

# The Professionals Guild of Ohio



## PGO UNION NEWS

**June 2013**

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Published by  
Professionals Guild  
of Ohio  
P.O. Box 7139  
Columbus, Ohio 43205

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Questions or comments can  
be directed to the Executive  
Director.

**E-Mail:**

[cmason@professionalsguild.org](mailto:cmason@professionalsguild.org)

**Website:**

[www.professionalsguild.org](http://www.professionalsguild.org)

**Like us on Facebook**

**Phone:**

614-258-4401 or  
800-331-5428

**Fax:**

614-258-4465

*Produced and printed in-  
house by members of the  
PGO Staff Employees Union*

### **Right to Work Update**

Sponsors of the two so-called "right to work" (for less) bills heard testimony on Tuesday from opponents of the bill, and only opponents. Not one supporter, other than the sponsors of the two right to work bills, spoke in favor of the legislation. Representative Roegner, a sponsor of one of the bills, admitted following the hearing that she didn't think there would be another hearing and Senate President Faber has already publicly stated that he believed the bills would not pass because they lacked the support required to make it out of committee.

Several hundred union members from around the state attended the hearings to oppose the legislation. The Republican party reportedly is not interested in right to work at this time and Governor Kasich has stated that it is not a part of his agenda (funny thing, Michigan's governor said the exact same thing shortly before he enacted a right to work law in that state).

We must remain vigilant because this war on workers will not end any time soon. It is important that we continue to call our elected officials and tell them how detrimental right to work would be for the middle class and all of Ohio. Please contact your

state representative or senator and express your opposition to right to work (for less).

### **Sequestration Cuts Felt In Ohio**

President Obama signed a budget bill in August 2011 that raised the debt ceiling in exchange for an agreement for Congress to either reach a compromise on how to reduce the deficit or cut federal spending by March 1, 2013. When an agreement wasn't reached on how to reduce the deficit, automatic spending cuts went into effect on March 1, 2013, beginning what is now commonly referred to as the sequester.

The spending cuts applied to both domestic and defense related spending, totaling 1.2 trillion dollars in reductions to most government budgets over nine years. Low income Ohioans are feeling the effects of sequester. Nearly two hundred children will lose their spot at Head Start in Cincinnati after final budget cuts go into effect. One hundred forty staff members at the Head Start agency in Tiffin have received their pink slips.

Other programs that receive federal funding also have been affected by the sequester. The 2013 Cleveland Air Show has been cancelled, an

event many in the Cleveland area look forward to each year. The Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Industry program laid-off twenty-eight people after funding cuts were made to the General Services Administration, the agency that funds the program.

The effects of the sequester will continue until Congress puts a stop to this madness and decides that people's lives and livelihoods are more important than how long their wait is at the airport.

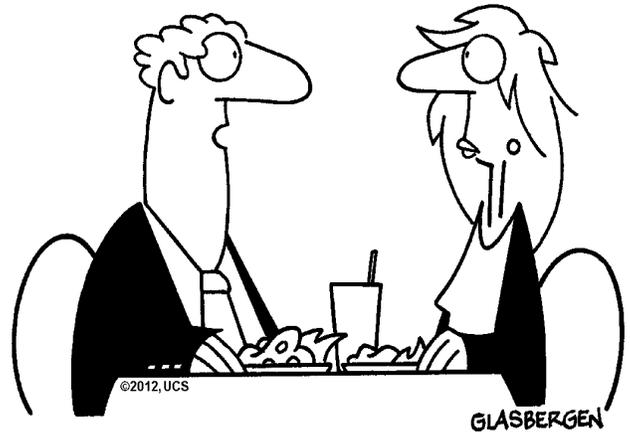
**States Lose \$5.1 Billion In Grants Due to Sequestration**

Education, infrastructure and public safety are on the chopping block as twenty-five states see declining grant funding in Fiscal Year 2013. In *What do current federal funding levels in the wake of sequestration mean for state budgets?* Rebecca Thiess, EPI federal budget policy analyst, finds that sequestration means a loss of \$5.1 billion in grants for state governments in fiscal 2013.

Grants provide roughly one-third of total state revenues and are one of the main ways the federal government provides aid to states; states in turn rely on federal grants to fund infrastructure improvements, education, social services and public safety efforts. Though sequestration spares some programs, including Medicaid—which accounts for a large portion of grants to states—many programs operated at the state and local level will feel the effects. Each state will experience different impacts, and many will face tough choices, including whether to cut education, infrastructure, public safety or other key programs, as they seek to make up ground for funding losses. “Unfortunately, our fiscal policies are being determined in the aftermath of manufactured crises, rather than through deliberative processes,” said Thiess. “Sequestration hits people where it hurts—in this case, by limiting states’ ability to provide necessary and vital services on which millions of families rely. Lurching from fiscal crisis to crisis is no way to ensure that we’re providing or planning for essential government services.”

The five states with the largest percentage of cuts to grants are Louisiana, Indiana, Maine, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. On average, those states face an estimated funding loss of 4.5 percent in FY2013, or \$402 million per state, relative to FY2012.

*Source: Economic Policy Institute, May 29, 2013.*



“I wouldn’t mind working for minimum wage. For a CEO, minimum wage is \$500,000.”

**CEO Compensation**

*By Amelia Woodward, Esq., PGO Field Representative*

The average American worker has seen personal income decline since the Great Recession began. A housing crisis that evaporated 12 trillion dollars of household wealth has hurt middle class families in the pocketbook. But, a bad economy hasn’t dented the incomes of the top one percent, and in fact, those incomes have sky-rocketed since the economy started its free-fall five years ago.

The AFL-CIO maintains a website that tracks CEO pay by state. In Ohio, the average person earned \$39,046 in 2012. The average CEO in Ohio was paid \$6,262,232, or 160 times more than the average Ohioan. Ohio’s highest paid CEO was Michael Jeffries of Abercrombie and Fitch, coming in at more than 48 million dollars.

While CEOs continue to reap the benefits of a low corporate tax rate, working Americans continue to struggle to make ends meet. What can workers do to get a better deal? The AFL-CIO has a plan to effect the change we need. We must demand that Congress tax corporations’ off-shore accounts, investment income and profits from financial speculation to generate the revenue needed to invest in infrastructure and education over the next six years. ORGANIZE a Union and agitate to repeal anti-labor laws. Demand and buy products made in America. And, last but not least, demand Congress regulate Wall Street. One person may not get heard, but everyone standing together and speaking in unison surely will get the attention of those who can get this job done.

*Source: www.aflcio.org.*

**Election Results in PGO Councils**

Congratulations to the following members for being elected to office in their respective councils.

**PGO Council 3, Cuyahoga Falls Library:**

President: *Amy Walker*  
 Vice President: *Joni Kennedy*  
 Secretary-Treasurer: *David Parvin*  
 Steward/Professional: *Jen Morton*  
 Steward/ Para-Professional: *Donna Imhoff*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *David Parvin*

**PGO Council 6, Lucas County Veterans Service****Commission:**

Chief Steward: *Sonya Jenkins*  
 Steward: *Kevin Chadwick*

**PGO Council 8, Guernsey County Children Services:**

President: *Roy Higgins*  
 Vice President: *Hilaree Homko*  
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Kim Feldner*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *Johnna Denbow*  
 Steward: *Jamie Miller*

**PGO Council 10, Greene County Children Services:**

President: *Jenny Otto*  
 Vice President: *Shane Caldwell*  
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Karen Kibler*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *Greg Yoxthimer*  
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Elizabeth Jackson*

**PGO Council 12, Montgomery County Children Services:**

President: *Eric Kanthak*  
 Vice President: *Dan Rice*  
 Secretary: *Jane Hay*  
 Treasurer: *Tara Twitty*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *Dan Rice*  
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Dan Rice*

**PGO Council 16, Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities:**

President: *Mark Shrivvers*  
 Vice President: *Audra Harrison*  
 Second Vice President: *Greg Brown*

**PGO Council 18, Henry County Children Services:**

Chief Steward: *Kirsten Ruby*  
 Assistant Steward: *Amy Westhoven*

**PGO Council 19, Northridge Local Schools (Montgomery County):**

President: *Cathy Larson*  
 Vice President: *David Davis*  
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Cheryl Shriver*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *Desiree Schirack*  
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Annie Kirk*  
 Steward: *Annie Kirk*

**PGO Council 20, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities:**

President: *Chad Maness*  
 Vice President: *Pierre Winninghan*  
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Shelia Brannon*  
 Executive Board Delegates: *Jessie Nellum*  
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Patty Burcham*  
 Chief Steward: *Ronald Bonner*  
 Stewards: *Darrell Daniel, Pat Hooks, Lamar Mobley and Pierre Winninghan*

**PGO Council 21, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities (EIS Unit):**

President: *Mindy Flora*  
 Vice President: *Stephen Wendland*  
 Secretary: *Christine O-Anderson*  
 Executive Board Delegate: *Bev Nagel*

Thank you for stepping up for your Union and co-workers by accepting these important jobs. We look forward to working with each of you over the next two years.



**Summer Vacations**

*By Amelia Woodward, Esq., PGO Field Representative*

Summer is here, and if you haven't already done so, now is a good time to plan that beach vacation to help rejuvenate your mind and body. A new website is now available that can link you to union made goods and services. Labor411.org has compiled extensive lists of a variety of union made or union run companies, including city directories. The website features the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco, which are great west coast cities to explore for landlocked Ohioans on vacation.

The union hotel guide on the web now has its own app for iPhone. Search the iPhone App Store for "UNITE HERE" and download the app for free! Guests will be able to search for hotels that employ union members. If you don't have a smart phone, you can go to <http://www.hotelworkersrising.org/HotelGuide/index.php> for updates on whether a hotel you book is on the "Please patronize" list, or if the hotel's employees are on strike, on the boycott list, or at risk of a dispute.

Remember to review your collective bargaining agreement for provisions regarding vacation. The vacation article may specify how many days or weeks in advance you must provide notice for taking vacation, how to request vacation time, how much vacation time may be taken at one time, etc. Check to make sure you have enough vacation time to take and that you are accumulating vacation time in accordance with the contract. Should you have any questions about vacations under your contract, please contact your local Union leadership or the Columbus PGO office.



**Individual Union Rights**

*By Amelia Woodward, Esq., PGO Field Representative*

Signing a union membership card and becoming a member of your union entitles you to certain rights and privileges that non-members do not have. As a member, you can run for statewide or local office in your democratically run union, you can vote on the ratification of tentative agreements and in elections for officers. But, you also have rights if you are representing employees in grievances or if you are engaging in protected, concerted activity.

If you are representing a bargaining unit employee in grievances, you stand equal to management during that representation. This means that a union representative can vigorously advocate for employees in meetings with management in a representative capacity. Some examples of behavior that are acceptable when a union member is engaged in representation include speaking forcefully, gesturing, using salty language, challenging management's truthfulness, threatening legal action or raising the possibility of group protest.

Concerted activity is a protected right in both a union workplace, and in non-union work places. Concerted activity is anything that employees do together to improve working conditions, to collectively bargain a contract or for mutual aid and protection. Employers that retaliate against employees for engaging in concerted activity violate the law and will be sued.

There are many rights employees are entitled to that are not laid out in a union contract. If you have a question about your rights, please contact your local Union leadership or the Columbus PGO office.

**PGO Executive Board Meeting**

The next PGO Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:30 A.M., at the offices of the Professionals Guild of Ohio, 1471 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

**Going Through Changes? Let Us Know**

Has your name changed? Have you moved? Do you have a new telephone number? If so, please let our office know. Help us maintain accurate membership files by contacting the PGO office to update your personal contact information. Keeping us informed will allow us to serve you better.