

Canton Mayor, City Council Support PLA Ordinance

Canton Mayor William Healy, III is making news within the labor movement, and the news he's creating is very positive. After nearly 20 years of work within the East Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council (ECOBCTC), the Canton City Council and Mayor Healy have put into affect a city-wide project labor agreement. Though PLAs are often touted by opponents as simply a trade-off between a construction owner and the unions for union wages for a no-strike guarantee, they are really much more than that. A PLA is a comprehensive agreement between the unions and an owner, which establishes uniform standards to which all participants in the construction process must conform. A typical PLA will establish uniform standards for working hours, overtime, holidays, grievance procedures, drug testing, jurisdictional dispute resolution, etc. These are areas that generally differ from craft to craft, and from contractor to contractor on a typical construction project, and it is the responsibility of the owner, or of its construction manager, to coordinate the project as efficiently as possible. Not only is this a benefit to the Building Trades members in Canton, but it will keep the tax base local as well as creates local jobs, all of which helps all union members.

"There is a lot of activity going on around the state now because of what was done here (in Canton). I want to commend the Mayor and City Council for not falling for the myth that these project labor

agreements at 22% to the cost of a project. There is absolutely not one study that indicates a project labor agreement or paying prevailing wage adds to the cost of a project. In fact, there are many studies that prevailing wage is actually done cheaper than the open bid process done with sub-contractors," said Ohio State Building Trades President Dennis Duffy.



Canton Mayor William Healy, III speaks to Building & Construction Trades members on July 24, 2009 as ECOBCTC President Mike McElfresh looks on.

"When a so-called organization against prevailing wages says paying prevailing wage adds to the cost of a project, ask for the documents. They cannot provide it because it doesn't exist. So for this city council and Mayor to not fall for the pressures and buckle because of that myth says a lot about their character and what they believe in."

Along with the gratitude to Mayor Healy, a special recognition should go to City Council member Joe Carbenia who sponsored the ordinance. Along with his role on Council, Carbenia is the 2nd Vice President of the Hall of Fame Central Labor Council and former Vice President of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters.

"Joe is a loyal friend and staunch fighter for the working men and women of our labor building trades and all of Labor in Stark County," said Mike McElfresh, President of the ECOBCTC. "Project Labor Agreements establish uniform terms and

conditions of employment on City construction projects and enable the city to efficiently administer the construction and renovation of public improvements. The nearly 4,000 men and women of the ECOBCTC would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for their support.”



Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council President Dennis Duffy speaks of the statewide impact of the Canton PLA.

Mayor Healy spoke to over 60 Building & Construction Trades members at the Iron Workers hall in Canton on Friday, June 24 about the historic agreement.

“I am really honored to talk about the project labor agreements and what that means to every Building Trades member in Canton as well as the women and

men of labor around the state of Ohio,” said Canton Mayor William Healy. “When I was campaigning I sat down with several leaders of different unions and we talked about what I thought should be going on in the city of Canton and what the labor interests were. And one of the things we talked about was Project Labor Agreements and what that meant to the members. I made a commitment at that meeting that I would do everything in my power to make that a reality in the city of Canton and I am proud to stand up here today at the Iron Workers Hall to say we got there. We did it.”

State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-7th District), a 30-year veteran of the Laborers, was also on hand and spoke of what the Ohio House of Representatives is doing in regard to PLAs.

“I’m Chairman of Commerce and Labor and my Vice Chair is another union Brother, Matt Patton of the Laborers, and with his leadership and myself working together, I can tell you once again, if it goes through Commerce and Labor, it better have the union backing,” said Rep. Yuko. Today we are talking about Project Labor Agreements, and Resolution 58, which I sponsored personally, is one that will encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements all across the state of Ohio.”

Community Service Liasons Helping In The Hard Times

As times get worse and economic hardships take their toll on workers and their families, our members are searching for resources to provide help through the hard times. An important resource for workers in Ohio and across the country is the AFL-CIO Community Services network, staffed by AFL-CIO Community Services Liasons at Labor Agencies, United Way and Red Cross.

Ohio has a large network of Community Services staff, with 14 liasons at United Way, 3 liasons at Red Cross and 3 Labor Agency staff. The staff works full time to provide information about community resources to laid off workers, disaster assistance and CPR training, volunteer recruitment and training, advocacy on health/human services issues and general advice to help union members and their families navigate the sea of information that is “out there” to provide help through the hard times. They also raise money for United Way campaigns. The Ohio AFL-CIO also provides a staff person to help coordinate community services programming across the state and link members with needs to Community Services staff in their

home community. Although there are not liasons in every community throughout Ohio, liasons have access to information and contacts that can help workers in non-liason areas as well.

Why would a union member want to contact these community services staff? Labor Staff, as they are often called, are all card-carrying union members that have knowledge through personal experience as well as professional training. They know how the union movement works, they know how social service agencies work and they can be the link between a member in need and a service provided to meet that need. They are very involved as part of their job, with the Central Labor Council and Area Labor Council to work on appropriate union issues and serve as an advocate for working family issues.

If you don’t know your AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison or Labor Agency staff, give them a call. (List on page 3) They can help you volunteer or provide useful information on community resources that might be available to your members and their families.

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The Ohio AFL-CIO Recognizes Members and Their Family Members Who Serve In Our Military

The Ohio AFL-CIO is proud to honor our union Brothers and Sisters whom have loved ones serving in the United States military. Beginning with this month's edition we will recognize family members who sacrifice every day for our freedom in this great country. If you should have someone that you would like to honor, please submit a brief article (word document) and a picture of your honoree to Jeanette Mauk @ jmauk@ohaflcio.org

SGT. Steven John Folsom **82nd Airborne Ranger** **F Company LRSC (Long range reconnaissance and surveillance)** **525 Military Intelligence** **Fort Bragg, N. Carolina**

Union members, Ed and Nanette Folsom are the proud parents of Steve. Ed is an OAPSE 107 member for 27 years, working as a chief custodian for Canton City Schools. Nanette is an OAPSE Field Representative working out of the Beachwood office. Nanette also served as the Zone 6 Lead for the Labor 2008 political campaign.

Steve graduated in 1998 from Glen Oak high school in Canton Ohio and attended Walsh University. Steve joined the army in October 2005 and completed basic training at Fort Benning in Georgia. Steve earned his Ranger tab in 2008 and has completed over 25 jumps. Steve served a 15 month tour in Iraq and returned home September 2008. He is a Team Leader in his unit and is going to the Boards for Staff Sergeant in September of 2009.



Veterans Find Construction Jobs Despite Economy

Submitted by: Tad Kicielinski

High unemployment rates have made it harder for recently discharged servicemen and women to transition into civilian careers. And with homebuilding down, the construction industry would seem to offer slim opportunities for our returning heroes. Yet despite these challenges, Helmets to Hardhats has been able to launch nearly 2,000 veterans into careers in the building and construction trades last year alone.

Helmets to Hardhats is a program that connects former military personnel, Reserves and National Guard with quality career opportunities in the US construction industry. Administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, a non-profit labor-management organization, Helmets to Hardhats deploys 13 Regional Directors strategically placed around the country to work with military veterans, trade organizations and construction industry employers.

Veterans are urged to register with the program online at www.helmetstohardhats.org, where they can find detailed information about more than 80 different apprenticeable crafts and how to contact their area's Regional Director.

The program is working. Helmets to Hardhats helped place 1,739 veterans in construction industry careers last year, 79 of which were Wounded Warriors. The majority of these placements utilized federally-approved joint apprenticeship training programs, which are collaborations between construction industry employers and trade unions to offer entry-level employees a combination of classroom instruction and paid on-the-job training as they learn their craft.

The building trades and their employers spent more than \$8 million last year on training programs for apprentices and journeymen. Such a substantial investment translates into considerable savings for taxpayers by reducing the need for government

subsidies in support of unemployed or underemployed veterans who utilize the Helmets to Hardhats program.

In addition to the training they receive, veterans who participate in federally-approved joint apprenticeship programs receive an hourly wage and can collect their Montgomery GI Bill entitlements to help supplement their income. The apprentice's on-the-job-training hourly wage increases over the course of their apprenticeship until they graduate from the program as a full-fledged journeyman with the professional skills he or she needs to secure a long, successful career.



“Although times are tough, with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in effect, construction jobs will be mounting,” says Mark Ayers, the President of the Building and Construction Trades Department, “Skilled craftsmen are needed, and veterans have many qualities that employers

are looking for: dedication, maturity, and discipline.” His comments are echoed by Jason Ketterman, one of Helmets to Hardhats’ success stories. Jason transitioned from the U.S. Army into the Ironworkers’ apprenticeship program for Local 207 in Boardman, Ohio, via Helmets to Hardhats. Jason says he feels a sense of brotherhood and camaraderie with his fellow veterans who are now his co-workers as well. “America is growing each day and we are helping to build her future. By joining a skilled trade, I have a true sense of fellowship, just like in the military, and I feel proud each day as I go to work. Helmets to Hardhats and the Ironworkers’ union have really fulfilled my wish list for my new career. I love the challenges that the work presents and I feel tremendous relief knowing that I can support my family in the way I want to, while still having time to be with them.”

In response to the current economic conditions, we encourage all Americans to support Veteran Service Organizations, like Helmets to Hardhats, to help keep the doors to job satisfaction, economic security and the American Dream open for our returning sons and daughters.

Ohio Broadband Update: Ohio poised to take advantage of stimulus dollars

Submitted by Frank Mathews – Member Ohio Broadband Council

In 2007, new Governor Ted Strickland through his Turn Around Ohio Plan developed the Broadband Ohio initiative to achieve the following goals.

- Establish Ohio as a world-class competitor by making Ohio the national leader in the deployment and effective use of broadband networking.
- Develop jobs of the future by leveraging the state's investment in broadband infrastructure to create a competitive, well-connected economy in Ohio.
- Create cost savings through the coordination of Ohio's public broadband resources, leveraging the state's significant investments and more efficiently operating and spending limited resources



CWA Local 4321 members lobby the Senate around the Broadband issue.

To reach these goals Governor Strickland signed an executive order creating the Ohio Broadband Council. The Ohio Broadband Council (OBC) serves as the coordinating body for Broadband Ohio and has oversight of the network from a policy, procedure, process and development standpoint. At the same time Governor Strickland through a public / private partnership created Connect Ohio, with the goal to expand broadband services across the state by working with local communities and providers to map gaps in access.

Then the hard work began. The members of the Ohio Broadband Council have spent about 15 months working on refining policy, strategic planning, outreach and migration. The Connect Ohio People have been very busy creating accurate and detailed mapping and research on broadband access here in Ohio http://www.connectohio.org/mapping_and_research/ as well as creating programs like no child left offline.

Here it is 2009 and our national economy is struggling. A new president Barack Obama through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is boldly injecting stimulus money to improve and build broadband infrastructure across the United States, a country that over the last

decade has slipped from number one to somewhere in the mid teens worldwide in average broadband speed.

Over the last few months the Ohio Broadband Council through Sam Orth, State CIO and OBC co-chair has been providing input to the NTIA and the USDA on the rule making process associated with the broadband grant and loan process.

The NTIA and USDA released the official broadband notice of funds availability (NOFA) on July 1, 2009. Applications will be accepted for the first round of funding through

August 14, 2009. Thus a mad sprint has begun across all 50 states to apply for and win every last stimulus dollar available. The application process for broadband stimulus money is not an easy process. The Ohio Broadband Council / Connect Ohio / Senator Sherrod Brown and the USDA are all offering seminars and webinars designed to help in the application process.

Thanks to Governor Strickland's broadband initiative, Connect Ohio and the Ohio Broadband Council have compiled exactly the kind of detailed broadband mapping and facts needed by Ohioans that will be applying for stimulus money. This hopefully will give us an edge here in Ohio in the grant and loan process.

For labor the payoff in all of this is three-fold:

- 1) When the contracts are awarded to build these broadband networks, workers will be put to work building the networks.
- 2) Once the networks are in place, because of our high tech infrastructure business will flock to Ohio and create jobs.
- 3) We will be closer to ending the digital divide in Ohio, which will open revenue streams and internet options for rural Ohioans.

As the labor appointee to the Ohio Broadband Council I welcome any comments or concerns from anyone in the Ohio Labor family, feel free to email me at fmathews@cwalocal4321.com

NAACP Joins Effort For Economic Justice For Artists

Submitted by: Petee Talley

Several Ohio labor activists, including Secretary-Treasurer Petee Talley, participated in the 100th Centennial Convention of the founding of the NAACP, one of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations. Delegates traveled to New York and were among thousands there to celebrate the historic accomplishments of the NAACP over the last 100 years. "Bold Dreams-Big Victories" was the theme that reminded the delegates of the advances of ordinary people who refused to settle for circumstances as they were, and instead chose to fight to change their circumstances.

Labor delegates were also instrumental in passing a very controversial resolution on the floor of the convention that urges support of H.R. 848, legislation that would compensate artists in the recording industry who for the past four decades have not received a penny for songs they recorded and made famous. H.R. 848 introduced by Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.) would close a loophole in copyright laws that allows AM and FM stations to duck royalty payments to performing artists.



AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka speaks at the plenary session July 15, 2009 at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) convention on July 15, 2009 in New York, New York.

The NAACP joins with AFL-CIO constituency groups, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU); A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI); and Coalition of Labor Women (CLUW), along with the American Federation of Television and Radio (AFTRA), American Federation of Musicians (AFM) and AFL-CIO Department of Professional Employees (DPE) in support of the legislation.

Labor Council, OEA Locals Hold Educational Forum

Submitted by: Debi Maynard, OEA

Shawnee District Labor Council, in conjunction with the Shawnee UniServ Council of the Ohio Education Association, held an educational forum in support of Gov. Ted Strickland's budget on June 11, 2009 at the IBEW 575 Hall in Portsmouth, Ohio. State Representative and 2nd Congressional District Candidate Todd Book was the featured speaker. State Senator Tom Neihaus was invited to discuss the Senate's version but declined the invitation.

Rep. Todd Book spoke about the importance of the House and Gov. Strickland's education reform agenda and the Senate Republican's political opposition to the upcoming budget. Many counties in the southern counties of Ohio have been, and still



State Representative Todd Book

are, in dire need of a fair and Constitutional formula for funding of our State's educational system.

Local teachers, Union Leaders, Superintendent's and Community Leaders were present for the forum. A "Question and Answer" session followed a brief outline of the House/Governor's version of the educational section

of House Bill 1. Many attendees asked questions and Rep. Todd Book graciously answered them all.

Masons Continue Tradition At Ohio State Fair

The Ohio State Fair has always been one of the top state fairs in the country. Whether it is the top musical acts that perform or the prize vegetables or animals, attractions at the Ohio State Fair are abundant. And for the past 17 years, the Plasterers and Cement Masons (OPCMIA) have become one of those great attractions.

Local unions from around the state come to Columbus each year to demonstrate the different styles, including venetian plastering, sculpting and decorative concrete.



Mike Clear and Josh Hughes, OPCMIA Apprentices from Cincinnati, work to finish their demonstration at the 2009 Ohio State Fair.

Apprentices come in to give hands-on demonstrations and make concrete molds to give away to children who can then take them home to paint.

"We want to show Ohioans all the different skills our members have," said John Green, Business Agent for OPCMIA Local 132. "Each year, the public is amazed at the skill our members possess and it gives folks a chance to see what we can do as skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen. It is a great opportunity for us to not just show our talents, but allow the public to see that union members are proud of their community and for them to understand OPCMIA members want to build a strong and safe Ohio."

Apprentices have used the opportunity to compete with each other to qualify for the OPCMIA national competition. Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga was on hand to see those apprentices in action.

"It is really amazing what these members do. I think sometimes the work of the plasterers and cement masons and all union sisters and brothers that work with their hands on a day-to-day basis can be taken for granted. Watching these dedicated members is just another reminder of the important work accomplished by the cement masons and why we should be proud and thankful their skills are put to good use in the building and construction sector", said Burga.

Workplace Safety Conference Scheduled



The Ohio AFL-CIO will hold a Safety Conference on November 17-18, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus, OH. The conference will stress the importance of safety committees at the

workplace, the relationship between workers' compensation and safety, and address concerns of safety committee members. Speakers include representatives from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Safety and Hygiene Division, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as local union safety experts. At this point the agenda is still being formulated, so if you have any suggestions for topics to be discussed, please email them to Amanda Sabol at asabol@ohafclcio.org.

Registration details will be mailed to all affiliated local unions and CLCs in the next couple of weeks.

Submitted by: Amanda Sabol

AFSCME Members Hold Rally For Real Health Care Reform

Submitted by: Petee Talley

Health Care Now! became the chant of several dozen AFSCME activists and allies in the health care reform effort, Saturday, July 25th on the steps of the Ohio State Capital.

Speakers called upon the Ohio Congressional delegation to support HR 3200, Americas Affordable Health Choices Act. Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Petee Talley was among the speakers urging the participants to call their member of Congress and urge them to support legislation that includes a public option; that calls for all Employers to pay their fair share for health care coverage for their employees and to not tax health care benefits of workers.

“Congress has to stand up for workers and their families and say no to the insurance companies”, she said. Other speakers included, State Representative Marian Harris D-19; State Representative Tracey Heard D-26; Ohio Executive Board member and OCSEA Local 11 Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Stewart;



Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Petee Talley speaks at a State Capital rally for Health Care reform.

OAPSE Local 4 Executive Board Member Betty Simmons-Talley; Norman Wernet, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans and Brian Rothenberg. Progress Ohio.

When Congress returns from their August recess, labor will be insisting that Health Care can't wait any longer.

Labor Day Events and Fair Booths 2009

Central Ohio CLC

Labor Council Float in Canal Winchester Parade
More info: Contact: the Labor Council @ 614-257-1920

Cincinnati CLC

Labor Day Picnic /Coney Island
More info: Contact: Yolanda Miller @ 513-421-1846

Hall of Fame CLC

Union Label Booth/Stark County Fair
9/1 thru 9/7
More info: Contact: HOF CLC @ 330-453-3624

Tuscarawas County Fair

9/21 thru 9/27

West Central CLC Labor Booth

Hancock County Fair
Sept. 2 thru Sept. 7th

Lorain Labor Day Celebration

Black River Landing, Lorain, Ohio
Sept. 6th, 12:00 until 8:00 P.M.
Special Guest Speaker: Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola
More info: Contact: Kevin Zacovic @ 440-935-1864

Tri County Regional Labor Council

Barberton Labor Day Parade, Sept. 7th
CLC Float highlighting union labor
More info: Contact: CLC office @ 330-253-2111

West Central Ohio CLC

“Allied Labor” Labor Day Parade
August 7th, 2009 Main St. Lima, Ohio
10:00 a.m.
More info: Contact: George Shafer @ 419-422-4224

Central Ohio Retirees Celebrate Medicare's 44th Birthday

The **Central Ohio Retirees Council** celebrated the 44th Birthday of Medicare at its monthly meeting Monday July 27, three days early. With cake and a poster size birthday card, the celebration engaged 62 retirees in a roundtable discussion of the need to secure Medicare as part of healthcare reform.



Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans state director Norm Wernet

said, "Medicare is the public health insurance plan many doubted would work. **Medicare has increased the lives and health of Older Ohioans. It is available, affordable, accessible, comprehensive, there when we need it, with low administrative costs and a choice of doctors and providers.**"



Some of the regular members in attendance are in their 80's and 90's and still live independently

because of Medicare's comprehensive access to medical services.

President **Barbara Davis** said in a letter to the editor "Many older workers are forced to retire early or take jobs without a group health insurance. Working folk 55 to 64 should see a doctor more often, especially for preventive care – this is the wrong time in your life to have to cut corners with your health. Prevention, now, will lower the cost to Medicare later."



David Friesner, the chapter's vice president, pointed out that a recent study by Citizens for Tax Justice of a plan to tax those above \$350,000 income was not burdensome. "Recent calculations show those in the highest 1% average an income of \$957,000 and would pay a little over \$17,000 into the health system and those in the next highest 4% would pay on average below \$100 extra a year," said Friesner



Several members of the audience pointed out the economic and medical devastation to members of their

families left in the wake of lack of access or the ability to pay for health care.

Fortunately the health care legislation in the Congress would help, giving people who were forced to retire early the ability to buy Medicare coverage at an affordable rate. Other options in the legislation included a supported re-insurance program to keep older workers and early retirees in their current employer group health insurance plans. A final option is the public health insurance plan being debated as a competitive alternative to private individual health insurance plans.

Labor Push for Health Care Reform Congressional Recess Action

Submitted by: Tim Burga

After weeks of debate the U.S. House of Representatives completed its legislative Committee work seeking to reform our broken health care system. Three separate Congressional Committees heard arguments for the AFL-CIO recommended House Bill 3200 (HR 3200) and each of the Committees voted to move the bill forward.

HR 3200 contains provisions in each of the following three areas that the AFL-CIO has been lobbying to include:

1. A Public Health Care Option to Compete with Private Insurance;
2. Requirements for Businesses to Pay Its Fair Share for Health Care Coverage;
3. Exempt Taxation of Health Care Benefits for Middle Class Working Families.

Now, Congress is back home through Labor Day to listen to constituent concerns and comments. Unless Labor mobilizes during this time the chance for real

reform may pass us by again. We are calling on everyone in organized labor to voice support for our 3 provisions in the bill and to provide massive support for our Congressional friends by doing the following:

30 DAYS OF ACTION

1. Mobilize large numbers of union members for Congressional town hall meetings and other local events.
2. Union leaders meet directly with the Members of Congress in the district.
3. Labor to labor communication at the local union level through mail, phones, newsletter and worksite flyers to inform their members on what health care reform will mean for them and their families.

FOR 30 DAYS OF ACTION SUPPORT MATERIALS AND INFORMATION GO TO WWW.WORKINGFAMILIESTOOLKIT.COM

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO REPORT ON YOUR EFFORTS CALL JEANETTE MAUK @ 614.224.8271 OR jmauk@ohafclcio.org

North Coast Area Continues Employee Free Choice Act Push

Submitted by: Les Wiley



The North Coast ALF and Central Labor Councils have been doing what they can in supporting the Employee Free Choice Act, Health Care Reform, Buy American and other

labor issues. A recent example was when 45 activists from several of our unions and organizations within the North Shore CLC and Cleveland Jobs with Justice, along with Cleveland city council member Dona Brady, gathered at the Steelyard Walmart in Cleveland. The purpose was to challenge them about their involvement in the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace. We were seeing if they really believe in democracy in the workplace. We asked if

they would allow their workers to vote in a secret ballot election. We provided the voting booth, ballots and the ballot box. All Walmart management had to do was allow their workers the chance to vote.

Walmart management would not allow the ballots to be distributed and told our leaders that no voting would take place in any Walmart store. This showed they were hiding behind the lie that the Employee Free Choice Act eliminated the secret ballot which it does not. It was just their ploy to fight against Unions and rob their employees of joining and bettering their lives.

The impending storm held off and a crowd of shoppers gathered to witness the event. The message was well received and we believed Walmart lost even more credibility.

Have A Story for the Newsletter?

Email your submissions and photos to Jeanette Mauk at jmauk@ohafclcio.org or call Jeanette at 614-224-8271. Stories can also be turned into the local ALF Coordinators.

Labor Shines at National Conference of State Legislators

Submitted by: Tim Burga

We are pleased to report that two AFL-CIO supported resolutions were adopted during the National Conference of State Legislators in Philadelphia, PA, in July. Working with the AFL-CIO staff and the National Labor Caucus (NLC) the Ohio AFL-CIO pursued and achieved significant victories in passing policy resolutions on trade and health care during the NCSL general meeting. (See Resolutions Below). Passing Labor-backed resolutions at the bi-partisan NCSL is very difficult, as it requires a three-fourths vote in Committee and in the general meeting.

The Ohio AFL-CIO would like to thank the following Ohio legislators who were in attendance and supported the resolutions:

Senator Capri Cafaro

Representative Ted Celeste

Representative Tom Letson

Representative Dale Malory

Representative Dan Stewart

Representative Carlton Weddington

We offer special thanks to Rep. Letson who was a member of the Labor Committee and argued during Committee for the passage of our supported resolution on Trade. It was getting very late in the day and Rep. Letson not only stayed to defend and vote for the Trade Resolution but helped communicate Labor's position to his legislative colleagues for final adoption.

NCSL RESOLUTION REPORT

TRADE

A trade resolution sponsored by NLC President Sen. Spencer Coggs (WI) was passed at the NCSL business meeting, requiring NCSL to urge President Obama to

include the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in President Obama's order to federal agency heads to act and regulate in a way that does not preempt state law. The USTR is not currently covered by the President's instructions because the USTR is not a federal agency. The resolution was approved with 41 states in favor and 11 states against, passing after extensive debate and a roll call vote.

HEALTH CARE

The second major victory was the passage of a health care resolution that included an extensive amendment proposed by a group of progressive state legislators. The amendment was a comprehensive statement on health care and included a provision encouraging a public option. The amended resolution was passed only after a series of dramatic twists and turns, beginning when most of the amendment was adopted in Committee with a vote of 13 states to 4 states.

The next morning, there was a ruling that the amended resolution had failed to obtain the necessary three-quarters vote and the vote was changed to 13-5. A revote was called for at 5:00 pm, and with the help of NLC members and a big contingent of state fed and affiliate staff, the amended resolution passed the Committee again, this time with a vote of 26 states in favor and 7 states against.

When the resolution came to the floor of the NCSL business meeting Thursday, July 23rd, a motion was made to send the resolution back to the Health Committee for further deliberation. That motion was beaten by a vote of 36 states against and 12 states in favor. After extensive debate, the amended resolution passed the business meeting on a roll call vote of 38 states for and 11 states against, just barely making the three-quarters vote requirement.

Casino November Ballot Initiative Endorsed by Ohio AFL-CIO

Submitted by: Tim Burga

During its May 29 Executive Board meeting the Ohio AFL-CIO endorsed a statewide Casino initiative which is scheduled to appear on the Ohio ballot this November. This ballot proposal will bring four first-class casinos: one in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo.

Additional benefits of the Ohio Jobs and Growth Plan include:

- * An estimated 34,000 new jobs
- * \$200 million in up-front licensing fees to state government

* Nearly \$2 billion in estimated gross annual gaming revenues

* \$1 billion in required economic investment by the developers to be focused on the building sites in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo.

* 33% guaranteed tax on all gross annual revenues, resulting in an estimated \$651 million of tax revenue distributed annually across Ohio.

The Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee collected the required amount of signatures to place the issue on the ballot and has begun the campaign to communicate the benefits of establishing these first class Casinos in Ohio. For details about the the Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee and the initiative go to www.ohiojobsandgrowth.org.