremists controlling the House, time is of the essence. Send a direct message to the USPS Board of Governors urging them to stop DeJoy’s plan and save the postal service now!

CONTACT THE BOARD

The Postal Service is a lifeline to people living in remote areas, rural communities, and Indigenous communities. For example, these communities rely on the postal service to receive medications and to vote-by-mail, because their towns are too small for polling places.

Privatizing the USPS would hurt these communities the most because -- unlike UPS and FedEx -- the USPS is required by law to deliver all mail to all regions at a flat rate.

Private companies won’t build offices in rural and remote areas because it’s not profitable. In fact, these private companies often rely on the USPS for “last-mile delivery” to get mail and packages to remote areas because it would be too expensive for them to do it any other way.[2]

That’s why privatization would lead to less service and higher rates. How do we know for sure? Look at what’s already happening. FedEx’s newest rate hike of 6.9% went into effect on January 2 of this year -- and this is on top of previous rate hikes of 4.9% in 2021 and 5.9% in 2022.[3] These price hikes even feature a new higher surcharge of \$13.25/package for some rural

communities.

Now, with MAGA Republicans controlling the U.S. House, the postal service is at a greater threat than ever. It’s up to a strong USPS Postal Board to stand up to DeJoy and stop the 10-year plan before it’s too late. Please sign and send your message now.

People don’t need higher costs and poorer service -- from rural America to the suburbs to big cities and everywhere in between. They don’t need DeJoy’s 10-year plan.

Thank you for stepping up to save the postal service today.

- Annie

Annie Norman (she/her)
Save the Post Office Campaigner
Take On Wall Street

WORKING PEOPLE NEED PAID LEAVE NOW!



We’re one of the only countries in the world that has no national paid leave. Working people deserve better. No one should have to choose between a paycheck or their health and family.

[Click here to take action!](#)

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UNION BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE

On February 18th, our UBC 420 members began another community service project. The owner reached out for help raising the side of 2 enclosed porches which sunk almost 5 inches in 30 years. They dug holes, got under the frame of the porches, lifted, and braced the 26 feet of decks temporarily. They mixed and poured 20 bags of cement to create pillars for the permanent bracing which will happen in two weeks.

The UBC 420 apprentices helping today were Jason Lindy, Philip Conklin, John Long, Hunter Bean, and Journeyman Brandon Sutter. Pre-apprentice extraordinaire Noah Long's attention to details and work ethic while adding water to the concrete left smiles on the faces of all. Clean up is always important like spraying off his boots. He summed it up perfectly saying, "We did good today!" We are proud of the community service work done by our Carpenters and know the recipients of their services are always appreciative, too. Thank you for all that you do!

