



# the Workers' Voice

## Labor Leads The Way For 34,000 New, Good Jobs

In June of 2009, the Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board took a bold step in endorsing the statewide Issue 3 initiative which, if passed, would allow for a state-of-the-art casino to be built in Toledo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus. In order to get the endorsement, the two principal owners, Penn National and the Gilbert Group (owned by Dan Gilbert who also owns the Cleveland Cavaliers) made an agreement to use union and prevailing construction trades and allow for neutrality in organizing the permanent employees. With a solid commitment from those principal owners, the Ohio AFL-CIO affiliates, the UAW and Ohio Building Trades put together a campaign as only labor can do and did something many thought would never happen, pass a casino initiative.

There have been four previous attempts to allow for the building of casinos in Ohio and all have been soundly defeated. But what labor in Ohio was able to prove in 2009 is that when labor joins together in an effort that helps build the Ohio middle class, little can stand in its way.

Early support for Issue 3 from Ohio's labor organizations and an absentee ballot plan that urged early voting for union members were "huge contributing factors in the passage of the constitutional amendment to allow casino gambling in our state," said Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola. "Over the last five months, union members spent countless hours working for passage of Issue 3. The overwhelming victory – 53% to 47% — shows that voters across the state share our goal of creating new jobs in a struggling economy."

The Ohio AFL-CIO call center was used to make over 750,000 robo dials and nearly 100,000 dials from live agents who could walk members through the importance of passing Issue 3. The effort to get union

members to vote early and at the polls was on par with the 2008 election, and many labor leaders saw the job creation and private investments too good to pass up this time around.



*Members gather before the rally in Cleveland, OH in support of Issue 3 and 34,000 good, Ohio jobs.*

"Regardless of one's view of gambling, it is a fact that Ohio residents are currently exporting the jobs and tax revenue associated with it to neighboring states," said Central Ohio Building Trades Executive Secretary-Treasurer Pasquale Manzi in a letter earlier this year. "We believe an investment of more than \$1 billion of private capital into Ohio's economy will not only create jobs directly related to the gaming industry, but will also spur local economies throughout the state."

The big question around the issue for labor was would the owners live up to their agreement that Ohioans would be first to receive a majority of the jobs. Opponents of the issue spent millions of dollars in ads saying the jobs would go to out-of-state workers moving to Ohio. But on October 27, just a week before the election, developers of the casinos gave the mayors in the four cities a letter pledging 90% of the jobs created will be for local workers.

"I am writing to provide you with assurance that, as developers of the casino that would be authorized under State Issue 3, we will make hiring of local residents to work in the casino our highest priority," the letter says. "To that end, we commit to you that a minimum of 90 percent of employees hired to fill the permanent casino jobs will be residents of the city and its surrounding MSA. A significant part of our proposal is the job creation our development will bring to the

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communities that will host the casinos. Maximizing that benefit relies heavily on the recruitment and hiring of local residents. We will also endeavor to make certain that our workforce reflects the diversity of the community.”

Labor rallies were held in each city in which a casino would be built, and all had great turnout from a variety of supports. Whether union or not, workers came out to show their support of the 34,000 jobs this initiative would create.

## Cleveland

*Submitted by: Les Wiley*

At the rally in Cleveland, Gilbert told a crowd of 300 supporters at a downtown union hall that, “In America we build things. It all starts with us building stuff that creates long-term jobs and that’s what we will do with the casinos.”

Terry Joyce, president of the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council told the crowd, “We haven’t seen organized labor behind a casino issue like this one. This campaign will be won in this next week and Issue 3 will pass.”

Also on hand in Cleveland were mayor Frank Jackson and former Cleveland Cavalier Austin Carr.

## Columbus

*Submitted by: Sarah Smith*

More than 200 Columbus union and community members rallied at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Hall today, Wednesday, October 28 in support of Issue 3. Even though the casinos will only be placed in Ohio’s four largest cities the vast majority of the money generated is designated for all of the state’s counties and every public school district.

Among the speakers at the event were Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert, former Congressman Charlie Luken, Penn National Gaming senior vice president Eric Schippers and Former Ohio and United States Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow.

While Dan Gilbert and Congressman Charlie Luken commented on a strong need for Issue 3 supporters to get out the vote Mary Ellen Withrow, former Ohio and United States Treasurer, lent her support saying,

“I knew that Ohio was losing a lot of money to out-of-state casinos. When I read the amendment, it had the right things in it. It’s a good deal for Ohio”.

## Toledo

*Submitted by: Laura Harrison*

Ron Rothenbuhler is the Executive Regional Director for the Carpenters and is the Lucas County Democratic Chairman. Rothenbuhler feels strongly about jobs in Northwest Ohio and proposed that Lucas County Republican Chairman, Jon Stainbrook, join him in bipartisan support of Issue 3. Together, they made the case for Issue 3 at a rally at IBEW local 8 in Rossford on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Haupricht, Executive Secretary of the Northwest Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council said, “We have a lot of people on the unemployment lists right now because of the recession. If we don’t get back to work soon, it could really send a shock wave through the rest of the community because construction workers pay taxes and we don’t want them leaving the city to find work elsewhere. We want to provide them with good jobs right here in Toledo.” Issue 3 passed overwhelmingly in the Toledo area.

## Cincinnati

*Submitted by: Jason Perlman*

Cincinnati was the last stop on the Issue 3 rally tour, and like the other cities, hundred turned out to hear from Gilbert, Luken and Penn National, but also on hand were Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory who supported the job creation and former basketball legend Oscar Robertson.

As he did in the three other cities, many comments were focused on job creation. “A minimum will be 90 percent hired from the local region. They’re going to be great jobs. They’re going to be good paying jobs, good benefits. They’re going to be union jobs. And Mr. Mayor, we want to commit that to you today and everybody here as well,” said Rock Ventures CEO Matt Cullen.

Gilbert’s comments were geared to whether or not people would come to Cincinnati or keep their money in Indiana. “The demand is certainly there and we will be in competition, especially here in Cincinnati with the Indiana operations. So, we’ve gotta make this special.”

# Reps. Driehaus, Fudge, Kaptur, Kilroy, Ryan, Space, Sutton and Wilson Get A+ for Historic Health Care Vote

On the heels of an historic late night vote in the House of Representatives for a good, balanced health care reform bill, the Ohio AFL-CIO released its scoring of how our state's U.S. representatives voted on HR 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

The legislation which passed Saturday evening by a vote of 220 to 215, would finally bring security and stability to our nation's health care system. Working families would get much needed relief from skyrocketing health care prices by being able to choose between a public option and private for-profit insurance.

## Ohio Congressional Health Care Scorecard

*A+ /Sided with Working Families*

- Driehaus, Steve, (D) Ohio, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Fudge, Marcia L., (D) Ohio, 11<sup>th</sup>
- Kaptur, Marcy, (D) Ohio, 9<sup>th</sup>
- Kilroy, Mary Jo, (D) Ohio, 15<sup>th</sup>
- Ryan, Tim, (D) Ohio, 17<sup>th</sup>
- Space, Zachary T., (D) Ohio, 18<sup>th</sup>
- Sutton, Betty, (D) Ohio, 13<sup>th</sup>
- Wilson, Charles A., (D) Ohio, 6<sup>th</sup>

"This is an historic victory that moves Ohio's working families one step closer to the passage of real health care reform," said Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola. "And it was a huge test of who will stand with working families versus the moneyed special interests. While some of Ohio's members passed with flying colors by standing up for the people who sent them to Washington, others failed by voting to keep the status quo. Make no mistake: Working families will remember who fulfilled the promises they were elected on and they will continue to stand with their Representatives who delivered."

The legislation would also help small businesses access quality, affordable health care with lower rates and stable pricing from year to year. And it would lessen the burden of covering the uninsured by requiring employers to provide health care for their employees or pay into a common fund.

"Today, we passed a health care bill that will work for and with the American people. This bill will provide Americans with access to more affordable, quality care they can count on. The American people have been waiting for us to put an end to the egregious,



*Congresswoman Betty Sutton (D-13th) spoke to hundreds of union members in Washington, D.C., before members rallied for health insurance reform in June of this year.*

discriminatory practices of insurance companies who deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions and place caps on coverage to prevent people from accessing the care they need just when they need it the most," said Congresswoman Betty Sutton. Today, we acted to improve employer-based, health care coverage for 420,000 residents in Ohio's 13th district, improve Medicare for 107,000 beneficiaries, and moved to close the prescription drug "doughnut hole" gap in coverage for seniors across this country."

The House bill is also financed in a responsible way – it is fully paid for and would reduce our nation's rising deficits. Furthermore, it does not attempt to pay for health care on the backs of middle class working families by increasing taxes on the health care that families are already struggling to pay for.

"This bill is the product of months of deliberate work by Congress and years of tireless advocacy by those who believe that healthcare is a right for every single American. The legislation we passed today will reduce healthcare costs, expand coverage, and protect small businesses and middle-class families. At the same time, it ends the unconscionable practices of denying coverage based on a preexisting condition or cutting coverage when a person becomes sick. I'm proud to stand with my colleagues who have fought to bring our nation to this great day, and I look forward to the President signing comprehensive healthcare reform into law," said Rep. Driehaus. "I made a commitment that I would not support legislation that used taxpayer dollars to provide abortions. This legislation maintains my continued commitment to life."

# Workforce Forum Draws U.S. Department of Labor

**Submitted by: Tim Burga**

The Ohio AFL-CIO Workforce Rapid Response program held its second annual Educational Forum in Columbus with labor leaders, state and county workforce officials, manufacturing consultants and even the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor present. The two-day event covered topics ranging from federal stimulus projects to assistance efforts for laid off and dislocated workers.

Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola opened the Forum by thanking Governor Strickland for providing the grant, which funds the program to assist workers, and went on to talk about the historic nature of this economic recession. President Rugola suggested that such a “recession should be met with a historic response,” and that our elected leaders should act bold to assist workers and our basic industries. He went on to say that the stimulus money is working by creating and saving jobs and basic services. Joe also cautioned the audience that “work and earnings will not recover as quickly as the financial markets,” and urged policymakers to “shape a new economy by developing a plan to reindustrialize America.”

President Rugola had the privilege of introducing Jane Oates, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training as the keynote speaker. Assistant Secretary Oates made some statements that union leaders have not heard from the Department of Labor in decades. She opened by acknowledging the effectiveness of the Ohio AFL-CIO program saying organized labor should be a partner with state and local government to educate workers and deliver dislocated services because unions understand workers. She acknowledged the Ohio AFL-CIO rapid response program as a model to be copied elsewhere.

During her remarks she commented that the Obama Administration has “no greater priority than getting workers back to work,” and highlighted the “need to restore the trade balance,” and stated as an example, “the need to ship solar panels to Korea, China and abroad,” rather than importing them. The Assistant Secretary also said after years of the Department of Labor being asleep regarding building trades training programs

that they were introducing new apprenticeship programs to serve as career pathways for workers to earn a middle class living.

We were also honored to have two of Ohio’s top labor leaders — Dave McCall, Director, USW District 1 and Ken Lortz, Director, UAW Region 2B — address the Forum. Director McCall focused his remarks on the strategic alliance that the Steelworkers have formed with other unions and environmental groups such as the Sierra Club to form the Blue-Green Alliance. Director McCall said that to fix global warming we must fix global trade, both issues which are being addressed through the Blue-Green Alliance. Director McCall stated if we move as a nation away from our dependence on foreign oil we could create good American jobs in the new energy economy. He



acknowledge the fact that in order to put America back to work we must have “fair trade” which recognizes trade policies that adhere to international standards related to workers rights, labor law, the environment and currency manipulation.

Director Lortz spoke about the worker hardships in the automotive industry and correctly noted that the auto industry is inextricably linked to the economic success of our state and workforce. He highlighted the fact that Ohio is the number one state in the country for auto supply jobs and demonstrated the devastating snowball effect the loss of auto manufacturing has on families and communities. Director Lortz praised the Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response program for helping dislocated workers and management teams understand what assistance is available to try to avert a layoff and directing them to the appropriate programs and state and county agencies for services when a dislocation does occur. He concluded his remarks by saying we not only need to manufacture automobiles in Ohio but we should be using existing facilities and workforce to manufacturer the machine tools used to produce cars instead of relying on imports.

A special thanks to the Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response team, the United Labor Agency, Bruce Wyngaard (OCSEA-AFSCME), Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Economic Development and all of the panelists for organizing and delivering an excellent Forum.

# Union Leaders Take Health Care Reform to Capitol Hill

Submitted by: **Jeanette Mauk**

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Union Leaders from Ohio joined more than 100 local and state union activists from more than two dozen states that kicked off a two-day “National House Call on Congress” action, delivering more than 42,000 letters from union members demanding real health care reform. The letters from union members and Working America describe their struggles with a broken health care system and insurance companies that put their profits far above the people they are supposed to serve.

Randy Weston, Director of Political Action & Legislative Affairs, OAPSE Local 4 said, “It’s always good for legislators to hear directly from the people they represent. We were able to send a strong message that we want meaningful health care reform that does not penalize working families. Of course, we will continue to call, write and visit to keep the pressure on for passage of Health Care Reform this year.”

The union leaders reminded lawmakers that the union members and working families that worked so hard on their campaign last fall are the same people who strongly back health care reform. The delegation which consisted of Leadership from USW, CWA, IBEW, AFSCME, the Ohio AFL-CIO and Central Labor

Councils wanted to tell the Ohio Congressional representatives that labor was paying close attention to their vote on the issue of health care reform.



*Wes Wells, Executive Director/Dayton Miami Valley CLC, Donnie Blatt from USW, and other members of the Ohio Delegation ask Steve Driehaus to support Health care Reform.*

Ed Good, President, Belmont-Monroe Central Labor Council said, “It was a true honor to represent and convey the concerns of Ohio’s working families in Washington. Doing this with brothers and sisters of diverse labor organizations demonstrated our

united front on this critical piece of legislation. This trip, like others remind me of why we do what we do during political campaigns. Although the anti labor lobby groups are well financed and organized, they cannot match our local and personal relationship with our true friends who are in the legislature.”

Good went on to say, “The National & Ohio AFL-CIO did a great job of scheduling and preparing us for this Legislative effort which I feel has already paid dividends as a result of follow up calls from some of the offices we met with.”



*Congressman John Bocerra (D-OH 16) listens to concerns from Donnie Blatt, USW District 1, Rapid Response.*

Look in the next issue of the Ohio AFL-CIO newsletter or on our website [www.ohafclcio.org](http://www.ohafclcio.org) for more information on health care reform as HB3962 will be voted on in early November

and a scorecard of who voted for and against will be made available.

## Speaker Pro Tempore Szollosi Speaks To Labor Lobbyists



**Submitted by: Amanda Sabol**

Ohio House Speaker Pro Tempore Matt Szollosi joined the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Labor Lobbyists at the Ohio AFL-CIO. Representative Szollosi spent some time to discuss several key issues to working families, including collective bargaining gains that the Democratic caucus was able to include in the final version of the biennial budget bill.



*Speaker Pro Tempore Matt Szollosi*

In light of the Ohio Supreme Court's ruling to stop implementation of the slot machines at the horse racing tracks, Rep. Szollosi said they were trying to fix the \$851 million dollar shortfall this created. He said that the House caucus was supporting the Governor's plan to delay

the final year of state income tax cuts to close the gap and the that their proposal, HB 318, would be voted out of Finance Committee later in the day.

"The Republicans are going to portray this as the Democrats are raising taxes. But maybe it is just me, but temporarily delaying a tax cut is a far cry from raising taxes. My view is a raise in taxes means you pay more than you paid before. This delay does not do that," said Szollosi.

Frank Mathews, CWA Ohio Council President, provided the group with an example of the effects of not passing this proposal. President Mathews sits on the Ridgewood School Board in Coshocton County and said the school board crunched the numbers of state funding with and without the income tax freeze. Frank said that even in

his small district of 1,400 students, \$1.7 million could be cut from the school's operating budget. He presented these numbers at a recent school board meeting and said that all in attendance agreed that freezing the income tax is necessary.

After Rep. Szollosi departed for the statehouse, the labor representatives discussed legislative priorities for their respective unions. Darold Johnson, Ohio Federation of Teachers, and Matt Dotson, Ohio Education Association, expressed their organization's solid support for SB 129, authored by Senator Fred Strahorn, which gives adjunct professors the right to collective bargaining. SB 129 will help Ohio compete for the best part-time faculty by putting the state on par with other states that already provide these educators collective bargaining rights, such as Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Jim Carney reported that the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters are working on passing HB 271, authored by Rep. Matt Patten, which would modify Ohio's Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Law with respect to township fire departments. Currently, Ohio Revised Code prohibits collective bargaining to an unincorporated population of less than 5,000, although the fire department may service an area with a much greater population than 5,000.

HR58, introduced by House Commerce and Labor Chair Kenny Yuko. Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga told the group that the Ohio AFL-CIO is in support of this resolution that urges state agencies to use project labor agreements in public investment projects. Ken Holland, Secretary-Treasurer, Laborers District Council of Ohio, said that he had given proponent testimony for the resolution.

Frank Mathews, CWA, told the group that HB276 was a legislative priority for their union. This bill, introduced by Rep. Alan Sayre, would provide telephone companies with some regulatory relief to keep them on par with its cable and wireless competitors.

Lastly, the group discussed the federal health care reform bills in Congress. Burga said the AFL-CIO's top three priorities, strong public option competition, employers paying their fair share, and not taxing employee health benefits are all still very much alive. It is expected that the bills will be voted out of Committee in October and final versions in the House and Senate would be voted on for ratification by the end of the year.

**Ohio AFL-CIO**  
**Biennial Convention**  
**Sept 13-16, 2010**

More Information to Follow



# Cancelled Buy American Event Leads to Labor's Force in Halloween Parade

**Submitted by: Laura Harrison**

In July of this year USW Local 207-L and USW District 1 were to have hosted a Celebration of Manufacturing in Northwest Ohio in Flag City USA Findlay, Ohio. Many months of planning included sending invitations to union and non-union manufacturing companies, lining up Democratic and Republican speakers, and organizing a parade and cook out. One week before the event, Findlay Inc. (Chamber of Commerce) put pressure on the Mayor of Findlay to the tune of not supporting a much needed city income tax or a much needed city school tax. The event was cancelled. Why? In Mayor Sehnert's own words, "Findlay is a non-union Republican city."

The cancellation of the Made in America rally upset many working men and women in the city of Findlay and they decided that Labor would have a great presence at the annual Halloween Parade. Ron

Rothenbuhler from the Carpenters said, "When I heard about the way that the Mayor cancelled the last event, I was bound and determined to show my support in the Parade." The city of Findlay annual Halloween Parade was Tuesday October 27th. The



*Denise Holler (OAPSE), Jeff Kranz (NALC), and Jim Haller (OAPSE) wait in the rain before the start of the parade.*

Hancock County Chapter of the West Central Ohio CLC has always participated in the parade in an effort to give back to the community. This year they again participated with the support of other labor unions from around the state. Representatives from OAPSE, USWA, Carpenters, the Ohio AFL-CIO, Labor Council leaders, and NALC attended a labor council meeting and heard from Joe Rugola before going out to march in the parade.

Together they proved that Unions and Working Men and Women in Northwest Ohio are active, and that cities like Findlay would not have the fine schools, police , fire departments, parks, and churches with out the men and women who work hard and pay their taxes and support charitable organizations that have helped make are city what it is today.

## Cordray Presents Proclamation to Ohio AFL-CIO in Support of "H2H"

**Submitted by: Tim Burga**

Attorney General Richard Cordray was gracious enough with his time to appear at the Ohio AFL-CIO Workforce Rapid Response Forum and present to the Ohio AFL-CIO a proclamation recognizing its support of the "Helmets to Hardhats" (H2) program. This program helps place military veterans into building and construction careers.

Mark Ayers, President of the Building and Construction

Trades Department, AFL-CIO, has been quoted saying, "Another generation of young dedicated American men and women has been placed in harm's way to protect our way of life. Because we ask a great sacrifice of these young men and women, our unions and our industry is prepared to assist them when they need us the most. Providing them with stable and secure career opportunities is the least we can do long after the guns fall silent and the memories of this war have faded."

The proclamation to the Ohio AFL-CIO reads, "In recognition of your hard work and dedication on behalf of the citizens of the State of Ohio. Your



*Ohio AFL-CIO Field Director Jeanette Mauk (left) and Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Tim Burga (right) receive the proclamation from Attorney General Richard Cordray (center).*

determination to overcome the current economic challenges and to launch nearly 2,000 veterans into careers in the Building and Construction trades in the last year is an accomplishment worthy of honor. Congratulations on your extraordinary success in these worthy endeavors."

Attorney General Cordray also spoke about Issue 1 and the impact it will have on our Veterans and of course about the Workforce Developments

program and the difference it is making for their quick response when a plant closes or we have major layoffs. Issue 1 passed convincingly with a margin of 72-28 on Nov. 3, 2009. Issue 1 is a constitutional amendment authorizing \$200 million in bonds to be issued to pay for the bonuses, which will amount to \$100 a month up to \$1,000. Cordray also thanked the Ohio AFL-CIO and labor for its endorsement of State Issue 1.

H2H was conceived in 2002 and was operational in 2003. In 2008, "Helmets to Hardhats" confirmed the successful placements of 1,739 military veterans into quality careers in the building and construction trades via the H2H program.

## Workplace Safety Conference Scheduled



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

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

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

**Submitted by: Amanda Sabol**

# One New Toy Continues To Help Central Ohio Families

**O**ne New Toy is an annual effort to see that those who would not otherwise have a joyous Christmas are able to. Thanks to the generosity of Organized Labor, school groups and local businesses, families can make ends meet and still enjoy the holidays.

One New Toy provides toys for children, food for families, and personal needs for older children and seniors.

One New Toy is a cooperative initiative supported by Organized Labor of Central Ohio working in partnership with area settlement houses and local businesses. Our first year saw the generous support of neighbors such as Kroger, Giant Eagle, Meijers, Ameritech, community organizations such as the Telephone Pioneers and Telhio Credit Union, and South Western City Schools.

Volunteers from local unions, settlement houses, Boy Scouts of America and involved companies help bring everything together to make the program a success by collecting food, toys, and money to purchase other necessary items. The items are then sorted and the participating families pick up the gifts prior to Christmas at a designated place.

As a not-for-profit program, One New Toy obtains its materials and financial support from area labor unions including AFSCME, APRI, Bakers #57, CBTU, Central Ohio Building Trades, CWA, GCIU, IBEW, OCSEA, Teamsters, UAW, UFCW, UIW, Union Label, UNITE, United Labor Retirees, USWA, and their respective retiree clubs. It receives additional support from Anheuser-Busch, Kroger Co., Bellisio, Meijers, Ohio Packing, Rich Products, Telhio Credit Union, South Western City Schools, Columbus Public Schools and interested individuals.

One New Toy is a local program that began in Colum-



bus when Organized Labor and friends got the idea of lending a hand to help families struggling to make ends meet, particularly at holiday time. During the first year, the program served over 350 families and over 100 seniors in the Columbus community. The program now serves over 1,200 families.

We are asking for your support of United Labor's One New Toy Program. This program is supported by the efforts of United Labor, local businesses, area settlement houses, and various schools, to help those families who are on fixed incomes, have encountered job lay-offs, or who have fallen prey to recent plant closings and find it hard to afford the traditional food items or toys on an already tight monthly budget.

How can you help??? Your monetary donation will help purchase One New Toy for each child in the program, making their holiday a little brighter.

Make checks payable to: United Labor's One New Toy Program and send donations to:  
Central Ohio AFL-CIO  
1545 Alum Creek Drive, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43209

Also, volunteers are needed to help sort canned items, package up gift bags and fill orders on December 19 and 20, 8:30AM – 5:30 PM, at St. Stephen's Community House, 1500 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus.

For more information on ONT please contact Joan Fluharty, United Way of Central Ohio Community Services, 614-227-2729

## Fight the High Cost of Health Care with Savings from Union Plus



*Submitted by: Kathleen Kelly*

Your union is fighting for your health care benefits in the workplace and in Washington, D.C. And Union Plus is fighting for you, too, with new programs that could save you hundreds of dollars a year on medical bills, doctor visits, prescriptions, wellness programs and more.

Check out these money-saving programs that can keep your family and your finances in good health.

### **NEW Medical Bill Negotiation Service Stands Up for You**

Working families are being bankrupted by unmanageable medical bills from surgeries, chronic conditions or emergency care. If you or your family members are facing large outstanding, unreimbursed medical bills, you need to know about the free Medical Bill Negotiation Service from Union Plus. This new service will negotiate medical bills of at least \$400 to help you reach a price you can afford, often saving you 25 to 50 percent on your bill.

### **Health Savings Programs Keep Costs Down**

Want to save money on your everyday health care? Union Plus Health Savings offers you discounts of 20 to 45 percent on physician care and 20 to 50 percent on dental care. The Union Plus Online Prescription Discount Card means average savings of 15 percent on brand name prescriptions and 40 percent on generic prescriptions. New to the program is access to a Personal Health Advocate. Advocates provide you with doctor referrals, assistance resolving insurance claim issues and more.

### **Save Hundreds on Wellness Programs**

Paying full price to get in shape? With special Union Plus discounts for union members and families, you could save 20 to 60 percent on initiation costs and monthly fees at over 8,000 health clubs nationwide. Savings are also offered on wellness programs to help union members stop smoking and lose weight.

Best of all, the healthier you stay, the lower your medical expenses may be.

### **\$1,000 Hospital Care Grants Provide Relief for Struggling Families**

Union members who are facing steep hospital bills and who participate in the Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage or Insurance programs may qualify for \$1,000 Hospital Care Grants through the new \$3 million Union SAFE initiative from Union Plus. These one-time grants can provide immediate financial relief and never have to be repaid.

### **Get Unbiased Advice on Prescription Drugs and Other Health Care Topics**

Want to talk to your doctor about your prescriptions, but don't know what questions to ask? Best Buy Drugs is a free information source from Consumer Reports Health. Best Buy Drugs provides comprehensive analysis of prescription drugs by category, with expert medical reviews, recommendations and advice on saving money and managing multiple prescriptions. Looking for objective, expert advice on health care products, treatments and services? ConsumerReportsHealth.org is a health-focused online subscription from Consumer Reports that features expert and unbiased health facts. Union Plus offers a discount of over 30% off the regular subscription rate. Use their interactive symptom checker, or find treatment, product and facility ratings.

### **Get a Healthy Dose of Savings with Union Plus**

With Union Plus, you could save on everything from prescriptions and routine health care to hospitalization and major medical bills. That means more money in your pocket!

More information about the Union Plus programs featured in this article is available at the following links:

- Consumer Reports Health and Best Buy Drugs: [UnionPlus.org/Health](http://UnionPlus.org/Health)
- Health Savings Programs: Call 1-877-570-4945 or visit [UnionPlus.org/HealthSavings](http://UnionPlus.org/HealthSavings)
- Hospital Care Grants: [UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE](http://UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE)
- Medical Bill Negotiation Service: [UnionPlus.org/BillNegotiator](http://UnionPlus.org/BillNegotiator)
- Online Prescription Discount Card: [UnionPlus.org/RxCARD](http://UnionPlus.org/RxCARD)
- Wellness Programs: [UnionPlus.org/HealthClubs](http://UnionPlus.org/HealthClubs)

# Ohio ARA Affiliates Public Actions Work for Community

**Submitted by: Norm Wernet**

During October Ohio ARA affiliates focused their energy and activities outward to the community providing information on health issues and resources, a public forum with experts on health care reform, support to the hungry, and toys for children the holiday season to come.

## Columbus

**Bakers' Local 57** retirees in Columbus Ohio heard the call for relief from a local food bank. The need was for cereal so children would not go to school hungry. Margaret Kipfinger reported that in a matter of days the retired members of Bakers Local 57 filled every inch of her car with boxes of cereal. "The Open Pantry was able to distribute this car load immediately," Kipfinger said.

The **Central Ohio Retiree Council** of 60 retiree leaders is collecting new toys from its members for the Central Ohio AFL-CIO One New Toy drive. "This annual event provides children under the age of 14 with a bit of holiday cheer in the midst of these hard times," said President Barb Davis

## Cleveland Senior Voice and Union Retiree Council

The **Senior Voice!** and **NorthShore Retiree Council** working group wrote and designed a health care reform flier that they put in circulation to residents at senior living facilities and seniors activity centers. This is part of the continuing weekly speakers bureau outreach on Medicare and Older Americans Health to retirees and seniors in the Greater Cleveland area with 2 to 3 engagements per week. Wally Kaufman, a retiree leader of **Painters District 6** reports the Ashtabula Retiree Council mailed out the flier and a speaker offer to 100 senior buildings and centers in Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties.

## Toledo

The **Alliance of Informed Citizens** held its fall public forum on Thursday morning October 15. Health Care - An Update was the focus in this ongoing Informed Citizens Listen - Do You Know series? With Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia becoming more prevalent, Dr Lynn Ritter walked the audience of 100 look through a set of behaviors and how to

cope in a more positive manner and keep the relationship alive as the diseases progress. Attorney General Richard Cordray spoke to the initiatives, [programs and resources](#) of the Ohio AG to work with us to prevent scams and pursue those who would take advantage of us as we age. The main event was a tag team presentation by Diane Lifsey of the **National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** and Sarah Byrne of **ARA** on the process, status, outline, and substantive content of healthcare reform legislation in Congress and its effects on seniors and retirees. Spending a full hour and taking questions throughout the time, the two Washington DC policy experts worked through the issues retirees have at stake.



## Warren-Youngstown Alliance for Senior Action

### **Retirement Income Security in Focus**

The Ohio ARA affiliate and regional collation-working group **Alliance for Senior Action** brokered a community

roundtable October 21 on behalf of the **Delphi Salaried Retirees Association** attended by 40 community leaders and retiree activists. OARA area leaders Melissa Long and Elizabeth Knauf (**IUE-CWA 717 Retirees**) participated in bringing the event together. The roundtable was convened to call attention to the continuing fight for fairness in pension and health security for all retirees of Delphi and GM caught in the web of mismanagement and corporate bankruptcy.

## **Fun With A Purpose – Senior Care Fair II**

The **Alliance for Senior Action** along with **Trumbull SCOPE** sponsored a Senior Care Fair at the Niles Eastwood Mall Community Room. The Senior Care Fair II – Fun With A Purpose – Promoting Concepts of Aging in Place had 31 exhibitors offering a wide range of services. The office of the Ohio Attorney General provided a speaker and tabled on the issue of preventing scams, fraud, elder abuse, and exploitation. The affiliate members of the **Ohio ARA** worked the crowd with information on health care reform. Before exiting the event the fairgoers were ask to sign an ARA postcard to the local members of Congress Tim Ryan and Charles Wilson. The **Delphi Salaried Retirees** gathered community signatures on a large letter of support that will be presented to the US Senate the last week of the month. The fair drew a crowd of over 500 in four hours.

# Union Members Work with USO Until Everyone Comes Home

**Submitted by: Nanette Folsom**

Since 1941, the USO of Northern Ohio has provided support to Ohioans that are serving our country. They cover 29 counties and provide an invaluable service to military personnel and their families, fast forward to 2009, and the need is for the USO is stronger than ever.

At the North Canton, Ohio USO Care Package Facility, over 10,000 care packages are sent on a yearly basis. All items in the care packages are donated by individuals, groups, businesses and corporations, and are packed by school children, volunteer groups and individuals. The care packages that are being assembled now are for the holidays, each box will contain 4 Christmas trees and assorted items, 2,000 trees were donated by Pat Catan's, and decorated by various volunteer groups.

While the care packages are full of donated items, the cost of mailing them is about \$5,000.00 a month and \$15,000.00 for the tree packages. The USO could use our help, please join us in donating; OAPSE Local 108 Garfield Heights City Schools donated \$500.00 and OAPSE Local 561 Orange City Schools donated \$1,000.00. The Tri-County CLC raffled off a pair of Ohio State football tickets for \$165.00 as a donation. AT&T donated \$5,000.00 for mailing and we are actively searching for donation sites at local shopping centers.

The AT&T Pioneers, a group of active and retired CWA members, are preparing and packing the trees now. Sandy

Howell, retired CWA 4302 member, has packed for 5 years and said "I do this because I want to help the troops who do so much for us". Rick Henderson, Korean War veteran, has worked as a volunteer since 2005; the Blue Star Mothers make it a regular packing session once a week all year long.



*Jeannie Soley USO program Manager Care Package Facility*

Sister and Brothers with your help we will send a "piece of home" to our Ohio military men and women, and be the family arms that reach out and support by donating to this worthwhile cause all year round. Visit the USO web site [www.usocleveland.org](http://www.usocleveland.org) for a list of needed items and donate them to the USO. Encourage your Local, CLC or ALF to donate, call upon your employer, friends and relatives to support those who are

serving. Remember your donations are used for our Ohio military men and women, your family, friends and neighbors.

For further information, please contact Jeannie Soley, Program Manager for the North Canton Care Package Facility at:  
330.497.7628 (business)  
440.454.2956 (cell)

For donations, please mail to:  
USO of Northern Ohio  
North Canton Care Package Facility  
4932 Hossler Drive NW  
North Canton, Ohio 44720

**(Please notate on checks donation is for mailing costs)**

## Jefferson County Central Labor Council

IBEW Local 246 Hall  
626 N. Fourth Street  
Steubenville, Oh.

Monday, November 16th @ 6:30 P.M.

### ATTENTION:

If your union represents workers who live or work in Jefferson, Carroll or Harrison Counties, please ask them to attend this very important meeting.

Guest Speakers:

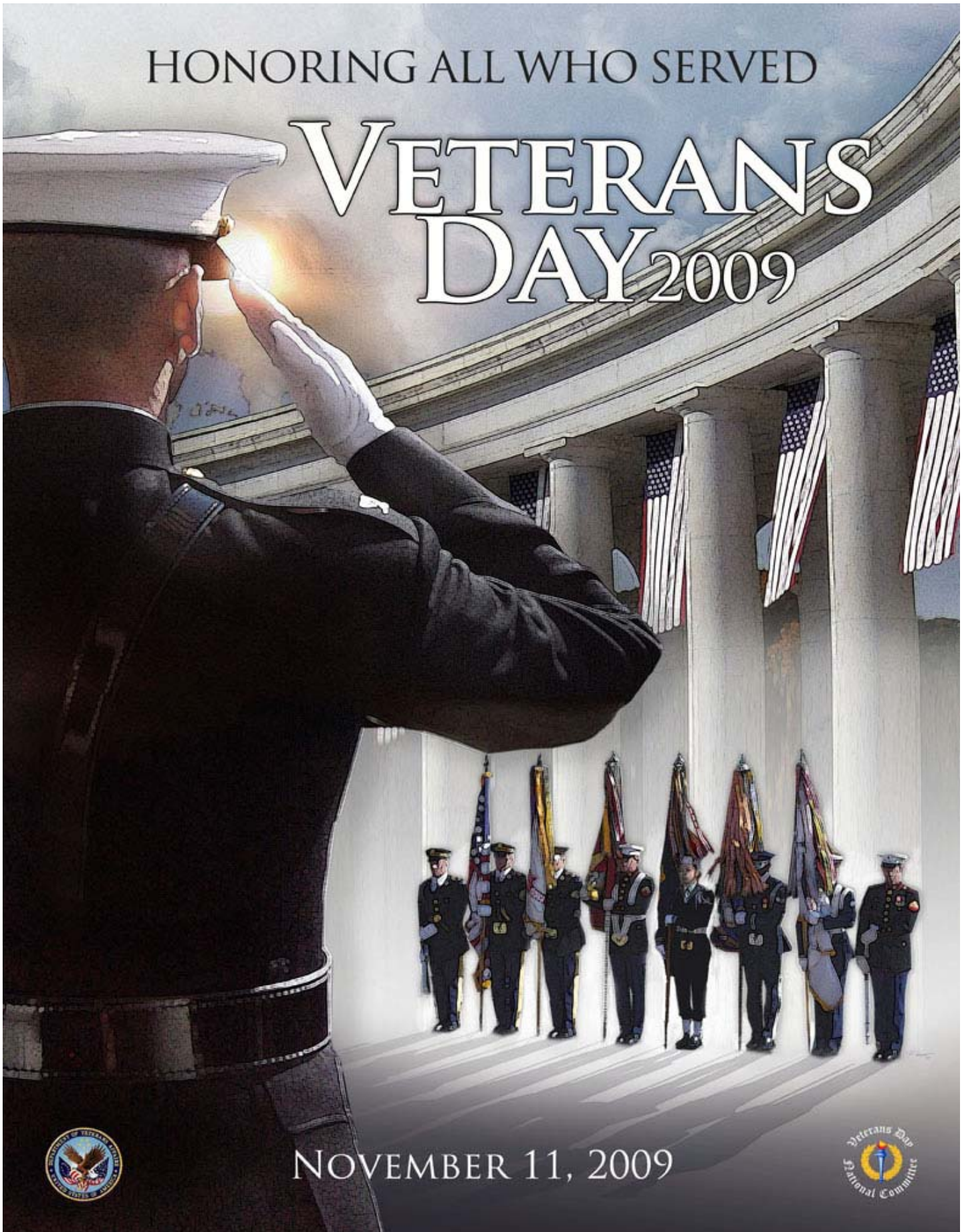
*Lou Gentile: Assistant Director Governor's Office of Appalachia*

*Bill Thompson: SE Regional Field Rep, Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response, Workforce Development*

*For more Information, Contact Kathy Derheimer, 330-323-5844*

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# VETERANS DAY 2009



NOVEMBER 11, 2009

