

SEVEN DAYS OF SOLIDARITY

AFL-CIO Week in Review



HIGHLIGHTS

- [The Labor Movement Mourns the Loss of San Jose Workers](#)
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May 28, 2021
STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN CENTER

AFL-CIO

GRIEF AND RESOLVE

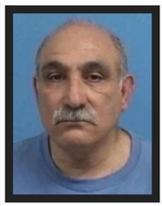
This week the labor movement was in motion all over the country-- fighting to pass the PRO Act, organizing, bargaining, and walking picket lines from Alabama to Alaska. But whatever each of us were doing, we froze in our tracks on the morning of Wednesday, May 26, when each of us separately heard the news from San Jose, California. Nine of our brothers -- members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265, were killed by one of their fellow workers, who then killed himself.

Here are the names and the faces of those we have lost. They are the names and faces of the labor movement and the names and faces of our country. Workplace violence claimed them-- took them from their families, from the communities they served every day through long careers and through the pandemic as workers in the Valley Transportation System-- the public transit system that working people in metropolitan San Jose rely upon.

ATU

**WE MOURN THOSE LOST IN
THE TRAGIC SAN JOSE SHOOTING**

— LOCAL 265-SAN JOSE, CA —

				
Abdolvahab Alaghmandan	Adrian Balleza	Alex W. Fritch	Jose Dejesus Hernandez III	Lars Kepler Lane
				
Paul Delacruz Megia	Timothy Michael Romo	Michael Joseph Rudometkin	Taptejdeep Singh	

Workplace violence claimed them-- took them from their families, from the communities they served every day through long careers and through the pandemic as workers in the Valley Transportation System-- the public transit system that working people in metropolitan San Jose rely upon.

When the news came to the AFL-CIO, leaders of our state federations and local labor bodies were meeting virtually. The agenda of that meeting of the State Fed and CLC Advisory Committee was set aside as we attempted to absorb the news. President Trumka spoke to the group of his sorrow and the sense that we had buried too many of our sisters and brothers lost before their time to workplace violence-- in classrooms and factories and warehouses and hospitals-- in every place where working people do the work of our nation. He spoke to his sense that we had to take action as a movement to make our workplaces safer-- take action against mental illness and against all the forces in our society that enable the kind of violence that took our brothers in San Jose. That we must lift up and support everyone who seeks to heal the wounds-- personal and social-- that lie at the root of the fear and the violence that has hurt so many of our brothers and sisters.

The Advisory Committee agreed unanimously to take up the challenge and begin the work of preparing recommendations on workplace for the Executive Council to consider. Stay tuned, and in the spirit of Mother Jones, “mourn the dead and fight for the living.”

2021 AFL-CIO DISTRICT MEETINGS

The AFL-CIO has launched registration links for the virtual 2021 AFL-CIO District Meetings. We will offer participants the full picture of the past year and the year to come, sharing the tools and tactics that shaped our victories and preparing us for the work ahead: to pass the PRO Act and elect union members and pro-worker candidates up and down the ballot this year and in 2022.

District Meetings AFL-CIO

PASSING THE PRO ACT AND WINNING A WORKERS FIRST AGENDA

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT
THURSDAY, JUNE 3

MIDWEST DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JUNE 8

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
THURSDAY, JUNE 10

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JUNE 15

REGISTER TODAY! REGISTER AT

[DISTRICTMEETINGS.AFLCIO.ORG](https://districtmeetings.aflcio.org)

DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Western District meeting was held May 20, and the Southern District meeting was held May 25. In our two best-attended District Meetings ever, over 1,100 state and local leaders joined. The one-day convenings include a town hall with President Richard Trumka (UMWA), presentations on our PRO Act campaign plans and smaller group brainstorming sessions among peers in their home states.

Here is what some participants said about the District Meetings:

"As a building trades representative, I was particularly appreciative of the opportunity to discuss details of the PRO Act specifically as it relates to independent contractor misclassification. There is a lot of misinformation out there on this issue, and it is important that the entire House of Labor is well educated and unified in our message so that we can combat this misinformation and see the PRO Act passed." —Bronson Frye, Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) District Council 5

"The Western regional conference was great to see sisters and brothers from around the region. We were able to collaborate on difficult questions like do we plan or just put out fires when they come up. Many of us haven't been able to think about a plan and strategy to grow. It was great to start that conversation to grow our strategy for its area." —Derek Hitt (UBC), president, Missoula Area Central Labor Council

"I came away from the district meeting ready to pass the PRO Act and double down on organizing in the South. From our affiliates to state feds and CLCs, it is clear there is tremendous energy and excitement about growing the labor movement in the South. So let's get to work and pass the PRO Act!" —MaryBe McMillan, president, North Carolina State AFL-CIO

"The Florida AFL-CIO was proud to be a part of the AFL-CIO Southern District Conference. The conference was an excellent opportunity for our members here in the Sunshine State to join together in solidarity with our fellow working people across the South and continue the fight for America's working families. Florida AFL-CIO members and leaders were able to come together digitally from every corner of our state to discuss the challenges and opportunities we face statewide as part of the breakout discussions. We look forward to continuing to work towards the passing of the PRO Act and a brighter future for America's working people." —Mike Williams, president, Florida State AFL-CIO

"The Kentucky Labor Movement is excited to build on the energy from the AFL-CIO's Southern District Meeting, as we work to build power together and pass the PRO Act. The District Meetings are always a great opportunity to hear from the experiences of our brothers and sisters in other states and to learn about new tools and strategies available to state and local federations through multiple workshops." —Bill Londrigan, president, Kentucky State AFL-CIO

Key action items discussed at both meetings were the four mobilization tools for the next steps of the PRO Act campaign: the postcard campaign, virtual phone banks, worksite leafleting and the week of mobilization in July.

TOOLKIT: [GO.AFLCIO.ORG/PROACT](https://go.aflcio.org/proact)
ORDER PRINTED MATERIALS: [GO.AFLCIO.ORG/PROACT-ORDER](https://go.aflcio.org/proact-order)

LOCAL UNION COORDINATORS



In the last week, **70** more local unions identified their local union coordinator. The percentage of union members nationwide in locals served by a local union coordinator increased from **68% to 69%**.



AK added 4, 94%	MT 2, 83%
CO 10, 53%	PA 3, 80%
CT 4, 41%	TX 5, 58%
ID 3, 64%	VT 2, 41%
IL 20, 64%	WY 5, 86%
MS 10, 87%	UT 4, 80%

LOCAL UNION COORDINATORS BY REGION

Region	Total Locals	Locals with LUC	% Members Covered by LUC
Central	8,514	3,810	72%
East	8,812	3,497	75%
West	4,928	1,450	59%
TOTAL	22,254	8,757	69%

To view the locals with a Local Union Coordinator by state:

[CLICK HERE](#)

LOCAL UNION COORDINATORS SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL REGION

Jeannette Bradshaw is the recording secretary/registrar at Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 58 in Detroit and serves as the secretary-treasurer of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO. Sister Bradshaw's leadership on program implementation and engagement of her home local are keys to success in southeast Michigan.



JEANNETTE BRADSHAW
IBEW

EAST REGION

This past year, in the midst of a sudden loss of work for herself and her co-workers, Kellam redirected her time, energy and spirit into supporting her fellow workers and community. During the past 18 months, Kellam became an executive board member of the Chattanooga Area Labor Council, helped organize a program that raised more than \$6,000 in direct support for her unemployed Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) brothers and sisters, co-chaired the labor council's political committee, took on a leadership role in her local union, worked as an eviction prevention coordinator for a local nonprofit, supported statewide campaign work, played a key role in get-out-the-vote efforts for local city elections and volunteered in countless other capacities, all while stitching together multiple jobs.



ERIN KELLAM
IATSE

"Erin's positivity, her passion for justice, her sense of solidarity and her willingness to step up have been a source of inspiration to the labor movement in Chattanooga and across Tennessee," said Austin Sauerbrei, labor council organizer.

WEST REGION

Local Union Coordinator and UNITE HERE President Marvin Jones represents Alaska's workers in the hospitality sector. Jones started his first union job at the Sheraton Hotel Anchorage in 1988, where he worked until 2001. Additionally, he worked for the Hilton from 1994 to 1998. In October 1999, he also became a union representative. In 2001, he was elected president of UNITE HERE Local 878 and never looked back.



MARVIN JONES,
UNITE HERE

FIELD HIGHLIGHTS—CENTRAL REGION

UAW MEMBER INTRODUCES PRESIDENT BIDEN AT ELECTRIC TRUCK PLANT, CALLS IT AN HONOR OF A LIFETIME

Angela Powell, a forklift operator at the Ford Rouge plant in Michigan and a member of UAW Local 600, was charged with introducing President Biden when he visited a plant in Dearborn to unveil the company's new F-150 Lightning truck on May 18. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and man, I just feel honored to be here at the right place at the right time," she told the Detroit Free Press after Biden spoke.

Powell gave the president a sincere welcome, praising him for his support of unions. She said Biden is a "president who understands that in order for the future to work for us all, American workers can't be forgotten or left behind in this transition for the future. Future jobs need to be well-paying union jobs with benefits and Joe Biden gets that," she said.



Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber (UAW) also issued a statement to welcome Biden. "Michigan's unions are proud to welcome President Biden to Michigan because he recognizes that we can only build this country back better with union labor," he said. "Congress must act to send the American Jobs Plan and the PRO Act to the president's desk so we can create millions of good jobs, rebuild our economy fairly, increase worker power and grow America's labor movement."

INDIANA STATE AFL-CIO HOLDS PATH TO POWER FORUM AS PROGRAM EXPANDS

On May 18, the Indiana State AFL-CIO held a Path to Power Union Member Candidate Forum. The forum featured four union members who have been elected to office through the state federation's Path to Power Program and was moderated by Indiana State AFL-CIO President Brett Voorhies (USW). The state federation has grown its Path to Power Program and has collected a distinguished list of program alumni.

Panelists discussed the need to build union power in the state by recruiting, training and supporting union member candidates running for elected office. Participants included Anderson City Councilor Antony Bibbs (AFT), Portage City Councilor Brian Gulley (UAW), Indianapolis City Councilor Kristin Jones, and Boone County Coroner Justin Sparks (IAFF).

"We hope that Path to Power will transform our state into one that puts workers first. No one can represent working families and their unions better than working people themselves," Voorhies said in an email to members across Indiana after the event.

All Central Region Highlights

[CLICK HERE](#)

FIELD HIGHLIGHTS—EAST REGION

AFL-CIO SECRETARY TREASURER LIZ SHULER VISITS UMWA PICKET LINE, ATTENDS RALLY

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler (IBEW) visited Mine Workers (UMWA) members in Brookwood, Alabama, who are striking against Warrior Met Coal in their fight for a fair contract. In addition to visiting the picket lines, Shuler spoke at a rally alongside UMWA International President Cecil Roberts and AFGE President Everett Kelly. The miners have been on strike since April 1 and don't plan on slowing down until they reach their goals of fair pay and a safer workplace.

“This strike is about the entire community,” said Shuler during her speech. “One job is connected to every other. UMWA members support every local shop, restaurant, service . . . and the people who make those businesses run. We're not going back to the days of company towns. When the coal companies owned everything. Employers are supposed to serve our communities, not the other way around.”



UNION MEMBERS AND LEADERS COME TOGETHER FOR 2021 VIRTUAL SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING



On May 25, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., nearly 600 union members and leaders from across the southern region came together for the 2021 Virtual Southern District meeting. Union members participated in workshops, breakout sessions with their individual states, listened to keynote speakers and participated in a town hall with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

“Every state represented at this District meeting is a right to work state,” said Trumka during his town hall. “You've organized, bargained and represented your members under the toughest of conditions. But it shouldn't be this hard! The PRO Act will change the landscape of the South . . . and the nation. And we are going to pass it! Do not let anyone define our capacity or diminish our power! Do not allow our opponents to shape this debate!”

All East Region Highlights

[CLICK HERE](#)

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR MOVEMENT APPLAUDS HISTORIC FARMWORKER OVERTIME PAY LAW



This past Tuesday, May 25, marked one year since George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis. In a call for racial justice, April Sims (AFSCME), secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, wrote a piece entitled “Confronting Racism is Organized Labor’s Work” in *The Stand*. Here’s an excerpt:

“Our brother killed our sister’s son.’ AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka shared this truth after Derek Wilson, a union police officer, killed Micheal Brown, the son of a union grocery worker. There are no plainer words for the reality organized labor must grapple with.

“Organized labor represents workers within a justice system that is killing other working people. Our Black, brown and Indigenous siblings are living and working under the constant stress of this system. Our movement is uniquely positioned to confront racist policing and work toward a world where all working people can thrive. This is the kind of fight organized labor was built for. This is what solidarity means.

“There is immense pressure—the whole weight of the status quo—to take a narrow view of our charge as a movement, to stick to fighting for more hours, more compensation, more jobs and nothing else.

“In a recent town hall, President Trumka addressed the glaring problem with this narrow focus in his classic, plain-spoken style: ‘It doesn’t matter what you make if you don’t make it home.’

“We know it is working people—particularly Black, brown, Indigenous and poor folks—who are disproportionately and systematically targeted by police and by the criminal justice system. We know this violence is stopping our fellow working people from making it home. Our charge in organized labor is to fight for the rights and dignity of working people; confronting racism is clearly our work.”

NEW MEXICO FEDERATION OF LABOR LAUNCHES GOTV CAMPAIGN

The New Mexico Federation of Labor is fired up to elect Melanie Stansbury to represent CD-1 in Congress. This past weekend, nearly 50 union canvassers came out to get the word out about Stansbury, their union-endorsed candidate, in advance of the June 1 special election to fill the post vacated by current Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

All West Region Highlights

[CLICK HERE](#)

STATE FEDERATION/CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL NEWS

DAN GOSA (AWIU) - ELECTED PRESIDENT QUAD CITIES FEDERATION OF LABOR



Dan Gosa was elected president of the Quad City, Illinois and Iowa Federation of Labor, replacing longtime labor and political activist Dino Leone, who stepped down. Leone was elected president in January 2013.

Gosa is the Midwest regional organizer for the Heat and Frost Insulators (HFIU) Local 81 and also serves as Davenport school board president.

"I am deeply humbled and honored by the opportunity to represent the Quad City Federation of Labor," Gosa said in a statement. "I look forward to working collaboratively with all of our affiliates and being a strong voice for labor. One of my top priorities will be working towards bringing all unions together in our joint effort to represent the interest of all working people."

DOUG THOMAS (IRONWORKER) - STEPS UP TO BECOME PRESIDENT WYOMING AFL-CIO



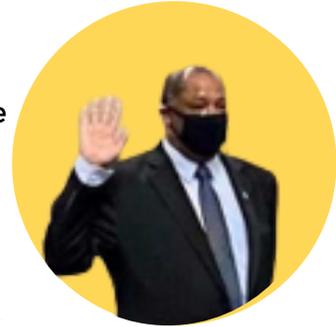
Ironworkers Local 27 business agent Doug Thomas, a longtime board member of the Wyoming State AFL-CIO, took over as president of the board earlier this month after the former president stepped down. Thomas, a figure in the Casper labor movement for more than 40 years, has been a steady presence on the state board for years. "Brother Doug stepped up big time. We're lucky to have him as board president," said Wyoming State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Tammy Johnson (USW), who has led the state labor movement's rebound over the past two years.

"I'm glad the board has supported Tammy's vision for building power for workers, and I'm proud to do that as president of the board of the Wyoming AFL-CIO," Thomas said. "We'll continue to do everything we can to lift up Wyoming's workers."

UNION MEMBER ELECTED—HIGHLIGHTS

BENNIE SHOBE (AFSCME)

Nebraska Association of Public Employees AFSCME Local 61 member Bennie Shobe was recently reelected to the Lincoln City Council. He has been a member of the City Council since 2017. Union members from the Lincoln Central Labor Union and the Nebraska State AFL-CIO have been pounding the pavement and burning up the phone lines to make sure that union members in Lincoln showed up on Election Day to support one of their own.



NIKKI MERRITT (CWA)

On November 4, 2020, Nikki Merritt, a member of CWA Local 3204 in Georgia, won her election to the Georgia State Senate. Merritt (D-Grayson) serves as a Georgia State Senator for Gwinnett County including the communities of Lilburn, Lawrenceville, Dacula, Snellville, Grayson, and Loganville.



MALIA VELLA (IBT)

Malia Vella, vice mayor of Alameda, California, was elected to the Alameda City Council in November 2016 and reelected in November 2020 with the most votes ever received by any council candidate. As a Teamsters (IBT) and SEIU 1021 member, and delegate to the Alameda Labor Council, Vella broke barriers upon her election. She was the first Filipina elected to the City Council and the only pregnant council member in the history of the city. On the City Council, Vella has prioritized equity in policy decisions, addressing housing insecurity and ensuring an equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Since 2013, she has worked as a policy director and attorney focusing on labor and employment law. Vella is also an adjunct professor of practice at Mills College's Lorry I. Lokey School of Business and Public Policy. She teaches ethical policymaking and an introductory class on economics and policymaking.

Complete list of Union Elected Members

[CLICK HERE](#)

HUB & RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT—ECONOMIC POWER & GROWTH

ORGANIZING INSTITUTE

The AFL-CIO Organizing Institute (OI) partnered with the Georgia AFL-CIO to host a powerful and exciting virtual OI three-day training on May 18-20. More than 35 member and staff organizers from unions across the country joined together to learn and reinforce fundamental principles critical to going on the offensive to win organizing campaigns and grow the labor movement.

The unions that participated in this training were the Atlanta-North Georgia Labor Council, South Carolina AFL-CIO, SMART, TWU, USW, OPEIU, IUPAT, CWA, Ironworkers, AFSCME, MSEA and AFGE.

Shoutouts to:

- The Georgia AFL-CIO for partnering with the AFL-CIO OI to host this training;
- Georgia AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Yvonne Brooks (AFSCME) for welcoming and bringing greetings to this dedicated and energetic group of organizers;
- Doug Claypool (IUPAT), Danny Ernstes (UAW), UnoBlessed Coons (Indiana State AFL-CIO), Chris Avila (TWU) and Hope Berndt (AFGE) for taking time away from their campaigns to train this generation of union organizers;
- AFL-CIO OI Senior Trainers TJ Marsallo and Tiffany Bender, OI Senior Administrator Indeya Taylor, and AFL-CIO Senior Meeting Planner Roberta Loving for making this transformational training happen.

Check out the video on how April (AFGE 3627), Kellie (IUPAT DC 77) and Tevita (TWU 513) plan to take the tools they learned back to their campaigns to empower working people to win a voice at work through building a strong union.

Visit www.aflcio.org/oi for upcoming trainings.

**TO VIEW ALL HUB & RESOURCE REPORTS AND
CONSTITUENCY GROUP REPORTS:**

[CLICK HERE](#)

A RECAP OF THE WEEK'S MOST NOTABLE PRESS CLIPS,
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT, EMAIL AND CAMPAIGNS
AND ACTIONS AND WEBSITE HITS:



[PRO Act Builds It Back Better With Unions](#)



[The Myth of Labor Shortages](#)



[Unions Are Essential to Racial Justice](#)



[The U.S. CDC's Mask Guidance Ignores the Risks Workers Face Every Day.](#)

Full Press Clips

[CLICK HERE](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

FACEBOOK



FACEBOOK THIS WEEK

Reach	Clicks	Engagement
177,312	8,498	16,909

FACEBOOK - TO DATE (SINCE 04/12/20)

Reach	Clicks	Engagement
68,032,754	4,110,436	7,648,330

TWITTER



TWITTER THIS WEEK

Impressions	Likes	Retweets
163,100	349	217

TWITTER TO DATE (SINCE 04/12/20)

Impressions	Likes	Retweets
36,524,929	153,856	60,080

YOUTUBE



YOUTUBE THIS WEEK

Views	Avg minutes viewed
1,586	0:29:22

YOUTUBE TO DATE (SINCE 04/12/20)

Views
478,878

WEBSITE



WEBSITE THIS WEEK

Total Visitors	Time Spent on Site
20,577	1.32 minutes

WEBSITE TO DATE (SINCE 04/12/20)

Total Visitors	Visitors to Coronavirus-related Sites
2,242,701	559,500

EMAIL

EMAIL THIS WEEK

Email Actions Taken	Open Rate	Click-through Rate	New Subscribers
4,151	28%	3.7%	1,141

EMAIL TO DATE (SINCE 04/12/20)

Email Actions Taken	Open Rate	Click-through Rate	New Subscribers
95,860	24%	2.9%	118,647



DID YOU KNOW...?

Standard target date fund fees from other providers can eat away at the total amount you have saved for retirement. The new AFL-CIO Target Date Fund (AFL-CIO TDF) series was developed as a low-cost product for defined contribution plans. Offered in five-year increments, the target date suite provides democratic pricing—12 basis points for all investors—that will help foster retirement security for working Americans. In addition, each underlying equity fund will vote its proxies in accordance with the AFL-CIO’s Proxy Voting Guidelines.



*Chart above is a hypothetical example that assumes a one-time investment of \$100,000 for 30 years with a 4% rate of return.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AFL-CIO TARGET DATE FUNDS:

https://aflcio-itc.com/itc-news/collective_investment_trust_cit_funds/