

# NWPA ALF NEWS

JULY EDITION



## NEW TIME AND LOCATION FOR ERIE CRAWFORD CLC

### MEETINGS

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 6TH MEET-  
ING 6:30 PM

BLASCO MEMORIAL

LIBRARY

ADMIRAL ROOM

160 E FRONT ST ERIE PA  
16507

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VICE-CHAIR RICHARD  
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FREY HAPKE  
IBEW/TRUSTEE DECLAN  
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LER  
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REP GWCLC WALTER (PAT)  
GEIGER  
REP I-A CLC RACHEL STERN-  
FELD  
REP M CLC LONNIE MCFALL  
REP V-C CHAPTER CJ PETE  
KLUCK  
REP W-F (M) CLC RICHARD  
BARRETT  
REP B&CTC REP RETIREE  
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REP SEIU MIKE BUTLER  
REP TWU DENNIS SABINA  
REP UA JAMES C KIRSCH  
REP UBC LONNIE MCFALL  
REP UFCW REBECCA VALVO  
REP UMWA CHUCK KNISELL  
REP USW PAUL PELC

### DIRECTOR NWPA ALF

AMY ALCORN

**On JULY 4th**

**SHOP  
UNION**

**French's Mustard  
Goldens Mustard  
Heinz Ketchup/Catsup  
Sara Lee Buns  
Barq's Rootbeer  
Coke and Sprite Products  
American Springs Water  
Poland Springs Water  
Bud Light  
Breyers Ice Cream**

**Gianelli Sausages  
Lay's Brand Chips  
Kroger Brand Sausages  
Ball Park Hotdogs  
Hebrew National Hotdogs  
Boar's Head Hotdogs  
Oscar Mayer Hotdogs  
Hormel Hotdogs  
Nathan's Hotdogs  
Good Humor Ice Cream**

 **UFCW**

# UNION-MADE 4TH OF JULY

## BUNS:

SARA LEE, OROWEAT, ARNOLD,  
STROEHMANN

## CHICKEN:

TYSON, PILGRIM'S PRIDE,  
KOCH FOODS

## CONDIMENTS:

HEINZ KETCHUP, HEINZ  
VINEGAR, HEINZ MUSTARD,  
HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

## DRINKS:

COKE, PEPSI

## HOT DOGS:

BALL PARK, BOAR'S HEAD,  
FOSTER FARMS, HEBREW  
NATIONAL, HOFMANN, OSCAR  
MAYER, HORMEL FOODS

## SUPPLIES:

SOLO CUPS, WEBER Q GRILLS,  
IGLOO COOLERS



AFL-CIO

*Franklin, PA - Libertyfest 6/24/23*



**VENANGO CLARION CHAPTER  
NWPA ALF, AFL-CIO**

**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT—  
FATHER & SON DYNAMIC DUO  
PETE AND JOHN KLUCK**

**UPCOMING EVENT:**

**OIL HERITAGE FESTIVAL  
PARADE: SATURDAY, JULY  
22ND AT 5 PM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW  
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:  
PLEASE CALL 814-671-4420**



*Indiana—Armstrong Golf Outing - 5/1/23*  
*Thank you to all our sponsors, golfers & volunteers!*



## *I GOT HURT—NOW WHAT????*

*by Barb Holmes Attorney*

In our newsletter articles, we often delve into different areas of the law, or new Court decisions, or perplexing situations. But for a change, let's go back to the basics. **WHAT HAPPENS AND WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU GET HURT??**

- 1. REPORT THE INJURY—RIGHT AWAY.** Earlier this year, we wrote a lengthy article about NOTICE—that is the first step in a workers' compensation claim. Written is best. ASAP is best. The law allows 120 days for notice, but it is best and expedites the process to give notice right away. Giving notice starts the clock running on the employer's investigation and get an injured worker's treatment responsibilities provided to him/her.
- 2. COMPLY WITH THE COMPANY REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS.** This could be important to the claim later. An investigation shows that the employer has notice of the work injury. However, have a union representative with you, and be mindful of the questions asked. **PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT WORKERS' COMPENSATION IS A NO FAULT SYSTEM**, but there could be other ramifications to an injured worker depending on the circumstances of the injury. So the injured worker should always have union representation if in a union shop.
- 3. BE SURE TO LIST ALL THE BODY PART(S) INJURED** when completing an accident report. Sometimes the supervisor/nurse/ human resources representative just asks what hurts "worst," but months later another body part—injured at the time—is what is causing problems, and everyone says, "we didn't know about that." Be sure to list them all.
- 4. KEEP YOUR OWN CALENDAR!** Have a pocket calendar to keep notes: when you report the injury, where you go for treatment, who doctors/ therapists/case managers are. Knowing these facts at a glance helps you, your union rep and your attorney (if the case goes to litigation).
- 5. KNOW YOUR MEDICAL TREATMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.** If the employer/ insurance carrier has constructed a panel of doctors for a work injury, you should be provided with that list when you report your injury. The injured worker must treat those doctors for 90 days from the date of the first visit. Get to the doctor as soon as possible after the injury so that complaints are documented, and the "clock" begins to run on the 90 day requirement. Don't refuse to sign that you have received that list. It doesn't relieve an injured worker of treating with the panel.
- 6. KNOW YOUR MEDICAL TREATMENT RIGHTS.** There is a LIST of panel doctors. The injured worker has the right to see any/ all of the providers and make the appointments. **DO NOT GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO SCHEDULE AND CHOOSE DOCTORS.** The law gives you this right—do not ignore it! There is no "gatekeeper." There is no requirement that you start at one provider and that provider decides who you see. **THERE IS A LIST.** If the employer/ carrier does not comply with the list by directing treatment, they are stepping outside the Act and its Regulations.



7. **SPEAK UP.** If you are not improving, or think you need tests, voice your thoughts! Ask for a referral. Make them help you or refer you to someone who will! If they won't, keep plowing through the 90 days. An injured worker can see a doctor off the list if he/she chooses to do so, but that will probably be an out of pocket cost to that provider as the compensation carrier will not need to cover it and health insurance may not because it's a work injury. However, sometimes it's money well spent.
8. **KNOW YOUR WORK RESTRICTIONS.** If you are released to work with restrictions make sure you know and understand them and your employer does too! **GET A COPY FROM THE PROVIDER'S OFFICE BEFORE YOU LEAVE.** Light duty work can be in everyone's best interest, but the job has to fit the restrictions.
9. **DON'T BE IN THE DARK.** If you don't know if your claim is accepted, find out. If the comp carrier isn't answering you, get legal assistance. There are specific documents that are to be issued if a claim is accepted, if it is accepted but only medical bills will be paid, or if it is denied.
10. **RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A COMP CLAIM AND THERE ARE EMPLOYMENT ISSUES AND THEY AREN'T NECESSARILY THE SAME.** If work is turning a deaf ear, or says they don't "have to" follow certain rules, go to the union. A workers' compensation Judge can't make work give you modified duty even if a Claim Petition is filed or can't make you work a job that doesn't fit restrictions provided by a treating doctor. A Judge can only say if you are entitled to benefits and medical treatment. These other matters are squarely within the collective bargaining agreement. Some shops have modified duty work, but only if the claim is accepted. Some shops don't. Your union will know. They can help with those issues while the compensation claim is being sorted out.
11. **DON'T HOPE IT WILL ALL WORK OUT. THIS IS YOUR INJURY. THESE ARE YOUR BENEFITS.** Take the situation into your own hands. **TALK TO THE UNION. GET AN ATTORNEY WHO KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS WORKERS' COMPENSATION. ASK QUESTIONS.**

It always helps to get back to basics. And these are things that are important to remember. If you have never had an injury, these are important things to know. If you are in the union and helping people, these are important things to review. A work injury starts a process—and how that process sorts out can take many different steps, and sometimes is complicated. It's best to be ready and know what to do and what not to do.

<https://www.kidschanceofpa.org>

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1-800-343-9384  
[www.bshlaw.net](http://www.bshlaw.net)

**DON'T BE TRICKED INTO GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO CONTROL YOUR MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A WORK INJURY!**

## **Know Your Rights When Involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident** **By: Susan Meredith and Sam Dhaliwal**

Automobile accidents commonly occur because a driver does not follow traffic laws. According to Pennsylvania Courts, the most common traffic violations are:

- Speeding
- Failure to stop at a stop sign
- Overtaking a vehicle
- Illegal turn
- Following too closely
- Move over law

Historical data shows that the majority of violations in Pennsylvania happen during the summer months, and mostly occur during daylight hours. Unfortunately, traffic violations generally correspond with a higher incidence of accidents. When an accident occurs and injuries result, it is imperative that you take certain steps to protect your rights.

### **Reportable Collisions and Police Reports**

The first thing to remember if you are in an automobile accident is to move your vehicle out of traffic, if possible. In minor car collisions where there is little damage to the vehicles and no injuries occur, Pennsylvania law does not require the police to be called. However, it is always best to report any accident to the police by calling 911. You will also want to make sure you exchange information with the other driver and take photos of any damage to either vehicle as well as the area of the accident if you are capable of doing so. If there are witnesses who stopped to help, ask for their names, and phone numbers. An accident must always be reported to the police when anyone involved in the accident is injured and requires medical attention, or if any of the vehicles are undrivable.

A police report will be helpful if you need to file an insurance claim for car repairs or medical care. In most cases, the drivers involved in the accident call the police, and the responding officers submit a report while everyone is still at the scene of the accident.

If you are involved in an accident with an uninsured driver or another vehicle that flees the scene, you will need a police report to make a claim for any uninsured motorist benefits you may be entitled to.

Occasionally, though, motorists do not believe they suffered injuries or property damage in an accident, but it later becomes apparent they did. If that happened to you, you have five days from the date of the accident to file a driver's accident report with the police.

### **Medical Examination**

It's normal to feel overwhelmed after you've suffered injuries in a car accident. Between dealing with getting your car repaired, figuring out alternative transportation, and other accident-related issues, you may feel that you don't have time to seek medical treatment. However, soft tissue injuries and concussions occasionally start to cause issues later in time. Due to this risk, the best course of action is to undergo a thorough medical evaluation as soon as you can after an accident. Even if you do not go to the emergency room on the day of the accident, you should seek medical treatment as early as possible. This will ensure you receive the necessary treatment to help you recover. It also ensures you will have the necessary medical documentation of your injuries. When someone takes months to seek treatment, insurance companies will be more skeptical of your injuries and may question if they are related to the accident. Not only is it important to seek medical treatment after an accident, but it is also important to follow all your doctor's recommendations regarding your treatment plan.

The attorneys at Caroselli Beachler & Coleman have many years of experience representing those injured in automobile, truck and motorcycle accidents. We are available to discuss with you, your family member, or friend the issues involved in any crash. We will devote our time and energy to helping the injured person obtain the compensation they deserve. We can be reached toll-free at 1-800-222-8816 and would be happy to sit down with you, your family member or friend to discuss any potential case.

CAROSELLI BEACHLER & COLEMAN, LLC  
REPRESENTING INJURED PERSON AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH-  
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NO FEES UNLESS DAMAGES ARE RECOVERED.

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## **NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION, AFL-CIO'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

*THE NWPA AREA LABOR FEDERATION, AFL-CIO IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT FREE*

*FROM DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT, REGARDLESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, COLOR*

*SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, ANCESTRY, PREGNANCY, OR ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTIC PROHIBITED BY LAW.*

*AS, THE AFL-CIO WILL NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATORY, HARASSING OR OTHERWISE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR IN THE WORKPLACE OR AT ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES, EVENTS OR MEETINGS. IT ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTS EVERYONE IN THE WORKPLACE—AND THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES, EVENTS OR MEETINGS—ABIDE BY IT.*



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the AFL-CIO website. It includes social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, a search icon, and menu items: 'WHAT UNIONS DO', 'FORM A UNION', 'WHAT WE CARE ABOUT', and 'TAKE ACTION'. The main content area features the heading 'Union-Made in America' and the sub-heading 'Find union-made in America goods!'. Below this, there is text explaining the value of union-made goods and the importance of buying 'Made in America' products. It also mentions that shopping lists and suggested products are updated annually for holidays and other major events.

[Buy Union-Made in America | AFL-CIO \(aflcio.org\)](https://aflcio.org)

***NWPA ALF BLENDED MEETINGS***

***MEETING 7:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 9/27/23***

***EBOARD 6:00 PM***

***IN PERSON: AFSCME DC 8 HALL***

***1276 LIBERTY ST FRANKLIN, PA 16323 OR VIA ZOOM***

***SPECIAL SPEAKERS—TBD***

***RSVP 814-450-6520 OR DIRECTOR.NWPA.ALF@GMAIL.COM***

**BEAVER-LAWRENCE CLC:**

MEETING 7:00 PM ON MONDAY,  
7/17/23

PSEA HALL

3022 NEW BUTLER RD NEW CAS-  
TLE, PA 16101

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-  
971-7473.

**BUTLER COUNTY CLC:**

MEETING 7:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY,  
7/5/23

UAW 3303 HALL 112 HOLLY-  
WOOD RD., BUTLER, PA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-  
285-4883 EXT. 233.

**CLEARFIELD-ELK-CAMERON-  
JEFFERSON (POTTER) CLC**

BLENDED MEETING 7:30 PM ON  
7/6/23

IBEW LU5, 1400 LEONARD RD.,  
CLEARFIELD 16830

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 814-  
937-2208.

**ERIE-CRAWFORD CLC:**

MEETING 7:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY,  
7/12/23 **CANCELLED**

**NEW LOCATION BEGINNING**

**9/6/23/23 ADMIRAL  
ROOM—BLASCO LIBRARY  
160 W. FRONT ST ERIE ,PA  
16507**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
814-823-9940.

**GREATER WESTMORELAND  
CLC:**

MEETING 7:00 PM ON MONDAY,  
7/17/23

HEMFIELD VFD

421 THORNTON RD., GREENS-  
BURG 15601

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
724-600-6266.

**INDIANA-ARMSTRONG CLC:**

BLENDED MEETING 7:30 PM  
ON THURSDAY 7/27/23

UMWA 1412 51 ELEVENTH  
ST., LUCERNEMINES 15754

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
724-479-0923.

**MERCER COUNTY CLC:**

MEETING 7:30 PM ON THURS-  
DAY 7/20/23

USW 1660 HALL, 1028 ROE-  
MER BLVD., FARRELL 16121

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 724-854-0605.

**VENANGO-CLARION CHAP-  
TER:**

BLENDED MEETING 6:00  
PM ON THURSDAY,  
7/13/23

IAM 1842 HALL, 24 FRONT  
ST., FRANKLIN 16323

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 814-671-4420.

**WARREN-FOREST (MCKEAN)  
CLC:**

BLENDED MEETING 6:00 PM  
ON THURSDAY, 7/6/23

IUOE 95 HALL, 116 DOB-  
SON AVE., WARREN 16365

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 814-730-7558