

Newsletter of the AFL-CIO

Central New York Labor Council

Serving the Mohawk Valley since 1882

September-October 2013

This is a second 2-month issue. It's jam packed with news that you have to check out

Gompers Awards - 2013: 11 recipients

On September 13, eleven Gompers distinguished service medals were awarded in a gala ceremony at the UFCW Local One headquarters in Oriskany. It's always a special evening when dedicated unionists are recognized for their work on behalf of their fellow workers and their communities. This year was no exception. Receiving Gompers medals were Suzy Spilker Ballantyne and Amy Desjardins of the NYS AFL-CIO, Lisha Brown and Sam Meakim of the United Mine Workers, Local 717, Todd Burt of the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 112, Larry Custadero of the Utica Teachers Association/NYSUT, Bill Chanatry, owner of Chanatry's Market, Alison Doughtie of the MVCC Professional Association, Ron Durkee of the Communication Workers of America, Local 1126, Tom Slocum of the United Auto Workers, Local 2367, and the second year apprentice class of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 43. Pictured below are the happy recipients of the class of 2013 including three members of the IBEW apprentice class. Congratulations and our sincere thanks for your commitment to unionism. The service you provide to your fellow



workers is priceless. This annual event is always a joyous affair. The only thing that could make it even better is a larger class of recipients but that's up to our many affiliate locals. We hope that as the years pass along, so many locals will recognize their individual all-star performers that the banquet room at UFCW Local One will be too small to accommodate all the attendees. Until that is the case, we will continue to enjoy a special evening of celebration and fellowship in union hall decked out with banners of all the affiliates in attendance. Being there you can feel the joy and camaraderie in the room. The one message that permeates the room is "We are ONE."



Gompers (continued)

The evening ended with Bill Perrotti from the MVCCPA leading everyone at the dinner in a rousing rendition of "Solidarity Forever." Hopefully this marks the start of a new tradition at all future Gompers dinners. And the promise for next year is that there will be fewer verses and larger fonts. Several photos from the evening appear at the right and below.



CWA recipient Ron Durkee (below)



Words of wisdom from President Emeritus Jim Cook



UFCW's Frank DeRiso opens the evening



Suzy Spilker Ballantyne, NYS AFL-CIO accepting her medal from Council President Pat Costello



From the young to the old... Tom Slocum, UAW, accepts his award



Proud UMWA recipients Lisha Brown and Sam Meakim



Plumbers & Pipefitters' Todd Burt receives his medal from Tom Zalocha



The finale... *Solidarity Forever*



A happy Larry Custadero, Utica Teachers Association, happily displays his medal



IBEW, Local 43... The next generation standing tall with proud mentor Pat Costello



MVCCPA president Norma Chrisman recognizes past president Alison Doughtie

Now all that's left to say is... Let's double the number of Gompers medals awarded next year. We all know that in every local, there is someone doing that special work, going that extra mile or just inspiring fellow members by example. Well... Don't you think it's time to recognize that kind of union spirit.

MVCCPA Labor Film Series

Each semester the MVCCPA sponsors the showing of three films that depict union or workingman themes. This semester's offerings are *North Country* (already shown), *Triangle: Remembering the Fire* (Thursday, October 3rd), and *Matewan* (Wednesday, November 6th). *Triangle* is showing this Thursday at 6PM. It is a film every union member should see. Nothing could communicate the need for unions, collective bargaining, and workplace protections more clearly than this recounting of the horrible 1911 tragedy. Each selection begins with a brief 10-15 minute presentation about the film and its significance. People are welcome to



remain after the viewing to talk about what they have seen and its impact. Admission to the general public is \$5. *Triangle* will be shown in room 225 of the Information Technology Building on the Utica campus (not in the theater, but in the same building). Hope to see some of you there. *Triangle* is a must-see.

Labor Council: 2013 candidate endorsements

After two weeks of candidate interviews by COPE committee members, the Labor Council finalized its candidate endorsements at its September meeting. Participating in the screenings were members of the IBEW Local 43, UMW, Local 717, UFCW Local One, and the MVCCPA/NYSUT. The endorsements follow.

For Utica Common Council:

- At-large: Ed Bucciero
- At-large: Jack LoMedico
- At-large: Frank Meola
- 4th District: Joe Marino
- 6th District: Samantha Colosimo-Testa

For Utica Comptroller: Bill Morehouse

For Utica City Court Judge: Ralph Eannace

For Oneida County Legislature:

- District 1: Ron Townsend
- District 5: Mike Waterman
- District 6: Lers Porter
- District 7: Jerry Fiorini
- District 15: Jim D'Onofrio
- District 16: Brian Miller
- District 18: Maria Giglio
- District 19: Ed Welsh
- District 23: Rose Ann Convertino

For Herkimer County Legislature:

- District 1: Marty Lupino
- District 2: Tom Powers
- District 3: Bob Schrader
- District 4: Bob Wellington
- District 5: Ray Johnson
- District 6: John Stevens
- District 11: Jim Bono
- District 17: Bruce Weakly

For New York State Supreme Court: John Centra

Please urge your members to support these pro-labor candidates.

Labor Kick-off for the United Way slated for October 17.

The official kick-off event for the 2013 United Way campaign took place last week at the Stanley Theater. The theme for this year's campaign

("I'm the chair; You're the chair; We're all the chair.") was unveiled in a video we'll all be seeing with regularity as the campaign continues.

Included in those attending were a number of Labor Council delegates and officers.

In fact, labor did itself proud at this high visibility event in the form of two sizable union donations.

Pat Costello presented a check for \$10,000 from IBEW Local 43 and Frank De-Riso handed over a \$25,000 check from UFCW. Clearly, the workers who comprise organized labor in the central Mohawk Valley area care about our communities.

Next up in our calendar is the official Labor Kick-off for the 2013 United Way Campaign. This year it is scheduled for October 17 (a Thursday) at Mohawk Valley Community College. It's set for 5-7PM in room 225 in the Information Technology Building.

Each year the Labor Kickoff event is attended by representatives of a number of locals, usually the same ones every year. This year, let's make it a different experience. We need to see new locals represented. Being a member of the MVCCPA, I want to see a good number of PA members in attendance. I'd also like to see a good number of other NYSUT locals there as well. I'd like to

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN CHAIRS



see folks I've not seen at the Kick-off before representing locals I've not seen at this event before. You can make this happen.

Here's something to consider. Unions supporting United Way makes perfect sense. The United Way motto is **Live United**. That's the essence of unionism. Unions work by uniting workers to achieve a better life for all. In similar fashion, United Way works to improve the quality of life for all. It's not about the individual, it's about the whole group. Basically United Way is unionism. And **Living United** is the union way.

So, let's make this the best labor campaign for United Way ever!

Please put October 17th on your calendar and plan to bring some friends with you to MVCC. When you get the invitation, plan that your local is represented by at least 2 or more members. I'll look forward to seeing you then. When you get the invitation, please

RSVP with an emphatic YES!!!

There will be finger foods and drink and the usual good fellowship. The cost will be \$10 per person attending.

As unionists, we are of one mind. Let's fill the place with good union folk to support the United Way. Three cheers for **Living United**.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.



Upcoming Events

United Way Labor Kick-off - October 17

MVCC Utica campus

Information Technology Building - Room 225

Check out the new Labor Council web page...

cnylc.org

Next Labor Council Meeting:

October 24 at 6pm, 287 Genesee Street, Utica

Join us if you are able.

Thinking about contributing to the newsletter? Let me know. I'd love your input.

Contact: Bill Perrotti, Newsletter editor at

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HOW TO LIVE UNITED:

**JOIN HANDS. OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE. FIND YOUR VOICE.**

GIVE 10% GIVE 100% GIVE 110%

GIVE AN HOUR. GIVE A SATURDAY.

THINK OF WE BEFORE ME.

REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND

INFLUENCE

THE CONDITION OF ALL.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED

