



Report from the President

Welcome to the Ohio AFL-CIO's 30th Biennial Convention – *Working People Unite*

As we convene here in Cleveland for the state federation's 30th biennial convention we are reminded of the power that is realized when Working People Unite. Even though Republicans control every lever of state government and the hits keep coming, we have been able to fight back together and remain poised to win for working families in the 2016 and 2018 election cycles. And, I am pleased to report that the state of condition of the federation is sound.

As you will see in the Legislative Committee report, the state federation is bringing together the labor movement in our policy work at the statehouse and in Congress. We are pleased that all sectors of the movement fought back as one against the "fast track" of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). Our unified voice has dominated the debate over trade, stalled TPP in Congress, and led to the adoption of a strong, pro-worker fair trade platform at the Democratic National Convention.

In the state General Assembly, we have been confronted with two "right to work" is wrong bills, new attacks on "project labor agreements", more suppression of voting rights and a serious attempt to take away hundreds of millions of dollars annually in unemployment benefits. We have responded with equal or greater force to oppose these measures with the help of allied organizations. And, the courts

have continued to strike down voter suppression legislation and directives from the Secretary of State. So, we have made it to "lame duck", united as labor movement and largely in tact, but must be prepared for a hostile post election legislative session, and the subsequent session until we regain the Governorship and other statewide offices in 2018.



Tim Burga
President, Ohio AFL-CIO

And when the Koch brothers brought their far-right political machine, Americans for Prosperity, to Columbus for a national economic summit we showed up 4,000 strong to protest. It was working people responding in unison that dominated the news with our message that working people coming together,

created the middle class and the American Dream not billionaire CEOs.

It is this unified effort that must exist for working people and unions to not just survive, but also turn the corner and grow again. The American people are on our side on all the major economic issues

because they know the rules of the economy are being leveraged against them by the powerful and super wealthy. As a result, Americans have seen their jobs outsourced abroad due to unfair trade deals, replaced by new technologies and dried up because corporations stopped investing in its workforce in lieu of shareholder rewards.

In short, this is what the 2016 elections are about—re-writing the rules of the economy

The American people are on our side on all the major economic issues because they know the rules of the economy are being leveraged against them by the powerful and super wealthy.

Report from the President (continued)

that create jobs and raise wages. To this point, when comparing the candidates records and body of work Hillary Clinton is the clear choice for working people for office of the presidency and Ted Strickland for U.S. Senate.

Prior to public office, Hillary Clinton was dedicated to improving children's health and wellbeing and strengthening family financial security. As First Lady she was a driving force behind the highly effective state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As U.S. Senator from New York, Clinton not only was one of the hardest working members of Congress she consistently advocated for policies that help working people and support unions, including sponsoring the Employee Free Choice Act. She believes in international trade but not at the expense of American workers as evidenced by her vote in the Senate opposing CAFTA and her stated opposition to TPP. As Secretary of State she has met with heads of state across the globe successfully advancing the interests of human rights and American ideals.

Secretary Clinton has laid out details on how to move the economy forward, create jobs and raise wages. She has real plans that include fair trade, collective bargaining, raising the minimum wage, enforcement of overtime pay and worker-friendly labor law. Hillary has stated her plans to harness public and private capital to upgrade and repair roads, bridges, energy and water infrastructure, expand public transportation and bring our schools and our communications networks fully into the 21st century. In fact, Hillary Clinton will dedicate her first 100 days in office to creating jobs and raising wages by making the biggest investment in workers since World War II. This plan includes the most significant investments in infrastructure since the construction of our interstate highway system and strengthening American manufacturing with a \$10 billion "Make it in America" plan.

Hillary Clinton will dedicate her first 100 days in office to creating jobs and raising wages by making the biggest investment in workers since World War II.



From L to R, Former Governor and US Senate candidate Ted Strickland, AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, and Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga at the DNC in Philadelphia.

And yes, she will advance policies that compel corporations to think long-term, to invest in its workforce and return banking to its more limited and traditional role of loaning money to help working people and businesses advance. To this point, Clinton hasn't been shy on the campaign trail as she highlights the perversion of the financial investment industry's profits, stating, "The top twenty-five hedge fund managers in America make more than all the country's kindergarten teachers." Simply put, Hillary Clinton is the most qualified candidate to run for the Presidency in my lifetime and we must do everything in our power to elect her.

Then there's Donald Trump who has spent his adult years worshipping himself, and chasing money and fame while stepping on anyone in his way of this pursuit. Let me be clear, Donald Trump is unfit to be President, would tear the country apart and would make life harder on working people and he must be stopped. On the first point, his racist, sexist and repulsive remarks and attitudes are well documented and should

disqualify him outright. Trump's erratic, unstable, and reckless behavior would destroy America's moral authority in the world and put our national security at risk. Additionally, Trump has made clear his desire to exploit hatred and



Report from the President (continued)

fear to advance his own interests that only serves to deeper divide our country and incite violence.

Lastly, it is our responsibility as labor leaders and union members to call out Trump for pretending to be some kind of working class hero. He's a hypocrite and here's why. You can't be for the working person and author an education lesson titled, "Outsourcing create jobs in the long run." Or talk tough on trade and pretend to care about American manufacturing yet produce your entire line of clothing, jewelry and Trump products in countries such as China, Bangladesh and Honduras to take advantage of cheap labor. You can't be for the American worker and have your businesses cited twenty-four times for violating labor laws like refusing to pay overtime wages to employees. You're a fraud Donald Trump, when you claim to care about the wage crisis in America and then go on MSNBC and say, "wages are too high" in America. You're just another greedy CEO that fights workers trying to organize at your hotels and casinos and proudly claims to back wage-suppression "right to work" laws "100%."

Another critical consideration is whom do we want in power that will tip the scales of justice toward working people by appointing future U.S. Supreme Court Justices? Let us not forget that we dodged a bullet in the Friedrichs' case with the sudden passing of Justice Scalia and the court rendering a 4-4 decision. In addition to this case and others just like it in the pipeline which would deny public sector unions "fair share" fees, the Republican Party Platform contains a federal "right to work" law and the repeal of "Davis-Bacon." As President, I am confident that Hillary Clinton will put Justices in place that protect union and collective bargaining laws that support the advancement of working people while Trump's appointees would be on the side of CEOs and the rich and powerful.

You're a fraud Donald Trump, when you claim to care about the wage crisis in America and then go on MSNBC and say, "wages are too high" in America.



On Wednesday, May 18, Vice President Joe Biden, along with Senator Sherrod Brown and Labor Secretary Tom Perez announced a new and final rule on overtime by the U.S. Department of Labor.

In the race for the U.S. Senate, Rob Portman is also trying to reinvent himself. His record tells a different story than his campaign ads would want us to believe. In Congress, Portman has voted for ten unfair international trade deals, like NAFTA and as Trade Representative to President Bush oversaw the negotiations and passage of another four one-sided deals, including CAFTA.

All told these trade deals have cost Ohioans over 400,000 good paying jobs. And, if this wasn't bad enough, just this year he voted to "fast track" the Trans Pacific Partnership. On trade alone, he's had fifteen chances to prove that he supports working people and each and every time he has chosen to be on the side of the corporate CEOs and big business.

Ted Strickland's record while in Congress and as Governor is diametrically different than Portman's. He has opposed every unfair trade bill that came across his desk, acted to expand collective bargaining in Ohio and has spent his entire life closely connected to trade unionists and fighting for the rights of working people. He has earned our endorsement and deserves us giving everything we have to help him get elected and join Sherrod Brown in the U.S. Senate.

With this election, we must commit together as a movement, build on the foundation that has been laid, take back our country from the wealthy few, and rewrite the rules of an economy that lifts all people. We do this by electing Hillary Clinton as President, Ted

Report from the President (continued)

Strickland to the U.S. Senate and supporting all of the candidates that believe in us. As trade unionists we have a historical and philosophical obligation to talk with those we work with and that live in our neighborhoods about electing people that stand with us and our ideals. Leadership is called for and I know that our members and working people across the state trust our research and are moved by our positions on electoral matters.

There are no shortcuts in what we do and how working people get ahead. And, we should have no use for election year conversions from candidates seeking to be on the side of working people when their body of work tells us something very different. Hillary Clinton and Ted Strickland have a distinguished record in supporting our issues and of acknowledging trade unions as catalysts for workers to reach the middle class and

achieve the American Dream. They've had our backs, they've earned our support, now it's time go help win this election for them and all of our endorsed candidates.

The road to the White House and control of the U.S. Senate goes through Ohio. What you do, and what we do collectively, from now until November 8 will determine the direction of the country and the rules that will govern our economy.

The road to the White House and control of the U.S. Senate goes through Ohio. What you do, and what we do collectively, from now until November 8 will determine the direction of the country and the rules that will govern our economy.

Let's make history together by going all in over the next 49 days with the Ohio Labor 2016 program and victory will follow.

Thank you for your leadership and your belief that everyone wins when **Working People Unite!**

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

As we convene in Cleveland for our 30th biennial convention, I am pleased to report that due to the tremendous support of our affiliated unions the Ohio AFL-CIO is on sound financial footing. In your delegate materials, please take time to review the 2015 independent audit which recognizes that the state federation has industry approved accounting and operational practices in place.

However, the Ohio AFL-CIO's strength is based on union security and growth and requires all unions to pay its fair share into the federation. We are often reminded of the threats presented by anti-union lawmakers and judges who desire to deny unions of our rightful place in society and strip us of our funding. It is the constant attacks by these extreme groups and policymakers that remind us that the mission of the state labor federation to serve as a collective front fighting for economic and social justice is as critical now as ever.



Pierrette "Petee" Talley
Secretary-Treasurer
Ohio AFL-CIO