

**St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO**  
**Official Minutes**  
**September 17, 2013**  
**I.B.E.W., Local #1 Hall**

The meeting of the St. Louis Labor Council was called to order by President Robert Soutier, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

President Soutier led the delegates in the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance to our country's flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call of officers disclosed the following: **Present:** Robert Soutier, John Ebeling, Chico Humes, Jeff Aboussie, Mary Armstrong, Michael Breihan, Dave Cook, Nancy Cross, John Finder, Tom George, Mike Goebel, Earline Jones, Patrick Kammer, Gordon King, Keith Linderer, Tom McNeil, Jr., Mike Mehringer, John O'Mara, Gary Otten, Tony Rippetto, Jeff Roorda Gary Smith, Mark Staffne, Pat White, Don Willey and Mark Woolbright.

**Excused and Recorded as Present:** John Ebeling, Kevin McNatt, John Stiffler, and Dave Zimmermann.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the Navy Yard shooting in Washington D.C.

**AFFILIATIONS**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the affiliation request by TWU, Local #555.

**SEATING OF DELEGATES**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the August 20, 2013 meeting minutes. Copies of the minutes were available at the entrance of the room.

President Soutier read the 2013 United Way Resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** The Greater Saint Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, enthusiastically supports the United Way because we believe it to be the best way to meet the health, welfare and social service needs of our citizens through over 170 local agencies; and

**WHEREAS:** There can be no doubt that the United Way possesses the talent and ability to assure the most efficient use for the voluntary dollars collected than any other group or any other fund raising campaign because of its experience and expertise; and

**WHEREAS:** When the Leadership of the Greater Saint Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, has called upon the United Way labor staff to provide assistance to Union brothers and sisters, the response has been swift and extremely positive;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Greater Saint Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, endorses the 2013 United Way of Greater Saint Louis Campaign and urges all member of Organized Labor to help people in our community by making a contribution to the 2013 United Way Campaign.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Robert A. Soutier, President

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the resolution as read.

A resolution submitted by Unite Here, Local #74 on The Affordable Care Act was read and accepted as given:

**“A Resolution Urging the President and Congress to Uphold Their Promise for Unions to Keep their Current Healthcare Plans Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

**WHEREAS**, our union members and their families originally offered strong political and moral support for the promise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it would expand health care coverage for more Americans, help strengthen the American economy, and help America compete in the global economy;

**WHEREAS**, we supported the ACA because it was in the interests of the uninsured to secure many of the benefits our union members already had under our Taft-Hartley Plans, and furthermore the President said in no uncertain terms that we would be able to keep our current health care plans as currently managed;

**WHEREAS**, for two years we have sought from the Administration and Congress interpretations to the ACA that merely allows us to keep the health plans we currently have: nothing more, nothing less. No special treatment. To date, the Administration has postured on proposals to address the problem, but no proposal to date will actually solve the problem. Our health plans only get worse;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of Administration inaction to fix the problem, the unintended consequences of the ACA will lead to the destruction of the 40 hour work week, higher taxes and force union members onto more costly plans – eventually destroying the Taft-Hartley Funds completely;

**WHEREAS**, we are only looking to keep the healthcare plans we have. Nothing more. Nothing less. We are not asking for any special treatment, no additions to what is currently provided by our Taft-Hartley Plans, merely to be allowed to keep the plans we have worked hard to secure for the 65 years we have been governed by the Taft-Hartley law;

**WHEREAS**, the Congress and the Administration have demonstrated they have the authority and power to make dozens of other corrections to the ACA, including taking care of big business and well-paid Congressional staff members, but have yet to provide our unions with any relief to allow our healthcare plans to continue as they have for over 65 years.

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the ACA should include interpretations that protect the health coverage of the Taft Hartley plans provide for our members;

**WHEREAS**, the ACA should not threaten the 40 hour week, and the existence of collectively bargained health care plans, and,

**WHEREAS**, The Taft Hartley plans should be treated just like other health plans and the Taft Hartley plans should have access to the subsidies like other plans. Now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Greater St. Louis Labor Council urges President Obama and Congress to undertake immediate changes to the implementation and regulation of the ACA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we reserve the right to protect the Taft-Hartley Plans we currently have in place, we will view any solution that does not fully address the outlined issues as unacceptable.”

## **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In Vice President John Ebeling's absence, President Soutier read the September Executive Board report:

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Location: Machinists' District No. 9  
Monday, September 16, 2013

The meeting of the St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO Executive Board was called to order by President Robert Soutier at 8:55 a.m. on Monday, September 16, 2013.

A roll call of officers disclosed the following: **Present:** Robert Soutier, John Ebeling, Chico Humes, Jeff Aboussie, Michael Breihan, Dave Cook, Nancy Cross, John Finder, Tom George, Mike Goebel, Earline Jones, Gordon King, Keith Linderer, Kevin McNatt, Tom McNeil, Jr., John O'Mara, Gary Otten, Tony Rippetto, Jeff Roorda, Gary Smith, Mark Staffne, John Stiffler, Clint McBride for Don Willey, Pat White, Mark Woolbright, and Dave Zimmermann.

**Excused and recorded as present:** Mary Armstrong, Steve Hollis, Patrick Kammer and Mike Mehringer.

Also present were: Rev. Rudy Pulido, Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council Labor Liaison to Faith Communities; Ed Finkelstein, Labor Tribune; Roz Sherman Voellinger, United Way; and Kate Souders, Labor Council.

President Soutier announced that the St. Louis Labor Council has received an application for affiliation from the Transportation Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, Local #555 with a check for \$1,578.00. A motion was made, seconded and approved for affiliation.

President Soutier spoke about the St. Charles CHILL minor league hockey team and their willingness to support the \$5 for the Fight fund. Lou Sivilie, Vice President of CHILL Sales & Marketing, informed President Soutier the season starts in October and ends in March. Tickets are now available. Bob asked Dave Zimmermann if a sort of "wishing well" that holds coins and could be set up at the St. Charles Family Arena for attendees to toss loose change as contributions to the \$5 for the Fight fund could be designed and built by some of his members. He thought it could. Chico Humes, GCC/IBT #6-505M said that he had the email addresses of all of the high school hockey teams in the area that could be used to get publicity out. Roz Sherman Voellinger, United Way, suggested that a sign should be made that explains the \$5 for the Fight Fund. Chico Humes thought partnerships with businesses and other organizations should be listed on the sign.

President Soutier spoke about the shortened Veto session which was finished after only one day. He will email the names of Republicans who voted with Democrats to all members of the Executive Board. Nancy Cross suggested that there were a few others who should be included.

President Soutier informed the Board that the MO AFL-CIO has hired Shannon Weber as its Campaign Director. She was previously the Legislative Director for the Carpenters.

President Soutier informed the Board of a CPAC meeting being held at the St Charles Family Arena on September 28, 2013. Attendees will include Gov. Rick Perry, Scott Walker, Paul Ryan, Eric Cantor. Nancy

Cross, SEIU Local #1, stated that a press conference concerning the negativity of CPAC will be held the morning of September 28. The press conference should be finished by 9:30 a.m., and should not interfere with those who also plan to attend “Tug of War” to be held in Forest Park later in the day.

Kevin McNatt, UNITE-HERE, Local #74, read the following resolution regarding upholding the current health care plans for unions under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

**“A Resolution Urging the President and Congress to Uphold Their Promise for Unions to Keep their Current Healthcare Plans Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)”**

**WHEREAS**, our union members and their families originally offered strong political and moral support for the promise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it would expand health care coverage for more Americans, help strengthen the American economy, and help America compete in the global economy;

**WHEREAS**, we supported the ACA because it was in the interests of the uninsured to secure many of the benefits our union members already had under our Taft-Hartley Plans, and furthermore the President said in no uncertain terms that we would be able to keep our current health care plans as currently managed;

**WHEREAS**, for two years we have sought from the Administration and Congress interpretations to the ACA that merely allows us to keep the health plans we currently have: nothing more, nothing less. No special treatment. To date, the Administration has postured on proposals to address the problem, but no proposal to date will actually solve the problem. Our health plans only get worse;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of Administration inaction to fix the problem, the unintended consequences of the ACA will lead to the destruction of the 40 hour work week, higher taxes and force union members onto more costly plans – eventually destroying the Taft-Hartley Funds completely;

**WHEREAS**, we are only looking to keep the healthcare plans we have. Nothing more. Nothing less. We are not asking for any special treatment, no additions to what is currently provided by our Taft-Hartley Plans, merely to be allowed to keep the plans we have worked hard to secure for the 65 years we have been governed by the Taft-Hartley law;

**WHEREAS**, the Congress and the Administration have demonstrated they have the authority and power to make dozens of other corrections to the ACA, including taking care of big business and well-paid Congressional staff members, but have yet to provide our unions with any relief to allow our healthcare plans to continue as they have for over 65 years.

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the ACA should include interpretations that protect the health coverage of the Taft Hartley plans provide for our members;

**WHEREAS**, the ACA should not threaten the 40 hour week, and the existence of collectively bargained health care plans, and,

**WHEREAS**, The Taft Hartley plans should be treated just like other health plans and the Taft Hartley plans should have access to the subsidies like other plans. Now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Greater St. Louis Labor Council urges President Obama and Congress to undertake immediate changes to the implementation and regulation of the ACA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we reserve the right to protect the Taft-Hartley Plans we currently have in place, we will view any solution that does not fully address the outlined issues as unacceptable.”

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the resolution. There was one “no” vote by Nancy Cross, SEIU, Local #1, who stated that she could not vote “yes” on the resolution because her International has not approved it yet.

President Soutier introduced Rev. Rudy Pulido who has been under contract with the Laborers since September 2012 and is currently working to help Labor achieve goals within the religious community that Labor could not otherwise achieve. Rev. Pulido spoke about his efforts and the challenges involved in developing personal relationships with clergy members throughout Missouri and educating them about issues pertinent to Organized Labor.

President Soutier then asked the Board if they would consider financing the work of Reverend Pulido for another twelve months for the annual sum of \$18,000, or \$1,500 per month. He suggested that if 18 unions agree to split the fee, the cost then comes to \$1,000 each. If there are more than 18, then the cost would be adjusted to reflect the actual number of partners involved. President Soutier asked for a show of hands to see how many Board members would be willing to request the funds to renew Rev. Pulido’s contract from their unions. There were at least 18. After discussion about the specifics of a new contract, it was decided to initially move forward by sending a letter with the proposal to each member of the Board to take to their local union meetings for approval.

President Soutier asked for discussion regarding the St. Louis County Executive race. Board members expressed their frustration and disappointment with dealing with the County Executive since the last election. Board members asked Robert Soutier, St. Louis Labor Council, and Jeff Aboussie, Building and Construction Trades Council, along with Earline Jones, CWA #6300 to meet with County Executive Charlie Dooley to advise him of our discussion.

Kevin McNatt, UNITE-HERE, then asked the Board if they would be interested in inviting Tim Green to come to an Executive Board meeting to speak about his experiences in the legislature. Chico Humes, GCC/IBT #6-505M said that Len Pagano, the mayor of St. Peters, wants to come to speak about Right to Work. President Soutier stated that the “door is open”.

John Ebeling, CWA #6300, then spoke about the \$5 for the Fight card at Schnucks. He said that it is important to use it “up front” when checking out groceries.

Dave Cook, UFCW #655, thanked everyone, especially the Building and Construction Trades, for help with keeping Wal Mart out of Ellisville.

Roz Sherman Voellinger, United Way, reported that the annual Trap Shoot had a record number of shooters. The \$25,000 goal was exceeded.

Roz also said that Jack Martorelli is working on a part time basis with the United Way on the annual campaign to get additional support from Labor. She added that she and Amy Phillips are available to speak at any worksites as well.

Roz also spoke about the new President of United Way, Orvin Kimbrough. She stated that he is every bit as supportive of Labor as Gary Dollar.

With nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Fraternally,



Robert A. Soutier, President  
opeiu #13

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September Executive Board report as read.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Soutier spoke about the proposal to hire Reverend Rudy Pulido to do outreach with clergy members in Missouri. Soutier urged all affiliates to consider a contribution to help fund this effort through next year.

Soutier spoke about the recent media reports regarding Labor's problems with St. Louis County Executive, Charlie Dooley and our non-endorsement of his desire for another term as county executive.

President Soutier informed the delegates that Billy Busch would donate all the beer for the Tug-O-War contest in Forest Park.

#### **COPE REPORT**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

President Soutier reported the BLS Price Index for July 2013 at 699.751.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mike Goebel, Secretary-Treasurer IBT, Local #688 rose to speak about the non-endorsement of Charlie Dooley and said he was also in favor of the motion. He also advised the delegates that Ann Zerr, a republican state rep from St. Charles has stood with Labor and needs to have some "thank-you" calls made to her office.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Yvette Goods, IBEW, Local #1 informed the delegates about an AAUW meeting on October 26, 2013 to be held at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

#### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ken Truemper spoke about the trivia night fundraiser for the University of Missouri Extension program on October 11, 2013.

Jim Metz, CWA advised the delegates that John Ebeling received an award at the CWA Conference going on now, out of town.

Amy Phillips, United Way thanked everyone for their involvement in the United Way /Labor Trap Shoot, as it raised \$25,700 last week.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DRAWING**

The Community Service drawing was held.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to come before the delegates, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Fraternally,

Robert A. Soutier, President

RS/kl  
opeiu #13

## **September 2013 Attendance**

The following Delegates were present:

**Administrator's Association of the St. Louis Public Schools, Local #44**  
88 Members

**Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers Local #169** – 284 Members

**Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Bakers No. 4** – 963 Members

**Bricklayers No. 1** – 1093 Members  
John Finder

**Chemical Workers Union No. 432** – 172 Members

**Communications Workers No. 6300** – 4248 Members  
Mike Mehringer  
Earline Jones  
Jim Kolve  
Gordon Smith, Jr.

**Print & Media Sector**  
John Ebeling  
**No. 6350** – 209 Members  
**No. 6355** – 47 Members  
**No. 6390** – 150 Members

**St. Louis Mailers Union No. 3/CWA 14620** – 250 Members  
James Metz

**St. Louis Newspaper Guild No. 47/CWA 36047** – 353 Members

**Intl. Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers No. 818** – 21 Members

**Intl. Bro. of Electrical Workers No.1** – 4300 Members  
Tom George  
John Clark  
Jennifer Clark-Bader  
Matt Gober  
Yvette Goods  
Dan Kloeppe  
Kim Sachse  
**No. 2** – 600 Members  
**No. 4** – 315 Members  
**No. 1439** – 593 Members  
Mark Staffne

**No. 1455** – 650 Members

**Elevator Constructors No. 3** - 352 Members

**Operating Engineers No. 148** – 1,453 Members  
Keith Linderer  
Michael Yates  
**No. 513** – 500 Members  
Pat Kammer  
John Bachinski  
John Clark, Jr.  
Andrew Schalk

**Federal Labor and Trade Unions No. 20711 (Advertising, Publicity and Newspaper Representatives)**  
8 members

**Fire Fighters No. 73** – 434 Members  
**No. 757** – 72 Members  
**No. 2665** – 1,839 Members  
Mark Woolbright  
**No. 2677** – 21 Members

**Lindbergh Federation of Food Service Employees Local 6006** – 40 Members  
**Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastic and Allied Workers (GMP) Local 182B** – 45 Members

**American Federation of Government Employees No. 3354** – 50 Members

**GCC/IBT International Union No. 38 N** – 100 Members  
**No. 6-505M** – 1240 Members  
Chico Humes  
Michael Congemi  
Donald Osiek  
Ken Truemper

**Insulators and Allied Workers Local 1** – 369 Members  
John Stiffler

**Iron Workers Bridge and Structural Iron Workers No. 396** – 850 Members  
Tom McNeil  
Travis Barnes  
Bill Brennell



Mike Butler  
Don Robertson  
William Trendley  
**Laborers International Union**  
No. 42 – 250 Members  
No. 53 – 400 Members  
No. 110 – 500 Members  
Don Willey  
Ronny Griffin  
No. 660 – 225 Members  
**Letter Carriers Branch No. 343**  
1400 Members  
Mike Chenot  
Pamela Stepney  
**Longshoremen**  
No. 1652 – 20 Members  
**Machinists & Aerospace Workers**  
**Progressive Lodge No. 41**  
697 Members  
Stephen Branson  
Mike Diefenbach  
Richard Feldhaus  
Michael Ribbert  
**I.A.M.A.W. No. 387**  
854 Members  
Steve Gibson  
Ruben Melton  
Larry Parker  
Rich Peppers  
**Tool and Die Lodge No. 688**  
167 Members  
Bob Meilink  
**Automotive Lodge No. 777**  
1769 Members  
Tony Rippeto  
Mike Louis  
David Meinell  
Joe Moran  
Dennis Schleeper  
Ted Schulte  
Terry Sutton  
Ron Wolff  
**District 837 Lodge “A”**  
1948 Members  
Robert Fritz  
Sandra Henderson  
Steve Newell  
Clem Smith  
**District 837 Lodge “B”**

1465 Members  
Don Lummus  
**Production Workers Lodge 1345**  
1455 Members  
Robert Soutier  
Roger Cadwallader  
Michael Ringo  
**Lodge No. 1745 – 303 Members**  
**Musicians No. 2-197 -543 Members**  
Gary Smith  
Randall Holmes  
**Office and Professional Employees**  
No. 13 – 329 Members  
No. 277 – 10 Members  
**Plumbers and Pipe Fitters**  
No. 562 -- 1000 Members  
John O’Mara  
Brian Chumley  
Mike Grady  
**Sprinkler Fitters No. 268**  
350 Members  
**Police Officers**  
**St. Louis Police Officers Assoc.**  
**FOP #68 – 1138 Members**  
Jeff Roorda  
**Postal Workers Union**  
**St. Louis Gateway Area Local 8**  
1950 Members  
**Local 7043 – 100 Members**  
**Professional Airways System Specialist**  
**(PASS) Gateway Chapter, #255**  
86 Members  
**American Federation of State,**  
**County and Municipal Employees**  
**Institutional and Public**  
**Employees No. 410 – 150 Members**  
Ervin Hupp  
Kris Mueller  
**Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Wkrs.**  
**Roofers No. 2 – 400 Members**  
**Seafarers International Union**  
300 Members  
**Service Employees Intl. Union**  
**No. 1 (The MO Division)**  
– 3650 Members  
Nancy Cross  
Marcia Cline  
**Healthcare Missouri**  
– 700 Members

Valerie Gordon  
**Sheet Metal Workers**  
No. 36 – 1,731 Members  
David Zimmermann  
Joseph Feldman  
Ted Ramsdell

**I.A.T.S.E.**  
**Theatrical Stage Employees,**  
**Moving Picture Technicians,**  
**Artists and Allied Crafts**  
**Studio Mechanics**  
No. 493 – 90 Members

**Theatrical Employees - (Ushers,**  
**Usherettes and Ticket Takers)**  
No. B-2 – 225 Members  
**Theatrical Brotherhood – (Stage**  
**Hands) No. 6 – 124 Members**  
Joe Rudd  
**Projectionists, Audio Visual**  
**Engineers & Computer**  
**Technicians**  
No. 143 – 35 Members  
**Treasurers and Ticket Sellers**  
No. 774 – 57 Members  
**Theatrical Wardrobe Attendants**  
No. 805 – 28 Members

**United Steel Workers International**  
**Union**  
**U.S.W. – Gasworkers, No. 11-6**  
917 Members  
Pat White

**U.S.W., No. 11-152 – 45 Members**  
**U.S.W., No. 11-194 – 251 Members**  
**U.S.W., No. 169G –**  
**U.S.W., No. 884 – 87 Members**

**Wholesale Upholsterers**  
No. 25 – 32 Members

**Awning & Tent Workers & Decorators**  
**Decorators & Displaymen**  
No. 39 – 50 Members

**Teachers**  
**St. Louis Teachers**  
No. 420 – 1852 Members  
Mary Armstrong

**Lindbergh Federation**  
No. 2420 – 2 Members  
**Junior College Dist. Federation**  
No. 3506 – 87 Members

**Wentzville Federation of School-**  
**Related Employees,**  
No. 4894 – 150 Members

**Teamsters**  
No. 688 – 500 Members  
Michael Goebel  
John Becker  
Dave Lalumondier  
Roland Lewis

**Transit Union**  
No. 788 – 1,220 Members  
Michael Breihan

**Transport Workers Union of America**  
No. 529 – 423 Members

**Transport Workers Union**  
**Railroad Division**  
No. 1647 – 10 Members

**Utility Workers**  
No. 335 – 446 Members

**UNITE HERE - Union of Needletrades,**  
**Industrial and Textile Employees**  
**St. Louis District Joint Board**  
No. 56A – 75 Members  
No. 74 – 2000 Members  
Kevin McNatt  
No. 104 – 10 Members  
No. 254C – 10 Members  
No. 428 – 5 Members

**United Food and Commercial Workers,**  
No. 655 – 10,965 Members  
David Cook  
Harriett Weaver

**COUNCILS, DISTRICTS,**  
**JOINT BOARDS**  
Building and Construction Trades Council  
Jeff Aboussie  
Communications Workers of America  
City Council  
Intl. Union of Electronic, Electrical,  
Salaried, Machine & Furniture  
Workers, IUE/CWA, District 8-6  
MO State Conference of Electrical Workers  
MO State Council of Fire Fighters  
St. Louis District Iron Workers  
District Council of St. Louis &  
Vicinity  
St. Louis Union Label and  
Service Trades Council

Laura Moore  
Eastern Mo. Laborers  
District Council  
Machinists & Aerospace Workers  
District 9  
Tony Rippetto  
District Lodge No. 837  
Gordon King  
Painter's District Council No. #2  
Gary Otten  
St. Louis Allied Printing Trades Council  
Seafarers, St. Louis Port Council  
Eastern Missouri Steel Council  
SEIU MO / KS State Council  
Teamsters Joint Council No. 13

**AUXILIARIES**

Missouri State AFL-CIO Aux.  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers No. 1 Aux.  
Graphic Communications Aux.  
Allied Printing Trades Council Aux.  
Auxiliary 29 to Typographical  
Union No. #8

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

St. Louis Labor Council  
Retirees Council  
St. Louis Chapter, Coalition of  
Black Trade Unionists  
A. Philip Randolph Institute,  
St. Louis Chapter (APRI)  
Coalition of Labor Union Women