

Ironworkers Are Building Strong Communities Across Ohio; Better Lives For Themselves and Their Families

Submitted by: Mike Watters, Ironworkers Local 290

Yea, Grampa, we know. You built that building." In many households across Ohio and the country, that statement has been spoken over and over again by many grandchildren looking more for toys than history lessons. Old men, proud of what they've done over their working lifetime can't seem to help themselves when they drive over a bridge or past a hospital, pull in a parking garage or stop at a mall. When you've put your life's blood building something as solid as a hospital or a factory building, it's tough to dismiss it casually.

You see, that's what the Ironworkers of Local 290 do. We build things. We build the buildings where your cars are assembled, we build the hospitals where your babies are born, we build the schools where you kids learn their ABC's and get their degrees. We build; but we build more than just buildings. We build families, we build communities, and we build careers.



Sometimes ironworking just runs in the family.

We have many second- generation and even some third and forth-generation members of the Ironworkers and that clearly indicates that this trade has "legs."

Those stories we heard from our dads as kids made a lasting impression on many of us. So did a steady check, health insurance and a retirement plan. Once, we might have been tainted with the stigma of closed doors and closed minds, but those days are



George Kratzer, a second-generation Ironworker, has been involved in the community and has helped build thousands of careers. He is now General Vice President and continues to be a strong leader in the labor movement and all the communities in which his members live.

far behind us. In the Dayton area we have both sons and daughters of Ironworkers who take up the trade. We are now enjoying the second generation of minority members with sons of Hispanics and Afro-Americans finding their place in ironworking. The nature of family is reflected in our fish fries, the Ironworkers' Picnic and our annual academic scholarship.

Aside from constructing the bridges and buildings in our cities, Ironworkers also help build our communities. Small-town citizens sleep at night knowing that dedicated volunteer fire-fighters are ready to respond in a moment's notice to the call for help. Like those firemen, Ironworkers also train hard for years to keep our neighbors safe. Dedicated men and women come home weary from a day in the "rod-patch" or dragging deck but stand tall because Ironworkers know their strength and skills to help protect the communities in which we live.

Ironworkers

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Across the country, hardworking Ironworkers change from greasy jeans or rusty carhartts and pull on shorts or sweats and head for ball fields where they coach Little League, ref a basketball game or teach Golden Gloves. Ironworkers are scout masters and Sunday school teachers. We are school board members and city commissioners. Because we appreciate the value of community, Local 290 has endowed the Charles Henry Black Leadership Development scholarship at the Dayton Urban League.

But most importantly, Ironworkers build careers for its members. Some might make the mistake in thinking that ironworking is temporary employment, only in the summertime when the orange barrels are out. That is



far from the truth. We build year round. When you belong to a trade union, you realize that you are a part of something much greater than just a job or a company. You know that you share a rich heritage that spans over a century in this country and has its roots in ancient tradition.

In earlier times when individuals began to practice specialized

skills, guilds were formed to provide a sense of fraternity. Guilds also offered an opportunity to share knowledge, techniques and set standards of performance. Long before Joint Apprenticeship Training programs, mature, skilled craftsmen identified eager and willing youngsters and took them under their wings. The tradition of journeyman-apprentice dates back to the middle ages where the knowledge of a trade was passed from one generation to the next.

That early system has evolved into the comprehensive training program we have today. It is designed to prepare every participant in all the required skillsets needed to perform as a journeyman Ironworker. Local 290 has a four-year program that covers every aspect of our trade from reinforcing rods to roof decking, from setting steel to installing machinery, from curtain-wall to stairways and much

more. We also offer a two-year program specializing in reinforcing rods and post-tensioning. In addition, our program stresses safety at every step of the way. Our apprentices receive OSHA 10, Sub part R, CPR, confined space, lead abatement, lift handling and other training to insure that everybody goes home safely at the end of the day; both our workers and our neighbors.

Beginning in the late 1950s with classes at Patterson Co-op, Local 290's program has matured into a multimillion dollar operation with a state of the art, ODOT approved weld training and testing facility, six classrooms and work stations to train on material handling systems and process equipment.

Following the old tradition, our instructors come from the ranks of our own membership and benefit from years of hands-on experience. In addition, many receive extensive training at our International Apprenticeship Training facility in San Diego, California where they learn the latest in tools and techniques. Since ours is a changing craft, we also offer continuing education in the form of Journeyman upgrades covering a wide range of subjects.

The Apprenticeship program is overseen by a joint labor-management board of trustees represented by union leaders and business owners. All are committed to sustaining an operation designed to produce well-trained, highly skilled craft men and women who are capable of building and maintaining the structures that serve our society. Funding is provided by the membership of the Local through an hourly dues check-off. Our program is approved by the Department of Labor, the Ohio Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers. Additionally, we work in conjunction with Owens Community College to provide a pathway to their degree program.

Ironworker locals across the state accept applications year round. Applicants interested in a career path that leads to excellent wages and benefits in the challenging field of ironworking should contact Mike Yauger at 937-222-1622 or 937-604-5072. If you are looking for something more than just a job, more than just a place to collect a paycheck, check us out. If you want to build a future for yourself, your family and your community: we might be what you're looking for. You can also visit www.ironworkers.org. See the Ohio AFL-CIO Ironworker video by visiting www.ohafclcio.org and clicking the Youtube logo.

Ohioans Trek To Washington D.C. For Health Care Reform

Seven buses left from different times of the day and from all over Ohio to converge in the nation's capital to join over 10,000 other Americans who want real healthcare reform. The event, sponsored by the Health Care For America NOW! (HCAN), was dominated by labor from across the country as working women and men gathered to urge Congress to join President Barack Obama to make health care a right, not a privilege.

For Ohio's working families, the morning started at 8:30am at the AFL-CIO building as Congresspersons Marcia Fudge and Betty Sutton joined speakers like Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola to ramp up members both with motivation and caffeine from the free coffee. Sutton summed up the reason for so many Ohioans making the trip, "I am glad to see so many people here today because although I am with you, we need all of Congress to know how many people are wanting real health care reform."

From there, the seven Ohio buses made the way to Senate Park, just outside the Capitol building, and joined the thousands of other sisters, brothers and community activists that assembled on the lawn to hear from the many speakers.



Actress Edie Falco addresses the over 10,000 activists who traveled from all over the country to Washington, D.C. to rally for health care reform.

Perhaps the most notable was actress Edie Falco from *The Sopranos*, who gave a personal account of her struggles navigating the current health care system, reminding everyone that it is not only the uninsured that need real reform as well.

"I work in a business where they take great care of you if you are working," Falco, a breast cancer survivor, told the crowd. "It's bad enough the



Congresswoman Betty Sutton shakes hands with members as she gets ready to speak to the Ohio delegation at the AFL-CIO headquarters.

emotional impact of not having a job," she said. "But to get sick on top of that, and worry every day that your symptoms are not getting better, figuring out what you're gonna have to do without so you can afford a doctor's visit — I am far more familiar with that than I am with my situation these last number of years. I'm here because I've traveled through the health care system and there are some holes. I'm here because I care about the people in this country and I know that we can do better, that we must do better."

Also speaking was Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, who has always been up front about helping all working families both on the job and at home. Sen. Brown told the crowd that he'd just left a health insurance markup session on the hill, and instructed them: "Go across the street and convince, persuade and cajole" lawmakers to get "a strong public option and real health care reform. Reform is about keeping what works and fixing what's broken." Brown also let it be known that real reform will not happen without the work of everyone. "The private health care industry will not hijack this process," Brown said. "We're counting on you...to persuade, to cajole, to do whatever you do to get a public option."

After the rally, hundreds of Ohioans marched to Union Station for a town hall meeting in the Columbus Club. Here Ohioans heard from those in their own state about what health care reform will mean to them.

Reform

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“It is unacceptable for a person to choose between food and medicine,” Leondra Barrett, a single mom from Columbus, told the group. “It is unacceptable that people are literally dying of lack of adequate health care because they do not have insurance.”

Tim Burga, Chief of Staff of the Ohio AFL-CIO also spoke at the town hall meeting advising everyone that the time is now for reform to take place in America.

“We cannot wait one more year, one more month or one more week. The health and well being of our people is at stake and our businesses cannot compete internationally with this system in place. The time to overhaul our health care system is now. The only way to control costs and increase access is to have a public insurance option in place and to make employers pay their fair share,” Burga said.

To get more information about health care reform, you can text HEALTH to 94553 for text updates. Normal text costs will apply.

Steelworkers Travel Ohio With Made in America Tour

Submitted by Laura Harrison



The United Steelworkers made their first “Keep it Made in America” national bus tour stop in Ohio in Bowling Green on May 13th. Locally, the event was sponsored by USW locals 1042L and 1152L, both

based in Bowling Green. The purpose of the rally was to draw attention to the 7 million jobs supported by the US auto supply chain, including the manufacturing and service sectors.

Donnie Blatt, USW District 1 Staff Representative, spoke about the need for a strong manufacturing base in this country.

“Here we are in a mall parking lot at 10 am on a Wednesday and look at the parking lot. There are more cars here for people attending this rally than there are shoppers,” said Blatt.

Woody Shelton, President of USW local 1042L, talked grimly about the situation of the Cooper Standard plant that they represent. “We went from 416 members down to about 80 in the past few months,” he said.

Rusty Helberg, a member who works at the plant said, “Unless General Motors gets out of the hole they’re in, it’s going to get a lot worse. We do a lot of work for GM.”

Financial Secretary Sylvia Quiroga simply stated, “I just want the plant to survive.”

The GM bankruptcy deadline was set for June 1st and is currently going through the process.

A. Philip Randolph Institute: Mark Your Calendars



The APRI State Conference will be held in Cleveland this year on October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

More information will be coming out shortly. They now have a statewide website at ohioapri.org which includes a calendar of events page.

Public Unions, Others Join Together to Save Retiree Benefits

On Wednesday, June 24, over 10 labor organizations and Bill Wingarner, Administrator of Public Employees Retirement Incorporated, gathered at the Ohio Statehouse to hold a press conference to protect the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) for those who have worked in public service. Too often, when budgets need to be balanced, the first people looked at are those who dedicated themselves to public service, and this was no exception.

Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga emceed the event and said balancing of the budget should not come at the expense of those who have sent their lives serving Ohio and its communities. "We are here to voice our strong opposition to the plan to cut the state's contribution to the Ohio Public Retirement System as a way to balance the budget. The proposed cutting of the state's contribution to the pension system from 14% to 8% over the next two years is not the right way to balance Ohio's budget," Burga said. "While we recognize the governor inherited an economic disaster, using the retiree's pension as a way to solve this problem is not the solution."

OPERS plays a critical role in supporting the state of Ohio, infusing billions of dollars into the state's economy in the form of benefit payments, health care payments and investments in job-creating businesses through the Ohio-Midwest Fund.

For every \$1 of taxpayer contribution to OPERS investments and employee contributions plus other sources of revenue return \$2.58 back into the Ohio economy. As these dollars ripple through the economy



Retiree Lonnie Blackwell speaks about the effect these cuts would have on real people, not just paper.

they generate additional economic activity and have an even greater beneficial impact.

Perhaps Lonnie Blackwell, a state employee retiree and President of AFSCME Retiree Local 1184 summed it up best. "Imagine, I am 84 years old and I get seriously ill. I don't have a high savings plan and I don't have health insurance that will pay. All I have is my health plan from OPERS and if we lose the money for that, I have nothing. They are already cutting the amounts going into that fund with the layoffs and cost of days for so many public employees. This is a pay forward system. You pay into it ahead of time and pray it will be there when you need it. I paid into it for 30 years and 72 days. Now is when I need it."

Since the press conference, Governor Strickland has vowed to keep the public pension contribution at 14% and look elsewhere to balance the budget, and for that the Governor should be commended.

"Governor Strickland listened to those that do these vital public services every day and has come to the same conclusion all of us at the press conference did: That those who are retiring should not be punished for so many years of bad republican policies that put us in this situation. And we can solve this problem by bringing the administration together with organized labor to turn Ohio around," Burga said.

Attending the event were AFSCME Retirees Local 1184, OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11, Public Employees Retirement Incorporated, Alliance of Retired Americans, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, SEIU District 1199, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Ohio Education Association, OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4, Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters and the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police.



Ohio AFL-CIO Tim Burga emceeds a press conference to help protect public service pensions.

Toledo IBEW's Erdmann Wins National Award

Submitted by: Michael Buckley

The Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund today awarded its fourth annual Bert and Annabel Seidman Prize for Advancing Social Policy to National Labor College (NLC) student Ken Erdmann, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Erdmann was awarded the prize for his senior project, *Retirement! Now the Work Begins*.

The prize, and its accompanying \$3,000 honorarium, encourages NLC students to research and analyze social policies that affect the older population. The winning entry focused on how to educate seniors on activism and involvement in their community, specifically discussing the work of the Alliance for Retired Americans in educating and mobilizing retirees.

Mr. Erdmann analyzed methods of both AARP and the Alliance, along with unions and church groups, to understand how they keep their seniors active. Particularly, he notes the importance of the baby boomer generation and how these new retirees can be utilized to further the labor movement. The paper reiterates the importance of educating seniors on issues that directly affect them. Issues that concern seniors, such as Medicare and Social Security, have been the primary motivators for retirees, many of whom have seen their economic security threatened over the past few decades.

The Alliance Educational Fund designed the prize to honor Bert and Annabel Seidman, whose lifelong

passion for social justice and worker rights inspired their careers. Bert was the director of the AFL-CIO's Social Security Department for 33 years. After retiring, he was an expert consultant to the Alliance and the National Council of Senior Citizens, specializing in Social Security, pensions, housing, and health care. Annabel, a teacher and social worker, founded the National Nursing Home Information Service and was its director for 25 years. She was a strong advocate for senior citizens and people with mental disabilities.

"Ken's paper embodied so many of the principles that drove our parents," said Joan Seidman Welsh and Betsy Seidman Garaufis. "Volunteering was a way of life for them long before retirement, and their activism never let up, even into their eighties," they said.

Alliance president Barbara J. Easterling said of Mr. Erdmann's paper, "Bert and Annabel Seidman were deeply committed to helping workers and retirees with the important issues affecting their lives. This paper would resonate with them because Mr. Erdmann focused on union retirees continuing their activism in retirement and working to insure quality of life for all retirees through organizations like the Alliance for Retired Americans."

The Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund focuses on growing senior grassroots involvement in public policy issues; educating on public policy issues that affect retirees; researching and developing written materials that address public policy affecting retirees; and working with other not-for-profit organizations on issues that affect retirees.

Committee Honors Auto-Lite Strike At Union Memorial Park

Submitted by Laura Harrison

The Annual Meeting of Union Memorial Park was held on May 28th. Beth Pilat reported on the progress of the park including the gorgeous plants provided by Richard Cozza, the Italian Gardener. Pilat also talked about the possibility of doubling the size of the park in the next few years by purchasing the land next door.

Former Teamster and City Council President Mark Sobczak was also in attendance and said, "I am here because this is our heritage. Young people need to understand the struggles of 75 years ago from the people that fought and died for the rights we have

now. Organized labor is an endangered species and needs to become a movement again."

AFSCME local 7 member Tom Griesinger replaced JoAn Matney as the Chairperson of the committee. JoAn remarked, "During the Auto-Lite strike, workers fought to have good working conditions and that is why we come here every year. It takes all of us to continue to share their story."

Pillars and bricks can still be purchased by calling Tom Griesinger at 419-902-9159 to get more information. Applications can also be picked up at the UAW local 12 hall, 2300 Ashland Avenue.

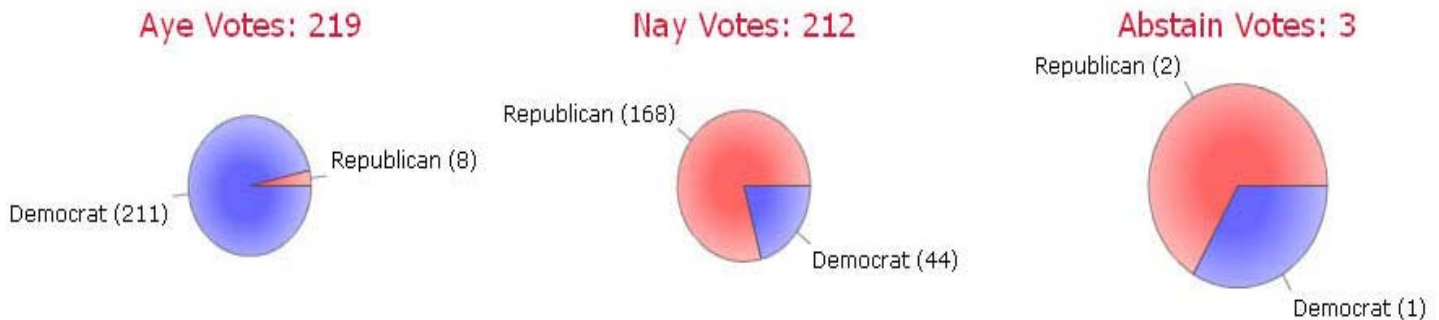
Energy Plan Moving Through Congress & You Can Get Involved

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) passed the House of Representatives recently and will now make its way to the Senate. The Ohio AFL-CIO has consistently supported energy policy that maintains a diverse energy portfolio of clean coal, nuclear and renewable sources with the focus being on good job creation. The ACES bill is a good start as you can read in the AFL-CIO June 25th letter to the House of Representatives.

Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) has provided a statement on the ACES legislation that addresses the re-industrialization of America. You can read PMOs statement on the ACES at the Ohio AFL-CIO web site.

PMO is looking for firms that work well with their unions and are moving into clean energy markets. PMO would like to highlight their stories to news media and work with them to prepare for the federal assistance for retooling and energy efficiency included in the new climate legislation passed late June in the House of Representatives. If you work for such a firm or know of a firm, please get in touch with Wendy Patton of Policy Matters Ohio as soon as possible at wpatton@policymattersohio.org or 614-221-4505."

For more information on this issue, visit the Ohio AFL-CIO website at www.ohafclcio.org



Ohio AFL-CIO Workforce Development Renews, Grows

Submitted by: Marcia Tolles

On July 1, 2009, the State of Ohio will officially begin implementation of a revised system of serving workers who face unemployment. With this initiative, the Ohio AFL-CIO has been granted funds to increase the Workforce Development, Rapid Response Program staff. Interviews are already occurring.

Three additional Field Staff Representatives will be hired; one for each of the seven regions of the state rapid response teams. Statewide training occurred in June to acquaint all partners of Rapid Response teams to better plan and implement Rapid Response activities across the state. Rapid Response is the term applied to the provision of services to unemployed workers prior to, during and after the announcement of a closure.

AFL-CIO staff members will be uniquely positioned to explain services to the affected union, but more importantly will be able to bring union leaders into the process early so that they can help with the planning of rapid response services. Investing in the union also will benefit workers during the follow-up phase of services.

The Rapid Response Team consists of several members that will guide unions and employers through the planning of services for the workers and also review information and services that can prevent a lay-off. The new process is already being implemented in some parts of the state. One of the most significant changes is that the Rapid Response process can begin before a WARN notice or in the absence of a WARN notice. Please call our office if you have any questions or would like further information.

Employee Free Choice Act Gets Business Support

A new coalition, Business Leaders for a Fair Economy, was launched and announced its public support for the Employee Free Choice Act. The coalition was formed to give businesses supportive of workers' rights a voice and to promote employer backing of the Employee Free Choice Act. The national group of employers, entrepreneurs, and business leaders says good-paying jobs create demand for the goods and services they

'I am in total support of the Employee Free Choice Act. Every day I compete against non-union companies that pay substandard wages with little to no benefits provided to their workers... I believe that all employees should be entitled to health care benefits paid by their employer and the ability to participate in some form of a pension plan.'

- Larry Thompson, President, Thompson Electric

provide, and that when America's workers do well, it leads to a stronger, more sustainable national economy, which benefits companies from Main Street to Wall Street. Already, 1,000 business leaders have publicly endorsed

the Employee Free Choice Act.

A series of events and business roundtables will be held in concert with the coalition in states including Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Colorado and Indiana. In total, representatives from the Business Leaders for a Fair Economy coalition are holding more than a dozen events on the economy and unions across the country.

"We believe the Employee Free Choice Act is sound public policy," said Roger Smith, President and CEO of American Income Life Insurance Company and National Income Life Insurance Company, who chairs the new coalition. "As a CEO, I challenge other respon-

sible business leaders to support this landmark legislation. What is good for workers is good for business."

"As a business owner, I believe that workers should have the freedom to

bargain with employers for good wages, health care and the opportunity to retire with dignity," said Diana Ortiz, owner of Colorado-based Ortiz Enterprises, LLC, and member of the coalition's advisory committee. "Better wages mean that the whole community has more money to spend and to build our economy." Ortiz's business was recently named "Small Business of the Decade" by the Pueblo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Business Leaders for a Fair Economy was created to counter the myths and misunderstandings that unions are bad for business. The employers that support the Employee Free Choice Act say a level playing field will create a more sound economy and that when workers and business rise together, it's good for their bottom line. Measures like the Employee Free Choice Act will restore balance to our labor laws and help companies compete in this new and ever-changing economy. Smith affirmed, "A strong, solid middle class that is able to purchase our products and services will allow us to invest in our businesses, hire new employees and give back to our local communities."

'I strongly support the Employee Free Choice Act. In the past, some employers have intimidated union members and used subtle 'divide-and-conquer' techniques to spread confusion among their workforce. This leaves a bitter taste in the mouths of workers and undercuts the mutual goal that employers and employees share of promoting the ongoing success of their enterprises.'

- Bruce Ventimiglia, Founder and President, Saratoga Capital Management

Ohio AFL-CIO President Rugola Named Democrat Of The Year

At the annual Ohio Democratic Party Family Picnic held Saturday, June 25 in Columbus, almost all of labor in attendance was surprised and ecstatic when Governor Ted Strickland and Senator Sherrod Brown jointly announced Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola, who is also Executive Director of OAPSE/AFSCME, as Ohio Democrat of the Year. Both mentioned Rugola's tireless efforts in supporting working families across Ohio not just in 2008 but during his entire life in labor.

Also surprised was Rugola himself, who promptly asked all of his OAPSE members to stand and said they more than he deserved the award. "I know this may sound trite because it is said a lot but I truly mean it when I say I am only accepting this award on behalf of the 38,000 dedicated members of OAPSE."

Prior to winning the award, Rugola also presented Lloyd Mahaffey, former United Autoworkers Region 2B Director, with the ODP Leadership Award.

Credit Relief or Deceit? *Union Members Can Access Reliable Budgeting and Credit Counseling for Free*

Submitted by: Kathleen Kelly

Quick-fix credit repair companies can get you into even more trouble and debt than when you started. But there **are** reputable organizations out there that can help you climb out of the debt trap and start working towards financial independence. How can you tell the difference between credit relief and deceit?

1. Learn to recognize a scam- Fraudulent credit repair companies make false promises and offer misleading advice that can get you into legal and financial trouble.

- Can they “erase your bad credit”, “remove bankruptcies” or “create a new credit identity” for you?
- Do you have to pay for services before they are completed?
- Have they suggested that you dispute all information in your credit report, whether it’s accurate or timely?
- Have they told you NOT to call your creditors and credit reporting companies?

If you answer yes to these questions, then the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says you might as well save your money and time because they’re likely signs of a scam. If you have been a victim of a deceptive credit repair company, contact your state attorney general and file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

2. Protect yourself and know your rights-

Don’t let yourself fall victim to identity theft or get bullied into illegal activity.

- Do not lie on loan applications or use your employee identification number instead of your Social Security number. It’s illegal and can land you in serious hot water.
- Protect your identity by getting a free copy of your credit report from each of the three consumer reporting companies- Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Visit annualcreditreport.com to get your free reports once a year.
- You have the right to a written contract from the credit repair organization that spells out

your rights and obligations. By law, you can also cancel with no penalty fees during a three-day required waiting period. For additional consumer advice, see **UnionPlus.org/CreditEducation**



3. Get help from a reputable counselor- Improving your credit report is possible, but it takes time and a commitment to sticking to your budget. A reputable credit counseling agency will:

- Explain your rights and tell you what you can do for yourself for free.
- Offer in-person counseling. Even if you chose to do over-the-phone counseling, organizations that offer in-person counseling are more likely to be genuine.
- Provide you with a written formal agreement or contract
- Help you create a budget and teach you money management skills
- Recommend a debt management plan that you can afford only AFTER a thorough review of your financial situation deems it necessary.

To help union members take a positive first step, Union Plus carefully chose Money Management International (MMI) to provide **reliable, confidential and free consumer credit counseling** over the phone.

Certified advisors can work together with you to create a successful program to help you eliminate your debt. And, if a Debt Management Plan (DMP) is right for you, Union Plus will waive the setup fee and after successfully completing a year of the plan, union members will be reimbursed for the monthly fee. If you need bankruptcy counseling, Union Plus will waive the service fee.

Visit **UnionPlus.org/CreditCounseling** for more information or call **1-877-833-1745**, for a free budget analysis and action plan.

Union Leader Tip:

Union leaders - schedule a FREE credit counseling workshop for your members during a union meeting. Topics include “Understanding Money & Credit” and “Surviving Layoffs”. Call Kathleen Kelly at 330-255-2727 for more information.

Ohio Retired Americans Take Part In Health Reform Actions

Submitted by: Norm Wernet, OARA State Director



The Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans continued its campaign for retiree and senior health security throughout

June with a health fair in Niles, a town meeting in Columbus, an information exchange in Toledo, continuing educational events in metro Cleveland, Capitol Hill visits with Ohio members of Congress and their staff, media events at the statehouse, and a Health Care for America Now rally in Washington DC.

The month began with events in Trumbull and Franklin counties that highlighted the community based care services being developed locally to allow retirees and seniors to age in place. Each of these forums was an educational opportunity to talk about Alliance advocacy with the audience and focus on the Ohio budget agenda to more wisely spend tax dollars. The Alliance for Senior Action, the OARA network in Trumbull, initiated a post card campaign to the Ohio General Assembly at the senior care fair. "With drastic cuts to community based services, it seemed unwise to increase expenditures on nursing homes when four Older Ohioans can be served in the community for the cost of one in a nursing home", said David Friesner, OARA President.

Sally Steagall the OARA Treasurer noted, "It is ironic that this month marks the tenth anniversary of the US Supreme Court Olmstead decision affirming that community based care is preferred to institutionalization. The General Assembly seems bent on supporting a failing nursing home industry at the expense of the emerging community care providers. These budgeting decisions may lead the state into expensive litigation."

Ohio ARA affiliates and regional working groups continued to do outreach on Medicare reform with the Save Medicare petition and educational presentation developed by Senior Voice!, the advocacy network in Cleveland. Wally Kaufman a retiree activist reports, "Following our successful presentations in May, we've spoken to senior groups in Ashtabula Towers, Lakeview Towers, Gulfview Apts, and the Ashtabula senior center. Everbody signed the petitions." He adds, "4,000 signatures on the petitions were

delivered to Congressman Steve LaTourette on Friday, June 19, adding to similar contacts being made with all NE Ohio members of Congress."

The 28 delegates from OARA affiliates met with members of Congress: Wilson, Latta, Driehaus, Fudge, Sutton, Kaptur, Austria, Kucinich, Tiberi, and Brown or their staff on June 17 when the Alliance for Retired Americans climbed Capitol Hill. Alliance members spoke with the Congress about the need for a Medicare buy-in for those 55 to 64, for a strong public health insurance plan for all workers, to close the donut hole and allow price negotiations in Medicare Part D, and to secure long term care as proposed in the CLASS Act. Conference delegates had been briefed on the issues and timetable through workshops and plenary session speakers.

The next week, 30 different ARA members took a twenty-four hour turn around bus ride from Ohio to Washington, DC and back to send the message that Ohioans want Health Care for America Now! June 25 began with a briefing from Ohio labor leaders and allies in Congress like Betty Sutton at the AFL-CIO headquarters, continued with a rally of 10,000 in upper Senate Park and ended with an Ohio Town Hall meeting featuring stories from real Ohioans and commitments from Tim Ryan and Mary Jo Kilroy on reform.

Retirees from both the private and public sectors addressed the threatened loss to retiree health insurance in June. Former Delphi and GM workers saw retiree healthcare eroded, threatened, or eliminated in the corporate bankruptcies facing these previously giant corporations. Two bus loads of former IUE-CWA Delphi workers from Dayton and Warren traveled June 30 from Ohio to New York to confront the bankruptcy court on the injustice of withdrawing earned but deferred compensation through retiree health insurance.

Public sector retirees took a stand against a proposal to hold back part of the employer contribution to the pension plans for a period of two years. The scheme immediately threatens the plans' already fragile retiree health plans. OARA signed onto a notice of opposition and participated in a news conference June 24 along with OEA, OFT, SEIU, AFSCME, OPERI, AFSCME 1184 and the Ohio AFL-CIO.

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<i>Serving:</i>	<i>Lorain</i>	<i>Cuyahoga</i>	<i>Lake</i>	<i>Geauga</i>	<i>Ashtabula</i>	<i>Medina</i>
<i>Summit</i>	<i>Portage</i>	<i>Trumbull</i>	<i>Ashland</i>	<i>Tuscarawas</i>	<i>Stark</i>	<i>Mahoning</i>
<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Wayne</i>	<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Columbiana</i>	<i>Jefferson</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Belmont</i>
<i>Guernsey</i>						

Tammy Vitaz, Field Representative

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tammy.vitaz@ula-ohio.org

<i>Serving:</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Fulton</i>	<i>Lucas</i>	<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Defiance</i>	<i>Henry</i>
<i>Wood</i>	<i>Sandusky</i>	<i>Erie</i>	<i>Paulding</i>	<i>Putnam</i>	<i>Hancock</i>	<i>Crawford</i>
<i>Richland</i>	<i>Van Wert</i>	<i>Allen</i>	<i>Harding</i>	<i>Mercer</i>	<i>Auglaize</i>	<i>Hardin</i>
<i>Wyandot</i>	<i>Seneca</i>	<i>Huron</i>				

Tina Kavanaugh, Field Representative

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tina.kavanaugh@ula-ohio.org

<i>Serving:</i>	<i>Darke</i>	<i>Shelby</i>	<i>Logan</i>	<i>Miami</i>	<i>Fayette</i>	<i>Champaign</i>
<i>Union</i>	<i>Morrow</i>	<i>Preble</i>	<i>Butler</i>	<i>Montgomery</i>	<i>Clark</i>	<i>Madison</i>
<i>Greene</i>	<i>Warren</i>	<i>Clinton</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Clermont</i>		

Pamela Fox, Field Representative

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pamela.fox@ula-ohio.org

<i>Serving:</i>	<i>Knox</i>	<i>Coshocton</i>	<i>Licking</i>	<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Highland</i>	<i>Muskingum</i>
<i>Pickaway</i>	<i>Fairfield</i>	<i>Perry</i>	<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Noble</i>	<i>Monroe</i>	<i>Hocking</i>
<i>Athens</i>	<i>Scioto</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Ross</i>	<i>Vinton</i>	<i>Meigs</i>	<i>Pike</i>
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>Gallia</i>	<i>Lawrence</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Adams</i>	<i>Delaware</i>	<i>Marion</i>

The Steelworkers are working with city leaders in Findlay to hold a Buy American Rally. If your union has "Made in America" products or services that you would like to display, please call Donnie Blatt at 740.504.8900. Additionally, please pass this information along to your members for their attendance.

BUY AMERICA RALLY **In The Flag City** **(Findlay, Ohio)**

- **Date: July 25, 2009**
- **Place: "The Cube" in Findlay, Ohio (3430 North Main St.)**
- **Time: 10:00 am starting with a "Made in America" car and Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Cruise-In and Parade through downtown Findlay.**
- **Labor Leaders, Elected Officials, Manufacturing Leaders on the Local State and National level speaking on the importance of manufacturing in America**
- **Made in America Manufacturing Displays**
- **Made in America Car Show**
- **Local Merchant Displays**
- **Local Entertainment (Live Music)**
- **Apple Pie Baking Contest**
- **Free Hamburger and Hot Dogs for a limited amount of time**
- **Buy America Softball Game**
- **For more details contact Donnie Blatt-740-504-8900.**



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. Also, check out the Ohio AFL-CIO Youtube page by visiting www.ohafclcio.org and clicking the Youtube logo.