AFL Solidarity Lehigh Valley Labor Council 2000 CIO

NEWS & VIEWS

PENNSYLVANIA LABOR COMMUNICATIONS Association AFL-CIO

LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
"UNIONS JOINING TOGETHER AS ONE"

November 2026

www.lehighvalleyclc.org

The 2026 Labor Ticket

for the Tuesday, November 3 Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

How you vote is a personal choice, but the Lehigh Valley Labor Council has endorsed the following candidates. Related election information on page three.



PA Lt. Governor
Austin Davis



PA Governor
Josh Shapiro



US House 7th
Bob Brooks



PA Senate 14th
Nick Miller



PA Senate 16th
Mark Pinsley



PA Senate 18th
Lisa Boscola



PA House 22nd
CeCe Gerlach



PA House 131st
Meriam H. Sabih



PA House 132nd
Mike Schlossberg



PA House 133rd
Jeanne McNeill



PA House 134th
Pete Schweyer



PA House 135th
Steve Samuelson



PA House 136th
Robert Freeman



PA House 137th
Jeff Warren



PA House 138th
Jared Bitting



PA House 183rd
Deirdre J. Kamber



PA House 187th
Rachel M. Cuevas

Notice of Nominations

Lehigh Valley Labor Council nomination and election of officers

Nominations of officers for the Lehigh Valley Labor Council will take place on November 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. in accordance with the council's Constitution and By-Laws. The highlights of the process are listed below. For more information, visit the council's website at lehighvalleyclc.org and click on the link entitled "AFL-CIO Codes and Policies."

Location for Nominations and Election will be at the Teamsters #773 Union Hall, 3614 Lehigh Street, Whitehall, PA.

Election, if needed, will be held on December 16, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. (Art.7, Sec.1)

The term of office is three years. (Art.6, Sec.4)

The list of officers includes: (Art.6, Sec.1)
President
Executive Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Sergeant-at-Arms

Vice-Presidents (Eleven to be elected)

Trustees (Three to be elected)

At the time of their election, each officer must be a duly accredited delegate from an affiliated organization. (Art.6, Sec.1c)

Not more than two (2) delegates from the same local or international union shall be eligible to hold the positions of President, Executive Vice-President, Recording Secretary or Treasurer at the same time, unless no other candidate from another local or international will accept nomination for these positions. (Art.6, Sec.3)

Letters of nomination acceptance can be sent to Recording Secretary Anne Radakovits if the nominee will be absent from the November 18 meeting. Please send acceptance letters either by US mail or by e-mail to the following addresses:

By mail: L.V. Labor Council
c/o Secretary Anne Radakovits
PO Box 20226
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
By e-mail: aradak0277@rcn.com

Affiliate lists available on request. (Art.7, Sec.8)

The election for uncontested offices is by acclamation. The election for contested offices shall be held by roll call vote. (Art.7 Sec.2)

Installation of new officers shall be at the January 20, 2027 meeting. (Art.7, Sec.1)

Lehigh Valley Labor Council
AFL-CIO
www.lehighvalleyclc.org
Phone 610-366-1358

General Officers

Jim Irwin	President	IUOE #542
Gregg Potter	Executive Vice-President	IUOE #542
Anne Radakovits	Secretary	AFSCME #1979
Dennis Andrews	Treasurer	USW/SOAR
Ron Labar	Sergeant-at-Arms	Pa Joint Board #234

Vice-Presidents

Mike Ahern	CWA #13500
Mike Baker	SEIU #668
Ron Ennis	APWU #268
Leslie Franklin	AEA
Dennis Hower	IBT #773
Christine Miller	Workers United
Lenny Perrone	Steamfitters #420
Mike Shupp	UAW #677
Paula Small	IBT #773
Brian Taylor	IBT #773
John Werkheiser	UFCW #1776

Trustees

Angie DeLeon-Solis	IBT #773
Jon Roth	IA #200/UA #420
Mike Wallery	IBT #773

United Way Labor Liaison

John Werkheiser	UFCW #1776

The Lehigh Valley Labor Council *News & Views* is published monthly by the Lehigh Valley Labor Council, AFL-CIO. We are proud members of the Pennsylvania Labor Communications Association, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers only and do not necessarily express the policy of the Council or any of its affiliates. All articles submitted for publication must be signed and received by the second last Thursday of the month.

Our mailing address is: Lehigh Valley Labor Council
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Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

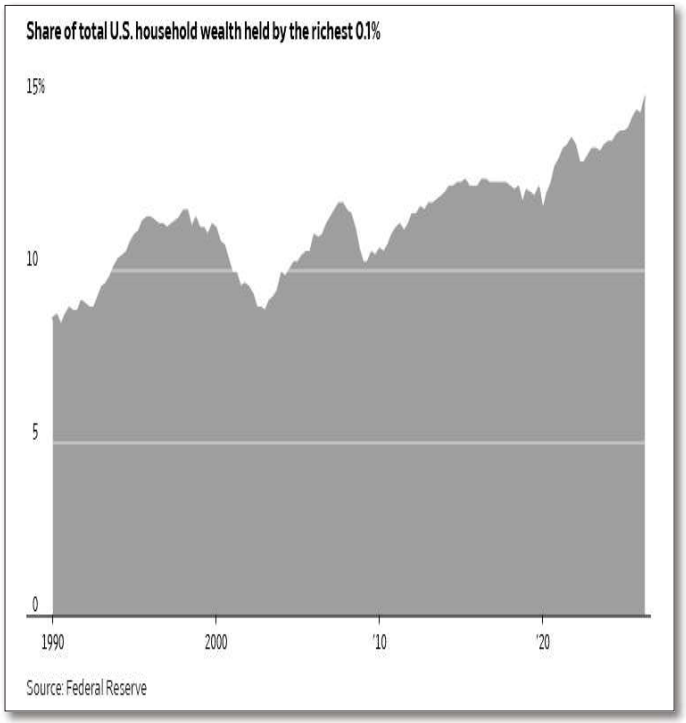
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7609 Kuhns Drive
Trexlertown, PA 18087

Editor

Ron Ennis	APWU #268

Webmaster

John Weiss	SEIU #668



Gap between the very, very rich and everyone else widens. According to two *Wall Street Journal* economics reporters, America's ultra-wealthy are amassing riches at a much faster pace than any other income group since 2019. Their wealth has soared from stock market gains, real estate income, and company ownership, aiding by favorable tax rates. Only ten percent of the very, very rich derived most of their wealth from wage and salary income.

Rachel Louise Ensign and Justin Lahart wrote on September 29, in an article entitled "The Gap Between the Rich and the Very, Very Rich is Getting Wider," that the recent stock-market boom "added trillions of dollars to their net worth." Here are highlights from their article.

The authors defined the top 0.1% richest Americans as the ultra-wealthy They number roughly 137,000 households.

The average wealth for a household in this group is more than $200 million. They control about $28 trillion, or about 15% on the nation's total wealth.

The average wealth of a household in the bottom 50% is $63,000. The bottom half's share of total wealth is about $4 trillion, or just 2.3% of the nation's total wealth.

"The average household in the top 0.1% holds over 3,000 times as much wealth as a bottom-half household does." The authors measured wealth as household assets, like stocks and home equity, minus their liabilities, like mortgages and credit-card debt.

Many in the bottom 50% percentile "have been locked out of prosperity (while) entrenched inflation is pressuring even those with six-figure salaries."

(*Credit*: The Wall Street Journal, September 29, 2026)

" . . . "

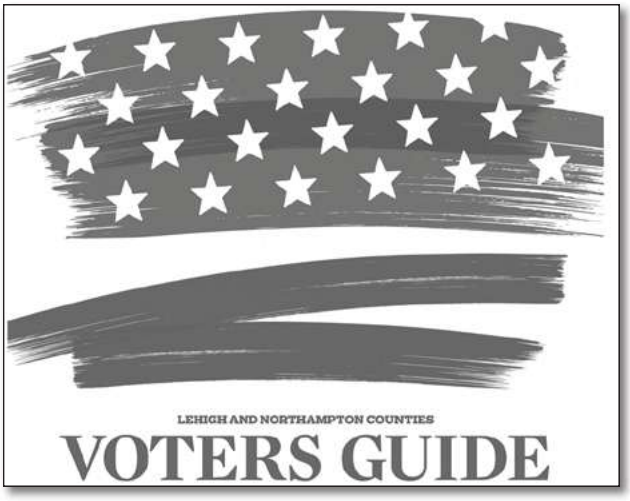


Bob Brooks
candidate for
US Congress, PA-7th

"Donald Trump and Ryan Mackenzie ran on lowering costs, ending wars and helping forgotten Americans. Instead, prices keep going up, and their corporate donors keep getting richer off our backs. And unfortunately, a lot of Democrats have fallen into the same pattern. . . .

Too many politicians on both sides of the aisle are in the pocket of corporate interests and forget that their job is to stick up for working people. I'll call corruption out no matter which party is doing it."

Bob Brooks, US House candidate for the Lehigh Valley's 7th congressional district, in an October 4, 2026 *Allentown Morning Call* "Town Square" commentary.



Several Republican incumbents failed to respond to *The Allentown Morning Call's* "Voters Guide to the 2026 Pennsylvania Election." Published on October 8 in cooperation with the League of Women Voters, the *Voters Guide* has printed information about local candidates each election cycle. In recent years, however, GOP candidates fail to participate. Whether it is to hid their record, their distrust of the *Voters Guide* and its sponsors, or their lack of interest in informing their constituents, the following GOP incumbents had "no response" to the *2026 Voters Guide*: Joe Emrick, R-137; Ann Flood, R-138th; Zach Mako, R-183rd; Gary Day, R-187th.

Mark your calendar

Important election dates to remember

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

November 3: Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots by 8 p.m. Your county election office must receive your completed mail ballot by 8 p.m. A postmark by 8 p.m. November 3 is not sufficient

November 3: Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Lehigh Valley's tramp panic

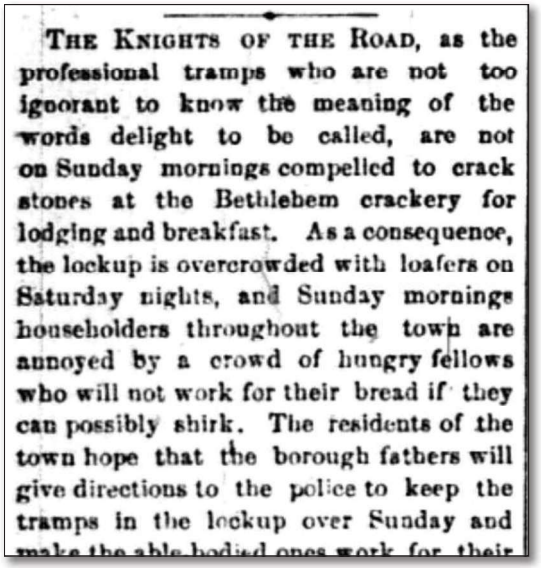
In 1884, Bethlehem's police chief warned jobless itinerants that the borough was "a stone-cracking town"

by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council

Police Chief William Ache addressed "several members of the tramp fraternity" on December 13, 1884, who had stayed overnight in the Bethlehem lock-up. According to *The Bethlehem Daily Times*, the chief informed the inmates that the warm bed, coffee, bread and pudding they had enjoyed came with a price tag.

This is "a stone-cracking town," Ache told the inmates. Each man had to crack rocks for at least two hours per night spent in the police station on a charge of vagrancy, tramping, or begging. Those who refused faced longer jail sentences.

As Chief Ache observed the seven men under his charge, he noted that two of the inmates had stayed in the jail the night before and "escaped work the next morning owing to the rainy weather." They expected a second day of rest in anticipation of more precipitation. When the rain never came, the police chief insisted they crack stones "for four hours to pay for [their] two nights' lodging." Ache also meted out an extra hour of stone cracking to a man who put on a pair of gloves before going to work, and he penalized a fourth man an extra hour of toil, when he "discovered a 'repeater,' or one who was quartered a week ago." Chief Ache "keeps an eye upon all the tramps that apply for lodging," the *Daily Times* wrote. (*Fig. #1*)



THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD, as the professional tramps who are not too ignorant to know the meaning of the words delight to be called, are not on Sunday mornings compelled to crack stones at the Bethlehem crackery for lodging and breakfast. As a consequence, the lockup is overcrowded with loafers on Saturday nights, and Sunday mornings householders throughout the town are annoyed by a crowd of hungry fellows who will not work for their bread if they can possibly shirk. The residents of the town hope that the borough fathers will give directions to the police to keep the tramps in the lockup over Sunday and make the able-bodied ones work for their

Fig. 1: *The Bethlehem Daily Times* editor demanded double work for tramps on Monday mornings, December 1884.

The editor, David Godshalk, argued that itinerants overcrowded the borough's lockup on Saturday nights, knowing that the Sabbath prohibited two hours work as payment for their lodging and breakfast. When Sunday morning arrived, the police released the prisoners, much to the dismay of the borough's residents.

Godshalk hoped that borough leaders would direct the police "to keep the tramps in the lockup over Sunday and make the able-bodied" work four hours before their release on Monday. (*Credit*: Bethlehem Daily Times, December 15, 1884)

Ache's punitive approach reflected a dramatic shift in American attitudes. Before the Civil War, Americans generally viewed itinerants as decent people seeking work. That changed after the war, when the nation rapidly industrialized and a severe depression struck, triggering widespread hysteria known as the "tramp panic" or "tramp scare." *The Easton Daily Free Press* reported that South Bethlehem lodged 1,333 men in its lock-up from November 1, 1872 to April 1, 1873, an average of nine inmates a night.

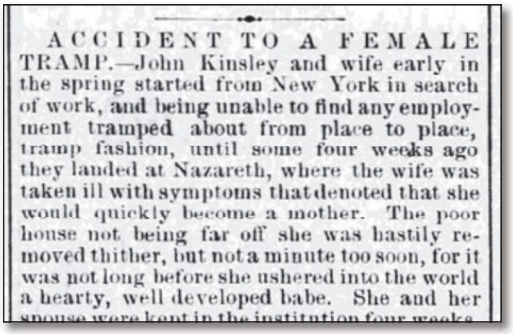
Traumatized Civil War veterans, displaced industrial workers, seasonal agricultural laborers seeking the next harvest, and labor strikers filled the ranks of the alleged tramp army. Most were young, white, American-born men navigating a harsh impersonal labor market where governments provided no public welfare safety net. Winter swelled their numbers as the absence of farm employment forced many to seek work in urban centers. Pennsylvania state lawmakers passed a tramp law in 1879 defining vagrants as "any person going about from place to place begging, asking or subsisting upon charity, and for the purpose of acquiring money or a living, and [has] no fixed place of residence or lawful occupation" in the arresting county or city. Officials had legal authority to charge violators with a misdemeanor. The sentence included "labor in the county jail or workhouse for not more than twelve months. . . ."

The sudden visibility of a large number of transient, propertyless men alarmed politicians, paranoid newspaper editors, and upper-class white Protestants. They viewed these wandering individuals not as victims of a systemic economic and political failure, but as a dangerous threat to democratic society, family life, and law and order. "The country is just now overrun with tramps, many of whom are outlaws, ready for the commission of any crime, [and] it will be well for women to use great precaution in making journeys from home on foot, . . . either by day or night," warned *The Allentown Democrat* on June 25, 1879. If "brutes in human form can commit such fearful crimes . . . it should be remembered . . . that a short shrift and the long rope are the only proper punishments for them when once their identity is proved."

"In an era when many white social leaders fiercely believed that the bedrock of U.S. society was the enfranchised white male citizen who held a steady job, owned a home, and headed a nuclear family," historian Kelly Lytle Hernandez wrote in *Hobos in Heaven: Race, Incarceration, and the Rise of Los Angeles, 1880–1910*, "white male itinerancy prompted a shock wave of panic." Because these men depended on charity and lacked permanent employment, critics claimed they undermined post-Civil War ideals of free labor in an unregulated economy. Additionally, white male itinerants rarely fulfilled various state and county residency requirements to vote.

Hernandez noted that local authorities often incarcerated Anglo-American and Western European-born migrants, believing these jobless workers represented a "failure to adopt middle-class norms." "Quarantining" them from acceptable society meant arrests for crimes like begging or sleeping on the sidewalk. In contrast, state and local officials adopted harsher methods for Asian, Latino or Black itinerants. These methods included federal immigration restrictions, segregation policies, and, especially in the South, racial violence.

The tramp panic happened partly because of enormous technological advances in transportation, electricity and communications. Massive factories, such as the South Bethlehem steel plant that employed 2,500 workers in 1884, churned out armor plating for warships, rails for railroads and structural



ACCIDENT TO A FEMALE TRAMP.—John Kinsley and wife early in the spring started from New York in search of work, and being unable to find any employment tramped about from place to place, tramp fashion, until some four weeks ago they landed at Nazareth, where the wife was taken ill with symptoms that denoted that she would quickly become a mother. The poor house not being far off she was hastily removed thither, but not a minute too soon, for it was not long before she ushered into the world a hearty, well developed babe. She and her spouse were kept in the institution four weeks

Fig. 2: Female tramp and her husband stayed at Gnadenthal, Northampton County's poor house, later known as Gracedale. Occasionally, municipal authorities showed concern for itinerants they deemed worthy, revealing how marital status, ethnicity, class and circumstances shaped official responses to unemployed itinerants. (*Credit*: Allentown Democrat, June 25, 1879)

steel for bridges and buildings. While these innovations had widespread appeal, they deskilled many workers, displaced others, and concentrated wealth to industrial elites.

The captains of industry argued that these innovations resulted from leveraging government policy to advance their interests. For example, they aggressively lobbied for tariff laws, which protected their businesses from foreign competition. This industry-government collaboration allowed them to further develop their businesses, providing job opportunities that would lift Americans' living standards. At least, that is what the steel titan, railroad baron and coal mine boss claimed.

"That vision was a reworking of the worldview of elite enslavers, updated for the era of industrialization," historian Heather Cox Richardson wrote in *Democracy Awakening*. The new economy created great disparities of wealth, but men like steel magnate Andrew Carnegie considered those differences inevitable and beneficial. They believed individualism, private property, and the laws of wealth accumulation and competition represented the height of human achievement, Richardson explained. Carnegie expressed his paternalistic sentiments in the *North American Review* in 1889, claiming that the "the millionaire will be but a trustee for the poor; entrusted . . . with a great part of the increased wealth of the community, but administering it for the community far better than it could or would have done for itself."

Carnegie's optimistic vision contrasted sharply with the economic reality facing local Police Chief Ache and other Lehigh Valley officials in 1884. In January, the Coplay Iron Company blew out its furnaces and laid off all employees except one clerk, a stable boss and watchman. Three months later, Philadelphia financiers sold the Allentown Iron Company. In June, the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad prepared to default in the payment of more than $1 million in bonds. On August 1, the Bethlehem Iron Company slashed wages and salaries by twenty percent. By December, only twenty-two furnaces out of fifty-one remained in blast in the Lehigh Valley, and labor unrest spread to the region's slate quarries. Ache and other area officials confronted a national economy plagued by layoffs, bankruptcies and labor unrest.

New Jersey enacted a harsh tramp law in 1884 compelling all migrants found guilty of violating its new law to crack stones for thirty days. Not unexpectedly, itinerants travelled across the border to the Lehigh Valley where they faced leniency. The tramps "have made a bee line for Pennsylvania," *The Allentown Morning Call* announced after the law's passage.

Chief Ache seemed to have few options to curb the problem of jobless men until the day he walked past a butcher shop. The shop's two bloodhounds spotted him escorting men to the borough's lock up. They "began to snarl and growl" at Ache's prisoners, *The Daily Times* reported on November 20, 1885. The episode gave the police chief an idea. He ushered the itinerants into the "stone crackery" and, when they refused "to take hold of the crackery hammers," Ache chained a bloodhound to a nearby stake "observing every maneuver of the tramps." After several hours' hard work, "more stone had been broken than on other occasions." The itinerants barely had time to eat their regular lockup bill of fare, including bread, coffee and pudding, "as the bloodhound was still before them, smacking his lips."

News accounts from *The Daily Times*, *The Democrat* and *The Morning Call* helped fuel the tramp panic. *The Daily Times* approved of the bloodhound to control Chief Ache's prisoners; *The Democrat* encouraged vigilante justice against certain itinerants, and *The Morning Call* feared an invasion of unemployed men.

Occasionally, municipal authorities showed sympathy to itinerants they deemed deserving, revealing how marital status, ethnicity, class and circumstances shaped official responses. According to the June 25, 1879 *Democrat*, John Kinsley and his pregnant wife had left New York in early spring in search of work. The couple arrived in Nazareth in late May, before the wife gave birth at Gnadenthal, the county poor house later known as Gracedale. (*Fig. #2*)

The Swiss immigrants stayed four weeks at Gnadenthal, leaving after county authorities issued a "ticket of leave" to the couple and their newborn. The young family "resumed their aimless wanderings" and headed to Lehigh County. About mid-June, they stopped at a Whitehall Township homestead where the farmer favored the young family with an overnight stay in his barn. During the night, the wife fell from the loft and sustained severe injuries. County authorities escorted the family to the Lehigh County Poor House "on a permit issued by a justice" but denied the able-bodied Kinsley accommodations. He agreed with county officials "to support himself," and in return they gave him permission to visit his wife and child while she recuperated from her injuries. County authorities occasionally lent sympathy and a helping hand.

As the twentieth century unfolded, the tramp scare cooled as a hot-button issue. Writers, humorists, and filmmakers, such as Jack London and Charlie Chaplin, reshaped the media landscape, portraying tramps as symbols of rugged freedom and tragicomic figures deserving sympathy. The onset of the First World War drew countless single and mobile men into wartime factories and military service. Finally, the Great Depression shattered the belief that people without homes or jobs had willingly made lifestyle choices. A decades-long shift in perception eventually paved the way for federal public assistance. (*Fig. #3*)



Fig. 3: Charlie Chaplin in "The Tramp," 1915.

The English actor wrote and directed this most memorable silent movie. He portrayed his character as a victim of circumstances and coincidences. Chaplin's social commentary faulted the excesses created by America's industrialization, but also showed a belief in the American dream.

Writers humorists, and others, like Chaplin, influenced public perceptions of a tramp as a lovable figure and, at times, a downtrodden hero. (*Credit*: Wikimedia Commons)

Talks with stewards

"The union never does anything for us!"

by Terrence F. Connors
Labor Education and Research Center, Indiana University

Joe Grimble has been in your department for three years. During this time there have been a number of improvements in wages and general working conditions. Joe has received two promotions on the basis of his seniority. He has had two successful grievances filed in his behalf. He has not been active in the union.

Last week, his job was retimed because of a change in the production process. The job is now easier, but he has to produce a few more pieces an hour.

All week he has been complaining to anyone who will listen that the union doesn't do anything for the men.

Joe is one of those people who accepts all the gains the union wins for him, but complains bitterly when a case goes against him.

You wonder whether he really believes that the union doesn't do anything for the men. It is very difficult to know what a person believes, even though you know what he says.

Criticism of the union is to be expected at a time when one has suffered a job disappointment. A person seeks someone to blame, and the union is the logical target since its very purpose for being is the protection of the worker's interests.

There are other members who keep up a steady criticism of the union. A steward often wonders what they gain by doing this. No useful purpose seems to be served.

Some members criticize because they are not particularly interested in being in the union, but have been forced to join either because of a union shop agreement or because of social pressure from the rest of the men. The criticism is simply an expression of their resentment.

Some members are basically anti-union. Some of them possibly learned these attitudes at home, at school, or by what they have read in the newspaper. A positive experience with the union will often help to change this attitude. For instance, the winning of an important grievance may shake the original attitude even if it does not make them pro-union.

It has been my observation that many of the anti-union men were also strongly anti-management! They were negative in their view of most things. There were also many strongly pro-union men who were not at all anti-management, but were simply determined to have the company live up to the contract. They felt that some conflict was inevitable, but were not angry at management for looking out for its own interests.

Some men criticize the union because they chafe at any kind of authority: governmental, school, church, the management, or the union. Some men criticize the union because they wish to believe that they are able to stand on their own two feet. To be reminded of what the union has achieved for them is to be reminded that someone else is doing things for them—almost as though they are weak and the union is strong. Have you not heard old timers in the shop say, "Each fellow is weak alone—together there is strength?"

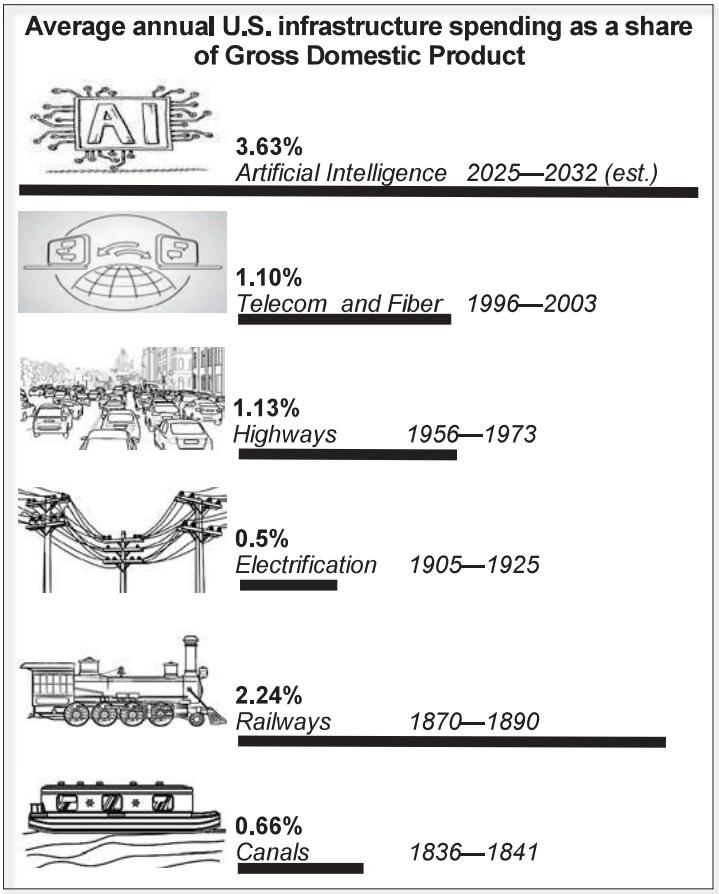
There are members who feel it necessary to say that this union doesn't accomplish anything—that in the plant where they used to work they had a real union! The implication is that if this were a good union he would really be active. The active union men know that this is nonsense.

There are others who have to keep telling themselves and others that this union doesn't get anything done, in order to head off responsibility for carrying their share of the burden. If they admitted that the union accomplishes a great deal, an obligation would fall on their shoulders to do their share in the common task.

When the criticism begins to get you down it many help to remember that criticism often serves the function of draining off some of the men's frustrations. These same frustrations might have been channeled into more destructive patterns, such as, men quitting the union or going out on wildcat strikes.

Editor's note: Terrence F. Connors, Asst. Professor of Education at the Labor Education and Research Center, Indiana University, published *Talks with Stewards* in 1966. Connors explained in his introduction that the purpose of his book "is to increase the steward's understanding of the men he represents." Years of working in factories and teaching union members in university labor education programs had taught him that many problems faced by shop stewards "cannot be solved simply by learning more about the grievance procedure and collective bargaining." By understanding why members or bosses behave in certain circumstances could ease the shop steward's job.

Connors addressed forty issues that stewards might face and wrote about real people he encountered. He changed their names, however, to protect their anonymity.



How big is artificial intelligence spending? According to *The Wall Street Journal*, spending on artificial intelligence (AI) will dwarf all "other huge U.S. infrastructure projects like the railroads, the U.S. highway system, and the plumbing for the internet." The biggest economic bet in American history is turning billionaires into trillionaires and creating thousands of construction jobs, but it comes with serious risks. A growing share of the spending is financed by debt and, if AI fails to generate enough revenue to pay the debt raised to build data centers, the fallout could rattle the economy. (*Statistical Credit*: Wall Street Journal, September 24, 2026)

Running on empty

Mackenzie and other MAGA candidates lack a campaign policy agenda

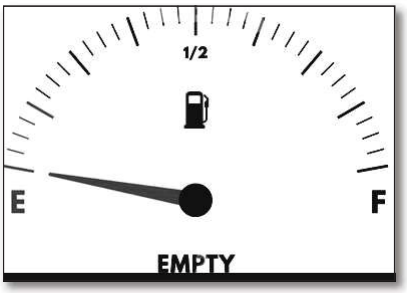
by Ron Ennis, Editor
Lehigh Valley Labor Council



Ryan Mackenzie and other MAGA candidates have watched their poll numbers worsen. They have diminished their re-election prospects further with a campaign message that will neither reverse their political fortunes nor the nation's economy.

Their warning, "the Socialists are coming," is repeated in speeches, campaign mailers and right-wing media outlets. They have no message on ending the Iran War, reigning in high gasoline prices, or investigating the Trump family corruption. Their campaign is running on empty.

Back in 1889, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie wrote about a perceived threat he claimed menaced America. "The Socialist or Anarchist who seeks to overturn present conditions is to be regarded as attacking the foundation upon which civilization itself rests." Echoing union-buster Carnegie, Mackenzie and his MAGA colleagues dust off a tired, old red-herring.



Yet, Mackenzie and other MAGA candidates remain competitive in their races because of wealthy campaign donors, like Elon Musk. The world's richest man has pumped $276 million into Republican groups since July, propping up failing candidates and sinking campaigns. Having no campaign message, Mackenzie and his colleagues are hoping that money will carry them over the finish line on November 3.

The Lehigh Valley Labor Council's 2026 Labor Ticket, seen on the front page, is stacked with candidates running on a working-class platform.

Campaign proposals include repealing Trump and Mackenzie's "One, Big, Beautiful Bill, which gave massive breaks to billionaires and corporations, exploding the federal debt and leaving working families with the bill; ensuring the rich pay their fair share of taxes and raise the money needed to strengthen Social Security and repeal Trump and Mackenzie's cuts to Medicaid; raising the minimum wage, which remains at $7.25 an hour and has not changed in over twenty years; and modernizing our transportation infrastructure to ease congestion on Routes 22, 33 and 78. These are some of the working-class issues our candidates on the council's Labor Ticket have endorsed.

The mid-term election will be close. On the one hand, Mackenzie and his MAGA colleagues are running on empty. They will rely on their wealthy donors to prop up their campaigns. On the other hand, the Lehigh Valley Labor Council's 2026 Labor Ticket has advanced a serious campaign platform that addresses the needs of working-class voters.

Buy American, Buy Union

Shopping for the holiday season

by Gregg Potter, International Union of Operating Engineers #542
Executive Vice-President, Lehigh Valley Labor Council



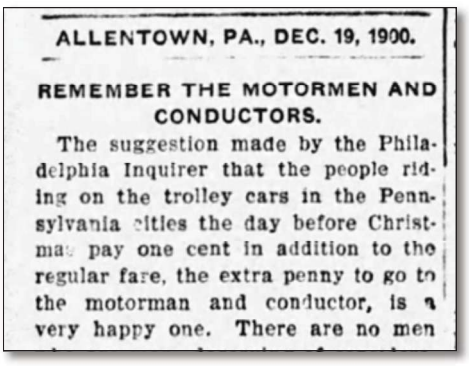
The holiday season is fast approaching, but there is still plenty of time to start thinking about buying gifts for friends and family. Check out the websites below for union-made and American-made products

Remember, companies often relocate their manufacturing facilities. If you should buy anything from the online retailers, check to be sure their products or services are domestically manufactured.

www.madeinusaforever.com
www.howtobuyamerican.com
www.unionplus.org
www.unionlabel.com
www.usstuff.com
www.americansworking.com
www.madeinamerica.com
www.buyamerican.com
www.labor411.org
www.unionproudusa.com

Computers and computer-related gear are high on the list of holiday gifts. Check out TDS Technologies, 1728 West Allen Street, Allentown. They also specialize in alarm and surveillance systems and can be reached at 610-351-4994. Best of all, the shop is represented by members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #375.

I hope that none of you ever experience significant damage to your home, whether it be water, fire or other acts of nature. If you do, I sincerely recommend that you contact the Butz Co. You won't find a better company employing union construction tradesmen anywhere. My family chose to employ them for our home restoration project and the results speak for themselves. For more information, visit: https://butz.com/restoration/



ALLENTOWN, PA., DEC. 19, 1900.

REMEMBER THE MOTORMEN AND CONDUCTORS.

The suggestion made by the Philadelphia Inquirer that the people riding on the trolley cars in the Pennsylvania cities the day before Christmas pay one cent in addition to the regular fare, the extra penny to go to the motorman and conductor, is a very happy one. There are no men

Please tip the trolley crew this holiday season, 1900. *The Allentown Morning Call* agreed with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that passengers should "pay one cent in addition to the regular fare" at Christmas. "There are no men who are more deserving of consideration at this season" than the crews of trolley cars, the editor wrote. "It has been demonstrated time and again that they will stick to their posts and brave death in protecting the lives of the precious human freight which is in their charge." (*Credit*: Allentown Morning Call, December 19, 1900)

LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
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THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Executive Board @ 7:00 PM – Delegate meeting @ 7:30 PM

Teamsters #773 3614 Lehigh Street, Whitehall PA 18052

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