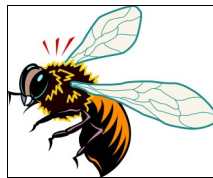


# UNION



# BUG

A Newsletter of the Beaver-Lawrence Counties Central Labor Council

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2015

## LABOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

- **President:**  
Richard Galiano
- **Ex. Vice President:**  
Eric Hoover
- **Recording Secretary:**  
Bernie Hall
- **Secretary-Treasurer:**  
Larry Nelson
- **Vice Presidents:**
  - John Howard Thompson
  - Jim Long
  - Linwood Alford
  - Janice Carpenter
  - Dennis Powell
- **Trustees:**
  - Lisa Alexander
  - Laurie Fisher
  - Mark Benkart
  - Kerrienne Theuerl
  - Jody Kohser
  - Jason McDonald
  - Charles Hamilton

## Labor Council To Welcome New United Way Director

By Eric Hoover  
Executive Vice President

Mike Rubino, newly appointed director of the United Way of Beaver County, will be welcomed at the delegates meeting of the Beaver/Lawrence Central Labor Council on January 19th, 2015, at the IBEW Local 712 Union Hall in Vanport at 7:30pm.

The AFL-CIO and the United Way have a long tradition of working together to help workers, families and communities in need, says Rich Trumka, President of the National AFL-CIO.

We are continually looking for opportunities to join forces to help working families, particularly in the areas of education, income and health.

Since 1946 the AFL-CIO has partnered with the United Way of America and I encourage each of you to participate in this year's United Way Campaign.

The AFL-CIO and the United Way have enjoyed a cooperative relationship for nearly 70 years as they together provide services to members of organized labor, their families and their communities. The partnership allows organized labor leaders to train union members about health and human services organizations that are available to assist those in need.

Labor leaders are recruited, trained and placed on decision making bodies of health and human service organizations at the national, state and local levels. Organized labor solicits contributions from workers through payroll deductions that account for approximately two thirds of the funds that the United Way raises each year.

The United Way and organized labor work

together to provide more than 160 full-time AFL-CIO Community Service Liaisons to serve as links between their state federations, central labor councils and United Ways in 165 communities across the United States. In addition 18 local labor agencies and four state labor agencies receive direct United Way Support.

The United Way serves as a full partner to the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) annual food drive on the second Saturday in May each year. The partnership between the NALC, AFL-CIO and the United Way has stocked the shelves of local food banks, pantries and shelters with non-perishables that letter carriers collect from customers along their mail routes for many years.

(continued on page 7)

## COUNCIL FOOD BANK DONATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

by Jan Carpenter  
Council Vice-President

Council Vice President Jan Carpenter and Community Services Committee member Lynwood Alford attended the annual, free Thanksgiving dinner served on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Beaver Falls. The dinner was sponsored by the Church's Missionary Society, which conducts a monthly food bank dis-

tribution on the third Wednesday of each month.

Missionary Society members Rosetta Slappy, Greg Tymous, Linda Williams and Sue Scott thanked the Labor Council on behalf of the Society for its donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food made to the food bank in 2014.

The Labor Council collects non-perishable food items from attendees at its meetings for distribution to area food banks. Donations can be brought to the Council meetings or other arrangements can be made by contacting Mark Benkart at 724-312-4387 or Lynwood Alford at 724-843-6319.



Lynwood Alford (left) and Jan Carpenter (second from right) pose with other volunteers at the Tabernacle Baptist Church Thanksgiving Dinner.

## UNION BUG

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Asst. Editor - Steven Kocherzat

### NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Eric Hoover  
Laurie Fisher  
Kerri Theuerl



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

\* Thank you to Kerri Theuerl for her service to the Council as its Union Label Committee chair. Kerri has resigned because of increased travel obligations as an SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania staff representative. Any Council representative who is interested in assuming the Committee chairpersonship should contact the Executive Board.

\* The Council's other committee chairpersons are:

**Bylaws -**

**Civil Rights and Economic Justice -**  
Linwood Alford

**Community Services -** Mark Benkart

**Education -**

**Healthcare -** Jan Carpenter

**Legislative -** Bernie Hall

**Scholarship -** Jim Long

\* The Council is giving away a side of

beef with a freezer included in a drawing to be held on February 24th. Donations are \$5.00 per ticket. Tickets can be obtained at Council meetings.

\* The September and December issues of the Union Bug have been posted on the Northwest Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation website. A thank you to NWALF representative Nick Johannmeier.

\* The Council sponsored the food and refreshments served after the December membership meeting. The Beaver County Building Trades Council will sponsor the food and refreshments after the January membership meeting.

\*The Annual Spring Banquet will be held at Shadow Lakes in Aliquippa on Saturday, May 2, 2015. This is a major fund raising activity for the Labor Council.

Cocktails - 6:00 PM  
Dinner - 7:00 PM

\* 2015 Wall Calendars are still available.

\*The next Central Labor Council meeting is on Monday, January 19th at the IBEW Hall in Vanport. The Ex. Board meets at

6:00 PM. The Membership meeting is at 7:30 PM.

\* On behalf of the Executive Board and membership, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

## Scholarship Deadline Announced

By Jim Long  
Scholarship Chairman

The Beaver - Lawrence Central Labor Council has announced that the deadline for the three \$1000.00 scholarships that are awarded through the labor council each year is Monday, March 28, 2015.

These scholarships are awarded by the United Steelworkers Local 1212, the Beaver - Lawrence Central Labor Council, and the Donald McNutt Memorial Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship application is to foster an understanding of the

labor movement, and it's vital contributions to the nation's economic, social and political fabric.

Eligibility requirements are listed on the applications and state that you must be a graduating senior in High School and plan on attending a school of higher education.

Applications are available at all Beaver and Lawrence Counties High Schools, at local Union Halls, at monthly meetings of the Beaver - Lawrence Central Labor Council or on line at the NWPAALF website: AFLCIO.ORG

# Community Services Report

By Mark Benkart

Labor Council Community Services Committee Chair

As we start a New Year, I look back at 2014 with happiness. The Community Services Committee, along with all of the Labor Council, had a lot of accomplishments:

- 1) We replaced an Electrical Service for an elderly couple in Aliquippa. He is a retired member of USW Local 1211;
- 2) We installed a railing for a woman on each side of her porch steps - her husband, deceased, was in the Postal Union;
- 3) We bought and installed a sink and cabinets for the Franklin Center's food kitchen in Aliquippa. Many thanks to the Plummer's Union for their participation in this project;
- 4) We recently installed a new Electric Service for the VFW Park in Midland;
- 5) The Labor Council, in an on-going project, has collected food for area Food Banks and Kitchens. If you have any nonperishable food that you would like to donate, bring them to the Labor Council Meeting or contact Linwood Alford, 724-360-6800 or Mark Benkart, 724-312-4387.

The Holidays are a special time for families and friends to get together. A volunteer project spearheaded by Kerri Theuerl was the participation in the Christmas Day dinner at Beaver Falls High School sponsored by the Beaver Falls Christian Assembly Church. All Children were allowed to pick four toys, families could choose clothing, and they fed well over 1000 people. It was a great event and the participation by the Labor Council was appreciated. Thank you Kerri for your efforts.

## Moral Mondays Pennsylvania

This is a movement that the Beaver-Lawrence Labor Council is participating in along with the Progressive Democrats of Beaver County, the NAACP Chapter of Beaver County, and the National Organization for Women of Beaver County. Early last year, when we started to plan our Human Rights Banquet, the Reverend William Barber was mentioned. After we read more about him, we decided that we wanted to have him as our Keynote Speaker. At that time, and presently, he is sponsoring protests in Raleigh, North Carolina, to make

a statement to the Governor and State Legislators to be moral after they enacted Voter suppression and Voter ID legislation.

Protests are held one Monday per month. Thanks to the help of the Labor Council, six of us went to Raleigh for this. There were 80,000 people there. Thanks to Willi Sallis and Steven Kocherzat, we were able to secure Reverend Barber as speaker for the Banquet. In his speech, he asked us to make a pledge to have a Moral Mondays protest in Harrisburg. SEIU supplied the vans and lunch, and a small group of us held a protest on the Capital steps.

We started having Moral Mondays meetings. Then on October 27th, we had our first protest on the steps of the Beaver County Court House with speakers. There was a great turnout. We decided at the November meeting on raising the Minimum Wage in Pennsylvania. Also, we have a new Facebook page, **moralmondayspennsylvania**. Please visit us at this page and invite your friends, family, and colleagues.





# Interview with Father John O'Malley

By Laurie Fisher  
Labor Council Trustee

Father John O'Malley has been a long time supporter of civil rights and labor. He is now retired from the Catholic Diocese but remains active in his interest.

He was born and raised in Pittsburgh, one of a family with seven children. He was an accomplished athlete, playing basketball for St. Francis College, and signed briefly with the Detroit Pistons as a free agent. Yet he was still thinking of becoming a priest.

Playing basketball was what gave Father Jack insight into his own prejudice and values. His roommate in college was African-American and Father Jack learned about his roommate's issues as a black man in the late 50's.

Father Jack had the opportunity to make a stand when his basketball team was stranded in Winston-Salem, North Carolina at the airport. The white players could stay at a hotel but the black players would have to spend the night at the airport. All of the players decided to spend the night together at the airport.

This was the beginning of his legacy as a champion of civil rights, advocating for justice for workers and the working poor. He was ordained in Pittsburgh in 1965 and now we are here to talk with him about his work.

*Q: People seem to have difficulty combining the church and the labor movement. How do you help people to see the need for these two entities to help each other?*

A: We are faith based and my neighbors needs help because they don't make a living wage and they don't have insurance. The churches took in immigrants because of the barriers such as language and finding work. Economics can break up families. When families don't make enough money to survive, the family structure fails and they break up. This is where the church needs to become involved. The church's involvement depends on the Bishop. Bishop Zubik is very understanding that the needs of the community and labor are joined and need each other to survive.

*Q: Have you heard of Rev. William Barber?*

A: I have been following him and his Moral Monday's Movement for several years. I met him when he was in town for the Beaver County Labor Council Human Rights Banquet. I wanted to meet him and tell him what I think of him. I think he could be the next Martin Luther King.

*Q: Are you still involved with IWJ (interfaith worker justice)?*

A: The IWJ started in Chicago, IL, and is a nation-wide organization that strives for rights for the working poor everywhere.

Clergy from many faiths come together to help people achieve justice. The clergy participate in rally's and protests at worksites to inform the public and corporations of the basic needs and rights of the employees. I am still involved with IWJ. I participate in conference calls. This is why the church really should be involved. It is about family, family values and that is what church is all about. IWJ challenges the clergy to "Spread the Gospel and if need be, use words." The clergy need to live with the workers.

*Q: What are you doing currently?*

A: I work with PIIN. ( Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network) . We were arrested while trying to block the doors at UPMC. Nine clergy were arrested that day and when we went to court, the magistrate asked us if we were witnessing the gospel for people to make a living wage. The magistrate told us "It sounds like you were just doing your jobs. Case dismissed. Now get out of here."

## USPS Tells Customers: Abandon Neighborhood Post Offices; Go to Staples

Postal management has launched a new offensive – one that clearly reveals the sinister goals of its no-bid deal with Staples.

The USPS is now using postal funds to mail ads for 20% discounts on USPS shipping services *at Staples* stores. The intent is clear: to incentivize customers to abandon their neighborhood post offices in favor of the private office-supply retailer.

Next, management will almost certainly conduct a study and discover that traffic is down in post offices. And they will say that justifies reducing service hours and work hours or closing the offices completely.

This ad underscores why we must continue to fight the Postal Service's dirty deal with Staples. Postal workers and customers are responding by returning the ad to sender.

- Post a picture of yourself with the ad or with a note card where you've written, #ReturnToSender on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- Ask your family and friends to do the same. And ask them to take their business elsewhere until Staples gets out of the postal business.
- If you receive a coupon in the mail, cross out the address and barcode, write "Return to Sender," and drop it in the mail.

Here are some sample tweets:

[.@USPS subsidizes postal privatization in ad for @Staples. #ReturntoSender @apwunational tinyurl.com/ojz3gj3.](#)

[.@USPS advertises for @Staples, its partner in postal privatization. #ReturntoSender @apwunational tinyurl.com/ojz3gj3.](#)

[New @USPS ad sends its customers to @Staples! I say #ReturntoSender @apwunational tinyurl.com/ojz3gj3.](#)

Here's what you can do:



## United Way

(Continued from page 1)

The United Way of Pennsylvania works to promote programs and initiatives all across the Commonwealth. One example is the Stay Warm PA program that develops strategies to help Pennsylvanians save money, cut energy costs and learn where they can get help in their own communities. More information can be found at <http://www.staywarmpa.com/news.html>

The United Way of Pennsylvania offers programs for patients who lack prescription drug coverage through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance which offers a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs.

Since 2005, over 250,000 Pennsylvanians have received free or nearly free medicines through the program. For more information visit [www.pparx.com](http://www.pparx.com).

The United Way of Pennsylvania is dedicated to providing all Pennsylvania residents with easy access to a full range of public and private programs and services 24

hours a day and 365 days per year. We are taught to dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. In Pennsylvania, we can now call 2-1-1 if we are in need of personal or professional assistance for human services. For more information visit [www.pa211.com](http://www.pa211.com).

Mike Rubino will bring a new vision and fresh ideas to the residents of Beaver County. In three short months he has established a Facebook page and a website that will link us directly to the 17 partner organizations that benefit from donations made to the United Way.

The 17 agencies that benefit from United Way Donations are the Beaver County Association for the Blind; Beaver County Cancer and Heart Association; Beaver County Rehabilitation Center Inc; Beaver County YMCA; Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Beaver County; Boy Scouts of America Laurel Highlands Council; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Inc; Family Services of Beaver County; Girl Scouts of Western Pa; Homemaker Home

Health Aide Services of Beaver County Inc; Life Steps; Mental Health Association in Beaver County; Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pa; The Arc of Beaver County; The Lutheran Services Society of Western Pa; The Salvation Army; and The Women's Center of Beaver County.

Each donor can give a direct donation to the agency of his/her choice and all money raised in Beaver County stays in Beaver County. The goal for the United Way of Beaver County this year is \$700,000 and they need your help to reach this goal.

In its 2012 report "Understanding Trends in Poverty in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area" The Urban League reported that the number of people in poverty in Beaver County grew by 29 percent between 2000 and 2010 and the number of children in poverty grew by 31 percent to nearly 7,200. These trends lead to more people seeking the assistance of United Way organizations.

Please consider a donation to the United Way of Beaver County during the holiday season. The Labor Council looks forward to working with Mike Rubino as he brings new ideas to our local United Way.

John Kochonowski, President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 712 and Bernie Hall, a Staff Representative for the United Steel Workers, will serve as the voice for working families on the Executive Board of the United Way in Beaver County.

Please join us as we welcome and introduce Mike Rubino to the working families of Beaver County at the January 19th labor council meeting at IBEW Local Union 712 Hall at 7:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**BEAVER/LAWRENCE  
CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCIL**



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

## **Calendar of Events**

- |     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| Jan | 13   | Legislative Committee Meeting<br>IBEW 712, Vanport 4:00 PM  |
| Jan | 13   | Community Services Committee Meeting<br>IBEW 712, Vanport 6:30 PM   |
| Jan | 13   | Moral Monday Meeting<br>IBEW 712, Vanport 7:00 PM   |
| Jan | 19   | Beaver-Lawrence Labor Council Monthly Meeting<br>Ex. Bd. Meeting, 6:00 PM<br>Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM<br>IBEW 712, Vanport |
| Jan | 27   | SEIU Healthcare PA "Raise the Wage"<br>Grace United Methodist Church, Harrisburg 12-3 PM                                      |
| Feb | 9-10 | PA AFL-CIO Legislative Conference<br>AFL-CIO, Harrisburg  |
| Feb | 16   | Beaver-Lawrence Labor Council Meeting<br>Ex. Bd. Meeting, 6:00 PM<br>Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM<br>PSEA Bldg, New Castle     |