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CWA-Union.org**



Visit the AFL-CIO.org and Wisafclio.org webpage for information on other important union news.

Better Pay and Benefits

From afl-cio.org

There is something fundamentally wrong with our economy when the rich keep getting richer while working people are working longer hours just to make ends meet. Despite year after year of increased productivity, workers are not sharing in the fruits of their labor.

The labor movement has always advocated for policies that promote a full-employment economy with wages high enough to allow working people to support their families. We work to promote policies to improve the rights of working people, and we work to make sure the wealth-generating labor of working people is rewarded justly. Supporting policies that include improving the minimum wage to a living wage, pay equity for women and people of color, restoring overtime protections, prevailing wage standards, and putting an end to wage theft and the misclassification of employees as independent contractors is our part of our mission.

When working people join together in unions to bargain for better wages and benefits, we help create a more just, prosperous and equitable society.

**News from Economic Policy Institute
SEIU Joining the AFL-CIO is a Landmark
Move to Unite and Strengthen
the Labor Movement**

• By Heidi Shierholz • January 8, 2025

The Service Employees International Union's (SEIU) affiliation with the AFL-CIO is a historic and critical step forward for the labor movement and working families across the country. By standing together, SEIU and the AFL-CIO are sending a powerful message to President Trump and his allies who are trying to pit working people against one another: the labor movement will not be fractured or silenced. Unions are a crucial part of a robust and fair economy—and SEIU's affiliation with the AFL-CIO strengthens the collective power of millions of workers, enabling them to fight more effectively for

(Continued on page 2)

2025 African American History Month

Material reprinted with permission from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH.org)

African Americans and Labor

The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

Considering Black people's work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through time and space. In this instance, the notion of work constitutes compensated labor in factories, the military, government agencies, office buildings, public service, and private homes. But it also includes the community building of social justice activists, voluntary workers serving others, and institution building in churches, community groups, and social clubs and organizations. In each of these instances, the work Black people do and have done have been instrumental in shaping the lives, cultures, and histories of Black people and the societies in which they live.

(Continued on page 2)

Wisconsin Elections 2025

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson

Representatives get elected whether you vote or not!

Decisions are made and legislation becomes law. Legislative and judicial representatives make decisions that affect us all.

Take your responsibility seriously and exercise diligence in thoroughly investigating to find the facts and the truth!

Primary Election

Tuesday February 18, 2025

Depending upon where you live, there may be Primary Elections in your area that include County and Municipal Offices: County Executive, County Supervisor, County Comptroller Municipal Offices: Mayor, Alderperson, Town and Village Board Member, Municipal Clerk, Treasurer, Municipal Judge, School Board and Multi-Jurisdictional Municipal Judges.

Candidates running for the above Municipal and County offices will be on the Spring General Election ballot!

Spring General Election

Tuesday April 1, 2025

On the Ballot:

Wisconsin Supreme Court

**Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judges Districts II, III & IV
Superintendent of Public Instruction**

(Continued from page 1 - SEIU Strengthen Labor Movement)

better wages, benefits, and working conditions. It also amplifies labor's voice in advocating for progressive economic reforms that benefit all working families.

With labor law and other employment policies stacked against working people, solidarity is the key to upending the imbalance of power between workers and employers. This bold new partnership—spearheaded by two dynamic women labor leaders—will reinvigorate the labor movement's ability to win fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all workers.

"We can have a democratic society or we can have the concentration of great wealth in the hands of a few. We cannot have both."

*Quote Attributed to
Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis*

Louis Dembitz Brandeis (1856–1941) was an American lawyer who served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court of the United States from 1916 to 1939.

He was a leading figure in the antitrust movement at the turn of the century, particularly in his resistance to the monopolization of the New England railroad and advice to Woodrow Wilson as a candidate. In his books, articles and speeches, including *Other People's Money* and *How the Bankers Use It*, and *The Curse of Bigness*, he criticized the power of large banks, money trusts, powerful corporations, monopolies, public corruption, and mass consumerism, all of which he felt were detrimental to American values and culture.

In the 1890s, Brandeis began to question his views on American industrialism. He became aware of the growing number of giant companies that were capable of dominating whole industries. He began to question whether the economic system was capable of regulating giant corporations to protect the public's welfare. He held concerns regarding cutthroat competition and corporate monopolies. He also became concerned about the plight of workers and grew more sympathetic to the labor movement. His earlier legal battles had convinced him that concentrated economic power could have a negative effect on a free society.

Against Big Corporations

Brandeis was increasingly conscious of and hostile to the large and powerful corporations developing in American industry and finance. As early as 1895, he had pointed out the harm that giant corporations could do to competitors, customers, and their own workers. The growth of industrialization was creating mammoth companies, which he felt threatened the well-being of millions of Americans. Although the Sherman Antitrust Act was enacted in 1890, it was not until the 20th century that there was any major effort to apply it.

By 1910, Brandeis noticed that even America's leaders, including President Theodore Roosevelt, were beginning to question the value of antitrust policies. Some business experts felt that nothing could prevent the concentration of industry and so big business was here to stay. As a result, leaders like Roosevelt began to "regulate" but not to limit the growth and operation of corporate monopolies, but Brandeis wanted the trend to bigness slowed or even reversed. He was convinced that monopolies and trusts were "neither inevitable nor desirable." In support of Brandeis's position were the presidential candidates

of William Jennings Bryan and Wisconsin Senator Robert M. La Follette Sr.

Brandeis also denied that large trusts were more efficient than the smaller firms that were being driven out of business. He argued the opposite was often true: that monopolistic enterprises became "less innovative" because, he wrote, their "secure positions freed them from the necessity which has always been the mother of invention."

He explained that an executive could not ever learn all the details of running a huge and unwieldy company. "There is a limit to what one man can do well," he wrote. Brandeis was aware of the economies of scale and the initially lower prices offered by growing companies, but he noted that once a large company drove out its competition, "the quality of its products tended to decline while the prices charged for them tended to go up." Those companies would become "clumsy dinosaurs, which, if they ever had to face real competition, would collapse of their own weight." He said in an address to the Economic Club of New York in 1912:

"We learned long ago that liberty could be preserved only by limiting in some way the freedom of action of individuals; that otherwise liberty would necessarily yield to absolutism; and in the same way we have learned that unless there be regulation of competition, its excesses will lead to the destruction of competition, and monopoly will take its place."

Against Mass Consumerism

Among Brandeis's key themes was the conflict he saw between 19th-century values, with its culture of the small producer, and an emerging 20th-century age of big business and consumerist mass society. Brandeis was hostile to the new consumerism. Though himself a millionaire, Brandeis disliked wealthy persons who engaged in conspicuous consumption or were ostentatious. He did little shopping himself, and unlike his wealthy friends who owned yachts, he was satisfied with his canoe.

He hated advertising which he said "manipulated" average buyers. He urged journalists to "teach the public to look with suspicion upon every advertised article" so that they would not suffer from marketing manipulation by giant corporations.

Material reprinted from Wikipedia

(Continued from page 1 - African Americans and Labor)

Understanding Black labor and its impact in all these multivariate settings is integral to understanding Black people and their histories, lives, and cultures.

Africans were brought to the Americas to be enslaved for their knowledge and serve as a workforce, which was superexploited by several European countries and then by the United States government. During enslavement, Black people labored for others, although some Black people were quasi-free and labored for themselves, but operated within a country that did not value Black life. After fighting for their freedom in the Civil War and in the country's transition from an agricultural based economy to an industrial one, African Americans became sharecroppers, farm laborers, landowners, and then wage earners. Additionally, African Americans' contributions to the built landscape can be found in every part of the nation as they constructed and designed some of the most iconic examples of architectural heritage in the country, specifically in the South.

Over the years to combat the super exploitation of Black labor, wage discrepancies, and employment discrimination based on race, sex, and gender, Black professionals (teachers, nurses, musicians, and lawyers, etc.) occupations (steel workers,

washerwomen, dock workers, sex workers, sports, arts and sciences, etc.) organized for better working conditions and compensation. Black women such as Addie Wyatt also joined ranks of union work and leadership to advocate for job security, reproductive rights, and wage increases.

2025 marks the 100-year anniversary of the creation of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids by labor organizer and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph, which was the first Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor. Martin Luther King, Jr incorporated issues outlined by Randolph's March on Washington Movement such as economic justice into the Poor People's Campaign, which he established in 1967. For King, it was a priority for Black people to be considered full citizens.

The theme, "African Americans and Labor," intends to encourage broad reflections on intersections between Black people's work and their workplaces in all their iterations and key moments, themes, and events in Black history and culture across time and space and throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. Like religion, social justice movements, and education, studying African Americans' labor and labor struggles are important organizing foci for new interpretations and reinterpretations of the Black past, present, and future. Such new considerations and reconsiderations are even more significant as the historical forces of racial oppression gather new and renewed strength in the 21st century.



2025 Wisconsin Supreme Court Election

Summary Reprinted from Wisconsin Watch.org

- The April 1 state Supreme Court election is expected to pit liberal Dane County Judge Susan Crawford against conservative Waukesha County Judge Brad Schimel.
- If liberals win, they will retain control of the court through at least 2028. If conservatives win, it will re-empower Justice Brian Hagedorn as the critical swing vote on the court.
- Under the first year of liberal control of the court, the justices decided only 14 cases, a significant drop from previous terms. Only four of those cases were split 4-3 along ideological lines.
- In the previous four years since Hagedorn was elected, there were 61 4-3 decisions, and the conservative swing justice was in the majority in 50 of those cases, far more than any other justice.

Read the full article at Wisconsin Watch.org - Another pivotal Wisconsin Supreme Court election

Never Stop Learning

Experience, Observation and Opinion

The internet has provided us a platform where anyone can share unlimited information. Anyone with a computer or cell phone can distribute an opinion, observation or claim to a global audience. This revolutionary conversion in communications has opened an avenue with both positive and negative potential everywhere.

Trusted traditional media sources now compete with content produced often with questionable or dubious credibility. The internet has opened a communications network where stories can range from truthful to complete falsehood. Under these circumstances, the consumer of that information can be totally misinformed and deceived.

Have we entered a world without truth? Media resources like the Associated Press and Reuters have documented guidelines their reporters follow to insure their reporting includes factual detail. Factual details are a critical component in establishing credibility and trust. Real news organizations invest heavily in building their reputations on evidence based truths.

The flood of undocumented information has only succeeded in spreading confusion and distrust within our society.

Narrations describing events and experiences can vary widely. The various versions may not be completely false, while they may not be completely truthful either. It's possible important details have been omitted or revised to mislead readers or listeners to guide them to a certain conclusion.

Is our nation truly in a crisis? Certainly our world is full of problems and challenges. Our lives are all about finding reasoned solutions to our problems. Prioritizing perceived issues that doesn't exist over more urgent concerns is hardly a smart move.

The American judicial system requires the introduction of factual evidence before a charge can be pursued against someone for committing a crime? Has factual evidence become so irrelevant in pursuit of a prosecution that factual evidence is now unnecessary? Is justice now for sale to the highest bidder?

The end of Facebook fact-checking program means it's up to all of us to spread the truth

Reprinted from <https://wisconsinwatch.org/>

Wisconsin Watch's fact briefs weren't affected by Mark Zuckerberg's decision. In fact, they can still be posted to social media to combat misinformation.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's recent announcement that the social media site will no longer work with third-party fact checkers makes it all the more important for the public to help fact checkers like us at Wisconsin Watch.

More on that in a minute.

Before joining Wisconsin Watch, I worked for PolitiFact. Some of my fact-checking reporting was funded by Zuckerberg's company, Meta. I spent a lot of time debunking posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Last week, ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, Zuckerberg announced he was ending Meta's fact-checking program.

That means less fact-checking of social media by PolitiFact
(Continued on page 5)

**UNION
CALENDAR**

February

- 11 Executive Board Mtg.
6:30 pm
Union Office
- 19 Membership Mtg.
7:00 pm
Pallas Restaurant
1657 S. 108th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

March

- 11 Executive Board Mtg.
6:30 pm
Union Office
- 19 Membership Mtg.
7:00 pm
Pallas Restaurant
1657 S. 108th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

**Please be safe!
For information and
updates,
please visit the
CWA 4603
web page at:
cwa4603.org**

**To learn more about
the Communications
Workers of America,
we recommend a visit
to:
[https://cwa-union.org/
about/cwa-history](https://cwa-union.org/about/cwa-history)**

**This link and others
can be found on the
cwa4603.org webpage!**

**CWA Local 4603
LAS SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA**


1. \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded one time only to an individual.
2. Must be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member (active or RMO members only).
3. The member must be in good standing with CWA 4603 for a minimum of one year.
4. Acceptance into an accredited college, university, community college or technical or trade school at the time of the award. (First 4 years of college only—graduate students are not eligible.)
5. Awards must be for the following fall school year tuition (2025-2026).
6. **Applications must be received by April 25, 2025.**
7. All requirements must be met and information on the application must be completed to be considered.
8. Applications can be hand written; the essay must be typed.
9. *A letter of reference from a teacher on school letterhead must be included as well as an essay of a maximum of 500 words entitled "What impact has the union had on my life?"*

You can request an application by contacting your CWA union steward, the CWA 4603 union office at 414-258-4010 or print a form by visiting:

CWA4603.org

Applications should be mailed to:

**Kwami Barnes
CWA 4603
6511 W. Blue Mound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53213**

<p>THE CWA WIRETAP</p> <p>MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL 4603 6511 WEST BLUE MOUND ROAD MILWAUKEE, WI 53213</p> <p>PRESIDENT Greg Tennyson EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT Adam Schelske SECRETARY/TREASURER Kwami Barnes</p> <p>Wiretap Staff Rich Hinderholtz, Editor Gary Kierzek, Columnist</p> <p>Proud member of the Midwest Labor Press Association</p>	
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Submissions Always Welcome
If you are interested in submitting an article, cartoon or photograph for the newsletter, please forward it to the CWA 4603 Union Office or e-mail it to: rhinderholtz@yahoo.com
Please include Wiretap in your email subject line!

To contact the RMO Report

Write c/o RMO Report
6511 West Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-258-4010

(Continued from page 3)

and other independent fact checkers.

Wisconsin Watch wasn't part of that program, so we're not directly affected by Zuckerberg's decision. We can carry on as we have with our fact briefs, which are done in partnership with Gigafact. Our briefs, which answer a question yes or no in 150 words, have been held up as a model.

But the loss of Meta's program underscores the importance of citizen involvement in fact-checking — whether it's checking claims made on social media or anywhere at all.

It's my hope that Zuckerberg's decision will spur citizens all the more to keep an eye out for surprising and dubious claims — and to bring them to the attention of fact checkers.

Wisconsin Watch monitors what Wisconsin's politicians are saying and what other folks are saying about Wisconsin. But we could use your eyes and ears, too.

If you come across a statement that seems off — or is interesting, but you can't tell whether it's true or false — please let us know. Including a link to the statement helps, too.

Then post our published briefs to inform the debates happening in your social media channels.

We do our best to make our fact briefs a trusted source. And we'd appreciate your support.

The Kierzek Chronicles

As you all know this is the time when a lot of people make resolutions to make changes that are sometimes difficult to make. I myself have decided to make a big one. Just so you do not hear about it from other sources, I decided that I would tell you about my decision in this article. I decided to get a divorce.

Now before you drop this newspaper down and get on the phone, it's not from my wife, it's from at&t. Let me explain why. Just before 2024 I received a letter from at&t explaining that they continually monitor changes in the healthcare landscape, and to ensure the long term health of the company, they can no longer fund the retiree Health Reimbursement Account beginning in Jan. 2024. This amounts to a loss of \$4200.00 per year for me. For well over 50 years I have had an account for my telephone service, and in recent years internet and cell phones, at a cost of over \$2000.00 yearly. In November I received a letter from at&t that they were going to discontinue my DSL internet service on December 20th. I then called at&t to see what my options were. They told me that at&t broadband was available at my address for 10 bucks a month. I told them my house is fed with copper. They said there was fiber nearby that they could tap into. So I told them to write up the order. After 2 hours on the phone she said in order to complete the service order I would have to drive to their business office in Greenfield WI. When I got there a representative had trouble accessing my account, and after about a half hour said it was not available at my address. He then suggested that I get at&t internet air which works off of a cell tower. I asked how much and he said 70 dollars a month and no former employee discount. I declined and went home and called Spectrum. Spectrum gave me a price of \$40.00 for high speed internet. He then asked what I was paying for cellphone service. I told him \$117.00 per month for two phones because I get a former employee discount. He said we can provide you 2 cell phones for \$50.00 a month along with transferring your landline over for \$20.00 per month. I then thought to myself, after monitoring changes in the healthcare landscape and ensuring the long term health of my family I will switch from at&t to Spectrum, and I did. So now I am officially divorced from at&t.

Secure Your Future

Not planning for your future is a sure recipe for failure! Build your knowledge and a plan.

Manage your personal finances by saving money, living below your means, staying out of debt, and investing early with an eye on retirement. The right financial steps throughout your career will help ensure future financial security.

Work toward accumulating money in your Roth IRA and 401(k). Keep your expenses low, stay out of debt. Be sure when the time comes your Social Security and distributions from your retirement accounts can pay for all your expenses.

Build Your Financial Wisdom

Compound Interest is the key to building financial security

Learn on-line at: Investor.gov

Attn: Wisconsin High School Students

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its Kenneth A. Germanson Essay Contest for the 2024 - 2025 School Year for Wisconsin high school students (grades 9-12).

"Unions are good for my family, my community, and my nation because . . ."

Ask to interview family members, neighbors, friends or others for their stories about work and unions. Teachers are urged to assist students in their efforts.

Students could win cash prizes:

**First Place, \$500; Second Place \$300; Third Place \$200;
Honorable Mention (Up to 5 awarded) \$100.**

What to write about

Students are encouraged to write an essay that reflects on why unions have been important in the past and why they might be important today. They can talk to their teachers, family members who have been union members, or do independent research to show how unions have fought for democracy, equality, or other important American ideals.

Visit www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org for information and ideas.

Contest Rules

Essays should be approximately 750 words in length. They will be judged on understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance. Essays must be submitted by email in Microsoft Word or as PDF file. Submissions must include a cover sheet with the following information: Your name, address, home telephone number, your email address, your grade in school, name and address of your school, and, if you were encouraged or assisted by a teacher, the teacher's name. (Also, list your family's union membership, if applicable.) **If you have any questions, contact: Harvey J. Kaye at kayeh@uwgb.edu.**

Deadline for submissions is

Feb. 15, 2025

Send your essays to the following email address:

info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

Put "essay contest" in subject line.

Sponsored By:

Wisconsin Labor History Society

(Affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society;

endorsed by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO)

6333 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213

Email: info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org

Website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

Paul A. Anderson Scholarship

The Paul A. Anderson Scholarship has been established by Paul A. Anderson, Former Local 4603 President of the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The scholarship will provide up to five (5) one-year scholarships of up to \$5,000 to dependent children or stepchildren of a Local 4603 member in good standing who meet the specific criteria below as they pursue their postsecondary education. Students will be randomly selected.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- A dependent child or stepchild of a Local 4603 Member in good standing
- Attend a public community college, college, or university in the state where the Local 4603 Member resides
- Be a freshman, sophomore, or junior in college when submitting the scholarship application
- Have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Additionally, the Local 4603 Member must have been a Local Member with at least one year of service as of January 1, 2025

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- To apply for this scholarship, you will need:
 - Most recent transcript
 - Essay/Personal Statement (maximum 200 words) stating why you wish to further your education and how this scholarship will help you achieve this goal

For further details and to apply:

<https://cngc.org/2025PaulAndersonApplication>



Application
Deadline
April 2, 2025
7:00 PM EDT

For questions, contact:

Senior Scholarship and Financial Aid Coordinator
Carolyn Rodriguez
at: 216.635.0120 or crodriguez@collegenowgc.org

About College Now Greater Cleveland Inc.

For more than 50 years College Now Greater Cleveland has served 33,000 students and adults in pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities that empower them to embark on rewarding careers and strengthen our community. For more information, visit collegenowgc.org

College Now Greater Cleveland
Post Office Plaza, 1500 W. 3rd Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

Fact Brief:

Did Joe Biden hire '85,000 new IRS agents to harass hard-working Americans'?

Reprinted from [Wisconsin Watch.org](http://WisconsinWatch.org)
by Ava Menkes / July 17, 2024

Wisconsin Watch partners with Gigafact to produce fact briefs — bite-sized fact checks of trending claims.

Read our methodology to learn how we check claims.

NO.

In May 2021, the Biden administration approved hiring 87,000 new Internal Revenue Service employees by 2031, but only a fraction are agents, and the majority are filling expected vacancies.

Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn said in a speech at the RNC that Biden has hired 85,000 new IRS agents to “harass hard-working Americans.”

But more than half of the agency’s current employees are eligible for retirement and are expected to leave the agency within the next five years. The IRS will be able to net 20,000 to 30,000 more employees from the new funding.

In 2022, among the IRS’ workforce of 79,000 employees, 10,000 are actually agents. Within that, 8,000 are revenue agents who audit tax filings and 2,000 investigate potential tax crimes.

On Thursday, July 11, 2024, the IRS announced it collected \$1 billion in back taxes from wealthy tax cheats, through the Biden administration’s tax package signed in 2022.

Wisconsin Watch is a nonpartisan, nonprofit investigative news outlet reporting fearlessly on issues of importance to the state.

CWA Joe Beirne Foundation Scholarship

About the Scholarship: Sixteen partial college scholarships of \$4,000 each are being offered for the 2025-2026 school year. Winners, selected in a lottery drawing, also will receive second-year scholarships of the same amount contingent upon satisfactory academic accomplishment. Part-time students, less than 12 credits, will receive half of the scholarship monies.

Eligibility: CWA members, their spouses, children and grandchildren (including dependents of laid-off, retired or deceased CWA members) may apply. Applicants must be high school graduates or at least high school students who will graduate during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to schooling may also apply. Prior winners may not reapply.

Applications are accepted during the months of November through April. Final deadline for the 2025-2026 school year is at 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2025.

Study Requirements

No specific studies are required. Scholarship winners may pursue whatever courses they wish.

Funding

The CWA Joe Beirne Foundation has been built up by voluntary contributions and is self-perpetuating. Contributions and pledges are received from CWA Locals, members and officers.

Applications

Applications should only be submitted through the **online application form**. You can find this form online at:

https://cwa-union.org/pages/beirne_scholarship_application



4603 Retired Members Organization

President
George Walls
262-377-7744

Vice President
Jim Courchane
262-893-3068

Secretary/Treasurer
Rich Hinderholtz
262-886-9408

February 2025 RMO Report

From RMO Secretary/Treasurer Rich Hinderholtz:

Our next RMO luncheon will be held on March 19, 2025 at Meyer's Restaurant and Bar, 4260 S 76th, Greenfield, WI.

RMO business meeting begins at 11am

Lunch scheduled to be served at 12:15

Lunch is \$15.00 per person. Please send a check payable to CWA 4603 RMO

Mail checks to: CWA 4603 RMO - 6511 W Bluemound, Milwaukee, WI 53213

Please mail payments by March 4, 2024 OR SOONER!

They need to be received by the March 12, 2024 deadline!

RMO 2024 Membership Meeting & Luncheon Dates

March 19, 2025 May 21, 2025 September 17, 2025 November 19, 2025
2025 Medicare Premiums

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B, which covers doctor visits and other outpatient treatment, goes up from \$174.70 to \$185 in January. Most Medicare enrollees pay this standard rate, typically as a deduction from their Social Security payments, so the premium increase has the effect of partially offsetting the COLA, by \$10.30 a month.

Fact Sheet: Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program June 2023

In August 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (P.L. 117-169) into law. The law makes improvements to Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug

costs, and improving the sustainability of the Medicare program for generations to come. The law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to affordable treatments and strengthening Medicare, both now and in the long run.

For the first time, the law provides Medicare the ability to directly negotiate the prices of certain high expenditure, single source drugs without generic or biosimilar competition. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) selected ten drugs covered under Medicare Part D for the first cycle of negotiations that now have negotiated prices, which the statute refers to as maximum fair prices (MFPs), that will go into effect beginning January 1, 2026, based on negotiations and agreements reached between CMS and participating drug companies in 2024. The savings realized through the negotiation process are expected to lower out-of-pocket costs for Medicare enrollees by an estimated \$1.5 billion in 2026 under the projected defined standard benefit design.

On January 17, 2025, CMS announced the selection of the below list of 15 drugs covered under Medicare Part D for the second cycle of negotiations (initial price applicability year 2027), based on total gross covered prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D and other criteria as required by the law.
Xtandi Prostate cancer

- Ozempic; Rybelsus; Wegovy** Type 2 diabetes; Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease; Obesity/overweight and cardiovascular disease
- Trelegy Ellipta** Asthma; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Pomalyst** Kaposi sarcoma; Multiple myeloma
- Ibrance** Breast cancer
- Ofev** Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Linzess** Chronic idiopathic constipation; Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation
- Calquence** Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma; Mantle cell lymphoma
- Austedo; Austedo XR** Chorea in Huntington's disease; Tardive dyskinesia
- Breo Ellipta** Asthma; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Tradjenta** Type 2 diabetes
- Xifaxan** Hepatic encephalopathy; Irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhea
- Vraylar** Bipolar I disorder; Major depressive disorder; Schizophrenia
- Janumet; Janumet XR** Type 2 diabetes
- Otezla** Oral ulcers in Behçet's Disease; Plaque psoriasis; Psoriatic arthritis

Visit [CMS.gov/files/document/factsheet-medicare-negotiation](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/factsheet-medicare-negotiation) to view the entire PDF document.

Join the CWA Local 4603



Ronald McDonald House Charities' of Eastern Wisconsin

Community Services Committee and For the 2025 Pop Tab Collection
All pop tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House

They recycle them and use the proceeds to help the Children undergoing treatment at local hospitals.

You can drop your pop tabs off at the Local Office at 6511 W. Bluemound Rd.

You can also bring your collected tabs to the Membership Meetings or just bring them to the Union Steward in your work area. We will be collecting Pop Tabs year round!

Retiree Benefit Issues

Benefit Specialists are unable to help with Medicare Supplemental Issues.

All other issues: First call your company's Benefits Office. If your issue is not resolved, then refer all problems to the appropriate CWA Benefit Representative:

AT&T Legacy Midwest SBC
Carrie Dercola - Local 4603 Office 258-4010

Alcatel-Lucent-Nokia
Brian Sawyer - 984-389-7610
bsawyer@cwa-union.org

[Legacy] AT&T
Kim Wilburn - 614-868-2215
kwilburn@ems.att.com

RMO Dues: \$100 for Lifetime. Checks payable to: CWA Local 4603 RMO.
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SLAVE LABOR - HISTORY BRIEF

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Evidence of slavery predates written records; the practice has existed in many cultures and can be traced back 11,000 years ago due to the conditions created by the invention of agriculture during the Neolithic Revolution. Economic surpluses and high population densities were conditions that made mass slavery viable.

Slavery occurred in civilizations including ancient Egypt, ancient China, the Akkadian Empire, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, ancient Israel, ancient Greece, ancient India, the Roman Empire, the Arab Islamic Caliphates and Sultanates, Nubia, the pre-colonial empires of Sub-Saharan Africa, and the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Americas. Ancient slavery consists of a mixture of debt-slavery, punishment for crime, prisoners of war, child abandonment, and children born to slaves.

The **history of slavery** spans many cultures, nationalities, and religions from ancient times to the present day. The social, economic, and legal positions of slaves have differed vastly in different systems of slavery in different times and places. Slavery was institutionalized by the time the first civilizations emerged (such as Sumer in Mesopotamia, which dates back as far as 3500 BC). Slavery was widespread in the ancient world in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Slavery became less common throughout Europe during the Early Middle Ages but continued to be practiced in some areas. Both Christians and Muslims captured and enslaved each other during centuries of warfare in the Mediterranean and Europe. Islamic slavery encompassed mainly Western and Central Asia, Northern and Eastern Africa, India, and Europe from the 7th to the 20th century. Islamic law approved of enslavement of non-Muslims, and slaves were trafficked from non-Muslim lands: from the North via the Balkan slave trade and the Crimean slave trade; from the East via the Bukhara slave trade; from the West via Andalusian slave trade; and from the South via the Trans-Saharan slave trade, the Red Sea slave trade and the Indian Ocean slave trade.

Beginning in the 16th century, European merchants, initiated the transatlantic slave trade. They mostly purchased imprisoned Africans (and exported commodities including gold and ivory) from West African kingdoms, transporting them to Europe's colonies in the Americas. The merchants were sources of desired goods including guns, gunpowder, copper manillas, and cloth, and this demand for imported goods drove local wars and other means to the enslavement of Africans in ever greater numbers. The transatlantic slave trade was eventually curtailed after European and American governments passed legislation abolishing their nations' involvement in it

Human trafficking remains an international problem as slavery in the 21st century continues and generates an estimated \$150 billion in annual profits. Populations in regions with armed conflict are especially vulnerable, and modern transportation has made human trafficking easier. In 2019, there were an estimated 40.3 million people worldwide subject to some form of slavery, and 25% were children. 24.9 million are used for forced labor, mostly in the private sector; 15.4 million live in forced marriages. Forms of slavery include domestic labor, forced labor in manufacturing, fishing, mining and construction, and sexual slavery.

(Please visit Wikipedia to view footnotes used to document the sources for this material)