



Marquette County Labor Council

31 Forge Rd. • Negaunee, MI 49866 • mqlabor.org

Shana Alderton
President

Max Engle
1st Vice President

Kris Michaelson
2nd Vice President

Kathleen Carlson
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Larry Linna
Recording Secretary

Executive Board

Russ Williams
Suzanne Bowers
Jon LaSalle
Carlene Cousineau
Chris Wagner
Carolyn Hietamaki

Affiliates

Local 7
Sheetmetal Workers
Local 8
Iron Workers
Local 79
Service Employees
(Mather Nursing Center)
Local 169
Boilermakers
Local 324
Operating Engineers
Local 328
Teamsters
Local 506
Plumbers & Steamfitters
Local 510
IBEW (U.P.P.CO & Mqt. City Power)
Local 526-M
Service Employees
(Mqt. Branch Prison)
Local 574
Transport Workers Union
Local 643
Fire Fighters (Marquette City)
Local 885
AFSCME (Jacobetti Veteran's Facil.)
Local 1070
Electricians (IBEW)
Local 1094
AFSCME
(NMU Cust. & Food Service)
Local 1282
AFSCME (Ishpeming City)
Local 1415
AFSCME (Negaunee City)
Local 1613
AFSCME (County Health Dept.)
Local 1852
AFSCME (Mqt. City)
Local 1950
UAW (NMU Clerical)
Local 2145
UAW (Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI)
Local 2178
UAW (NMU Admin. & Tech.)
Local 2194
AFSCME (Health Care)
Local 2565
AFSCME (Area Schools)
Local 2724
AFSCME (Co. Road Commission)
Local 2914
AFSCME (Courthouse & Courts)
Local 3135
USWA (Forsyth Twp./Semco)
Local 3392
AFSCME (Marq. Tran)
Local 3496
AFSCME (Norlite Nursing Home)
Local 4025
Communications Workers
(Ameritech)
Local 4974
USWA (Tilden Mine)
MNA
Marquette General Hospital



LABOR DAY 1898

In 1898 Samuel Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor called it "the day for which the toilers in past centuries looked forward, when their rights and their wrongs would be discussed. . . that the workers of our day may not only lay down their tools of labor for a holiday, but upon which they may touch shoulders in marching phalanx and feel the stronger for it."

18TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY FESTIVAL 2007

The Marquette County Labor Council announces that the 18th annual Labor Day Festival will take place September 3, 2007. Festival Chairperson Russ Williams states, "The theme this year is \$O\$ - \$ave Our \$tate. Michigan's economic and budget crisis seriously threatens our future and quality of life. We support a budget that includes new revenues to protect education, health care and public safety."

The festival will be in Ishpeming at the Cliff's Shaft Museum and Lake Bancroft Park. This year's Parade Marshal is Shorty Gleason, President of the Michigan Building Trades. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m., beginning at the Cliff's Shaft Museum on Euclid Street. The parade route follows Euclid Street, down to Main, west on Division Street to Lakeshore Drive and back to the Cliff's Shaft Museum. Parade lineup is at 10:00 a.m. at Cliff's Shaft Museum parking lot. We encourage unions to get their members out to march in the parade and have vehicles and floats showcasing their Locals. Free coffee and cookies will be available to parade participants.

After the parade, a picnic and rally will take place from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. A \$4.00 lunch of either pasties or hot dogs, ice cream and pop or milk will be served. Adult beverages, additional pop and water will be available for \$1.00. The Daughters of the Nile will be selling cotton candy, snow-cones and popcorn. Entertainment will be provided by Fast Eddies Blues Band. We will hear speeches from some of our Union leaders and elected officials. FREE TOURS of Cliff's Shaft Museum will be available from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. There will be clowns, a bouncy tent, face painting and ladder golf for the kids.

MarqTran will provide rides from the Westwood Mall (JC Penneys area) in Marquette starting at 9:00 a.m. with a pick up at Lakeview School parking lot in Negaunee at 9:20 a.m. and again at 10:00 a.m. The bus will run at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Advance food tickets will be available at 10:00 a.m. the day of the event in the ticket tent located on the Cliff's Shaft grounds. Watch for the signs and look for the tent with sides.

We would like to thank all the Locals who have donated money and volunteer hours in the past years, without their support we would not be able to continue this great event. We are looking for Locals to donate money or volunteer time to this year's event.

"It is important for union members and ALL working people to gather and celebrate Labor Day. Russ reminds us, "Labor Day is a testament to all the great things labor can accomplish when we stand together. I HOPE ALL WORKING PEOPLE come to the Labor Day Festival in Ishpeming to celebrate and enjoy the day."

Questions about the Labor Day Festival can be directed to Russ Williams, Labor Day Chairperson at 475-9518.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY MARQUETTE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

The Marquette County Labor Council will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The council was chartered November 9, 1957. Plans are in the beginning stages for a celebration. Watch for more details.

UPPER PENINSULA
LABOR HALL OF FAME

You're Invited...

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Induction Banquet of the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame on **Saturday, October 20, 2007.**

The U.P. Labor Hall of Fame was established in 1993 at Northern Michigan University to recognize unionists who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of worker dignity and workplace fairness. Since then trade unionists who have made a difference in striving to improve the lives of workers in the U.P. have been selected each year for induction to the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame.

This year, Louis Fine is being honored for his significant contributions by being inducted into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame. This is a very high honor, and your presence at this celebration would be extremely important.

This very special event will take place at the **Great Lakes Rooms, Don H. Bottum University Center, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan.** A social hour with cash bar will begin at **5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m.** Induction ceremonies will take place immediately following the dinner.

Tickets for this event are **\$35.00 per person** and can be purchased by filling out the registration form below. Checks should be made payable to **The U.P. Labor Hall of Fame.** We hope you can join us for this momentous occasion.

-
- () We enclosing payment for _____ reservations to attend the Induction Banquet and Ceremony on October 20.
- () We wish to make _____ reservations to attend the Induction Banquet and Ceremony and will pay at the door. *If reservations are made and you do not attend, YOU WILL BE BILLED as payment to NMU is based on the number of seats reserved.*
- () We cannot attend but wish to make a contribution in the amount of _____ to the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame.

Please make checks payable to the **MCLC — Labor Hall of Fame** and mail to the following address:

**U.P. Labor Hall of Fame
Marquette County Labor Council
31 Forge Road
Negaunee, MI 49866**

OR

Fax: (906) 225-1530

Email: sharvala@chartermi.net

Names of those attending and affiliation:

AFSCME GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

On June 18, 19, 20, 2007 the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees held a leadership conference in Washington DC.

I was fortunate to attend along with Shana Alderton and Sue Christenson, also from the UP. There were over 2000 AFSCME members in attendance from all over the United States. We gathered there to learn more about politics and the issues important to working people in America.

We arrived a day early and decided to do some sightseeing along with three trolls. We saw the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and the White House. Our nation's capital is a very impressive city, but we had work to do.

Monday morning AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee addressed the conference. He stated the need for 40,000 [YES forty-thousand] UNION POLITICAL ACTIVISTS to be ready for the 2008 elections. As public employees we have the opportunity to pick our bosses. To neglect that opportunity would be a travesty. President McEntee talked about healthcare, job security, privatization, schools and protecting our pensions. These are the quality of life issues which is what our UNION is all about. He discussed how it was important to choose candidates who support our issues from dogcatcher to President of the United States.

In the afternoon we had our choice of 19 workshops to attend. I attended Pension Protection and Privatization. I just wish there was time to attend more as these were very informative. That evening there was a PEOPLE [Public Employees Organized to Promote legislative Equality] Reception. PEOPLE is the political arm of AFSCME. This is how we get involved and stay informed on the candidates. I would urge everyone to become a member. Donations can be for any amount, but the important thing is to be involved. Then we hopped on the subway to go see the Detroit Tigers. They beat the Washington National 9 to 8. Shana also got into a cheering contest with a 10-year-old.

Tuesday morning was our Presidential forum. Chris Mathews was the moderator. Each of the candidates got an opportunity to address our conference. They each got a 3 minute opening statement, then Mr. Mathews asked them questions for 20 minutes, then they each got 3 minutes for a closing statement. The questions were about healthcare, privatization, social security and other union issues. We heard from Bill Richardson, Dennis Kucinich, John Edwards, Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton. All the candidates were very impressive and knowledgeable on our issues. I know any of them would be more compassionate and understanding to working people than the person we have now. Their combined average for voting on union issues correctly is almost 100 percent. Later that afternoon we attended a labor rally for the Employee Free Choice Act. This would make it easier for employees to form unions and free them from some of the strong-arm tactics employers use to stop them. We were bused from our hotel to the upper Senate Park where we were joined by thousands of other union members from numerous different unions. After some screaming and shouting Senator Clinton addressed the rally with support of the Employee Free Choice Act. It was killed in the senate later that week. Then we went to Representative Bark Stupak's office to discuss union issues with him. I am proud to say he supports our issues as his voting record will clearly attest to.

Wednesday morning Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the House of Representative, addressed us at breakfast as did Rep. Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota. Then we were headed for the airport and back to the U.P.

I deal with people every day that know how to complain and criticize. It does not take a lot of effort to identify problems. What takes effort is to fix the problems. Become an active UNION member and join. Given the opportunity YOUR UNION will provide you with the tools you need to make it happen. We need to take our U.P. Power to the campaign trail in 2008. We can start by attending. We can show them that the Upper Peninsula is ready to take the lead in returning our country to the hard working folks that built it.

Russ Williams, Patriot and Union Activist



Leaders Urge Congress, Bush to Reauthorize Health Insurance for Children

by James Parks, Jul 25, 2007



Nine million of America's children have no health insurance—and a broad coalition of groups came together on Capitol Hill today to send an important message: Health care coverage for our nation's children is something everyone should agree on.

The coalition is urging Congress to pass, and President Bush to sign, legislation to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and provide coverage for a vulnerable population our nation cannot afford to neglect—our children.



The 10-year-old SCHIP program, on which some 6.6 million low-income children now rely for health care, is set to expire Sept. 30—and Bush repeatedly has threatened to veto bipartisan legislation that would renew the program.

The bill, approved July 19 by the Senate Finance Committee, provides an additional \$35 billion over current costs for five years and would extend coverage to 3.2 million more children. Click here to read the full story.

The SCHIP program has strong public support. Nearly two-thirds of voters surveyed late last week said they think Bush would be doing the wrong thing if he vetoed the legislation. Eight in 10 voters surveyed say they believe that such a high number of uninsured children represents a crisis or very serious problem. More than six in 10 voters say the current health care system is

not meeting the needs of children.

The national public opinion survey was conducted on behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) by Public Opinion Strategies Inc.

At a Washington, D.C., press conference this morning where leaders of unions, religious and community groups called on Congress to reauthorize the program, AFL-CIO

President John Sweeney said federal funding for SCHIP needs to be reauthorized

with enough money to cover all the kids who are being kicked out of the health coverage their parents used to get at work. As a nation, we need much more than that—we need a comprehensive national system that guarantees health care for all and does not depend on private coverage purchased by employers who are squeezed in brutally competitive markets by the unsustainably high cost of care.

Also at the press conference, Carol Keenan, president and chief executive officer of CHA, said:

We stand united because we believe Congress and the president should do the right thing for our children and our nation—reauthorize a critically important program that is supported by the vast majority of voters.

Bush says he will veto the bill because, as he told *The Washington Post*, expanding coverage to more uninsured children "opens an avenue for people to switch from private insurance" to SCHIP. Bush also has been squeezed as saying the children cut out of SCHIP could get medical attention at emergency rooms.

Veteran and influential Republican Sens. Charles Grassley (Iowa), ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, and Orrin Hatch (Utah) have publicly urged Bush to withdraw his veto threat. Instead, Bush insists Congress agrees to his funding level of SCHIP in his budget proposal, which will force about 100,000 children out of the program, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Not only does a lack of insurance affect children's health, it hurts their education as well, says AFT President Edward McElroy:

We still have children coming to school who are underfed, uncared for and whose illnesses are untreated. Without addressing those needs, it is much more difficult to address their educational needs. We cannot expect to improve children's lives and children's education if we—as a society—aren't prepared to tackle problems like poverty, health care and nutrition.

Rev. Eileen Lindner, deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches, says renewal of SCHIP is a moral issue.

Health care for our children is a moral issue for the nation. National leadership must be accountable to enable the health coverage children need to live the lives for which they were created.

In a letter to the Senate Finance Committee, AFL-CIO Legislative Director William Samuel says the Senate bill is

...well-targeted to extend coverage to millions of children. However, we would like to see the funding level increase to the full \$50 billion allowed under the (fiscal year) 2008 budget resolution, which would reach even more of the 9 million uninsured children in this country.

The House version of the bill does include the \$50 billion funding level in the budget resolution.

Marquette County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

31 Forge Rd. • Negaunee, MI 49866

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #157
Marquette, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



~ \$0\$ ~
\$AVE OUR \$TATE

If you know of anyone not receiving our newsletter, please send the name and address to:
Marquette County Labor Council, 31 Forge Rd., Negaunee, MI 49866