

Newsletter of the AFL-CIO

Central New York Labor Council

Serving the Mohawk Valley since 1882
March 2015



Representing thousands of workers in central New York

The Public Education Community Fires Back at Cuomo's Punish & Privatize Agenda

Note: This article is about the Rally for Public Education that was held on March 5th in Utica. However, as I write this, there is an emergency rally against the destructive Cuomo education agenda being organized for later today (March 26th) at the State Capital in Albany.

March 5th was a big day in Utica. Somewhere in the range of 1500 supporters of public education (teachers, students, parents, district staff, local labor leaders and members, and concerned citizens) from throughout central New York converged on Oneida Square. Despite frigid temperatures, they marched down Genesee Street to the State Office Building for a Rally in Support of Public Education. Organized in just a few days, the turnout was an indication of the anger spawned by the governor's extreme anti-education agenda contained in his 2015 budget proposal.



The crowd at the State Office Building filled the plaza and spilled over onto the sidewalks all around. Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi applauded those who marched and spoke passionately of the importance to push back against Cuomo's plan that underfunds public education, lift the cap on charter schools, test our children to the extreme and unfairly evaluate and punish teachers. Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney disputed Cuomo's statements about the failure of public

Organized labor represents workers in all sectors of the labor movement. Right now public education is under attack, so that is what dominates this issue. But remember, we are all union brothers & sisters.

*Organized Labor is coming together to help
our cherished Stanley Theater... Be there!*



An Irish Night

At The Stanley



Proud to support
the Irish Community



Don't Miss An Irish Night At The Stanley
Friday, April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.
- HEADLINING -



THE ELDERS

- FEATURING -



HAIR OF THE DOG



BLARNEY REBEL BAND

Special Appearance by:
The Butler-Sheehan Academy of Traditional Irish Dance.



FOR TICKET INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.THESTANLEY.ORG
Or Call 315.724.4000



 Promoted and Produced by Kessler Promotions, Inc.

Let's sell out the Stanley!!!!

March for Education



Local leaders... Organized labor can only survive with an informed membership. Please do your part and share this newsletter with all your members. Nothing's more important than spreading the word.

Labor turns out to celebrate St. Patty's Day

Marching behind the new Central New York Labor Council banner, members from many different locals celebrated parade day and at the same time strutted their own union's colors. Marchers handed out sweets to parade goers and also advertized the upcoming Irish Night at the Stanley with bright green cards that onlookers happily accepted. It's always a great day to see members from different locals together. As we marched, the chant of "We are the union... the mighty, mighty union" filled the air. Below are some snapshots from the day. Next year's goal... to be the single biggest group in the whole parade. Let's do it!!!



*The film **Citizen Koch** will be shown
at the **Other Side**, 2011 Genesee St, Utica
www.theothersideutica.org/
on Thursday, May 21 at 7:30PM
Admission is free and discussion afterwards is welcome.*



Wisconsin is now a “right to work” state, WI Governor Scott Walker is waging war on unions and worker rights and is being touted as a viable 2016 Republican presidential candidate, *Citizens United* and like court decisions have opened the floodgates to money in politics; the Koch brothers alone have pledged to spend nearly \$1 billion in the next presidential election, Governor Cuomo’s “Opportunity 2015 Agenda” threatens the future of public education in New York, Republican governors and legislatures all over the US (under the guise of preventing voter fraud) are proposing and passing legislation that will suppress the vote of the poor, the elderly and ethnic minorities... the timing is perfect for us all to stop and consider the state of our democracy and where the “little guy” stands in it all.

Join the fight for public education

If all unionists stand together, we can win every fight. Right now it’s education. Tomorrow? Who knows. Let’s be ready. Let’s be one.

Go to the NYSUT webpage to find out how to help. <http://www.nysut.org/>

Other helpful sites:

<https://optoutcny.wordpress.com/>
www.nysape.org/



For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die.

Ted Kennedy

Don't forget about Workers Memorial Day

Workers Memorial Day this year is April 28th. However, the Central Labor Council will celebrate this important day on Thursday, April 23rd. The day was established by the AFL-CIO "to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces." Here we extend the memorial to include any of our union brothers and sisters who have passed during the past year. As is our custom, the ceremony will be conducted at the Workers Memorial Monument in Ilion, starting around 5PM. After the ceremony at the monument, there will be food and drink at Francesca's in Ilion where further commemorations will be held as well as the council's regular monthly meeting.

The following (in italics) was taken directly from the AFL-CIO website. *Four decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.*



Mourn For The Dead Sticker

But our work is not done. Many job hazards are unregulated and uncontrolled. Some employers cut corners and violate the law, putting workers in serious danger and costing lives. Workers who report job hazards or job injuries are fired or disciplined. Employers contract out dangerous work to try to avoid responsibility. As a result, each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs.

The Obama administration has strengthened safety and health protections through tougher enforcement and expanded workers' rights. New safeguards on silica and other workplace hazards have been proposed and are close to being finalized. But this progress is threatened by business groups and the Republicans who now control Congress. They are trying to stop these protections and shut down all future regulations.

We cannot let them succeed – workers' lives are at stake.

This is an event at which every affiliate local should be represented. We're hoping to see many of you at this event. Never forget that whatever compensation and benefits we enjoy were built on the backs of our sisters and brothers who went before us. We will always stand on their shoulders.

Some phone numbers to use...

SENATOR	Albany Phone
Joseph A. Griffo	(518) 455-3334
Patty Ritchie	(518) 455-3438
Hugh T. Farley	(518) 455-2181
James L. Seward	(518) 455-3131
David J. Valesky	(518)-455-2838
ASSEMBLY MEMBER	Albany Phone
Claudia Tenney	518-455-5334
Peter D. Lopez	518-455-5363
Angelo Santabarbara	518-455-5197
Ken Blankenbush	518-455-5797
Marc Butler	518-455-5393
Anthony Brindisi	518-455-5454
William Barclay	518-455-5841
William Magee	518-455-4807

Local leaders... The Gompers dinner is coming up.

Current dates under consideration are 10/9, 10/15 or 10/16.

Let us know your preference (735-6101)

In the news... (Items of interest you can access on the internet.)

Walmart, Lowe's, Safeway, and Nordstrom Are Bankrolling a Nationwide Campaign to Gut Workers' Comp - Mother Jones - <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/03/arawc-walmart-campaign-against-workers-compensation>

US Supreme Court Chooses Not to Address Wisconsin Voter Photo ID Law - League of Women Voters - <http://lwv.org/blog/us-supreme-court-chooses-not-address-wisconsin-voter-photo-id-law>

Gov. Rick Scott cuts state losses in long voting fight - Tampa Bay Times - <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/legislature/bousquet-gov-rick-scott-cuts-state-losses-in-long-voting-fight/2218815>



**United Way of the Valley
and Greater Utica Area**

2-1-1 will bring huge and welcome change to central New York

The Central NY Labor Agency until recently operated a help line known as Information and Referral. For many years working people and others could call the agency to get information about where they could find help for any of a number of problems. Honestly, it was a shoestring operation but one that was very valuable to folks in need in the Mohawk Valley. Some of the funding for the agency and I&R came from our local United Way (UWVGU). We are fortunate to enjoy a very close and mutually beneficial working relationship with the UWVGU. In fact, the CNY Labor Agency is a "proud partner" with the UWVGU and our labor liaison Enesa Sabanagic spends one day a week helping out in the UW office. Well, as already stated, I&R is gone. In its place after many years of hard work by UW staff is 2-1-1. It's I&R on steroids.

The call center is actually located in Rochester. Earlier this month a group of UW staff and board members (including one of the labor representatives on the board) travelled to Rochester to visit the center. All I can say after the visit is WOW! Workers in the call center are trained professionals, certified in the important work they do. The center runs 24/7 and can be accessed in any language imaginable. They work from databases provided by our UW and that information is being updated on a daily basis. UWVGU employs one staff member whose sole responsibility is 2-1-1. She works every day to spread the word within the 3-county area (Oneida-Herkimer-Madison) and to keep the databases updated. It's a huge job but the dividends to all in central NY is equally huge. So... goodbye I&R; hello 2-1-1.

This is an important number for all members of our affiliate locals to remember... and when in need, use.

Don't forget Irish Night!!!

***Thanks to UFCW Local One
for in-house printing.***

Check out the Labor Council web page...
cnylc.org

***Thinking about contributing
to the newsletter?***

Contact: bill.perrotti@yahoo.com

***The April Council meeting will be on
Thursday, the 23rd at 6PM.
287 Genesee Street, Utica***