

The AFL-CIO Establishes Process to Support People in Ukraine

As fighting in Ukraine continues, many organizations such as the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Red Cross are providing lifesaving aid to those in need, both in the country and in neighboring areas. More than three million people have fled Ukraine to nearby countries and an estimated 18 million, a third of the country's population, will need humanitarian assistance. As the fighting intensifies, so does the dire humanitarian situation and needs on the ground. "The devastating reality of Ukraine is that the needs are growing every



day. Amidst increased violence and a disrupted supply chain, delivering essential goods in many parts of the country is getting harder — not easier," said Francesco Rocca, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). "Responding to a crisis of this magnitude takes teamwork, which is why we're working hand-in-hand with the Ukrainian Red Cross on the ground to let people know that they're not alone. Not ever," he states.

Under mortal danger to themselves, Red Cross teams are still working tirelessly to help people and communities impacted by conflict. Significant infrastructure damage has left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity or water, while damaged roads have disrupted supply chains, leaving communities cut off from food and basic supplies.

Around the clock, teams are providing emergency aid amid fear and uncertainty. Since the conflict intensified on February 24, Red Cross teams have:

- Distributed more than 90,000 food and hygiene parcels to families on the move across Ukraine, including to Mariupol.
- Supported the evacuation of over 57,000 people from the towns of Energodar and Sumy and the Kviy, Kharkiv and Kherson regions.
- Provided first aid training to more than 42,000 people across the country.
- Delivered more than 400 tons of food, blankets, medicine, medical supplies, trauma kits and household items.
- Assisted with the evacuation of people with disabilities.
- Supported logistics pipelines into Ukraine to ensure critical items can be delivered.

People in Ukraine are in grave danger of physical harm, families have fled their homes seeking refuge in neighboring countries, and others are sheltering from bombs falling in major cities.

Normal working life has been forced to stop.

How trade unions are supporting Ukraine

The ITUC's member organizations are providing support to families who desperately need assistance. Trade unions in neighboring countries including Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova are supporting the increasing number of refugees. People need:

- food and water provisions,
- medical supplies,
- hygiene items.

You can help Ukraine's workers and their families by **donating to the ITUC's emergency fundraising appeal**.

All funds donated will be passed on to our two member organizations to support their humanitarian work in Ukraine and member organizations in neighboring countries to support refugees.

The AFL-CIO (AFLCIO.org) has established a link on their webpage to make contributions or you can go to the following website directly to make your contribution:

<https://petitions.ituc-csi.org/support-ukraine>

The CWA Joseph A. Beirne Foundation Scholarship Program

The CWA Joe Beirne Foundation was established in October 1974 by the Communications Workers of America Executive Board to honor the name and memory of the founding President of CWA, who served for more than 30 years. In his capacity as the first CWA President, Joe Beirne took great pride in the roles he played in the fields of education and learning and other areas of social concern.



Sixteen partial college scholarships of \$4,000 each are being offered for the 2022-2023 school year. Winners, selected in a lottery drawing, also will receive second-year scholarships of the same amount contingent upon satisfactory academic accomplishment. Part-time students, less than 12 credits, will receive half of the scholarship monies.

Eligible for the awards are CWA members and their spouses, children and grandchildren, including those of retired or deceased members. Applicants must be high school graduates or at least high school students who will graduate during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to schooling may also apply.

Applications are accepted during the months of November through April. **Final deadline for the 2022-2023 school year is April 30, 2022.**

To apply online, go to:

<http://www.cwa-union.org/pages/beirne>

Options! We have more options! Voting in Maryland continues to get easier!



I've been a big fan of Early Voting since it was first instituted in Maryland in 2010. Since then, we have been able to vote at any Early Voting location in the county in which we live, thirteen hours a day, over the course of eight calendar days, which included a weekend. Those who are not registered to vote can even register in person at an Early Voting Center (with appropriate identification) and vote the same day. Easy! Since 2010 I have rarely waited at all to vote at an Early Voting Center, and if there did happen to be a line I never waited more than a few minutes. Early voting avoided problems with work schedules, overtime, car trouble, sickness, the need to pick up kids at daycare, etc. from getting in the way of voting.



Then Covid-19 happened. I was thrilled when we were able to have our ballot mailed to our homes in 2020, and then we could decide if we wanted to mail it back or drop it into an outdoor Election Drop Box erected outside Early Voting locations. Personally, I chose to receive my ballot by mail, then place it in an Election Drop Box so I didn't have to worry about my ballot getting delayed or lost in the mail. (DeJoy was playing a lot of games with mail sorting

machines and mail delivery was spotty, at best, around that time.) This meant that I didn't have to stand in line or interact with strangers during the pandemic, and I even got an email advising me that my ballot was received and counted. With all the "Boogey Man" stories being told around the country about voting by mail, it went very smoothly in Maryland.

Now the Maryland State Board of Elections has taken steps to make voting in Maryland even easier! They mailed a letter to the homes of all registered voters in January or February, with a form to fill out if you want to vote by mail in 2022. You can choose to have your ballot **mailed, emailed or faxed** to you for a) the Primary Election **only**, b) the General Election **only**, c) **both** the Primary and General Elections or d) **for all future federal and state elections**. I chose option d, so I won't have to fill out a form to request my ballot by mail in future years. Of course, we can change our address, or change if we want to receive our ballot by mail at any time we choose in the future.

Are you interested in voting by mail this year, but you didn't receive or misplaced the letter from the Maryland State Board of Elections? No problem! You can also request a mail-in ballot online. Just go to bit.ly/NeedBallot by June 21 for the Primary Election, and by November 1 for the General Election.

In case you missed it, the **Maryland Primary Election date** has been changed from June 28 to **Tuesday, July 19**. **Early Voting** will take place from **Thursday, July 7 through Thursday, July 14**, from 7a-8p each day. The **General Election date** is **Tuesday, November 8**, with **Early Voting** from **Thursday, October 27 through Thursday, November 3**, again from 7a-8p.

If you have any questions about voting in Maryland, the State Board of Elections' website is loaded with information. Go to

www.elections.maryland.gov to get your questions answered. You can also apply to be an election judge on that website. Those chosen to be election judges will be trained by the state, and are in great demand. The hours are long, but the work of an election judge is very important. Article 33, Section 1(c), Excused Time in the Verizon contract grants paid time off to perform that public service, so if you would like to be involved in ensuring that our elections are run according to the state laws and rules, please check into being an election judge.

While we read about other states who are trying to restrict voting rights to make it more difficult for Americans to vote, I'm proud of the state of Maryland for making it even easier to vote!

In Solidarity,

Marilyn

CWA Endorsed!!
Vote for.....
Tom Perez
MD Governor 2022!!

DO BUY

UNION-MADE PET SUPPLIES

Treat your pets right and support working families. This list of pet products are made by members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM).

UNION PLUS PET INSURANCE:
Protect your four-legged friend with a Union Plus Pet Insurance plan, powered by Pets Best. As a union member, you get up to 10% off monthly premiums. Pets Best offers flexible coverage options, with no annual or lifetime limits. In fact, our cost-conscious Accident Only plan is only \$6 a month for cats and \$9/month for dogs. Visit the Union Plus website for details: <https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/insurance/pet-health-insurance>

<p>CAT FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 9 Lives > Fancy Feast > Purina Cat Chow > Beyond Natural Cat Food > Purina Pro Plan Cat Food > Purina One > Deli•Cat > Friskies > Purina Dental Life > Kit & Kaboodle > Petivity > Pro Plan Veterinary Diets > Whisker Lickin's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Purina Prime > Purina Veterinary Diets > The Pioneer Woman Dog Treats > Trekker's Dog Chews > Beggin' Strips > Chew-eez > Nature's Recipe > Purina Beneful > Purina Dog Chow > Purina Pro Plan > Purina Puppy Chow > Purina One > Skippy > Snausages > Milk-Bone Dog Biscuits (Del Monte Foods) > Nestle Purina PetCare Company 	<p>FENCING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Dare Products Equine Fencing & Electric Fencing
<p>DOG FOOD AND TREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Alpo > Anchor > Bella > Purina Busy > Purina Dental Life > Moist & Meaty 	<p>ANIMAL FEED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Purina Animal Feeds > Agribands Purina Canada Inc. 	<p>CAT & DOG LITTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Fresh Step > Tidy Cats > Tidy Cats Breeze > Yesterday's News > Second Nature Dog Litter <p>VETERINARIANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > All Creatures Animal Hospital (Bremerton, WA) > Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services (Brighton, NY) > Cara Veterinary (southwest of Seattle)

2 LABEL LETTER MAR-APR 2022

It's time you looked after yourself, and CWA/NETT has the tools to help you. For too long now, CWA represented employers continue to decrease the amount of training they offer to their workforce, which is why we are here for you.

Over the years, CWA /NETT Academy, has assisted more than 30,000 members and their families with their specific training and personal development needs. We invite you to explore all the new features to some of our more traditional products. These products continue to add content that is relevant to our membership.

CWA/NETT resources will directly benefit you and your family's future. These resources include:

- Free training courses
- Free college programs
- Access to scholarship opportunities

Some of the courses offered include:

- Network Essentials
- Intro To Cybersecurity
- IT Essentials (A+ Certification)
- Networking Essentials
- Cisco CCNA 1
- Cisco CCNA 2
- Cisco CCNA 3
- Cybersecurity Essentials
- Electronics for Telecommunications TKT II
- Introduction to Fiber Optics Workshop
- Introduction to Single Mode Fiber Optics
- Fiber Optics Safety
- Fiber Optics Emergency Restoration
- Optical Test Equipment and Best Practices
- Fiber Optics FOI Certification



For additional information and to get your career goals back on track, go to <https://cwanett.weebly.com> today!!

Are you "WEARING RED" on Thursdays?

Thinking About Retirement?

You may want to check out this important workshop presented by **Networth Financial** Group to see if the reality of retirement is on your horizon!!

Retirement Benefits

Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM - Please join this meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Medicare Basics

Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM - Please join this meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Reservations are required and to RSVP you may call Networth at (800)-859-2212, or register online at Networth.net.

Personals

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family and friends of:

Dale Herron, wife of retired member **David Herron** who passed away on March 1, 2022.

Michael "Gavin" Tidwell, an active member who passed away on March 6, 2022.

Welcome to Local 2108

New Members

Kevin Hockaday
Mark Gray



CWA Health Care Benefit Coordinators Can Handle Your Verizon Benefit Issues

The current HCBC assignments for Verizon employees are as follows:

Tom Ballek, Retiree HCBC for Medical, Dental and Enrollment Issues
866-248-4449 - Thomas.L.Ballek@verizon.com

Ines Millard, Actives' Medical, Dental, Vision Disability and Enrollment
888-571-7218 - Ines.I.Millard@verizon.com

Jodi Grant, Actives' Medical, Dental, Vision, Disability and Enrollment
888-324-4969 - Jodi.I.Grant@core.verizon.com

The HCBC's can handle issues from any active or retired Mid-Atlantic CWA (MD, DC, VA, NJ, PA, WV, DE) represented members, regardless of their home state.



RMC 2108 Retirees Corner

I am sure that we are all ready to start warming up and enjoy the spring season after dealing with this slow-moving winter.

As you are aware, the grip from the pandemic has eased up significantly. For the most part, things have returned to normal and the world is on the rebound from Covid-19 lockdown. Taking this into consideration, the RMC executive board and the RMC members voted to restart in person meetings at the local office. It has been a while for us to have an actual meeting and it will be nice to see everyone in person. Wearing a mask is optional for anyone wants to wear one. CWA Local 2108 President Marilyn Irwin has asked us to utilize the meeting room and not roam the halls out of respect for others that are also in the office. We will use the meeting room entrance only. This will be a catered luncheon meeting.

The next meeting date is April 13, 2022 at 11:00am. Come and enjoy our luncheon meeting!!

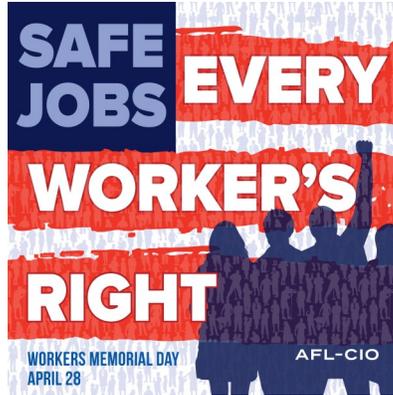
Calvin C Foster Jr
President- RMC 2108



RMC 2108

Workers Memorial Day - April 28, 2022

Every year, on April 28, the nation recognizes Workers Memorial Day. This is the day we pay our respects to those who lost their lives on the job, and recognize the impact these tragic losses have on families, co-workers, and communities. We also recognize that more than two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, every day essential workers, have put their lives on the line. Many were sickened or died as a result of just going to work, for simply doing what they had to do to support their families. They were healthcare workers, grocery workers, telecom workers, nurses, delivery drivers, farm workers, law enforcement officers, teachers, and sanitation workers. In addition, many more of our members have suffered non-Covid work-related injuries, illnesses, and "near misses."



Decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

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

As we remember and honor every worker who has lost their life to largely preventable fatal injuries and illnesses, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces. This year we will come together to call for good jobs in this country for all workers. We will seek stronger safeguards to prevent injuries and save lives. We will stand for the right of all workers to raise job safety concerns without fear of retaliation, and for the freedom to form unions and speak out and bargain for respect and a better future.

Local 2108 Calendar

APRIL 2022

- 6 Chief Stewards Meeting- Cancelled
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 13 RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 13 Membership Meeting - 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 15 Income Taxes Due
- 17 Easter Sunday
- 22 Earth Day



MAY 2022

- 8 Mother's Day
- 11 RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 11 Membership Meeting - 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 30 Memorial Day
Local Office Closed



WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request my union representative, officer or steward to be present at this meeting. Without union representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Membership Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2022 - 6:00pm RMC 2108 Meeting - Wednesday, April 13 - 11:00am



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 Tamera Nelson - Vice President
 LaTasha Carpenter - Vice President
 Johnny Brown - Secretary-Treasurer
 Amory Proctor - Executive Vice President
 Marilyn Irwin - President

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