

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.

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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

The words of the great labor leader A. Philip Randolph still ring true today when he said, “A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess,” This is our call and this is why we are here in Cleveland, to say we can make it happen when Working People Unite.

Randolph’s remarks stand in stark contrast to the words that echoed off the walls of the Quicken Loans Arena here in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention in July. Make no mistake, the economic inequality in America is evidence that when unions decline working people’s condition suffers. To thrive again, we must be united as a labor movement and also be connected to the millions of workers in communities that lack a voice at work and too often in society at large.

Our country prides itself as the land of opportunity, a place where everyone can achieve success and a better life through hard work and determination, but workers continue to lag behind in measures of economic mobility and equality. Wages have been stagnant for most workers while all of the economic gains have disproportionately gone to those at the very top.

Good paying jobs that have traditionally provided a ladder out of poverty into the middle class for millions have become scarce while at the same time, essentials like education, housing, childcare and health care have grown more expensive. We are now seeing deeply rooted structural discrimination that has held down women and people of color come to light through instances of unrest in communities between black citizens and law enforcement on a seemingly daily basis. No matter the frustrations we feel as we watch the very wealthy prosper from our labor, we must not turn on one another. Instead, we must beat back these forces by uniting and declaring we will do what is right by standing up for ourselves and those who are living in the shadows of our society and cannot defend themselves.

The attempt to divide Americans along class and racial lines regularly plays out creating an increasingly polarized political environment. Issues that should be non-partisan, such as growing our economy, expanding the middle class, and creating family sustaining jobs, are labeled and turned into partisan battles. Americans are tired of this fighting and want politicians to work together to move the country forward. Instead we have witnessed the takeover

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer, continued



ST Petee Talley leads a women’s round table discussion with Columbus City Councilwoman Liz Brown, and AFL-CIO ST Elizabeth Shuler.

of the Republican Party by extreme elements that simply want to divide us, cast blame on one another, and silence workers who want to join a union and bargain for a better life.

For those that are driving this harmful agenda we must show them that the politics of division and disregarding the plight of working people comes with a political price. We must build political and institutional power to challenge inequality, change policies and transform our country. And, elected officials need reminded that equality is the most important ideal our country was founded on. Then we can begin to build an all inclusive movement that can play an essential part in fixing some of the most challenging issues our country has faced in generations: an economy that only works for the very wealthy, the mass incarceration of an entire race, decades of stagnant wages, the whittling away of our most sacred voting rights, and disastrous trade policies that promote outsourcing and wreak havoc on our communities. We need strong elected leaders that will stand up and be a champion of our ideals and help spread our message to the masses.

As we think about the problems facing our society and try to find real solutions, we must realize that people on the far right of the political spectrum, such as the Koch Brothers, are looking at ways to keep things the way they are. They will continue to fight for and benefit from the consolidation of wealth and power to the top 1%. Until now they have been able to do this largely by buying political influence. However, they appear to sense a shift in political winds and have begun using our playbook and spending resources to organize at the grassroots level. They will look to take advantage of an anxious population who are tired of seeing an economy that is out of balance and offering them fake solutions that might sound good, but in practice will make things much worse.

But the labor movement wrote the playbook on mobilization and we must not forget that this is where our strength lies. It's organized labor that has built real relationships with our members and in our local communities and we are the trusted messengers on jobs, wages and political action. We know how to fight off attacks to our

collective bargaining rights, as evidenced in our defeat of Senate Bill 5, and we don't come to fight alone.

And, we will use every tool in our arsenal in the political arena to go all in to help elect the first woman President who will fight to re-write the economic rules to benefit working people.

Hillary Clinton has put forth plans that help low wage workers get ahead, make major investments in manufacturing and infrastructure jobs, protect workplace rights, and call for equal pay for equal work.

We will knock on every door from sunrise to sunset and our sisters and brothers must hear from us on the phone, at the workplace and by local union mail contact. It is our responsibility to let Ohioans know what is at stake this election and turn them out to vote.

From now through Election Day on November 8, what we do collectively will determine how Ohio goes, and as Ohio goes so typically goes the nation. No pressure Ohio labor, but let's give it all we've got and work to leave a legacy for our children and their children. We cannot allow the corporate CEO's and the super rich to have their way or buy this election. We might not have their money, but they can never out work us.

Working People Unite so Working People can Win!

We know how to fight back against threats to our collectively bargaining rights and our way of life, and we don't come to the fight alone, as was evidenced by the citizen veto campaign of Senate Bill 5.

WORKING PEOPLE UNITE