

UNITED MINE WORKERS
JOURNAL

JULY-AUGUST 2016

127TH YEAR, NO. 4

**WE ARE GOING TO
WASHINGTON, DC.**

**Together we will
win this Struggle**

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The UMWA’s fight to Keep the Promise moves to Washington, DC on September 8th.

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Cover: President Roberts addresses UMWA members in Benton, Il. Photo: Emily Harris.

CORRECTION

Robert Casey is the Democratic Senator from Pennsylvania.

Dear Congressman

My name is Lisa Fry and I live in York, PA in West Manchester Township. I am writing this letter regarding two pieces of Legislation that I feel very strongly about. Senate Bill 1714 and House Bill 2403 dealing with the preservation of the United Mine Workers pension and healthcare.

I am a coal miner’s daughter and proud to be so. I grew up in Westover, PA in Clearfield County where my father worked for BethEnergy Corporation. I did witness firsthand the long hours and the many disruptions to family life that came from working 3 different shifts. I recall many stories he told about eating his dinner underground in the low coal seam and wet conditions. Most disturbing to me were the tales about close quarters, 30 men would crowd into an elevator and ride 900 feet underground. Once all the way down, they would have to lie on their backs and roll into transport cars that would take them 15 miles or more back to mine the coal. It is hard for me to imagine why anybody would work in those conditions, but I know he was able to provide a good living for our family and he persisted because of the promise of security in his old age.

Thankfully, that is all behind him now that he is retired. Unfortunately, the security that he worked so hard for is being threatened. If Senate Bill 1714 does not pass he and my mother stand to lose the healthcare and pension they were promised. They are 69 and 70 years old. Without the pension and healthcare they have earned, I am afraid they would need to try to work again as they would be very close to the current federal poverty level. I know there are many retired coal miners in this same situation.

I urge you to take action. Bring Senate Bill 1714 to the floor and then vote in favor of miner’s pensions and healthcare. Please honor the Promise that was made in 1946 to the men and women who spent most of their working lives underground providing energy resources for our country.

Best Regards,

Lisa Fry

(Lisa is the daughter of Larry Fronk a member of UMWA L.U. 1368)

The *UMW Journal* welcomes letters. Please include your name, address and local number and keep letters as short as possible. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Send to *UMW Journal*, UMWA, 18354 Quantico Gateway Drive, Suite 200, Triangle, VA 22172 or email to: journal@umwa.org.

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The struggle for justice continues



DAVID KAMERAS

UMWA members exit buses on July 9, 2013 in Fairmont, WV during one of the many Fairness at Patriot Rallies. “The membership of the Union has always been willing to do whatever is necessary to help their Brothers and Sisters. If that meant traveling hundreds of miles on buses they did. There is no doubt in my mind they will answer the call on September 8th and arrive in Washington, DC in record numbers.” —Cecil E. Roberts



MISSY HUNT

President Roberts addresses the membership during the April 1, 2016 Rally in Waynesburg, PA. “The UMWA has always been at the forefront of every major battle labor has waged. Today we come together to demonstrate our solidarity for one another. We will not rest until Congress Keeps the Promise to our active and retired miners and their families.”

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) has been on the move since early 2012 to preserve the health care and pensions of thousands of members across the United States when a rash of coal company bankruptcies began. For everyone who participated in the rallies in St. Louis and Creve Coeur, MO; Charleston and Fairmont, WV; Henderson and Lexington, KY and at the EPA building in Washington, DC; the journey for retirement security has been challenging. Likewise, the Union understands the concern and frustration of every member, spouse and family member who were unable to attend these events because of physical limitations or illness, but shared in these efforts with your support and prayers. There is no question that the Union’s efforts to date have ensured that every ►

“We have been patient and respectful, but we have also been abundantly clear in our efforts to force both the coal operators and the government to fulfill their **Promise of Cradle-to-Grave health care and pensions** they made to miners in 1946. We have been successful in forcing the operators to set aside money to pay for retiree health care, but those funds will be depleted for many retirees and their families before the end of the year. There must be Congressional action on this life-and-death issue immediately. That’s why every UMWA member, their family and friends must get on a bus and **Rally on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol on September 8th**. Lawmakers need to understand we will not stop until we receive what we have earned.” —President Roberts

retiree or family member due these benefits continues to receive what they have earned. The UMWA has truly been blessed with the most unselfish and dedicated membership in the Labor Movement. There can be no doubt that your determination and willingness to fight for one another continues to preserve the Promise of health care and pensions for miners and their families.

“For many of us the continuing battle to secure the health care and pensions we have earned, while upholding our end of the Krug-Lewis Agreement of 1946, seems like a never-ending struggle,” stated President Roberts. “We have worked in the mines to help build, power and sustain our Nation through the industrial revolution and countless wars. We have witnessed firsthand the hazards of an industry that steals our youth and ruins our health, while also weighing heavy on the hearts of our families. We have done what was required to meet our obligation to receive the benefits Promised by the United States Government. The health care and pensions we are demanding have been paid for by our sweat and blood, and we will never end our fight until justice is achieved.”

While the permanent fix to the problems that threaten the pensions

DAVID KAMERAS



President Roberts addresses the crowd gathered in Kiener Plaza in downtown St. Louis, MO on September 24, 2013. The series of Rallies across the U.S. orchestrated by President Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Kane resulted in coal operators paying out over \$400 million for retiree health care.

and health care of the active and retired members is still within our grasp, it has not yet been achieved. However, the ultimate goal of having Congress fulfill the Promise of 1946 is, after more than four years, still waiting for action by these elected officials. While the solution to the problem must be voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, it is obvious that only unrelenting pressure by every UMWA member, our allies in the Labor Movement and friends in Congress can make that vote a reality. This will be the final opportunity for Congress to act

before tens of thousands of UMWA members and their families lose the health care benefits they earned through years of sacrifice and labor in the Nation’s mines. It is also necessary to prevent the 1974 Pension Plan from becoming insolvent and forcing severe reductions or suspension of pension payments.

“It should be clear to everyone, including the members of Congress, that we have reached the critical stage in this fight,” stated Secretary-Treasurer Kane. “There is no more wiggle room and there is certainly no time left to delay a vote on this issue. Very soon coal miners and their families from across this Nation will begin losing the health care and pensions they have earned. We are done meeting about the severity of the consequences of Congress’ continued inaction, and we are done asking for them to fulfill their obligation to these families. We are going to be in Washington, DC on September 8th to demand they Keep the Promise.”

Every member has an obligation to attend the Rally

The strength of the UMWA has been defined many different ways over the course of its 126 year history. But clearly, the Union’s strength lies with the membership. It is our ability to always come together and face the challenges placed before us as a unified force. It is our willingness to take up the cause of our Brothers and Sisters without hesitation and to fight until the victory is won. It is our sense of obligation to support and protect one another against anyone who would try to do us harm, that sets us apart from all others. John L. Lewis certainly understood the power of the UMWA membership when he declared to Congress and all who would listen that, “I derive my



President Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Kane are arrested in Henderson, KY on June 6, 2013 immediately following a Rally on the Courthouse steps. Brother Lou Otto of L.U. 1980, facing the camera was also arrested. Kentucky State Trooper, County Deputies and City Police were all on the scene to make the arrests.

TIM BAKER

strength from the membership of the United Mine Workers of America.”

It is that strength and solidarity that must be on display in the Nation’s Capital on September 8th. Members of Congress must be made to understand that the UMWA will not back away from a fight. That we are unified and that which harms a single Brother or Sister or any group of members harms us all. That message of unity and common cause must be sent in an overwhelming show of support for the immediate passage of S-1714 and HR-2403 on September 8th.

“It is quite frankly, times such as these that shows Congress, the public and the world exactly who the United Mine Workers of America are. It separates us from all other organizations and all other Unions,” stated President Roberts. “We have done what we were asked to do. We kept our word and performed the work required under the terms of the Krug-Lewis Agreement. We have

“We have not labored so hard and so diligently in the mines of this Nation only to be turned away by some in Congress when we attempt to collect on what we are owed. We understand the Promise that was made in 1946 by President Truman, and the miners of the Nation have lived up to their end of the bargain. Now it is time for Congress to pay its debt to the miners and their families, and by God we aim to collect on that debt.”

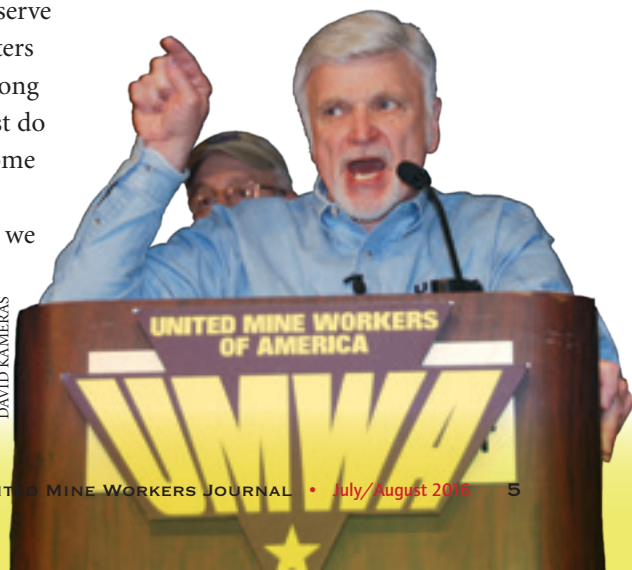
— Secretary-Treasurer Dan Kane, April 1, 2016 in Waynesburg, PA



MISSY HUNT

bargained with the operators and lived up to the conditions of those contracts since the inception of that Agreement. We have fulfilled our obligation and provided the energy for our Nation to grow and flourish. Every one of these things we did with the understanding that the health care and pensions we earned would be there for our retirement. We all understood that those benefits, Promised by the Federal Government, would be there for every miner and their family until they left this earth. Now there are some in Congress who seek to ignore and change the rules. They are trying to strip away everything we have earned. They must be confronted and forced to Keep the Promise. As members of the UMWA it is not simply our duty, but our sacred obligation, to do whatever is necessary, to preserve and protect the benefits our Sisters and Brothers have earned. A wrong to one is a wrong to all. We must do what we do best. We must all come together in Washington, DC on September 8th to demand what we have earned.”

DAVID KAMERAS



TIM BAKER



On October 14, 2015 thousands of UMWA members and their families Rallied in Bessemer, AL. The UMWA had hopes that legislation to satisfy the Governments obligation to miners and Keep the Promise would soon become law. Unfortunately, the legislation was killed in the waning hours of 2015. “No other Union membership has faced more adversity than the women and men of the UMWA. But we are still here. And we will win this fight.” —Cecil E. Roberts

Current funding for retiree benefits is limited

We are all aware that the funding of the current Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA) covering Patriot retirees and their families has sustained thousands of UMWA families over the past several years, but it will soon run out of money. The funds in the Patriot VEBA will be exhausted before the end of 2016. ►

On April 1, 2013 President Roberts fired up the crowd at the Charleston Civic Center before marching to Patriot’s Headquarters. “If you can’t get justice in the courthouse, if you can’t get justice in the statehouse, if you can’t get justice in the Capitol, then you have to get justice in the streets of this country. That’s exactly where we are headed when we are done here, to the streets and then to jail if necessary.” — Cecil E. Roberts



On June 4, 2016 UMWA members and their families from across the Country Rallied in Lexington, KY. “We are fighting for what we have earned,” stated President Roberts. “We have seen how this industry robs us of our youth and our health. We have given much to this Nation through our sweat and blood, now they must take action and Keep the Promise. They must pass S-1714 and HR-2403.”

The Union has also been successful in forcing other coal operators, including Jim Walter Resources and Alpha Natural Resources to set aside substantial funds to pay for health care for retirees and family members from those companies. Like the VEBA

surprise to anyone. The UMWA has told everyone who would listen that legislation must be passed in order for Congress to fulfill its Promise and protect retired miners and their families,” said President Roberts. “The Union has worked aggressively

provide for the retirees and their families during this difficult time. Now it is time for Congress to stop holding these individuals hostage and correct the problem permanently. It’s time to pass S-1714 and HR-2403.”

“The loss of retirement security in the near future is a real possibility for tens of thousands of UMWA members and their families. This is true not only for current retirees, but for miners working today who hope to retire over the next few years. It is inconceivable that Congress can continue to ignore the problem and refuse to take the appropriate action.” —Cecil E. Roberts

established for Patriot retirees, the Union will administer the funds to provide health care to the respective retirees and their families.

However, just like the Patriot VEBA, funding for these benefits is limited to the single lump sum payment the Union was able to extract from the operators and hedge funds during negotiations. Obtaining additional money through any of these sources is impossible. The reality is, that most of these companies no longer exist or will soon be out of the coal business completely. The VEBAs will eventually run out of money leaving all the current participants without benefits in the future. Therefore, a permanent funding stream into the 1974 Pension Plan, which can only be obtained through legislation, is the only permanent solution possible.

“The situation we find ourselves in today should not come as a

to make sure those who were promised health care and pensions have continued to receive those benefits. We have forced bankrupt employers, hedge fund managers and Wall Street tycoons to cough up money to do this, but we all understood those funds were not the ultimate solution. The UMWA has bridged the gap to

UMWA members, their families and hundreds of supporters prepare to march from the Waynesburg, PA airport to the Fairgrounds for a Rally. Over 5,000 people participated in the April 1, 2016 event.





In May of 2000 more than 10,000 UMWA members, their families and supporters gathered on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol to demand that Congress “Save the Coal Act.” After more than 16 years, the UMWA will return to Capitol Hill to demand Congress live-up to its Promise and pass The Miners Protection Act.

In the face of this obstruction, the UMWA and its allies did not give up the fight. In late June, five members of the Senate who support S-1714 “The Miners Protection Act” took action to force the Senate leadership to move on the legislation. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), Shelly Moore-Capito (R-WV), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) all refused to support legislation favored by the Senate leaders unless action was taken on The Miners Protection Act. In order to eliminate this opposition and address the concerns raised by the five Senators, an agreement was reached to have the Senate Finance Committee vote on S-1714 in mid-September, potentially clearing the way for it to be debated on the Senate floor.

“There is obviously something to be said for being persistent and also having friends who are willing to go the extra mile for you,” stated President Roberts. “We should be very thankful to everyone in Congress who has been so supportive of the UMWA on this issue, especially these five Senators who exercised extraordinary political courage to begin moving this legislation forward. We must always remember who our

friends are and be willing to offer them our support when they need it.”

Finance Committee vote is only the beginning

While a scheduled vote in the Senate Finance Committee has been agreed to, it is certainly not the end of the struggle. A vote on the legislation in the Finance Committee does not guarantee it will automatically move to the Senate floor for debate or that it will be added to a larger bill and passed into law. There are any number of legislative or procedural maneuvers that opponents of S-1714 can use to block it from final consideration. In fact, the rules of the Senate allows the leadership to simply refuse to permit the introduction of legislation it opposes onto the floor of the Chamber; a tactic that has been used frequently in the past to kill legislation Senate leaders disagree with.

The potential for such maneuvering further increases the need to make sure that everyone who can attend the rally on September 8th make every effort to do so. The five Senators who made the vote in the Finance Committee possible have done all they can to this point to assist the Union in passing S-1714. They must now receive support from

the UMWA membership and our friends in labor to generate the next wave of momentum, to push the legislation to the Senate floor and make it law.

The next move to help secure the health care and pensions for current and future UMWA retirees and their families is now the responsibility of every UMWA member. The Union’s supporters in Congress are willing to vote for the legislation, but we need to ensure no one refuses to allow that vote to happen. The September 8th Rally is our time to let Congress know that we are willing to fight to keep what we have earned, and opposition to S-1714 and HR-2403 is not in anyone’s best interest. The ball is in our court and we must do everything possible to get S-1714 onto the Senate floor.

“The fight for fairness and dignity for workers is a never-ending process. And this fight for justice for retired miners and their families feels like it’s been going on forever,” stated President Roberts. “The Union has faced many challenges throughout its history and we have overcome every obstacle placed in our path. Some battles have been longer than others and some have been more critical than others, but we have always stood firm in our belief that we are our

President Roberts, International District 2 Vice President Ed Yankovich, At-Large International Vice President Don Barnett, Rank and File UMWA members and supporters sat down on 10th Street in front of the Federal Courthouse where the Patriot Bankruptcy case was being heard. All the protesters pictured were arrested by members of St. Louis Metropolitan Police.



EMILY HARRIS



On April 1, 2013 over 10,000 UMWA members, their families and supporters descended on Charleston, WV to Rally in front of Patriot Coal Companies Headquarters. The Crowd was the largest to demonstrate in West Virginia since the 1930s.

Brother and Sisters keeper and will do whatever is necessary to protect one another. We have reached what may be the climax to our fight to preserve the Promise made to miners and their families in the Truman White House. We have seen our friends in Congress make a stand on our behalf to live up to that obligation. Now the membership of the United Mine Workers of America must see that all of our collective efforts are rewarded. We must force the full Senate to take action to Keep the Promise and guarantee the Nation's miners the health care and pensions they have earned. We are the last defense for our Sisters and

President Roberts is escorted to the Police Van by an officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department after blocking 7th Street in downtown St. Louis. "I will go to jail again, and again to bring attention to the miscarriage of justice being perpetrated against coal miners in the bankruptcy courts of this Nation. This fight won't end until miners get the health care and pensions they have earned."
—Cecil E. Roberts



"We all understand the importance of this legislation. And we all understand the need to have the health care and pension problems fixed permanently. The greatest hope we have of accomplishing this goal will depend on the membership's participation in the September 8th Rally in Washington, DC. If you are reading this article, you understand what must be done. If you are physically able to attend the Rally, you have an obligation to get on a bus and be in Washington, DC to support your Sisters and Brothers. I look forward to seeing each of you there." —Cecil E. Roberts

Brothers, and we must seize this chance to defend them."

Time for Congressional action is limited

There is also another factor that makes the timing of the vote in the Senate Finance Committee extremely important in the ultimate fate of the legislation. The Union is acutely aware of the very limited amount of time that Congress will be in session through the remainder of the year. Congress left Washington, DC in

mid-July and does not return again until September 6th. They will leave again at the end of September and will not return to the Capitol until mid-November. This severely limits the amount of time Congress will have to act before UMWA retirees and their families begin to lose the benefits they have earned. It is extremely important the UMWA does everything possible to force final action on S-1714 and HR-2403 during that short period of time.

The Finance Committee vote is scheduled sometime in September leaving very little time for the full Senate to consider final action on the legislation. The Rally has been strategically scheduled for September 8th to help set the stage for both Houses of Congress to move S-1714 and HR-2403 from their respective Chamber to the President's desk for signature. The stakes could not be higher and the Union's success depends on the participation of every member. ■

DAVID KAMERAS

Letter to Congress from George "Jack" Corley

IN REGARDS TO A PROMISE that my government made in 1946 by then President Harry S. Truman in the White House and confirmed by Congress of both parties. These Promises were that health benefits and pensions for all miners, dependents and widows would be preserved. Now before Congress is S-1714, and HR-2403, to Keep this Promise.

Here are just a few lines of one family's contribution and sacrifice that gave over 200 years of service to the coal mining industry. We believe that what we sacrificed should mean something.

I worked at Eastern Associated Coal's, Federal #1 Mine in Grant Town, WV for 15 years. I was laid off for 15 years and then called to work at Peabody Coal's Federal #2 Mine at Fairview, WV. I worked for 10 years retiring with 25 years of service. I went to work in the coal mines after returning from military duty with hopes of being able to provide for my family not only for the present but for the future as well. I continued my work based on the Promise of health benefits and a pension for life, knowing that I did my job well and that my sacrifices meant something.

My father, Clarence G. Corley, had an intracerebral hematoma while on his shift at Federal #1 Mine in 1977. He died later that same day at WVU Hospital. He left a widow and 5 children. He had 39 years of service. His sacrifices should mean something.

My brother, Rymer Lee Corley, worked at Federal #1 Mine for 12 years before he was laid off. He was laid off for 17 years and was then called to work at Federal #2 Mine. He died in 2005 at the mine of a heart attack during his work shift. He left a widow and two children and had 17 years of service. He believed his sacrifices meant something.

My brother, Ronald E. Corley, worked at Federal #1 Mine for 2 years.

My uncle, Jack Hess, worked at Federal #1 Mine and retired with 36 years of service. He is now deceased and he believed his sacrifices meant something.

My uncle, Harry Hess Jr., worked at Federal #1 Mine. He is now deceased and he believed his sacrifices meant something.

My uncle, Howard W. Corley, was killed in 1967 at Federal #1 Mine. He had 29 years of service. He left a widow, who is now 99 years old, and five children at the time of his death. His sacrifices should mean something.

My cousin, Mike Hess, worked at Federal #1 Mine and then at Federal #2 Mine with 8 years of service. He believes his sacrifices should mean something.

My cousin's husband, Mike Watkins, has been working at Federal #2 Mine for 38 years. His sacrifices should mean something.

My cousin's husband, John R. Pownell, has worked Federal #1 Mine and was laid off. He was called to work at Federal #2 Mine. He has retired with 27 years of service. His sacrifices should mean something.

All we are asking for is to be treated fair and receive what was Promised, what we worked for, what we sacrificed, and yes what we died for. One family has dedicated over 200 years of service to the coal mining industry and to this Nation. There are countless other families just like us. We have Kept our Promise to mine the coal and now it's time for Congress to step up and Keep its Promise. Please pass S-1714 and HR-2403 so we can keep our healthcare and our pensions. Then our sacrifices will mean something.



The author of the letter, George Corley, pictured underground at Federal #2 Mine. George retired with 25 years of service.



Clarence G. Corley, George's father, worked in the industry for 39 years. Clarence never saw his retirement. In 1977 he became ill at the mine and died a short time later at the hospital.



Harry Hess, George's uncle, worked in the industry for 36 years.



Rymer Corley, George's brother, who died of a heart attack while working at the Federal #2 Mine. Rymer worked 17 years in the industry.

(Brother Corley is a member of UMWA L.U. 1570 in Northern West Virginia. He sent this letter to members of Congress and the International Union. It has been edited for inclusion in the Journal).

UMWA members at Contura Energy and Alpha Ratify new Contract



UMWA Members of 14 Local Unions at what used to be Alpha Natural Resources voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new 4½ year Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Contract, which the UMWA negotiated while the company was in bankruptcy proceedings, preserved the terms and conditions contained in the previous Agreement, with the exception of payments to the 1974 Pension Plan and elimination of retiree health care that will be covered by a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA).

The elimination of contributions to pay for pensions and health care for active and retired members along with their dependents was the result of a May 9, 2016 ruling by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin R. Huennekens. The Judge granted a motion by the company to eliminate the Collec-

and the McClure preparation plant in Dickinson County, VA. Alpha has retained the remaining operations, mostly in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

“The Contract recently ratified at the current and former Alpha operations is certainly good news for the membership of the UMWA. Negotiations are extremely difficult under the best of circumstances,” stated Secretary-Treasurer Kane. “But dealing with companies who for a host of reasons, including the severely depressed coal market, cheap natural gas prices, government subsidized alternative energy and some poor business decisions, have sought cover under the business friendly bankruptcy laws

“The Contract recently ratified at the current and former Alpha operations is certainly good news for the membership of the UMWA.”

tive Bargaining Agreement, which included provisions for contributions to the 1974 Pension Plan and the requirement that the Company would provide retiree health care.

“The UMWA and its members have been fighting these bankruptcy scams since Patriot filed for bankruptcy the first time in 2012,” said President Roberts. “We were not surprised by the Judge’s ruling in the Alpha Bankruptcy, in fact because of the horrible bankruptcy laws in place in this Nation, we expected as much. But there is one thing everyone should understand by now, the membership of the UMWA is not going to roll over under any circumstances. The contract the Union was able to negotiate with this Company, which includes \$28.5 million for retiree health care, is the result of the strength of our membership.”

The bankruptcy also changed the structure of the Company. While the Agreements cover each UMWA Local Union, Alpha no longer controls all the operations. Contura Energy, a company that was created by the first-lien holders of Alpha’s debt, now control the Cumberland and Emerald operations in Greene County, PA; the Power Mountain preparation plant in Nicholas County, WV

complicate matters greatly. We are just extremely fortunate to have the kind of membership we do in the UMWA. They made the difference.”

The \$28.5 million the Union was able to extract during the negotiations has been placed in a VEBA and will be used to administer health care benefits to the current retirees from the operations. The VEBA will continue to pay benefits until the money is exhausted and is not a permanent solution to the health care and pension problems facing many UMWA retirees.

“It’s obvious that the membership was satisfied with the Contract and understood what was at stake and the work that went into getting an agreement given the state of the industry,” said President Roberts. “Overall the Contract was ratified by over 89 percent of the membership. I really give a lot of credit to the membership for accepting this agreement. They not only looked at what was in the Contract for themselves, they were very aware of what this Agreement meant for the retirees. They demonstrated their solidarity for one another at the ballot box. It shows the character of UMWA members.” ■

Fred Kirk

Fred “Rat” Kirk, the former President of L.U. 5997, began his mining career in 1968 as a UMWA Construction Worker. In 1969, Rat made the move to underground miner when he was hired as a red hat by U.S. Steel. He performed a

pensions and health care. Fred has always been there front and center,” said President Cecil Roberts.

Since retiring, Fred stays involved with the Local Union, helping on both the Mine and Health and Safety Committees. He is also

“A lot has changed since I retired, but the **fight for the pensions and health care** we have earned is still the number one priority. I will continue the fight to **keep the benefits we were Promised** until we win. I will be wherever I’m needed, and **I will do whatever** I can to help.”

—FRED “RAT” KIRK



variety of jobs, including driller and electrician at the mine. In 1974, Brother Kirk began working at various A.T. Massey operations as an electrician. He remained in the industry until a back injury forced him to retire in 2006.

“Rat and I go back a long way. He’s a good friend, and I can always count on him to help me with whatever the Union needs,” said International District 17 Vice President Joe Carter. “Rat is always supportive, he still does a lot of work for the Union serving in many different positions in the Local Union, including Financial Secretary. I know I can count on him to be in Washington, DC in September.”

“Fred has been active in every struggle the Union has been involved in for the past 30 years, from the Massey strike in 1984 to the Pittston strike in 1989 to today’s fight for

very helpful in organizing efforts, making house calls and doing what he can to grow the membership.

“Fred does his best to stay involved in all aspects of the Union,” said Region II Director Gary Trout.

“The Union is very fortunate to be

in the Region, and I know we can count on him in the future.”

“We have held a lot of Rallies over the past several years and every time I look out into the crowd I see Fred,” said Secretary-Treasurer Kane. “He has attended Rallies in

“I am so **pleased** that Rat is receiving **recognition** for all his work. He really **deserves** this Actively Retired **Award.**”

—JOE CARTER

able to reach out and get assistance from a member with his experience and dedication. He has been a very important part of many of the organizing drives we have conducted

St. Louis, MO; Charleston, WV; Waynesburg, PA; and Lexington, KY. He has helped carry the Union’s message across the coalfields. You can’t ask for more than that.” ■

Actively Retired is a regular feature highlighting UMWA retirees still working on behalf of the union. If you’d like to recommend a retiree to appear in Actively Retired, write to the UMW Journal, UMWA, 18354 Quantico Gateway Drive, Suite 200, Triangle, VA 22172, Attn: Actively Retired. Please include your name, local union, a telephone number and a brief explanation of why you’re nominating the individual.



MISSY HUNT

Conditions at Fayette County Prison can no longer be tolerated

REQUESTING RESPONSIBLE ACTION BY COUNTY OFFICIALS REGARDING THIS MATTER HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE

The failure of many Officials in Fayette County to address the current conditions at the antiquated lock-up, located in the heart of Uniontown, PA, only heightens the potential for a tragic incident to occur. Based on the UMWA's assessment of the situation, by the members of UMWA Local Union 9113 who work at the facility every day and the December tour of the prison by President Roberts, continued inaction by the County has created conditions that are ripe for any number of events that could trigger a tragedy. The reality is, so many hazards exist within the walls of the prison right now that it is impossible to determine which one will be the catalyst that causes an awful event.

"The situation at the prison is really out of control," stated L.U. 9113 President Chris Bennett. "The facility is literally falling apart around us and the County continues to pour money into it in an attempt to maintain the current conditions. Their actions not only defy logic, it is a waste of taxpayer money. Imagine if your roof was leaking or sewer was clogged at home and you decided to do just enough to keep it

from getting worse, not fix the problem just maintain it, that's just foolish. That's what is happening here, but the problems are so numerous and complicated the County can't keep up with them. The Union is concerned that continuing this misguided approach is not going to end well for the County."

The Union's efforts to work constructively with the County have thus far been ignored

For many years the Correction Officers at the Fayette County Prison have attempted to work with a variety of County Officials to take much-needed action on the dilapidated facility. In fact, almost since Local Union 9113 was officially chartered in 2003 the officers and members have made concerted efforts to help the County find solutions to the problem. There has also been a push by residents of the County, many who are members of other UMWA Local Unions, to find an economical and permanent solution to the prison situation.

In December of last year President Roberts toured the facility with concerned County Officials and members

The 126-year-old Fayette County Prison is literally collapsing into its foundation. The hazardous conditions that exist for both Corrections Officers and inmates are almost too numerous to list. The facility must be replaced before a catastrophic event results in a loss of life.



MISSY HUNT

The ceilings in the prison are falling in from water damage caused by the leaking roof, drains and water lines.

of the Local Union. During a press conference after the tour he not only noted the serious and imminent dangers that existed at the jail, but offered the Union's support in working toward a solution. In May of this year President Roberts wrote to the County Board of Commissioners expressing his concerns that nothing had been done to address the ongoing health and safety problems at the prison. Once again, he offered the assistance of the UMWA in addressing these conditions and reaching an amicable and permanent resolution to the problem.

Unfortunately, the Commissioners have failed to respond, leaving the



MISSY HUNT

The sewer system not only will not drain, but sewage routinely backs-up through the drains.

Union with limited recourse but to seek a resolution to the situation through whatever means available. “No one can argue that the conditions at the prison do not pose an immediate and serious threat to the health and safety of everyone in the community,” stated At-Large International Vice President Donnie Samms. “We have made so many attempts to work with the County to get this situation fixed, but nothing positive is being done. We are dealing with potentially life-threatening circumstances and the time for discussion must come to an end.”

The jails deplorable conditions are a matter of public record

“The situation with the jail simply continues to deteriorate,” stated Secretary-Treasurer Kane. “There are numerous reports over the years that have called into question the County’s ability to provide a safe and healthy work environment for the Correction Officers and a reliable facility to hold members of society who have run afoul of the law. Time is running out and the Union must now consider taking more aggressive action.”

The jail, which is dangerously overpopulated, currently houses about 250 inmates. The overcrowding of jail cells and housing prisoners in common areas creates an atmosphere ripe for conflict and confrontation. However, that is not the total population within the County’s prison system. Other inmates are housed outside the County in a fee-for-service arrangement with other county lock-ups. The number of these “outsourced inmates” fluctuates month-to-month and the Union was unable to get an accurate number of those currently housed outside the County.

“The whole system is out of whack. There appears to be few people looking for a reasonable economic solution to

“I have seen first-hand the deplorable and unsafe conditions that Correction Officers must work in and inmates are housed in at this prison, and they can no longer be tolerated. The UMWA has attempted to work with County Officials to address this serious problem to no avail. Unfortunately, their silence is leaving the Union little choice but to seek a just resolution to this matter through the United States Department of Justice and the courts.”

—PRESIDENT ROBERTS

the problems at the jail,” said International District 2 Vice President Ed Yankovich. “They keep throwing good money after bad. They are dumping thousands of dollars a month into a building that is slowly collapsing. Then they spend additional money to house inmates at facilities outside the County. In 2014, that amount was reported to be in excess of \$1.5 million. This is nothing more than politics and a waste of taxpayer money.”

The health and safety risks requires the Union to take immediate action

There is no question that the Jail no longer serves the purpose for which it was built. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections issued a report in November of 2014 that the facility does not meet minimum operating standards. After the report was released, the Warden noted publicly that the facility could be closed by the Department at any time. He also wondered how the public would feel if a judgement for \$50 million was levied against the County in response to one of the many



MISSY HUNT

Many of the showers and toilets (not pictured) are not operational. The overcrowding of the facility compounds the problems with sanitary conditions creating serious health hazards.



MISSY HUNT

Electrical hazards exist throughout the facility. Wires haphazardly hang from leaking pipes in the ceiling. The electrical system is so old that extension cords are the main source of power to many areas of the prison.

lawsuits pending against the prison and then have the Courts demand a new prison be built at the cost of \$30 million.

“We have attempted every reasonable avenue to work with the County to protect the UMWA members who work at the jail, secure humane conditions for the inmates and be sensitive to the needs of the citizens of the County,” said President Roberts. “Clearly, at this point those efforts have been rejected by County Officials. In the very near future the Union will be left with no alternative but to move this matter out of the County’s hands to the U.S. Department of Justice and the appropriate courts. The lives of everyone who comes in contact with the jail, even on a casual basis, requires immediate action.” ■

Mine Health and Safety Academy turns



The federal Mine Health and Safety Academy (Academy) in Beckley, WV turned 40 years old on August 17th. It is one of nine Academies, including the U.S. Military Academies, that is operated by the Federal Government and the only one dedicated to improving health and safety conditions in U.S. Mines.

While the UMWA is one of the most ardent and vocal supporters of the construction and funding of the Academy, the Union does recognize the enormous efforts of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV). “The Union has always been the leading advocate for coal mine health and safety and that will never change,” said President Roberts. “However, we can-

not for one minute forget the efforts of Senator Byrd. He truly was one of the best friends miners ever had.”

The Union conducts training classes for all UMWA Local Unions, both underground and surface operations, annually at the Academy. These classes are normally scheduled in the late fall and are designed to keep the membership up to speed on the latest regulations and technologies in the mining industry.

June 15, 2006, also marked the 10th Anniversary of the 2006 Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (MINER Act). The Act requires operators of underground coal mines to improve accident preparedness. The legislation man-

dates that mining companies develop an emergency response plan specific to each mine they operate, and requires that every mine have at least two rescue teams located within one hour. It also increased both civil and criminal penalties for violations of federal mining safety standards. Passage of the 2006 MINER Act was the first and only time the federal Mine Safety and Health Act has ever been amended. ■

FINAL PHASE OF MSHA Dust Rule takes effect

On August 1st, Phase III of the Mine Safety and Health Administration’s final rule, Lowering Miners’ Exposure to Respirable Coal Mine Dust, Including Continuous Personal Dust Monitors, went into effect. The August implementation was the culmination of a two year long process of increasing monitoring frequency of respirable coal mine dust, using the latest technology and lowering the concentration limits of respirable dust permitted in the mine atmosphere. The overall concentration of respirable dust permitted in coal mines is reduced from 2.0 to 1.5 milligrams per cubic meter of air. The standard for Part 90 miners and for air used to ventilate places where miners work is reduced from 1.0 to 0.5 milligrams per cubic meter of air.

Despite almost continuous objections from many coal operators, who complained that the Rule was too



restrictive and therefore impossible to achieve, the most recent sampling data does not support their opposition. Of more than 20,000 samples taken under Phase II of the Rule, between April 1 and June 30 with the Continuous Personal Dust Monitor, 99 percent were in compliance. This is the same percentage of the 87,000 samples taken under Phase I of the new Standard.

“The Union is very pleased with the implementation of the new federal Dust Standard,” stated Secretary-Treasurer Kane.

“There is no doubt that the Union would have preferred additional sampling at all mining operations, especially surface operations and Anthracite mines. But from a practical perspective the Rule, as it is written, is doing what it is supposed to do. Anything that reduces health risks to miners is always welcome.”



MINING INDUSTRY FINALLY FINDS A COURT THAT WILL HEAR ITS CASE AGAINST THE **MSHA's Pattern of Violations Rule**

The National Mining Association (NMA), the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association and the Portland Cement Association has finally found a court that will hear its legal case against the Assistant Secretary and MSHA challenging the validity of their Pattern of Violations (POV) Rule. Federal District Court Judge James Graham found that the U.S. District Court of Ohio has jurisdiction to hear the case. Judge Graham determined that failure of the Court from hearing the case would foreclose all meaningful reviews of the matter.

As with almost every rule that the Agency has issued in the last several years the mining industry filed suit claiming the Rule was arbitrary and capricious. They also noted that the POV Rule eliminated their due process and procedural safeguards that have been in place since 1990.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit previously dismissed that challenge, citing the POV was not a mandatory health and safety standard, therefore, the Court lacked subject matter jurisdiction. They had determined, contrary to Graham's decision, that, no court had jurisdiction because the Standard was not a mandatory health and safety regulation under the Mine Act and the case should be remanded to the Mine Health and Safety Review Commission.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON **Underground Diesel Exhaust**

On June 9, 2016 the Mine Health and Safety Administration published a Request for Information (RFI) on ways to control and monitor underground miners' exposure to diesel exhaust. MSHA cited studies by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Cancer Institute, who found a strong link between diesel exhaust and lung cancer, as the basis for the request. As far back as June 2012, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified diesel exhaust as a carcinogenic to humans. MSHA's press release noted that it's time for the Agency to determine whether the existing standards adequately protect miners.



The UMWA International Health and Safety Department noted that studies have shown that underground coal miners can be exposed to more than 10 times the Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) of other oc-

cupations. The situation is also made worse with the increasing numbers of diesel powered equipment being used in underground coal mines. The UMWA recommended that MSHA review the standards for DPM in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia in determining what standard it will eventually adopt.

"It should not surprise anyone that diesel exhaust causes lung cancer," said President Roberts. "Health agencies from around the world have been telling everyone who would listen that DPM causes cancer. The Agency needs to work as quickly as possible to address this issue and protect miners from this serious health risk." ■

Senators secure committee vote ON MINERS PROTECTION ACT

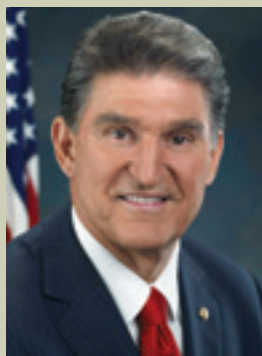
As the shortened summer session of Congress was winding down, supporters of the Miners Protection Act—S. 1714—in the United States Senate used several legislative procedures to secure a September vote for the bill in the Senate Finance Committee.

The bill's two lead sponsors, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), went to the floor of the Senate as a bill to

called a "mark-up" in Congressional terms—in September.

"I am very encouraged by the bi-partisan agreement by Senate

and future retirees and widows," Roberts said. "Senate leadership of both parties—Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Minority Whip Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Tex.) came together and agreed to move this critical legislation forward. I thank them as well and appreciate this action very much."



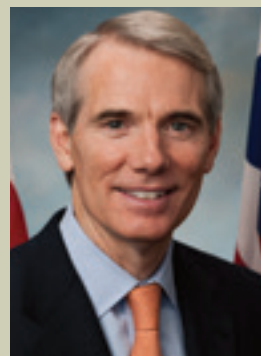
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)



Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)



Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)



Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)



Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN)

provide billions of dollars to Puerto Rico to bail out its economy was being discussed. They announced that they would not be able to support the Puerto Rico bill moving forward unless action was taken on S. 1714. Sena-

leadership and members to hold a mark-up vote in the Senate Finance Committee on the Miners Protection Act," President Roberts said. "We have been asking for this action to be taken for months, because time

At press time for this issue of the *UMW Journal*, the mark-up is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 14. Roberts urged the Senate to act and move the bill over to the House of Representatives without delay.

"I am very encouraged by the bi-partisan agreement by Senate leadership and members to hold a mark-up vote in the Senate Finance Committee on the Miners Protection Act."

tors Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) joined them in that position.

After discussions between Senate leadership of both parties, it was agreed that the Finance Committee would hold a vote on the bill—

is growing very short if the health care benefits for tens of thousands of retirees are to be saved."

"This was a courageous action for these Senators to take, and I commend all of them for their willingness to stand with UMWA current

"These retirees need to have some sense of comfort that their Congress is working for them instead of continuing to wonder if they will have the health care and pensions they were promised. Congress needs to hold the vote and pass this bill." ■

One year later, Clean Power Plan still on hold

On August 1, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency published its Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule in final form in the United States Federal Register. Later that day, the UMWA filed suit challenging the plan and its wholesale reinvention of the American electrical generation system.

A few weeks later, the Union joined with other entities and states in filing for a stay of the implementation of the CPP. That motion was granted by the U.S. Supreme Court in February. The rule has not been implemented and very likely will not be in 2016.

“This rule was a prime example of government overreach from the very beginning,” President Roberts said. “The EPA is using an obscure section of the Clean Air Act to radically change power generation in ways that won’t have any real measurable effect on global greenhouse gas emissions but will cost tens of thousands of coalfield jobs.”

“We believe strongly that the CPP is illegal as written and will be thrown out either partially or entirely at the completion of the legal process,” Roberts said. “It oversteps the bounds of the authority given to the EPA under the Clean Air Act.”

Legal arguments about the CPP are expected to be heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia in the fall, with a decision not expected until the end of the year or early 2017. That decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court, meaning it will be mid to late 2017 before it is finally decided.

Senate control up for grabs in 2016 election, House expected to stay GOP

The balance of power in the United States Senate is on the line in the 2016 elections, as the majority Republicans are defending 24 seats while the Democrats are only defending 10 seats. The Democrats need to gain 6 seats to retake the majority.

Many of the seats the GOP is defending are in traditionally Democratic states and were won in 2010, a non-presidential election year when voter turnout is lower. The higher rates of voter participation in presidential election years puts those seats at risk, especially in states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and New Hampshire.

Other states where polling indicates close Senate races are developing are Arizona, Nevada, Florida and North Carolina.

Election observers continue to believe the Republicans will keep their majority in the House of Representatives, although likely by a smaller margin than it currently has.

UMWA State COMPAC Councils will be meeting over the next several months to make endorsements in state and local races and recommendations to the National COMPAC Council for federal elections. Once the endorsements are made they will be posted to the UMWA’s website at umwa.org. ■



THEY SAID IT

“I’ve frequently heard my colleagues try to differentiate this case by speaking of a promise of a pension that was made to retirees in this particular union. But that agreement was between the members and the union, it was not an agreement with the federal government.”

—Sen. Mike Enzi, (R-WY)

Speaking on the floor of the Senate on July 12, Sen. Enzi said that there was no promise of a pension between the government and the UMWA. He was wrong.

The truth is that the 1946 Krug-Lewis Agreement, signed in the White House, contained a specific clause that established a pension plan. The language also specifically states that it is an agreement between the United States and the United Mine Workers of America.

Besides, who has ever heard of a union making an agreement with its own members about something like a pension plan?

Lorin E. Kerr Scholarship Winners

The UMWA has announced the winners of the 2015-2016 Lorin E. Kerr Scholarship. Both of these future leaders will receive \$2,500 this academic year to assist them in meeting their educational goals.

Kaylee Argabright, daughter of UMWA Local Union 9177 member Tony L. Argabright of Clear Fork, WV in District 17 has been accepted to West Virginia University. Kaylee will be pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in nursing. "I would like to give back to my community that I so dearly love," said Kaylee. "West Virginia is facing many problems right now with drug addiction, malnutrition and an increasing population of elderly residents. I believe that as a nurse, I can help make a difference."



Kaylee is deeply concerned with the current Right-to-Work push in the Country and the fact that West Virginia recently became the 26th state to enact such legislation. "It's really a Right-to-Work-for-Less," she said. "If you re-

ceive paid leave, higher wages and health care, you should thank a Union."



Baylee Keener is the daughter of UMWA Local Union 9909 member Brian Keener of Morgantown, WV in District 31. Baylee has been accepted to the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). She will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in forensic psychology. "I am enrolled in the fast track, 5 year

degree program that offers internships with some very important law enforcement agencies, at FIT," said Baylee. "It is my hope to work in the behavioral analysis unit of the FBI after graduation."

Baylee also expressed deep concerns about the move by many anti-Union groups to enact Right-to-Work legislation. "No one should be forced to sacrifice safety to keep their job. And no one should fear losing their job or even some of their hard earned benefits to keep their job." ■

District 2

Local Union 4702 gains new members

Local Union 4702 may be one of the newest in the UMWA, but it's already increasing in membership. On April 27, 2016 Corrections Officers at the Indiana County Correctional Facility voted to join the UMWA. A little more than two months later, on July 13th, the County Court Related employees also voted to be represented by the Union. The 17 to 0 vote increased the membership of the Local Union to 75 members.

District 12

Local Union 1545 Picnic

Members of UMWA L.U. 1545 participated in a WWII Veterans Fishing Outing on June 4, 2016. Several other UMWA Local Unions helped finance the event, which provided boats to wheelchair-bound veterans.

Local Unions from Ohio County, KY held picnic

On June 4, 2016, Local Unions 1919, 8941 and 9800 held their annual picnic in Ohio County, KY. International District 12 Vice President Steve Earle and District Representative Tim Miller attended the event. "It's always great to get together with the members and their families and just enjoy each other's company," said Vice President Earle. "We have so many challenges facing us as a Union right now, it's good to be able to sit down and discuss the issues."

Southern Illinois Retiree Meeting

Southern Illinois retirees met on June 1, 2016, at the Pinckneyville Knights of Columbus Hall. President Roberts attended the meeting and discussed the current state of the industry and the challenges facing the Union. "The members who attended the meeting are acutely aware of what is happening with their pensions and health care as a result of the industry downturn and the coal company bankruptcies," said President Roberts. "They have been attending Rallies from St. Louis, MO to Fairmont, WV over the past several years. I'm sure they will be attending the September 8th Rally in Washington, DC too."

Illinois Retiree Meetings

Northern Illinois retirees met on June 7, 2016, at the Canton VFW and Central Illinois retirees met at the Taylorville Moose Club on June 13, 2016.

District 12

Local Union 1457 meeting

UMWA Local Union 1457 would like to invite all of its members to participate in a monthly breakfast meeting. The meetings will be held at Lollie's Restaurant in Sparta, IL on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. For more details, please contact Gary Rowley at (618) 615-1947.

District 12 and 20 Conference

The District 12 and District 20 Conference was held on June 28, 2016, in Franklin, Tennessee. The rash of Coal Company bankruptcies, cheap natural gas prices and environmental regulations have decimated the coal industry and has caused immense concern across the Union. The damage being caused to the pensions and health care benefits for retired and active members was the main topics of discussions. Both President Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Kane spoke at the event and laid out the Union's plans to find a permanent fix to the problems through Congress. "There never seems to be an end to the struggles for workers in this Country, and more often than not it seems the UMWA is right in the middle of the largest battles," said Secretary-Treasurer Kane. "However, in the end the number of battles don't matter. It's about winning the war."

District 17

Annual WV Coal Festival held in Madison, WV

The West Virginia Coal Festival was held on June 22, 2016, in downtown Madison, WV. The event has been conducted annually since 1994 and draws hundreds of participants. The festival is a family affair providing live entertainment, a parade, arts and crafts and fireworks, along with other family entertainment. "The Festival offers a lot of different venues for people to participate in," said International District 17 Vice President Joe Carter. "There are all kinds of art and crafts for the kids and other recreational activities. There really is something for everyone, including just sitting around with friends and family and enjoying each other's company."



Pictured from (l-r) L.U. 1503 President Carl Egnor, WV State Senator Ron Stollings, WV Coal Festival Board Member Jim Clendenen and International District 17 Vice President Joe Carter.

UMWA Labor Day Rally Scheduled

The 78th Annual UMWA Labor Day Celebration will be held on September 5, 2016 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the John Slack Memorial Park in Racine, WV. Scheduled events include political speakers from around the state, music, food, cash drawings and entertainment for the kids. Tickets for the cash drawings can be purchased at the Park on the day of the event. All proceeds from tickets sales are used to support the Celebration.

Local Union 1857 to hold annual picnic

L.U. 1857 will hold its annual picnic on September 10, 2016 at the Rutland Community Center in Rutland, OH, beginning at 11:00 a.m. If you need additional information, you can contact Rodney Butcher at (740) 742-2525 or Jack Stollings at (740) 742-4367.

Local Union 1340 schedules picnic

L.U. 1340 will hold its picnic on Sunday, September 25, 2016, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the New Lexington Park in New Lexington, OH. If you need additional information, you can contact Burrell Pettet at (740) 962-6975 or Don Pingle at (740) 394-2662. ■

District 22



Pictured is the Archie Hay Post 24 American Legion Baseball Team

Local Union Sponsors Local Youth Team

UMWA L.U. 4893 sponsored Archie Hay Post 24 American Legion Baseball Team located in Rock Springs, WY. "It is an honor to work with this great group of kids. I am very pleased that our Local Union supports such important causes," stated L.U. 4893 President Steve VanValkenburg.

"This is something the UMWA can be very proud of," said International District 22 Vice President Mike Dalpiaz. "This is an investment in our kids and our community. Supporting these activities is important for everyone involved, including the UMWA."

District 20 Two members of UMWA District 20 honored



DARYL DEWBERRY

District 20 Representative **Larry Spencer** has been selected as the Labor Person of the Year by the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation (AOLAF). Brother Spencer is a member of UMWA L.U. 2397 and serves as the At-Large Vice President for the AFL-CIO State Federation in Alabama. He is also President of the Alabama Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), a member of the Executive Board for the Central Alabama Labor Council, as well as Vice President of the West Alabama Labor Council. “Brother Spencer certainly deserves this award, he is a tireless advocate for workers across Alabama and beyond. He’s only the second UMWA member to receive this honor, and I want to say congratulations to Larry,” stated International District 20 Vice President Daryl Dewberry.



DARYL DEWBERRY

UMWA L.U. 2042 President **Vernon Bankston** has been elected to the Alabama Labor Hall of Fame by the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation (AOLAF). Brother Bankston began his career as a UMWA miner on February 26, 1957. Before becoming President of L.U. 2042, Brother Bankston served as President of L.U.s 9984, 1948, and also served as a District 20 Representative for seven years. “Vernon is a great leader and arbitrator,” stated International District 20 Vice President Daryl Dewberry. “He has helped mentor and guide me over the past 35 years and I appreciate all of his help. There is no one more deserving of this award than Brother Bankston, and I congratulate him on this very special honor.”

“Brothers Spencer and Bankston should be very proud to be recognized by the AOLAF,” stated Region II Director Gary Trout. “It has always been clear to those of us who work with them in the UMWA how much they do for the Union. I congratulate them on being recognized by all of Labor in Alabama.”

District 31 Partners in Education Program

District 31’s Partners in Education Program is an integral part of the communities in Northern West Virginia. Among the many projects the Program sponsors every year is presenting deserving fourth grade students from Mylan Park Elementary and Monongah Elementary schools with new bicycles.

“This program is so important,” said International District 31 Vice President Mike Caputo. “These kids deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments and I’m pleased the UMWA is so involved in these communities.”

“The dedication of the UMWA members who run the Partners in Education Program cannot be overstated,” said At-Large International Vice President Donnie Samms. “They have made a significant impact in the lives of so many young people in the community.”

Also receiving a new bicycle was Grace Jackson of Mylan Park Elementary School, who was recognized as being an overall outstanding student. Pictured are International District 31 Vice President Mike Caputo, Partners in Education Program Chairman Mark Dorsey and L.U. 1702 member Jimmy Murray along with Grace Jackson.



DEBBIE TAMPOYA

Pearly Cutlip Honored

Pearly Cutlip, wife of UMWA member Denver Cutlip, who passed away on February 25th, was presented with a plaque in honor of her late husband. Denver was a member of L.U. 1466 in District 31 for nearly 40 years. He was featured in the “Actively Retired” article of the March–April, 2016 edition of the *Journal*.



TINA CAPUTO

International District 31 Vice President Mike Caputo presents Pearly with the Plaque on behalf of President Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Kane.

“We all know how much Denver did for the UMWA. He was always on the buses for rallies, working on organizing drives and anything else he was asked to do, but believe me Denver didn’t do it alone,” said International District 31 Vice President Mike Caputo. “Pearly was right there with him to encourage him every step of the way. She is as much a part of this Union as Denver.”

“Denver was a great guy. He has a very special place in my heart and always will,” said At-Large International Vice President Donnie Samms. “But we all know that he was able to do so much for the Union because of the love and support of Pearly. She is just a wonderful lady.” ■



ROB MOORE

This year Taylor Hayes from Monongah Elementary School was presented with a bicycle for having perfect attendance. Pictured are L.U. 1702 member Jimmy Murray and Taylor Hayes.

Brother John Lonetti passes away

On July 1, 2016 the United Mine Workers of America suffered an unexpected and heartbreaking loss. A member of UMWA Local Union 1412, Brother John Lonetti was a 40 year member of UMWA and an integral member of the International Staff.



Brother John Lonetti with his wife Annie and President Roberts at the 2015 PLC picnic in District 2.

John first joined the International Staff in February of 1994, after serving in several lost-wage positions. During his career, John served in many capacities capping his time with the UMWA as the Assistant to the International President. While Brother Lonetti performed many duties while working in the President's Office, he cherished his appointment by President Roberts to oversee the UMWA Veterans Committee.

"I have known John for as long as I can remember," stated Secretary-Treasurer Kane. "We knew each other before either one of us worked for the International Union. He was such a hard worker. He loved the UMWA, and I will miss him."

After his retirement on July 1, 2014 Brother Lonetti remained very active in the Union. He spent much of his time assisting his Brothers and

Sisters in District 2 filing claims to collect Federal Black Lung benefits. He would routinely drive members to West Virginia to receive treatment and medical evaluations for the disease.

"John Lonetti was such an important part of this Union for many decades. I could not have asked for a more hardworking or dedicated Staff member," said President Roberts. "He was really my go to guy for so many things, but more than that he was a very dear friend. During good times or bad John was constantly by my side. John would beam when I called him my number one staff guy. I will miss him greatly. To his family, I offer my deepest sympathy, but also offer comfort in knowing we will all see John again someday. And that will truly be a very good day." ■

Date for the Annual District 2 Picnic is set



The Annual District 2 Pensioner Leadership Committee picnic has been scheduled for September 10, 2016 at Ten Mile Creek County Park near Fredericktown, PA. The event brings together UMWA families and friends from across the tri-state area for a day of speeches, music, food, fun and solidarity. Last year's event, pictured above, included speeches by President Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Kane. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the event and bring your family and friends.



President Roberts addresses the crowd at the 2015 District 2 Picnic near Fredericktown, PA. For directions to the park go to www.co.washington.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/187

UMWA International Donates to West Virginia Flood Victims

On June 23, 2016, flooding in West Virginia devastated whole areas of the State, and resulted in at least 23 deaths. In response, the UMWA International Union donated \$15,000 to the American Red Cross for direct assistance and \$5,000 to the Southern Appalachian Labor School to help pay for a generator being used to supply power to hard-hit areas of the State.

"It is times like these that the UMWA must become involved to assist those individuals and families who have suffered such devastating losses," said President Roberts. "We need to offer whatever assistance and comfort we can as they struggle through this very difficult time."

Emery County, UT Unveils Miners' Memorial

Several thousand UMWA members, their families and supporters turned out on June 11th in Castle Dale, UT to participate in the annual Emery County Miners' Memorial. This year was marked by a parade led by President Roberts and International District 22 Vice President Mike Dalpiaz and the unveiling of the County's new Miners' Memorial statue.



MISSY HUNT

President Roberts and International District 22 Vice President Dalpiaz, behind the UMWA banner, led the Miners' Memorial parade through Castle Dale, UT. District 22 Representatives Phil Russell and Matt Maus are carrying the banner.

The statue was revealed by the Memorial Committee at a solemn ceremony in honor of the 124 miners from Emery County who perished in area mines. The reality is most of these miners are killed in accidents that claimed the life of a single worker at a time, but Emery County, like many in the U.S., is also familiar with mining disasters. The 1984 Wilberg mine fire, which claimed the lives of 27 miners, is the worst mining disaster in County history.

"The miners of Emery County dedicated their lives to powering this Nation, making it possible to become the most powerful Country in the history of the world," stated International District 22 Vice President Mike Dalpiaz.

"Unfortunately, too many paid the ultimate sacrifice in the course of their labors. It is therefore, very fitting that we honor the workers."

"It is truly a privilege for me to be here and join with the families and friends to honor these fallen miners," said President Roberts. "It is a sad reality that far too many fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and other family members watched as their loved one left for work in the mine and never saw them return. The pain is unbearable and ever present, but it is also important that we remember their sacrifice and understand that they helped pave the way to keep future miners safe. May God Bless each of them and their families."

More than 20 UMWA Local Unions from across Region IV participated in the event. The Local Unions from Utah provided all the participants with refreshments. ■



President Roberts served as the keynote speaker at the Emery County Miners' Memorial ceremony on June 11, 2016.

UMWA MEMBERS WASH THE WALL

The Vietnam Memorial is managed by the National Parks Service, but routine maintenance such as cleaning are coordinated through the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 641 from Montgomery County, Maryland. The Chapter schedules various groups throughout the spring and summer to participate in the Wall washing. The UMWA has made washing the Wall part of an annual event in honor of the Nation's veterans. ■

President Roberts and UMWA L.U. 1188 member David Dilly (in the background) prepare to wash the granite panels of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on July 9th.



TIM BAKER



TIM BAKER

UMWA members from West Virginia and Pennsylvania arrived at the Vietnam Memorial early in the morning on July 9, 2016 to help wash the Wall. "The Vietnam Memorial, like those honoring the men and women who served in other conflicts, has a special place in the hearts of everyone in the Nation," said President Roberts. "The UMWA is blessed with great members, many of whom served their country in foreign conflicts, like myself. We all consider it an honor to be able to do this every year."



TIM BAKER

The statue on the grounds of the Ludlow Memorial site stands as a grim reminder of the horrific and brutal attack on striking miners and their families.

Ludlow Memorial

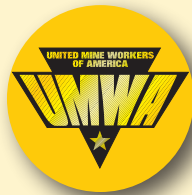
On June 5th, members of the United Mine Workers, families and friends made the sobering trip to honor the 11 children and 2 women who were killed on April 20, 1914 in the infamous Ludlow Massacre.

“After 102 years this place still holds significance for the United Mine Workers and the entire Labor Movement,” said Secretary-Treasurer Kane. “The women and children who were murdered by the coal operator’s thugs and state militia were the innocent victims of greed and power. They along with their families were seeking a better life, a life of dignity and respect, and they paid for those demands with their lives. But they also paved the way for future generations to achieve the dreams they sought. This ground is forever sacred because of what they did here.”



TIM BAKER

Secretary-Treasurer Kane addresses the crowd at the Ludlow Memorial on June 5, 2016.



HONORING OUR PENSIONERS

UMWA District officials recently honored the following retirees for their years of service as members of the UMWA.

70 Year Pins **DISTRICT 2 L.U. 6290** Edward Cain, Frank Daniel, Peter Guritza, Cecil Metcalf, John Paidakovich, George Pringle, George Shimet, Kemp Shoaf, Earnest Vannicola
DISTRICT 31 L.U. 1304 Walter Prisbylla

60 Year Pins **DISTRICT 2 L.U. 2874** Eli Moore **L.U. 6290** John Bair, Irvin Emerson, Alex Kovach **DISTRICT 12 L.U. 1802** Kenneth Beach **L.U. 9653** Norman Adams, Bill Smith, Ray Davis

50 Year Pins **DISTRICT 2 L.U. 1269** Duane Stiffler **L.U. 6290** Frank Berdar, David Donham, Terry Donley, James Hall, Theodore Kelly, Sr., Harley Moreland, James Shipp, Jack Swift
DISTRICT 12 L.U. 1392 Thomas Snider **L.U. 1410** Pat Haussin, David McEuen **L.U. 1802** Kenneth Beach **L.U. 1825** Ralph Tolliver **L.U. 1905** Charles Durham **L.U. 5138** Charles Ferrell **DISTRICT 17 L.U. 1640** Giles Ball **L.U. 2286** Donald Gartin **L.U. 2354** Arthur Phillips **DISTRICT 20 L.U. 1948** Randell Erwin **DISTRICT 31 L.U. 1304** Herman Bick, Attilio Scopel, John Vargo **L.U. 1570** Gary Steele **L.U. 9695** William Parish

40 Year Pins **DISTRICT 2 L.U. 0488** John (Ed) Templeton **L.U. 1248** Jon Dziak, David Migyanko **L.U. 1368** Gary Bartlebaugh, John Toth **L.U. 1412** Roger Hagofsky, Ron Zellman **L.U. 1980** James Grego **L.U. 2244** Joe Chehovin **L.U. 2258** Norman Rush **L.U. 2300** Charles Sokol, John Sismondo **L.U. 2494** Dennis Dubetsky, William Kowalski, Paul Przybocki, Daniel Whited **L.U. 2874** Randy Knestrick **L.U. 6290** Keith Arrington, Kenneth Bane, Richard Bierer, Larry Bowlen, Sr., Ronald Byrne, Vernon Eberhart, Jr., William Jamison, Edward Kamenos, Joseph Kormos, John Kraft, Kenneth Miller, Sr., David Morris, Ralph Weston, William Wilson, Thomas Woolery **L.U. 6986** Clifford Lopes **DISTRICT 12 L.U. 0014** Hollis King **L.U. 1092** Joe Harmon **L.U. 1122** E.L. Raymond **L.U. 1410** David Wiram, Michael Yuodzukinas **L.U. 1545** Edward Penninger, Tommy Sweeten **L.U. 1602** Jerry Norris **L.U. 1613** Curtis Coonrod, Zane Dudley, Gary Hogan, Dan McCarthy, Alan Rolando, Donald Stewart **L.U. 1740** Samuel Cummings, Terry Russelburg, Peggy Vondrasek **L.U. 1791** Ted Paris **L.U. 1825** Ralph Tolliver **L.U. 1907** Melvin Hardison **L.U. 1919** Anthony Allen, James Ashby, Doy Tipton **L.U. 1969** Scott Brady **L.U. 2161** Ed Corn **L.U. 2488** James Majeweki **L.U. 4343** Delphina Mowrer **L.U. 9926** Randy Nix **DISTRICT 17 L.U. 0093** Robert Marcum **L.U. 1340** Danny Riggs, Kenny Wise **L.U. 1440** Harold Coleman, Charles Dixon, Irvin Smith, Troy Smith, Ronald Yates **L.U. 1511** James Croaff **L.U. 1607** Larry Kilgore **L.U. 1857** Daniel Decaminada **L.U. 2232** Christopher Lester, Daywer Mitchell **L.U. 6046** David Davis **L.U. 6426** William Skiles **L.U. 7086** Willard Huddleston **L.U. 7635** Donald Robbins **L.U. 8783** Larry Herron, Jackie Lambert **DISTRICT 20 L.U. 1288** Betty Jones, Keith Glover **L.U. 1948** Randell Erwin **L.U. 2397** William C. Lee **DISTRICT 22 L.U. 1769** Jack M. Batt, Tom Kay, David Laws **L.U. 7949** John Trujillo **DISTRICT 31 L.U. 1058** Thomas Winston **L.U. 1473** Charles Mituzas **L.U. 1501** Tom Greco **L.U. 1188** David Dilly, David Earich, Norman Skinner **L.U. 1570** Charles E. Craig, James Foley, Donald Persinger **L.U. 1638** William Hooker **L.U. 1702** Richard Rodriguez **L.U. 1810** Robert Shreve **L.U. 1938** Dale Karickhoff **L.U. 6362** Brad Liston **L.U. 7690** James Sutton **L.U. 9909** Micheal Buckner, Cameron Buterbaugh, David Hall, Delbert Lindsey, Ernest Payne, Sheldon Savage

Unfortunately, due to the number of members receiving pins, the *UMW Journal* cannot run photos of pin recipients. In order to receive a membership pin, you must submit an application to your District office. Pins are not automatically issued. Your district representative will send the names to the *UMW Journal*.

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