

The Professionals Guild of Ohio



PGO UNION NEWS

June/July 2017

PGO Officers:

President
Eric Kanthak

Vice President
Joe DeStazio

Secretary
Lynn Pinkelman

Treasurer
Dan Rice

Executive Director
Chauncey M. Mason

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PGO Elects Officers

PGO members have voted to return current office-holders to the executive board. All incumbents have been reelected and will continue to serve new two year terms that will run from June 20, 2017 through June 19, 2019.

Eric Kanthak, PGO Council 12 (Montgomery County Children Services) will continue as our president. **Joe DeStazio**, PGO Council 13 (Lucas County Children Services) will continue to serve as vice president. **Lynn Pinkelman**, PGO Council 13, will remain the secretary. And, **Dan Rice**, PGO Council 12, will continue to be our treasurer.

Congratulations goes out to these outstanding members on their reelections.

GOP Leader Admits Prevailing Wage Repeal Hasn't Saved Money

The Republican-led Wisconsin State Senate is debating a repeal of prevailing wage laws for public works projects. (Senate Bill 216). Once again, the arguments advanced in support of stripping rights from workers don't seem to hold water. In 2015, Indiana passed a similar law and now a video has surfaced from a recent forum in Milwaukee, where Indiana's House Assistant Majority Leader Ed Soliday

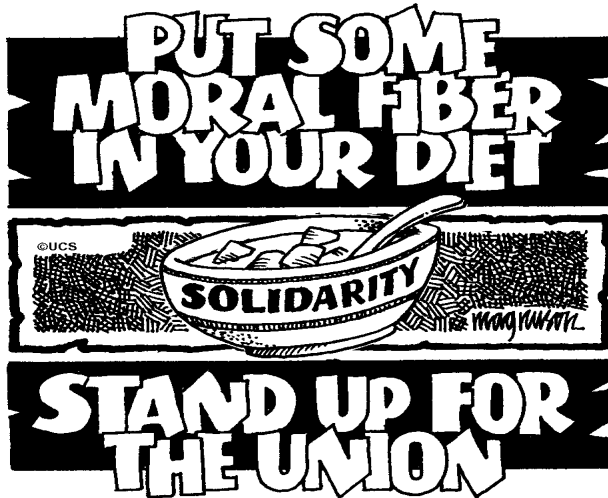
(R) admits that the prevailing wage repeal in his state didn't save a penny.

Here's what Soliday said:

We got rid of prevailing wage and so far it hasn't saved a penny. Probably the people most upset with us repealing [prevailing] wage were the locals. Because the locals, quite frankly, like to pay local contractors and they like local contractors to go to the dentist in their own town.

The exaggerations in those hearings that we were going save 22 percent, well, total labor costs right now in road construction is about 22 percent, and I haven't noticed anyone who's going to work for free. [They claim] there's some magic state out there that's going to send all these workers in to work for \$10 an hour and it's just not going to happen. There's not 22 percent savings out there when the total cost of labor is 22 percent. It's rhetoric. So far, I haven't seen a dime of savings out of it.

Current analysis of the proposed Wisconsin legislation shows that \$1.2 billion will be lost annually if the bill passes because of reduced economic activity. Study of the Indiana repeal shows that the state lost jobs because of it. The State of Kentucky also saw a similar affect on new construction jobs after it repealed its prevailing wage requirement.



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: *Jen Morton*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Katie Bear*
 Steward/Professional: *Angela Williams*
 Steward/ Para-Professional: *Mary Baldwin*
 Executive Board/AFL-CIO Delegate: *Jen Morton*

PGO Council 6, Lucas County Veterans Service Comission

Chief Steward: *Jana Oyerbides*
 Steward: *Jason Trehan*

PGO Council 8, Guernsey County Children Services:

President: *Kim Feldner*
 Vice President: *Krissy Myers*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Ashley Tyo*
 Executive Board Delegate: *Elissa Mallett*
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Elissa Mallett*

PGO Council 10, Greene County Children Services:

President: *Karen Kibler*
 Vice President: *Kate Mezera*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Cassandra Ewing*
 Executive Board Delegate: *Amanda Ray*
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Kiley Everett*

PGO Council 15, Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility:

President: *Derrick Ford*
 Vice President: *Henry King*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Brooke Hearn*

Stewards: *Derrick Ford; Orlando Evans;* and *Larry Taylor*

Executive Board Delegate: *Kennedy Oliver*
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Lott Smith*

PGO Council 16, Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities:

President: *David McNelly*
 Vice President: *Margaret Casey*
 Second Vice President: *Kathleen Carlson*

PGO Council 17, Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities:

President: *Frank Raynor*
 Vice President: *Pam King*

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

President: *Cathy Larson*
 Vice President: *David Davis*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Cheryl Shriver*
 Executive Board Delegate: *Amanda Winegarner*
 AFL-CIO Delegate: *Cheryl Shriver*
 Stewards: *Amanda Winegarner* and *Lisa Ehrhart*

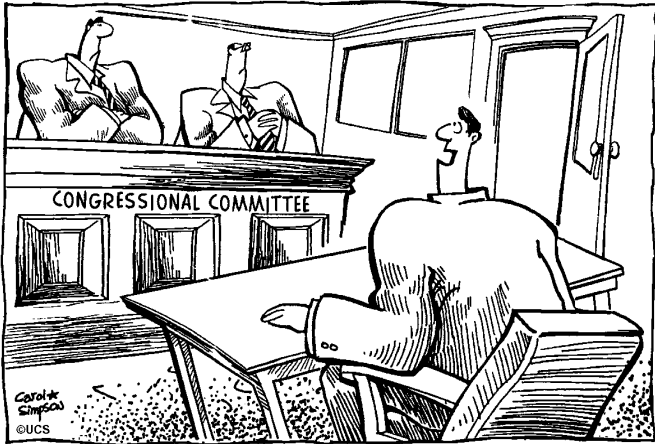
PGO Council 21, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities (EIS Unit):

President: *Mindy Flora*
 Vice President: *Beverly Nagel*
 Secretary-Treasurer: *Christine Obregon-Anderson*
 Chief Steward: *Chris Robison*
 Steward: *Beverly Nagel*
 Executive Board Delegate: *Debbie Trent*

Thanks for standing 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.



"My teacher claims I wasn't paying attention to whatever it was she was teaching."



"It's true I paid no taxes last year. That's what employees are for."

CEO's Get Excessive Pay Raises (Again)

The typical chief executive officer at the biggest U.S. companies got an 8.5 percent raise last year, raking in \$11.5 million in salary, stock, and other compensation last year, according to a study by executive data firm Equilar for the Associated Press. That's the biggest raise in three years.

Over the last five years, median CEO pay in the survey has jumped by 19.6 percent, not accounting for inflation. That's nearly double the typical 10.9 percent rise in the typical weekly paycheck for full-time employees across the country.

"It's all out of whack right now," said Heather Slavkin Corzo, director of the AFL-CIO Office of Investment, which says CEOs for major U.S. companies make 347 times more than the average worker.

The highest paid executive in the survey totaled \$98 million, about \$88 million of that from stock and options.

Seven of Top Ten Ohio Jobs Are Low Paying

Policy Matters Ohio recently reported that seven out of the top ten occupations in Ohio are now low-wage jobs. In 2000, four out of the top ten were low-wage jobs. The report was based on U.S. Labor Department and other government data.

"You can't look at the most common occupations and then look at the changes and say everything is okay in terms of what people are making," said Hannah Halbert, the non-profit's lead work-force

researcher, who wrote the report. "People aren't getting paid enough."

"Seven of the ten largest occupational categories paid so little in 2016 that a family of three would struggle," she said. "They would qualify for such things as food assistance."

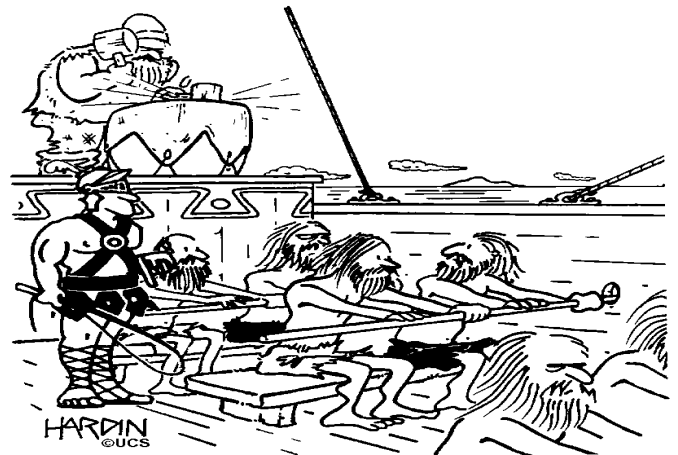
The report ranked the top ten occupations in both 2000 and 2016 based on how far their annual median earnings were above the poverty rate. In 2016, the poverty rate for a family of three was \$20,160. Jobs were considered moderate paying if median earnings were at least 130 percent above poverty. That meant a worker would have to had made at least \$26,125 a year.

In 2016, the jobs on the top ten list that had less than 130 percent of poverty were: food preparation and serving worker, including fast-food worker; retail sales worker; cashier; laborer and material handler; waiters; custodian; and stock clerk/order fillers.

Eight Men Own Half the World's Wealth

Eight men own as much wealth as half the population of the world, according to Oxfam. Some other eye-popping stats from the same report: the world's richest one percent owns more than the bottom 99 percent, and the combined revenue of the ten biggest global corporations is more than the government revenue of 180 countries combined.

Oxfam is calling for increased taxes on the mega-rich and an end to tax havens.



"Personally, I don't see that management got anything out of those Sensitivity Training workshops."

Trump Leads Republican Effort to Weaken Unions

The “new” administration in America’s White House has encouraged a revival of old legislation rejected by the prior administration. Now, the Employee Rights Act has been resurrected by Republican law makers.

Supporters of the sharply divisive piece of legislation say it will improve the rights of American workers by reducing the sway of unions at workplaces and altering many union voting procedures. Its main sponsor, Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) said the bill would counteract the many Obama administration policies that, in Roe’s opinion, tilted toward organized labor.

Roe relies on the time worn anti-union rhetoric of “protecting the rights of workers” and of “fostering a pro-growth, pro-employee” environment. “This legislation will ensure individuals’ rights are upheld when considering whether or not they wish to join a union,” Roe says.

The so-called Employee Rights Acts seeks to revise union election rules to speed up certification votes. It would also require a union trying to organize a workplace to win a majority support of all eligible voters — not just the majority of those who actually vote.

The legislation would also require unions to regularly hold re-certification votes and ensure that all elections are secret ballot.

Not surprisingly, anti-labor groups have praised the proposed legislation, while the AFL-CIO is particularly outraged by the provision that said voters who stayed home for union elections would be counted as casting a “no” ballot.

“If political elections were held in this fashion, virtually no one would have been elected, because the number of people who stay home, leave ballot sections blank or vote for someone else outstrips the number of votes officeholders receive,” the AFL-CIO wrote in response to a pro-ERA op-ed.

AFL-CIO President Calls Talks With Trump “Not Very Satisfying”

The head of the country's largest organization of labor unions, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, described recent talks with President Trump about manufacturing in the United States as “not very satisfying.”

“He [President Trump] only talked about eliminating regulations,” Trumka said. “He thought if he

did that, manufacturing would come out. But he didn't understand — or at least we didn't talk about — how everything interacts: how trade policy and tax policy and infrastructure all interact with manufacturing.”

In his speech at a Penn State – Fayette commencement, Trumka told graduates about hard work, learning to listen and fostering dialogue. “These core values are being threatened today by politicians who refuse to work with one another for the good of the people they pledged to serve,” Trumka said during his 10-minute address. “It's being threatened in a media bubble, where ideas are reinforced rather than challenged.”

Trumka grew up in Greene County Pennsylvania and attended Penn State Fayette while working graveyard shifts at a nearby coal mine. As leader of the 12.5 million member AFL-CIO, Trumka has met several times with Trump as both candidate and president to discuss the state of labor in America.

Trumka said he and the President spoke about “virtually every issue you can think of: immigration, infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, all the health and safety standards that he was eliminating on things like silica and beryllium — things that hurt workers.” Trumka gave Trump a 25-page list of issues the AFL-CIO feels negatively affect U.S. workers.

Despite some concerns, Trumka stated that “the future for organized labor in the United States is very bright. More and more people are looking to unions, especially young people, as a solution to their problems.” “Wages have been stagnant for three or four decades; the economy is not working for most working people,” Trumka said. “The rules of the economy need to be revisited to give everyone a chance.”

Trumka said the AFL-CIO's goal is to allow all workers the chance to collectively bargain with employers, regardless of whether they are in a union. “Right now, unless you're in a union, you don't have the right to bargain for better wages, better conditions and more secure retirement,” he said. “We're going to work to get that. And when we do, you'll see wages rising and the economy start to grow, because it's workers' wages that drive this economy.”