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## Striking P-G Union Representatives Update Labor Council On Post-Gazette Strike

*[Editor's Note: CWA Local 13000 Western Region Vice-President Greg Bialek, CWA District 2-13 Staff Representative Jonathan Remington and CWA Local 14842 President John Clark gave an update on the Post-Gazette strike to the attendees at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Labor Council Delegates Meeting. They were accompanied by Beaver County Prothonotary Mike Rossi, a former CWA unit president at Verizon. Local 14842 represents production employees at the P-G's Clinton plant. President Clark gave the following presentation as part of the update.]*

"Good evening. I am grateful for the chance to speak to the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council. My

name is John Clark, president of CWA 14842 (I have been a member for 45 years).

My unit, CWA Ty-

healthcare coverage lapse, thus unilaterally changing the terms of our contract. We made many good faith proposals to

reach a health care agreement, one as cheap as \$19.00 a week per striker. The P-G rejected each one. We had to decide between accepting the cost of all future healthcare cost increases with no increased financial compensation or beginning a labor stoppage.

Our struggle really began on March 31, 2017, when the Common Bargaining Agreement expired, and the P-G employed King & Ballow to represent them in negotiations. This law firm is a known union-busting firm. Many meetings resulted in offers no union of sound mind

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Greg Bialek, Jonathan Remington and John Clark address March Labor Council Delegates meeting. Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Mel Ice and President Rick Galiano appear in background.

po No. 7, Teamsters 205/211, Pressmen GIU No. 24M/9N and the News Guild have been on strike since October 6, 2022. The Pittsburgh News Guild joined the strike on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

We entered what we believe to be an unfair labor practices strike when the P-G let our

## 'Today in Pittsburgh Labor' Debuts

**[PITTSBURGH, PA (PUP)]** – “A radio show, paid for by the Communications Workers of America, is sharing voices and stories of ‘Today in Pittsburgh Labor,’ including those CWA workers and leaders involved in the ongoing Pittsburgh newspaper strike.

The show, at 11 p.m. Sundays on KDKA Radio 1020 AM/100.1 FM, is a Western Pennsylvania riff on the ‘Saturday Night Live w/ PhillyLabor Radio’ weekly talk radio show on WPHT 1210 AM in Philadelphia. This Pittsburgh version also is co-hosted by Joe ‘JDoc’ Dougherty ([PhillyLabor.com](http://PhillyLabor.com)) and Joe Krause (JAKIB Media Partners).

It aims to explore the state of labor union here, and not just those involved in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette workers’ strike. But that was the focus of the first show, on March 20, that featured CWA District 2-13 Vice President Ed Mooney, NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss, striking typographical worker Kitsy Higgins and U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-Pa. District 17).

You can listen to that and all episodes as podcasts here: <https://www.audacy.com/podcast/kdka-radio-on-demand-e33f1>. The Philly show is also available as a podcast.



Solidarity: Labor Council delegate T Berry (IBEW Local 201) standing with picketers at Market Square Starbucks store. Starbucks workers at 115 Starbucks stores nationwide held a one day strike to protest Starbucks’ bad faith bargaining during negotiations to obtain first contracts for unionized stores.

### UNION BUG

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

## President's Report

By Rick Galiano  
Labor Council President

\* The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO has announced its primary election endorsements for statewide offices: Supreme Court – Dan McCaffrey; Superior Court – Jill Beck; Superior Court – Timika Lane; Commonwealth Court – Brian Neft. All the endorsed candidates are running on the Democratic Party ballot. The Beaver-Lawrence CLC did not make primary election recommendations to PA AFL-CIO Executive Board.

\* Josh Baker (pictured right) has become a Labor Council delegate. He will represent USWA Local 9305. Josh was administered the Labor Council's oath of office at our March Delegates' meeting.

\* Thank you to CWA Local 13000 Western Region Vice-President Greg Bialek, CWA District 2-13 Staff Representative Jonathan Remington and CWA Local 14842 President John Clark for addressing the attendees at the March Labor Council Delegates Meeting. Please read the front-page arti-

cle of this month's UNION BUG for the P-G strike update that they delivered to the attendees. Call John Clark at 412-651-5659 for information about visiting a picket line, inviting the strikers to your local union meeting or other



ways that you can assist the strikers. Please cancel your P-G subscription for the duration of the strike if you have not already done so.

\* Two expenditures were approved at the March Delegates Meeting. The first expenditure was for cases of water for

the pickets at the P-G production plant in Clinton. IBEW Local 201 delegate T Berry and I delivered the water to the picket line on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The second expenditure was for four tickets to the April 29<sup>th</sup> Democratic Party banquet at the Fez in Hopewell Township. We are hoping that the Democratic Party will permit striking worker to say a few words about the strike at the banquet and to pass out strike literature. The Beaver County Democratic Party endorsed the strike at its December meeting. John Clark spoke and distributed strike literature at the Butler County Democratic Party breakfast on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

\* The Labor Council will mark Workers Memorial Day with a presentation given by a representative of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. The presentation will be given at the April Labor Council Delegates Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Food and refreshments will be served after the meeting. The Mercer County Central Labor Council will hold a Workers Memorial Service in the Rotunda of the Mercer County Courthouse on April 28<sup>th</sup>, at noon. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the actual date of Workers Memorial Day. The Mercer County Central Labor Council has been holding Workers Memorial Day Services for more than twenty years.



### Workers Memorial Day

On April 28, the labor movement observes Workers Memorial Day to remember workers killed, injured, or made ill on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections.

# P-G Strike Update

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could accept. To this point no new CBA or health care solution is on the horizon and the strike continues.

To conduct the strike, we have employed traditional measures such as asking the public to cancel their subscriptions, advertisers to discontinue advertising, picketing, leafletting the public, accessing the media, starting our own online newspaper (PUP), filing board charges, etc.

We feel we have made an impact, but we face some strong headwinds. The individuals who currently subscribe to the P-G are some of their most loyal customers, union membership is not at the numbers of previous years, and the P-G is no longer relevant to the lives of many people.

Lastly, P-G ownership appears to have no identifiable

business plan that makes economic sense. The P-G possesses unlimited financial assets and seems intent upon ending its print legacy as a non-union newspaper. Our striking union members do not have these luxuries. Our unions have met twice with the P-G since the strike started. No progress has been made.

We are awaiting a decision on the appeal of our Unemployment Compensation

some minor successes at the NLRB recently: a complaint absent settlement was issued requiring the P-G to make all strikers whole for medical expenses incurred from February 2022, which the P-G will appeal, forcing a board trial.

These rulings take considerable time and give the P-G an opportunity to contest each decision, thus causing further delays and adding to our expenses. Fortunately, the

CWA has been able to absorb these costs.

As you can see, we are in a very difficult situation with no solution imminent, as the PG just sits, content to wait us out, hoping we will give in to their demands or just go on with our working lives elsewhere.

We thank you for recognizing our fight and giving us the opportunity to illuminate our situation in front of the

Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council.”



Labor Council President Rick Galiano (second from left) visiting the picket line at the Post-Gazette printing plant in Clinton. President Galiano delivered water to the picket line as authorized by the Labor Council. Also pictured are (l - r) Union Bug Assistant Editor Steven Kocherzat; John Clark, CWA 14842 President; Mike De Socia, CWA 14842; Tom Kowalski, Teamster 205; and CC McElroy, CWA 14842 (retired).

claim; we currently are not receiving UC. The current claim expires shortly. We have had

## 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.

# National AFL-CIO

## Workers Memorial Day Statement

**On April 28, the labor movement observes Workers Memorial Day to remember workers killed, injured, or made ill on the job and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections.**

More than 50 years ago on April 28, Workers Memorial Day, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job - a fundamental right. The law was won because of the tireless efforts of the labor movement, which organized for safer working conditions and demanded action from the government to protect working people. Since then, unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality - winning protections that have made jobs safer and saved lives. But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more suffer injury and illness because of dangerous working conditions that are preventable.

**Job Safety Weaknesses are Exploited by Corporations**

Our nation's job safety laws are too weak, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) lack the resources they need to protect workers. Many employers and workers never see OSHA in their workplaces. Penalties are still too low to be a deterrent. Corporations exploit these weaknesses and create environments where workers are not adequately protected when they speak out against unsafe working conditions. Black, Latino and immigrant workers are disproportionately killed on the job. Workers still cannot freely join a union without retaliation from their employers.

**But Together, the Labor Movement Wins**

Through the labor movement, working people have won safety and health protections from the shop floor to the halls of Congress. Unions are fighting for safe jobs for everyone, regardless of race, gender, employment relationship or background. Winning strong standards from governments and employers raises the standard of practice. Educating work-

ing people on their rights keeps most vulnerable from being silenced. The labor movement is a community that comes together to ensure that everyone goes home at the end of a work shift alive, and without the chronic illnesses caused by work exposures that continue to plague many workers.

**What's Next**

Together on this Workers Memorial Day, we raise our collective voices to win stronger safety and health protections in our workplaces and stronger job safety and health laws. We hold employers accountable to keep workers safe. We demand action on critical safety and health protections against preventable workplace hazards: heat illness, workplace violence, infectious disease, silica in mining and toxic chemical exposures. We demand more resources from Congress for our nation's job safety agencies to hold employers accountable. We demand dignity at work.

We will organize and fight for the fundamental right of every worker to a safe job until that promise has been fulfilled.

BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL



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

## Calendar of Events

- 04/15 Martin Luther King Community and Students Award Luncheon. 11:00 AM. Center Stage Banquet Hall, Monaca. Labor Council Vice-President Jan Carpenter and IBEW Local 201 delegate T Berry will be recognized for their efforts to strengthen the bond between the Labor and Civil Rights movements. See the flyer appearing at the end of the January issue of the UNION BUG for additional information.
- 04/17 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Membership meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM; Delegates – 7:30 PM. IBEW Local 712 Edwin D. Hill Complex, Vanport. A Workers Memorial Day presentation will be given by a PA AFL-CIO staff representative.
- 04/28 Workers' Memorial Day Service in Rotunda of the Mercer County Court House sponsored by Mercer County Central Labor Council – noon. See President's Report on Page 3 and National AFL-CIO Statement on Page 5 for additional information.
- 05/01 Last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania Primary Election.
- 05/09 Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for Pennsylvania Primary Election.
- 05/13 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Please contact Labor Council affiliate NALC Branch 84 on how to participate.
- 05/15 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Executive Board and Delegates meetings. Executive Board – 6:30 PM; Delegates – 7:30 PM. PSEA Building, New Castle.
- 05/16 Primary Election Day.
- 05/20 Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council Scholarship Essay Contest entry application deadline. See flyer appearing at the end of the January issue of the UNION BUG for entry application.

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 May 10th to be considered for publication in the May 2023 Issue of the **UNION BUG**.