

*Important
DATE!*

OUR JOBS OUR FUTURE!



LABOR RALLY FOR WORKERS

***** MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE *****

***** SATURDAY, APRIL 25th 11:00 AM *****

**COME OUT AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
WORKERS HAVE A LOT OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS.**



**Ken Zeller - President of the Indiana AFL-CIO will speak on the
"EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT"**

PETER KACZMARCZYK - CWA 4730 - IU WAGES & PRIVATIZATION

CARVEN THOMAS - IBEW 2249 - FACTORY CLOSINGS

MILTON FISK - HOOSIERS FOR A COMMON SENSE HEALTH PLAN - HEALTH CARE

TOM SZYMANSKI - IBEW 725 - INJUSTICES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

JACKIE YENNA - WHITE RIVER CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL - WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Speaker from Indiana University's NO SWEAT! - KILLER COKE

Lee Balliet - Master of Ceremonies

Equipment and Assistance Provided by Joe Kerr - IBEW 725 Business Representative

Invited Guest - U.S. Congressman Baron Hill

PLUS MUSIC, PETITIONS, INFORMATION, AND CAMARADERIE!



For more information

www.EmployeeFreeChoice.org

www.HoosierFA.org

www.iiifc.org

SPONSORED BY

IBEW #725 CWA #4730 WHITE RIVER CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL JOBS WITH JUSTICE

CO-SPONSORED BY

INDIANA STATE AFL-CIO - IBEW LOCAL #2249 - NO SWEAT!

LETTER CARRIERS LOCAL # 828 - SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA BUILDING TRADES

PLUMBERS & STEAM FITTERS LOCAL #136 - HOOSIERS FOR A COMMON SENSE HEALTH PLAN

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS - REGINA MOORE, BLOOMINGTON CITY CLERK

PEACE AND JUSTICE GROUP OF ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CENTER

Labor rally scheduled today at Monroe courthouse

H-T report

April 25, 2009

Local workers' rights groups will stage a labor rally at 11 a.m. today at the Monroe County Courthouse.

The rally will address the issues of [health care](#) reform, the Employee Free Choice Act, workers' wages at Indiana University and factory closings and the shipping of jobs abroad.

The keynote speaker is Ken Zeller, president of the Indiana AFL-CIO.

The rally is sponsored by Communications Workers of America 4730, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 725, White River Central Labor Council and Jobs with Justice.

Labor unions rally on courthouse lawn

By Mercedes Rodriguez

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April 26, 2009

Area labor leaders rallied Saturday on the Monroe County Courthouse lawn, urging action on wages, health care collective bargaining and other issues of working people.

Among those speaking were U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, D-Ind., Peter Kaczmarczyk of Communications Workers of America local 4730 and Carven Thomas of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 2249.

Thomas, president of the union representing Bloomington's General Electric employees, spoke with emotion about the journey he and his coworkers embarked on in January 2008 when it was announced their plant would close.

Some time afterward, GE said it wanted to sell its appliance division. Then, talk turned to having the appliance division become a spin-off subsidiary. After new federal tax credits for makers of energy-efficient appliances were announced, the company said it would keep the plant open into 2010.

Thomas said that for every job lost, the effect would ripple out to impact many other lives.

"Stop looking at us as though we're just a number on a paper that get you to your bottom line," he said. "We are the reasons the corporations have made what they have made over the years."

Rep. Hill talked about health care reform. He urged support for President Barack Obama's efforts to have Congress pass a national health care plan.

"We need to stick together to make this happen," he said.

Kaczmarczyk, speaking for the union that represents IU service and support staff, talked about the need for more substantial pay raises for workers.

"We want to see them thrive," he said of workers, "and through them, we want to see our communities thrive."

Ken Zeller, president of the Indiana AFL-CIO, spoke in support of the Employee Free Choice Act now before Congress.

He said it would make it easier for employees to form or join labor organizations and to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts.

Tom Szymanski, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 725, noted during his remarks that the union was working toward a responsible bidder ordinance for the city of Bloomington.

Szymanski said the measure would require contractors bidding on city government projects to accurately document all job costs in order to discourage contractors from skipping out on paying workers' unemployment insurance, overtime, and other fees.

Council member Andy Ruff, who was present at the rally, said the measure was in the early stages of planning. Also present at the rally were state Sen. Vi Simpson and state Rep. Matt Pierce.

GUEST COLUMN

Hoosier workers need more protections on the job

By Tom Szymanski

April 27, 2009

This guest column was written by Tom Szymanski, who is an organizer with the Electrical Workers, IBEW Local 725, a trustee of the White River Central Labor Council and a member of Jobs With Justice.

On April 28, 1971, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, commonly known as OSHA, in order to prevent illness, injury and death caused by workplace hazards. Unfortunately, Monroe County and surrounding communities have witnessed tragic stories in the media recently identifying workers killed and injured while performing their jobs.

Electricians, quarry workers, public servants, drivers, laborers and more have made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. It's such a sad day to learn about and to try and understand the anguish families are put through after knowing a loved one lost their life on the job. Regrettably, the same story is repeated many times across the state and across the country.

According to the Department of Labor national statistics, 5,488 workers were killed, 4 million were injured and 50,000 died due to occupational disease in 2007. In 2006, Indiana documented 148 on-the-job deaths and 111,300 workers who were injured or became ill.

We need to do more and make worker protections a bigger priority. The number of available inspectors on the job compared to the number of workers and worksites out there is frightening, as are the average penalties for serious violations. Indiana had more than 2.8 million workers employed in 156,000 establishments in 2007 and only 71 OSHA inspectors available to perform routine inspections.

With only 1,100 inspections conducted per year, the length of time for OSHA to inspect every workplace once would take more than 140 years. The average penalty assessed for serious violations, including deaths, averaged \$815 in Indiana and \$909 nationally. Far too many unscrupulous employers, without more OSHA enforcement and larger penalties, have little incentive to make safety a priority, and consider safety violations as just another cost of doing business.

On April 28 of each year since 1989, Workers' Memorial Day has been observed by the unions of the AFL-CIO, also known as International Day of Mourning by workers across the globe, as a day to remember and honor those workers who have suffered and died on the job. It's a day to call on our employers and elected representatives to promote safety standards and protect all employees who, at the end of their shift, want to see their families again.

Jobs aren't supposed to expose workers to toxic chemicals resulting in asbestosis or mesothelioma cancers, put lives in jeopardy by taking short cuts and playing the odds, or subject workers to threatened job loss because it takes a bit longer to utilize the proper safety equipment. What we need is to make safety a priority, take it seriously and recognize the fact that no job is worth the price of losing our health or losing our family.

After years of budget cuts, let's communicate with our elected representatives and ask them to do more for workers. The time is ripe to institute "Good Jobs, Safe Jobs" and promote more funding, legislation and education to protect all workers. OSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the research arm of OSHA, the National Institute for Safety and Health (NIOSH), have been starved of proper funding and enforcement mechanisms for years. We can make a difference, but only if you have the desire.

If you have time, the Indiana State AFL-CIO will be holding a ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the site of the Workers Memorial Monument located on the corner of West Street and Government Place in Indianapolis. The ceremony will honor workers who were injured or killed on the job in Indiana last year and call for stronger laws protecting workers' health and safety.