

Special Gas Price Protest Issue

Gas Prices Lead To Protests Around The State

Cincinnati

The Gas Tax Protest at the BP and Shell gas stations were very successful. We had 65 protestors covering four corners. The protestors were comprised of members from AFSCME, CFT-AFT, CWA, LIUNA, IBEW, IAM, OPEIU, NAFTA, UAW, USW and Working America.



NBC and Fox News. I was informed that one of the stations had a clip on the 4:00 news break.

The protestors were energetic and loud. Some brought gas cans with rattling contents for shaking and some brought drum sticks that were used to beat on the empty ones. We received honking horns of approval from most passing cars and a few "fingers" from others.

Overall, it was a very good event.

We received media coverage from all four main stations – ABC, CBS,

Sandusky

By AMANDA GODFREY | Sandusky Register
Local labor unions took a stand Friday morning, protesting spiking gasoline rates and unreliable politicians.

"President Bush hasn't done a thing to alleviate the gas prices," North Coast Labor Council president Lynda Mobley said. "The Americans have a right to elect leaders that have their best interests at heart. We encourage everyone to vote. Ohio's a deciding state."



Posting themselves at the BP gas station on the corner of U.S. 250 and Perkins Avenue, a handful of people protested, holding signs that read: "Tell McCain no tax cuts for big oil" and "It's time to turn America around."

"We have nothing against BP or any gas stations," Mobley said. "They know we're out here, and we told them we weren't here to cause any trouble. We're out here because it's time for Americans to take a stand. We chose this location because it's heavily traveled and we're more visible. We know it's a situation like David versus Goliath, but we want to make a statement."

Standing silently with their signs, Mobley and crew were greeted with several shouts of "heck yeah," thumbs up and honks of approval.

"Look at these poor guys," Sandusky Painters Union member Bob Warner said, waving to a truck driver. "I feel terrible for them. They're just getting killed with these gas prices."

The unions joined in a national effort by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the largest labor union in the country.

More Gas Action on Page 3

Union Members Support Locked-Out Steelworkers

On June 14th a Rally was held to bring support and attention to the devastating lock-out of the USW Local 1-524 in Van Wert, Ohio. 347 members have been locked out of their jobs and pay since April 1 2008

Kongsberg Automotive Inc 1265 Industrial Dr VanWert Ohio 445891 chose to lock the doors on their workers when they had to turn down the DEMAND from the company, that their employees disregard their contract (that was negotiated in good faith,) to work for slashed wages and less benefits.

Every attempt has been made to negotiate by this local but Kongsberg refuses any dialog, and has begun bringing in replacement workers for scab wages



Kongsberg being and overseas company feels no stake in the game they are playing with the stability of this small town. Being the largest employer in this small community it is having devastaing effects throughtout

It was wonderfull to see so many unions come together in support of our brothers and sisters in Van Wert!

Many donations were made to try and assist those, who have lost their income and unfortunately still have bills to pay and mouths to feed. More help is needed as there is no way of knowing how long this will go on.

North Central Labor Council BBQ!!!

**NORTH CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL MEETING & BARBEQUE
W/ IBEW CHEF, "FRED SABOL"**

WHERE: LABORERS HALL, 1205 W. PERKINS AVENUE, SANDUSKY

WHEN: 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 TH



COME JOIN US, GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS

KEEPING LABOR STRONG IN ERIE, HURON, OTTAWA, SANDUSKY AND SENECA COUNTIES.

Courage and faith in the future is fundamental to success. -The union worker's Bible

Girard

WYTV - Channel 33 Youngstown



Are you upset enough with high gas prices to do something about it? Thousands of people across Ohio are protesting fuel costs, and today, many of them came to the valley. These 25

protesters from Mahoning and Trumbull County stood outside the Shell Station in Girard, echoing the valley's frustration over sky-high gas prices.

Joanne Johnntony, Co-Organizer; "This valley has suffered too many times with unemployment, and so we as a labor union are saying that enough is enough and we're gonna go out and fight to try and get them to reduce gas cost."

The weekly jump in gas prices is hitting the blue collar worker hard in the pocketbook.

Janet Bernard of Youngstown; "Employees in the area want people to lower their wages. They're going to work now for a gallon of gas, a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, just can't keep happening."

And for those in the airline industry, rising fuel costs spell out financial loss and mounting layoffs.

J.D. Williams, United Airlines Pilot; "At this stage of the game with the rising oil prices, we have difficulty meeting our costs, so our losses continue to mount, ultimately the consumer is the one that suffers."

But can anything be done about it on a local level? State Senator Capri Cafaro sponsored a bill last year to help hold oil companies accountable for their actions. "Having to have them report a fluctuation in gas prices over ten cents to the department of commerce....Establish a study commission to determine why there's such increases in gas prices and should there be a result showing that there's actually price gouging."



But the effort has gone unnoticed.

Senator Cafaro; "We've not been successful in getting any hearings down in the Ohio senate which has really been sad and quite shocking."

Marietta

By Sam Shawver, Special to The News

MARIETTA — Horns blared from three tractor-trailers in support of lower gasoline prices Monday as about 20 people stood near the intersection of Pike and Acme streets, some with placards reading, "It's time to turn around America."

"The truckers are beeping for a reason," said Marietta resident Judy Wray. "I would hate to be a trucker now, especially a small owner-operator. But, really, we're all paying for their fuel in higher prices for the things we buy."



Behind the protesters on both sides of Pike Street, gas stations were selling regular unleaded for \$3.99 a gallon.

Wray and fellow protesters were part of a rally organized by the Southeast Ohio AFL-CIO, calling for Republican presidential candidate John McCain and President Bush to boost the economy by investing in energy independence and ending tax breaks for big oil companies.

"We're talking about the high price of gas and what it's doing to our middle class, not just union members; this affects everybody," said Troy Ferrell, president of the Southeast Ohio AFL-CIO.

"People are having to choose whether they can afford health care, groceries or gasoline, and we want to get the message across to the president and John McCain, who will just continue with more of the same tax cuts for big oil, throwing the tax burden off on our middle class."

Sam Davis, business manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, said fuel cost is one of several important issues Americans are facing.

"Add health care to gas costs and you're talking a huge chunk of change," he said. "I don't know how people on minimum wage can afford it; they're just working to put gas in their tanks."

Ontario



Under a sign advertising \$4.08 per gallon for regular gas, the congregation gathered in front of the Circle K and Marathon station at the corner of Lexington-Springmill Road and Park Avenue West. Passersby took notice.

"The people in the cars are supporting us, but they need to do more," said Jackie Stuckert, who works for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and is president of the Richland County Chapter of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association. "It's time for us to look at what's going on and take it seriously."

"Why are we not advancing forward? People should call their state representative, congress members and even the governor."

Holding a bright yellow sign that read, "It's time to turn around America," Stuckert said food prices are spiraling out of control as a side effect of the fuel price increase.

"I get very angry that prices keep going up and our wages don't," she said. "It's harder to get to work, and I share a ride. Just this week, with the (cost of) gas I put in the car, I could have fed a family."

"It's a catch 22 -- either you buy gas or food. We're all in the same boat."

AFL-CIO field organizer Lynda Mobley said the union picked the Marathon station because of the heavy traffic nearby.

"It's about the impact of fuel costs on our lives," she said. "The Legislature has had years to prepare for this, and they've done nothing."

Mobley said working class families feel a trickle-down effect from the high gas prices.

"Fuel prices affect every avenue of life -- food, manufacturing, trucks -- and who pays for it? The consumer," she said.

Gas protests are going on across the state and country, Mobley said.

"We just want to make a statement to the Legislature about the crisis this country is in."

Labor in Action for Our Communities

Letter Carriers collect over 2000 pounds of food for local pantry

The Letter Carriers collected over 2000 pounds of non-perishable food items for their annual food drive in just the Toledo area! Every year, the NALC asks the community to donate food items by putting them outside by their mailboxes.



The Letter Carriers and volunteers then gather the food and donate it to the local food pantry. "One thing that surprised me, was despite the tough economic times, people actually donated more food this year because they recognized the need in their community," said John Boellner, Political Coordinator of NALC Branch 100.

Red Cross raises over \$12,000 at United Labor Committee Golf Outing

For the past four years, the ULC has sponsored a golf outing to raise money for the local Red Cross Chapter. This year, 25 teams signed up to participate in the outing at Giant Oak Golf Course in Temperance, Michigan. AFSCME, the UAW, the Toledo Area Labor Council, and the Northwest Ohio Building Trades were some of the largest groups to contribute to the charity. "Each year, we get more and more participation from organized labor in the golf outing. It's a great event, because people get to have fun golfing on a beautiful day and every dime benefits the programs and services of the American Red Cross," said labor liaison Mark Buford. In the past year alone, the Greater Toledo Area Chapter responded to over 200 local emergencies, sent 438 emergency messages to active duty personnel and their families, and trained nearly 30,000 in lifesaving skills such as CPR and first aid.



Victory For Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Movement

*Cincinnati City Council Passes Employee Free Choice Act Resolution;
McCain Continues Opposition to Worker-Friendly Bill*

On Wednesday, June 25, 2008, Cincinnati City Council took an important step in protecting workers' rights by passing the Employee Free Choice Act Resolution. The Federal bill would give the best opportunity for working men and women to get ahead economically by uniting co-workers to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits.



As Senator John McCain rolls into Cincinnati today for high dollar fundraisers, he continues to write off workers. On June 26, 2007, McCain said he is "strongly opposed" to the Employee Free Choice Act and voted against it in the Senate. More than half of U.S. workers—nearly 60 million—would join a union right now if they could; however, with continuous harassment and retaliation from employers many workers steer away from trying due to fear of job loss.

"I commend the city council members who voted for the passage of this resolution," said Doug Sizemore, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council. "If local elected officials believe in strengthening workers' voices on the job, a Presidential nominee like Senator John McCain should as well. This is an opportunity for workers to level the playing field for those who seek to form a union for a better life," he said.

The bill would strengthen penalties for companies that break the law by coercing or intimidating employees. It would establish a third-party mediation process when employers and employees can't agree on a first contract. And it would enable employees to form unions when a majority expresses their decision to join the union by signing an authorization card.

Licking County Politicians Support EFCA

Several local politicians sign the pledge to support workers being able to join a union with the Employee Free Choice Act



Politicians took the time to sign the Employee Free Choice Act pledge at different labor meetings

employers who harass and coerce workers from joining a union.

Licking county labor leaders took the initiative to make candidates who support EFCA make it public by signing the pledge

which is a big step in holding politicians

accountable after they receive the support and help from labor.



across Licking County.

Doug Moreland ;Candidate for Licking County Commissioner, Mark Van Buren; Licking County Commissioner; and Vickie Christianson; candidate for Licking County Domestic Court Judge, all signed the pledge.

The bill would give workers the right to form a union through a democratic process and create tougher penalties for companies and



100,000 Conversations: The Amazing Portable Predictive Dialer

In the past month, the predictive dialer was buzzing in Dayton (out of the Dayton-Miami Valley CLC, Exec. Secretary **Wes Wells**), Athens (out of the Council 8 office, SE ALF Pres. **Bill Sams**), Mansfield (for the USW, organized by **Mike Carroll**, USW Release Staff, and **Ron Davis**, President of USW 169 and the Crawford-Richland CLC), and Ashland (organized by the **IAM**).

This week, the dialer was in Findlay (organized by **George Shafer**, Pres. of the West Central CLC, and **Bev Spetz**).

We are working on phonebanking nights in Newark with GMP Local 244 President **Ed Shields**, Jerry West and Jeremy Saling (Chairman of the Political Committee) who have agreed to call their entire state-wide GMP membership list. The Steelworkers have also been busy calling its membership with the above call nights but also are adding dates daily with the addition of Cleveland and Newark.

We'll also be in Mansfield at phonebanks organized by **Lynda Mobley** (President, North Central Labor Council), **Mike Carroll** (USW Release Staff), and **Ron Davis** (President, USW 169 and



Dayton Guild members call the public to inform them about their contract fight.

the Crawford-Richland CLC). This will be the kickoff of calling Congressional District 8 in support of USW member Mike Carroll.

Also, for the first time the Predictive Dialer was used

outside of the political realm as the Dayton Newspaper Guild used the stations to call members of the public about its ongoing contract campaign. The volunteer members transferred over 50 members to the newspaper editor and publisher.

The following week, the dialer will be in Niles and Akron. Call Sarah Smith at (614) 441-6162 or Jason Perlman at (614) 302-4542 to schedule the dialer in your area.

Bill Padisak Sworn In as Mahoning/Trumbull CLC President



William Padisak, Jr. was born October 1, 1956 in Cleveland, Ohio, he is 51. Mr. Padisak's family moved to Austintown as a child where he was raised. Mr. Padisak has three children, Melissa, Nicole and Aaron and one grandson, Alex.

After graduating from Austintown Fitch High School in 1974, Bill worked at the McLean Trucking company where he was a member of the Teamsters. Following graduation from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry he began working at the Forum Health Hospital system as a Blood Bank Technologist.

While working at the hospital Bill became active in his union, Service Employees International Union, Local 627, where he served on various committees and was elected President in 1996. The Local was comprised of hospital, nursing home and

library employees in three counties. After being re-elected several times the Local merged with SEIU, District 1199 and Bill was elected Executive Vice-President for Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

In 2006, Bill was hired as a Staff Representative for the Ohio Association of Public School Employees where he represents classified school employees in Northeast Ohio.

In his spare time, Bill likes to attend sporting and community events, enjoys working on his home and sending time with his family, especially his grandson, Alex.



Members Rally over concerns of DHL and UPS Merger

Workers are united in their opposition to a proposed alliance between DHL Shipping and UPS which could send thousands of jobs located in Wilmington, Ohio and elsewhere. Concerned citizens, companies and labor groups who are adversely affected by this joining of DHL/UPS have come together in a corporate responsibility campaign.

To learn more and weigh in with your opinion go to www.baddecision.org.



Ohio AFL-CIO Conference

When: September 8-11

Where: Cleveland, OH Crowne Plaza

The conference will begin with the Diversity Counts conference on Monday, Sept. 8 and the convention will begin Tuesday and end Thursday.

For more information you can call Theresa Willis at 614-224-8271 ext. 1002.

More informatation will follow.