

U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis Visits Northwest Ohio

Continuing his commitment to help Ohioans during this economic crisis, President Obama again dispatched a senior Administration official to Ohio. This time, making her first trip to Ohio as U.S. Department of Labor Secretary, Hilda Solis was joined by Governor Ted Strickland, UAW Region 2B Director Ken Lortz and Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga and local elected officials and business representatives at a forum hosted by UAW Region 2B at its headquarters in Maumee.

During the panel discussion, Secretary Solis spoke of the Obama administration's pledge to work with labor and business to "help turn the economy around in Ohio." In addition to the federal funds made available to Ohio through the President's federal stimulus effort and the \$88 million of support already provided Ohio for extended COBRA health care and unemployment compensation benefits, Secy. Solis committed an \$12 million for additional Trade Adjustment Assistance funds.

As she praised the American workforce for its unmatched work ethic and productivity, Secy. Solis spoke of her father's union experience as shop steward and organizer in California which "left a lasting impression on her to fight for workers' rights



From left to right: Tammy Vitaz (Field Staff, Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response Program), U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Tim Burga (Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff), and John Paradore (Manufacturing Analyst, Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response Program).

and economic justice." She also spoke very clearly about the potential for new energy jobs and that these jobs must pay better than average wages and not be outsourced.

Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga praised Solis for her remarks and encouraged the Administration to help frame the economic debate in a way that will shift the dominant economic philosophy of the last three decades away from a Wall Street model and usher in a worker-first economic model. Burga remarked that we can only move America forward if we learn from the mistakes of the past which include the designed shift away from a production oriented economy.

"If we make the restoration of the middle class our top priority by way of introducing a national re-industrialization policy that supports American industry and its workforce we will one day again see not only a thriving manufacturing sector but it will re-invigorate building and construction jobs paying prevailing wages both which will lead to robust public budgets," Burga said.



UAW Region 2B Director Ken Lortz, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, and Ohio Governor Ted Strickland hold a panel discussion about Ohio jobs and manufacturing.

Labor Rallies to Support Communication Workers in Toledo

**Submitted by Erika White, Vice President
CWA 4319**

Over 150 active and retired labor activists from Ohio and Michigan met in downtown Toledo Thursday, May 7th to support CWA in working to get a fair contract from the largest, most profitable telecommunications company in the United States, AT&T.

Bargaining continues while Communications Workers (CWA) members kept working after their contract expired April 4. Talks with the company, which booked a \$12.9 billion profit last year, have slowed to a crawl.



Participating unions included CWA, UAW, IBEW, JWJ, NALC, TFT, IAFF, the AFL-CIO, and several other labor unions from all over Ohio & Michigan.

The contract between CWA and AT&T expired on April 4th and they have been in tough negotiations with the company ever since. Guest Speakers at the rally were UAW Region 2B Director, Ken Lortz; OHIO AFL-CIO Sec/Treasurer, Petee Talley; and CWA District 4 Vice President, Seth Rosen.

Building Trades and Public Unions Work Together for Kids

Submitted by: Kathleen Green



OAPSE member Mike Kanzigg utilizes the Ohio AFL-CIO Predictive Dialer to call community members about the Switzerland School District bond issue

With the help of area Building Trades Unions, OAPSE, OEA, USW, students, community members and other AFL-CIO volunteers,

the Switzerland of Ohio School Bond Issue passed 59% to 41% on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

The \$88 million in school construction includes the building of six new schools as well as the renovation of River High School. All work will be performed under a Project Labor Agreement.

The Ohio AFL-CIO's predictive dialer system was utilized in this campaign making it possible to speak union member to union member & neighbor to neighbor about the importance of getting this bond issue passed. Troy Ferrell, President of IBEW 972 credits the use of the predictive dialer along with

everyone's hard work for the success in passing this much needed bond levy.

According to Larry Elliott, Superintendent of the Switzerland School District, "The Project Labor Agreement was a key component in the passage of our levy. Before the campaign started, I knew that it was imperative that local labor build our schools. I was also aware of the skills and pride local union labor would bring to the construction site when they put their name on the local school buildings; not only for themselves but also for their families and friends to use for generations.

The campaign for new schools benefited greatly from the Project Labor Agreement. The outpouring of union support from Project BEST in Wheeling and Building and Trades Council from the Parkersburg – Marietta areas was overwhelming. Utilization of the assets in manpower, money and campaign experience put our election over the top. Our district was very fortunate, I feel without union support and a Project Labor Agreement we would not have passed our much needed bond issue. "

Congratulations to everyone who worked tirelessly to get the bond issue passed. It's a great victory for organized labor, the kids of Switzerland School District and the communities those schools serve.

Ohio AFL-CIO Endorses Rich Trumka

Submitted by: Tim Burga

The Ohio AFL-CIO has endorsed Rich Trumka for the president of the National AFL-CIO. The state federation represents more than 40 national unions in Ohio with 700,000 members throughout the state. It made the endorsement at its executive board meeting on May 29, 2009.

Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola said, "Those of us who know Rich believe that he is the clear choice to lead the American labor movement through these most difficult times."

"Rich is the most articulate and passionate voice for the middle class and working families in the country today. That is why our Ohio executive board's endorsement was both unanimous and enthusiastic."

Trumka has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the National AFL-CIO since 1995, when he was elected along with current President John Sweeney, who will retire at the National AFL-CIO Convention to be held in Pittsburgh in September.

Trumka was elected as the youngest president of the United Mine Workers in 1982, at 33, and served three terms as president of the union, which he led back into the AFL-CIO in 1989. Trumka is expected to lead an aggressive bottom-up program to rebuild the American labor movement and to restore it to its role as the preeminent advocate for all working families.

"Rich has been a great friend to working families in Ohio. He is a personal friend to many of the leaders of our Ohio unions and a great personal friend of mine. He has our full trust and confidence and we look forward to his leadership for many years to come," Rugola said.

Ohio AFL-CIO, Affiliates and Senate Leader Meet About Budget Priorities

Submitted by: Tim Burga

The Ohio AFL-CIO hosted a meeting June 2, 2009 with Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro at the Ohio AFL-CIO office. The purpose was to make sure key issues to labor affiliates was being prioritized in the Senate Democratic Caucus regarding the operating budget bill (H.B.1)

The meeting was joined by several public sector, private sector and building trade unions. Senator Cafaro assured all in attendance that the issues of Ohio working families is up front and center.



National AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Rich Trumka leaflets members. Trumka was just endorsed by the Ohio AFL-CIO to become the next President of the National AFL-CIO.

Upon joining the AFL-CIO, Trumka has focused on creating investment programs for the pension and benefit funds of the labor movement and fighting what he believes to be excessive corporate profits. He chairs the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, a consortium of manufacturing unions focusing on key issues in trade, health care and labor law reform. He co-chairs the China Currency Coalition, an alliance of industry, agriculture, services, and worker organizations whose stated mission is to support U.S. manufacturing.

Besides his domestic labor activities, then-President Trumka established an office that raised U.S. mineworker solidarity with the mineworkers of South Africa while they were fighting racial apartheid.[4] He further served as the U.S. Shell boycott chairman, which challenged the multinational Royal Dutch/Shell Group for its continued business dealings in South Africa. For these steps, Trumka received the 1990 Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award.



Tim Burga, Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff and Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro discuss the state operating budget bill (H.B.1) with Labor Lobbyists at the Ohio AFL-CIO headquarters.

Senate Strips Statehouse Employees of Collective Bargaining After Picket Over Inmate Labor

**Submitted by: Sally Meckling,
OCSEA Director of Communications**

Union activists wearing florescent yellow t-shirts with the words “Keep history in the right hands” recently staged a picket in downtown Columbus to protest a proposal to replace Statehouse workers with inmates. Approximately 20 OCSEA members who perform groundskeeping and custodial duties at the capitol building have been laid off there. Under a new proposal, felons would perform their jobs.

OCSEA members were joined by union leaders from around the state at the downtown “teach-in,” handing out fliers and collecting petition signatures over the lunch hour.

But in a recent development, now those same Statehouse employees could be losing their collective bargaining rights, too. In what appears to be retaliation for their protest, the Ohio Senate has decided to strip Statehouse employees of their collective bargaining rights by designating them employees under the legislative branch. Employees in that sector of government are not covered under Ohio’s collective bargaining law.

“We wanted decision makers and the public to know that it’s not acceptable to replace good union jobs in Ohio with inmate labor,” said OCSEA Secretary Treasurer Kathy Stewart who is also a member of the local Statehouse chapter. “And now Senate leaders are sending the message to Ohio’s working families that not only are they replaceable, but they’ll be punished if they stand up for their rights.”



“First we’re laid off. Then we’re replaced with inmates. Now our collective bargaining rights are stripped. What’s next?” said OCSEA President Eddie L Parks. “The Capitol Square employees have played by the rules and are tax-paying, law-abiding citizens. They deserve better than these attacks from our Senate leaders.”



While the negative attention the union has drawn to the inmate program has had some positive affects, including the recall of several laid off Statehouse employees, the proposal to use inmate labor at the capitol is still very much on the table.

“Now, not only will the union be fighting to keep state employees working at the Statehouse, but now we’ll have to fight to keep the union working for state employees,” said Parks.

OCSEA is demanding that all employees at the capitol remain represented under Ohio’s collective bargaining agreement and that all the laid off Statehouse employees be reinstated. Go to www.ocsea.org/statehouse to send a letter to your senator demanding that these actions stop.

Attorney General Cordray Joins Worker Memorial Event

Submitted by: Amanda Haseley

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray joined the Ohio AFL-CIO's Central Ohio Labor Council on May 9th to pay tribute to Ohio workers who were killed on the job in 2008. This event is held by labor organizations annually on or around April 28, marking the anniversary of the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



The event took place at the Harry E. Richter Park at the memorial wall. Located on Front and Long Streets in Columbus, the memorial wall honors Franklin County workers who have died on the job since 1992.

The names of workers are etched into a granite wall. The eight workers who died in 2008 were added to the wall.



Attorney General Richard Cordray speaks as (from left) Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola, Central Ohio Labor Council Executive Secretary Walt Workman and Central Ohio Labor Council President Dave Caldwell look on.

Along with Cordray, remarks were also made by Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola, OSHA's Deborah Zubaty, Abe Tarawneh from Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) and the Central Ohio Labor Council's President Dave Caldwell.

"We mourn these workers and offer their families our deepest condolences. As trade unionists, we have worked for years to improve working conditions, increase safety and stop these workplace injuries and deaths. We will never forget the thousands who have been killed and injured, and we will keep working to protect our members and every worker in this state and across the nation," said Caldwell.

Ohio AFL-CIO Endorses Amendment for Veterans Bonuses

Submitted by: Tim Burga

At its May 29th Executive Board meeting the Ohio AFL-CIO endorsed a constitutional amendment initiative to provide bonuses to veterans of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The proposed bonding initiative would provide veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq \$100 for each month of service up to a total of \$1,000. Veterans who served elsewhere during those conflicts would receive \$50 a month up to a total of \$500. Family members of those killed in action would receive \$5,000 in addition to any other allowable compensation.

Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola said, "Attorney General Cordray was right in introducing this proposal to support our nation's veterans. Now, as much as ever, our men and women in the armed forces deserve not only our respect and admiration but additional financial support for their service and sacrifice."

This proposal, which was initiated by Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and placed on the November 3rd ballot by the Ohio General Assembly, is consistent with past bonding efforts to assist Veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Toledo Area Hosts “Car Czar” Visit, President Rugola Speaks

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, (D., Toledo), hosted a visit from Ed Montgomery, the federal director of recovery for auto communities and workers, or “car czar,” to Toledo, Ohio and used the opportunity to decry the nation’s trade policies.

“From a defense standpoint, if you really wanted to hurt America, you would merely take an aircraft and bomb all along I-75 from Detroit down to Tennessee, and you would literally have destroyed the economic spine of our country,” Kaptur said.

Unlike most of his visits to other hard-hit autocentric communities since his appointment by President Obama in March, Mr. Montgomery did not meet with local laid-off workers. However, he did stress that both he and the President understood that the auto industry’s collapse affected far more than just workers on the assembly plant floor.

“I am always struck by both the human dimension of what’s been happening, the extent of the job loss, the fact that both what happens in an [auto

manufacturer] affects them but also affects the supplier base that supports them, affects industries from



Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola speaks in Toledo.

construction to plastics to rubber to steel, and how it trickles out across the community to affect the diner and the restaurant,” he said.

Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola was also present and commented earlier that, “The economic situation is devastated, families are destroyed and as a result, we see a continuing downward spiral.” Rugola continued, “If we get to the place where we’re not mining anything, forging anything, milling anything, machining anything or assembling anything at all that you can put your hands on, then our economy cannot continue to function.”

Endorsers of the Buy American Resolution

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| City of Hubbard | Euclid | Parma | |
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If you do not see your city, village or county represented, contact Donnie Blatt at dblatt@usw.org to find out how to get involved locally.

Fire Fighters Fighting For Collective Bargaining Rights

Submitted by: Amanda Haseley

The Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters (OAPFF) has succeeded in getting an amendment introduced into the 2009 Ohio HB1 (The State Budget Bill) to remove a loophole that prohibits the collective bargaining rights of

Firefighters in certain Townships. The Ohio AFL-CIO, along with countless other union leaders and rank-in-file members, are working with the OAPFF on keeping the language in budget, even though state Republicans are doing all they can to take the language out.

Currently, Ohio law defines townships as public employers only when the township has an unincorporated population of greater than 5000, according to the last federal decennial census. In all probability, this was intended to allow small townships the ability to opt out of collective bargaining. The problem is that some townships have a population of less than 5,000 in the unincorporated area, but have well over 5,000 in the city or village served by the township.

Washington Township Fire Department in Franklin County is a good example of this. The total population of Washington Township is 29,534. This includes 27,087 in the City of Dublin and 2,447 in the unincorporated areas of Washington Township. The Washington Township Fire Department employs over 100 fulltime personnel, has four fire stations and a budget of over \$15 million. It is the second largest department in the county. Currently, because the unincorporated area is less than 5,000, the public servants have no rights to collectively bargain for a

voice in the services they provide daily. The amendment in HB1 would correct the loophole by changing the population requirement of 5,000 to include those within the taxable property for which the township provides service. This change would give all



Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga addresses fire fighters at their Legislative Conference held in May 18-19 in Columbus, Ohio.

firefighters serving these populations the same rights as firefighters who can collectively bargain.

At the Ohio AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in May, hundreds of union activists lobbied for fire fighters to be treated as equals under the collective bargaining law. Amending

to ORC 4117.01(B) in HB1 will allow all fire fighters to collectively bargain and, at the same time, prohibit strikes, work stoppages and other job actions. Binding arbitration would be used for dispute resolution and the public would be assured of uninterrupted safety services.

Tim Burga, Ohio AFL-CIO's Chief of Staff, had an opportunity to speak at the biennial OAPFF legislative conference held May 18-19, 2009. Here Burga and Mark Sanders, President of the OAPFF, urged all fire fighters to work together and lobby the Ohio legislature to ensure fire fighters have a strong voice in the public services they perform so admirably.

"This is a top priority for the Ohio AFL-CIO and its affiliates. We want the fire fighters to know they have the full support of the Ohio AFL-CIO and we will do everything we can to ensure every fire fighter has the right to collectively bargain to better serve their communities and their families," said Burga.

ALFs Conduct Annual Meetings Around the State

Submitted by: Laura Harrison

Several Area Labor Federations (ALFs) conducted their annual meetings throughout the state last month. The Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast ALFs held elections of the primary officers and Executive Board members. The purpose of the ALFs is to build a strong local labor movement of working people with mobilization and education to support working families' agendas. Their objective is to build a strong political voice for working families by engaging them in the political and legislative process on a year-round basis.

The Northwest Ohio ALF welcomed Ohio AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Petee Talley, who also sits on the Executive Board. Secretary Treasurer Talley spoke on the importance of continuing to push for the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. She also gave a report from the Ohio AFL-CIO Legislative Conference that took place in April. Tim Gray, OPEIU, talked about American Income Insurance and how it is the only union insurance provider. ALF Coordinator Laura Harrison gave a report on how the



Members of the Southwest Area Labor Federation take the oath at the annual meeting.

Northwest Ohio ALF is working to collect letters to Sen. Voinovich and letters to the editor in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Southwest Ohio held their elections for the Primary Officers and Executive Board Members. The ALF President, Wes Wells, thanked everyone for their participation and support, and also reported on the challenges that lie ahead for the AFL-CIO.

Jeanette Mauk, Ohio AFL-CIO Field Director gave updates concerning the Employee Free Choice Act, the National Healthcare agenda, and thanked everyone for all the hard work they have been doing with petitions and resolutions in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. The Southwest Ohio ALF Coordinator, Kenny Woolum, made similar remarks.



Southeast Area Labor Federation members get sworn in.

Ohio AFL-CIO Represented at Midwestern Governor's Association Meeting

As an appointee by Governor Strickland, Tim Burga is representing the Ohio AFL-CIO on the MGA New Energy Economy Advisory Group. The group met in Detroit on June 3-4 to discuss a regional approach to maximizing job and economic development opportunities of the new energy economy. The advisory group is charged with providing a new energy economy platform and policy recommendations for the Midwest to the twelve governors to be released during a Jobs and Energy Summit in October.

During the advisory group panel discussion Burga stated that the "window of opportunity is here, but only for a short time, to use the new energy economy

as a starting point to develop national and regional re-industrialization plans. Plans that will invest in American enterprises and our workforce." Stressing this point, Burga stated, "this group's policy platform must include domestic content standards and labor wage and benefits standards. If not, we will continue to see the affects of unfair trade and the ongoing production of wind turbines, solar panels and other new energy products made abroad and imported here. And, these energy jobs that we invest in to manufacture the components, build the generation and distribution facilities and connect the energy to the users must be sustainable jobs that pay high wages with good benefits."

Fight the Economic Blues with Union Member-Only Deals

Submitted by: *Kathleen Kelly*

Union members can save money this summer whether you're fixing the car or going for a ride, going on vacation or just staying home and watching a movie. Start saving today by visiting UnionPlus.org and enter your union name to see all the ways you can save.

1) Go Union with Goodyear Savings

Get your car road-ready for summer travel. Time for an oil change or other car service? Need some new union-made tires?

Union members can **save 5% off all Goodyear tires and 10% off car service**, including auto parts *and* sale prices. Find a participating Goodyear Gemini Auto Service Center near you by calling 1-877-436-4641. Visit UnionPlus.org/Goodyear to download your union-member-only coupon.

2) Are you hitting the road this summer?

You can **rent a car** through Union Plus and **save up to 25% on Avis, Budget and Hertz car rentals every day**. There are even special weekend-only deals up to 50% off. Visit UnionPlus.org/CarRentals to take advantage of your union discount. Information on the special weekend-only discount is only available online, not by phone. For the regular union member discount, you can call:
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3) Cruise into vacation savings the union way

Book a cruise and save on cruise ships like the **Pride of America** union ship. Shipboard personnel are represented by Seafarers International Union (SIU), Marine Engineers (MEBA) and Seafarers Entertainment (SEATU) unions.



As a union member, you can take advantage of great union member-only cruise discounts of 5-15% with Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) and NCL America. Union members — the sooner you book, the more you save:

* Book 121 days prior to sailing, save 15%

* Book between 61-120 days prior to sailing, save 10%
* Book 60 days or less prior to sailing, save 5%

Visit UnionPlusTravel.com too see how you can save on a cruise, Worldwide Vacation tour and more.

4) Union members deserve a break from high-cost entertainment

If you're a union member, it's now more affordable for you and your family to enjoy movies and theme parks, videos and DVDs, and much more.

A family that has good times together is a happier family, and now good times are easier to afford. Just call 1-800-565-3712 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST, or visit UnionPlus.org/Entertainment and when ordering and reference member ID number 744387769.

Take advantage of these discounts and more by visiting UnionPlus.org to see all the benefits that you qualify for because of your union membership. It pays to be a union member and Union Plus proves it every day.

Business and Labor in Southeast Ohio Come Together For Improvement



Dave McCall, USW District 1 Director, speaks at the Ohio Labor Management Committee meeting.

Submitted by: *Kathleen Green*

The Southeast Ohio Labor Management Committee, along with the Ohio Department of Development and the Governor's Regional office, hosted a meeting

on Monday, May 11 in Athens, Ohio to discuss the importance of labor management relationships in

tough times.

Keynote speaker for the event was Lt. Governor Lee Fisher. Other speakers included Dave McCall, Director, USW District 1, Mike Griffin, Vice President of Operations for Ormet and Bob Verhoff, Executive Director, Great Lakes Organized Labor Management Council.

Approximately 75 people representing organized labor & management were in attendance. Jennifer Garrison, State Representative for the 93rd House District & Debbie Phillips, State Representative for the 92nd House District were also in attendance as well as other local politicians.

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Campaigns for Healthcare Reform

Submitted by: Norm Wernet, OARA State Director



The Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans has been focused on healthcare reform and lowering the healthcare cost by

supporting community-based services. The healthcare cost of aging was underscored by the Medicare trustees report and Gov. Strickland's budget dealing with long term care.

Medicare trustees affirmed the ARA view that Medicare "Advantage" and Medicare Part D "Rx Drug" benefit program have been and continues to drain the fiscal stability of Medicare. OARA believes these and other issues in Medicare need to be addressed in national healthcare reform. The OARA and its Community Advocacy Networks, Senior Voice!, Alliance of Informed Citizens of NW Ohio, and the Alliance for Senior Action along with its affiliated locals gathered more than 4000 signatures to present to Ohio members of Congress to Save and Reform Medicare.

Gov. Strickland confronted the growing fiscal problem of longterm healthcare in the state Medicaid budget by attempting to shift the emphasis of institutional nursing home care to community-based care. The cost difference is \$55,000 per person per year in a nursing home and the same services in the community cost \$14,000 per year. The General Assembly in both the House and Senate has continued the unwise use of tax dollars and increased expenditures to nursing home corporations at the expense of community based care services. Deep cuts in the budget will make government smaller by decreasing support of retirees and seniors.

The OARA has initiated a post card campaign to the General Assembly to underscore the voice of retirees and seniors who want to live at home as long as possible. The Alliance for Senior Action held a Senior Care Fair Day in Niles on June 3rd and kicked off the campaign in NE Ohio. The Columbus Senior Town Meeting was the second venue to take up the campaign on June 5. Each of these public forums has been in conjunction with the local Area Agency On Aging that coordinates the delivery of services and serves as resource to retirees and seniors.

The Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans message is simple and straight forward:

- *Retired Americans and Seniors Want To Live At Home as Long As Possible*
- *Retired Americans and Seniors Want Wise Use of Tax Dollars*
- *Ohio Can Do Better and Spend Less.*
- *For Profit Institutions Delivering Mediocre Care Don't Need a Bail Out*
- *Retried Americans And Seniors Want to Stay at Home and Be Independent*
- *Support Aging in Place – It Costs Less – It is Healthier for Everyone*

The OARA is concerned about continuing access to healthcare and the stability of Medicare as we move into the national reform debate. Sen. Sherrod Brown has proposed a public health plan to cover all Americans and is a champion for early buy-in to Medicare for those 55 and older. Sen. Voinovich backs a proposal to limit Medicare cost increases through a closed-door commission process not open to Congressional debate. The issue of taxing employer-provided benefits has surfaced and is offensive and an insult to retirees and current employees who worked for those benefits as compensation. To add insult to injury, we have read a Senate proposal to age-rate insurance premiums and allow the private insurers to charge us 5 times more than a younger worker as we age. Sen. Ted Kennedy has championed a more unified way to look at long-term care and a public/private partnership to finance aging in place and nursing home care when necessary with the introduction of the CLASS (Community Living Assistance Services and Supports) Act.

Retirement security rests on the foundation of access to good comprehensive affordable healthcare as the national 44-year-old national health insurance plan Medicare has provided. OARA continues to campaign for retirement health care security and Medicare improvements.

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LABOR RALLY FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

JUNE 25th, 2009 - - WASHINGTON, D.C



HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW!

On June 25th, Organized Labor will join the Health Care for America Now! (HCAN) coalition for a massive rally and lobby day on Capitol Hill. The June 25th mobilization comes at a historic time in our fight to Turn Around America as Congress attempts to fix our broken health care system.

Labor's voice is needed and our mobilization will occur at a peak time to influence the vote, win real cost containment, defend our members' existing coverage and make sure that no one goes without health care in America.

The draft schedule of the June 25 Capitol Hill event is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</i> | <i>Ohio AFL-CIO Breakfast Briefing</i> |
| <i>11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</i> | <i>Rally @ Upper Senate Park</i> |
| <i>2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i> | <i>HCAN Ohio Coalition Town Hall Meeting
with Ohio Congressional Delegation</i> |
| <i>4:00 p.m.</i> | <i>Depart for Ohio</i> |

The Ohio AFL-CIO is chartering a Labor Bus to Washington. The Greyhound bus will depart from the Ohio AFL-CIO offices in Columbus on the evening of June 24 at 10:00 p.m. All union members are welcome, however space is limited.

Labor is needed at this event. If your union/council/organization would like to charter a bus you can contact Greyhound at 1.800.454.2487 x 205 and ask for Kimberly. You can ask Kimberly about the Ohio AFL-CIO rate. Greyhound's chartered bus employees are organized by Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), National Local Union 1700.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE BUS
PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA SABOL AT (614) 224.8271.**

RNs Campaign For a Federal Nurse-To-Patient Ratio Law and For Guaranteed Health Care For All

Submitted by: National Nurses Organizing Committee/Ohio AFL-CIO

Ten registered nurses from Cleveland, Akron, Dayton, and Cincinnati joined hundreds of members of NNOC, along with members of the United American Nurses, Massachusetts Nurses Association, SEIU and other nurses' organizations in Washington, DC on May 12 and 13 for the National RN Day of Action.

Nurses were electrified by two days of meetings, a march and rally, and inspiring speeches from members of Congress. We then lobbied our members of Congress for two new Federal bills calling for mandatory nurse to patient ratios:

- The National Nursing Shortage Reform and Patient Advocacy Act - introduced in the US Senate on May 13, 2009 by California Senator Barbara Boxer
- The Safe Nurse Staffing for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act (HR 2273), introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.

(These bills can be viewed on the NNOC website, www.calnurses.org)

The RN Day of Action was historic because it brought together several nurses' unions and associations for the first time. These groups pledged not to allow anyone to divide nurses. During our trip, Ohio RNs met with aides for US Senator Sherrod Brown and Rep. Michael Turner. NNOC Ohio will be setting up meetings with the Ohio Congressional delegation at district offices in the coming weeks - **please call the NNOC office to join the group which will meet with your member of Congress - (216) 573 5502**



Ohio Nurses rally in Washington to protect patients and for all Americans to have access to quality health care.

While in Washington, the nurses joined doctors and other health activists in support of guaranteed health care for all Americans through an improved and expanded Medicare-style system. This single payer system will save \$350 billion per year that can be used to care for everyone in this country and to enrich clinical staffing of health care institutions. Hollywood personalities Mike Farrell of MASH and Mimi Kennedy of Dharma and Greg addressed the crowd, calling for support of a single payer system - or "putting all health care funding into one pot and eliminating the 30% of health dollars going to profits and wasteful administrative costs", as Executive Director of NNOC/CNA Rose Ann DeMoro explained.

Ohio Hospital Protection Act Update

The NNOC and its members continue to meet with Ohio state legislators with the goal of introduction of the Ohio NNOC nurse-to-patient ratio legislation in the Ohio General Assembly. Please call the NNOC office to get involved in meeting with state legislators in your area.