



Local 4603

June 2025

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CWA, NABET-CWA, and NewsGuild-CWA Condemn Unlawful Executive Order Interfering with Press Freedom for Public Media

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Communications Workers of America (CWA) union, representing public media workers at local stations for NPR and PBS across the country and non-editorial workers at the national headquarters of NPR and PBS, has condemned President Trump's unlawful executive order impeding the freedom of the press for local public TV and radio stations receiving funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

"President Trump's attack on public TV and radio stations is

(Continued on page 2)

ATTENTION: Wiretap Goes Electronic

Due to the decrease in CWA 4603 membership, the local's income has also been reduced. CWA 4603 has been forced to seriously evaluate the local's overall budget and expenses.

The costs involved in printing and mailing the printed monthly Wiretap has become a concern. Electronic and on-line delivery is now a very cost-effective alternative.

The CWA 4603 local will continue to print and mail the Wiretap through August of the 2025.

Beginning in September, the Wiretap will ONLY be available electronically on-line! More details will be provided on both the CWA 4603 website and in the printed Wiretap through August as they develop. The local is exploring a possible development for email delivery.

Find the Wiretap On-Line at:

[NEWS | cwa4603](http://NEWS|cwa4603)

The monthly Wiretap, including active links and color photos, is already currently available on line near the 1st of each month on the CWA 4603 webpage.

June 19th is Juneteenth National Independence Day

Cultural Awareness Observance

Juneteenth, officially known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, holds significant importance in the United States. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery and freedom for African Americans.

The holiday's name is derived from the combination of "June" and "nineteenth," signifying the date when Major General Gordon Granger issued the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas after the conclusion of the American Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the Nation entered the Civil War's 3rd year. The proclamation declared that the 3 million slaves living in the Confederate States were free.

For those who were largely isolated from Union armies, life continued as if the Emancipation Proclamation did not exist. This was the case in Texas, where thousands of slaves were unaware of their declared freedom.

On June 19, 1865—over 2 years after President Lincoln declared enslaved persons free—Major General Gordon Granger and Union Army troops marched into Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. They freed over 250,000 Black Americans, the last enslaved people in Texas.

[Opal Lee](#) is an American retired teacher, counselor, and activist in the movement that made Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday.

On June 19, 1939, at the age of 12, Lee and her family were displaced after her home was burned and destroyed by 500 White rioters in Marshall, Texas. She went on to dedicate her life to becoming a teacher and an activist.

She campaigned for decades to make Juneteenth a holiday. She promoted the idea by leading 2.5-mile walks each year, representing the 2.5 years it took for the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Texas, bringing an end to slavery.

At the age of 89, she conducted a symbolic walk from Fort Worth, from which she departed in September 2016, to Washington, DC, where she arrived in January 2017.

On June 17, 2021, at the age of 94, Lee's efforts succeeded when a bill to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. She was an honored guest at the bill signing ceremony.

In May 2024, Opal Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.

On Juneteenth, we renew our commitment to promoting fairness, equal opportunity, and just treatment for all.

[CWA 4603 June Membership Meeting](#)

The **June 18, 2025** CWA 4603 membership meeting will be held at the union office at 6511 West Blue Mound Rd. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Since the meeting is held outdoors in the parking lot behind the 4603 union office, members are encouraged to bring their own folding chairs. Some seating is provided but if there is a large turn out, the seating provided will not likely meet demand.

Food and beverages will be available at this meeting beginning at 5:30 pm. This membership meeting has been an annual recurring feature. Come early, grab a bite and a beverage and mingle with friends and co-workers before and after the meeting!

Mark Your Calendar! - June 18, 2025

(Continued from page 1 - CWA News)

A
an attack on workers and an attack on our communities,” said Claude Cummings Jr., President of CWA. “This country—of the people, built by the people, for the people—relies on an independent and free local press. Working people are at the heart of local news stations, covering the stories that matter most to their communities. And with our communities under attack, working people will stand together and fight back.”

“This executive order is an unlawful attempt to circumvent Congressional support for a free press and an attack on the working people who provide independent, trusted, local news coverage,” said NABET-CWA President Charlie Braico. “Our independent public TV and radio stations are essential in providing trusted, important local news and weather coverage, and so much more. Without public television and radio stations, we will lose access to critical local news and programming.”

“President Trump’s actions to attempt to use executive action to stop funding America’s public media is another attack on every American’s First Amendment rights,” said NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss. “The American public spends a tiny fraction of what every other developed country on Earth invests in public media. This has led to the expansion of news deserts across the United States, denying the American public reliable news and information. We call on every American to respond by supporting NPR and PBS workers and becoming a monthly donor to your local station today.”

Flight Attendants Join Aviation Allies in Call for Modernization of Air Traffic Control System

With the recent air traffic control disruptions at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), Flight Attendants with AFA-CWA signed on to a letter to the Trump Administration and Congress last week calling for additional investments to modernize and adequately staff the nation’s air traffic control system.

Air traffic controllers with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) have been calling for an overhaul for decades. Industry experts caution that the turmoil at Newark should be taken as a warning for what could happen at other airports.

The letter opens with, “We strongly support Secretary Duffy’s plan to rebuild our nation’s air traffic control system. Recent issues—especially those at DCA and Newark—remind us of the urgent need for a sharp focus on the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS) and the dire necessity to address antiquated technology and the staffing shortage.”

AFA-CWA International President Sara Nelson addressed attendees at the NATCA 20th Biennial Convention last week, delivering a message of solidarity and the need for all aviation industry workers to unite for aviation safety and workers’ rights.

[Click here to read the full letter of support.](#)

Broadband Brigade Members Turn Out to Protect Good, Union Jobs and Reliable Internet Service

Members of CWA’s Broadband Brigade are taking action across the country to defend the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and ensure that public infrastructure dollars are spent on high-quality, fiber-first

broadband networks built by trained, experienced union workers.

Many states have had their broadband buildout proposals approved, and companies are lined up and ready to begin construction. But President Trump’s Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick, has proposed changes to the program that would require states to go back to the drawing board. These changes could force many rural residents onto more costly, less reliable satellite internet service. Satellite employs fewer workers, and there are currently no union-represented satellite internet providers. [Announcement by Howard Lutnick](#)

Some Republican members of Congress have also proposed a major overhaul of the BEAD rules that would further delay rollout, including removing labor protections and wage requirements for buildout projects, which would direct more of the work to low-road contractors.

Nearly 17,000 CWA members and supporters across the country have signed petitions demanding that their elected representatives protect the fiber-first BEAD program without further costly delays.

In Arizona, CWA members and community supporters held a press conference to highlight their concerns. They delivered petitions to Governor Katie Hobbs supporting her commitment to fiber broadband and good union jobs and urged her to stay strong against pressure to change Arizona’s BEAD proposal. State Representative Stacey Travers (Phoenix), a U.S. Army veteran, recognized the importance of union workers to get the job done right and highlighted the security benefits of fiber internet. “Fiber broadband is the most secure form of infrastructure that we have right now,” Travers said. “Satellites are not secure. Copper is not secure. Fiber is secure. We need more investment to make sure that we create that infrastructure within the state of Arizona.”

In Ohio, CWA members commanded state leadership’s attention with a statehouse press conference where they presented petitions and demanded a commitment from Governor Mike DeWine to labor standards and high-quality fiber for rural communities. State Representative Lauren McNally (Youngstown) addressed the crowd at the event, saying, “This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build the infrastructure that will connect the unconnected, lower costs for families, and create good-paying union jobs right here in Ohio.”

The Broadband Brigade and CWA members also delivered petitions in Michigan and Minnesota at their respective state capitols to defend state broadband programs. In Georgia, Broadband Brigade members had a productive meeting with Senator Jon Ossoff, laying out CWA’s priorities for defending the BEAD program.

Separation of Powers vs. Checks and Balances:

The following material is reprinted from GovFacts.org

The following link is a worthy beginning to learn about our U.S. Constitution. We strongly suggest further research from other credible sources in building your knowledge and practical interpretation of our legislative network of governance.

[Separation of Powers vs. Checks and Balances: How America Prevents Tyranny | GovFacts](#)

The Constitution splits power among three branches of government and gives each the ability to constrain the others. This isn’t just abstract theory—it’s a practical system that

shapes every law, every court decision, and every presidential action that affects your daily life.

When President Harry Truman tried to seize steel mills during the Korean War, the Supreme Court stopped him. When Congress passed hundreds of laws with “legislative vetoes” to bypass the president, the Court struck them down. When President Nixon claimed absolute privilege over the Watergate tapes, the Court said no—the president isn’t above the law.

These weren’t isolated incidents. In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that the structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau violated separation of powers because its director couldn’t be removed by the president. In 2024, the Court wrestled with questions of presidential immunity that could reshape the balance between executive power and accountability.

The system remains dynamic, constantly tested by new challenges and partisan pressures. Understanding how it works—and why it sometimes seems to work against quick action—is essential for every citizen.

What is Separation of Powers?

Separation of powers divides government authority among three distinct branches: legislative (makes laws), executive (enforces laws), and judicial (interprets laws). Each branch has its own constitutional role and cannot perform the core functions of the others.

This division prevents any single person or group from accumulating dangerous amounts of power. As James Madison warned in *The Federalist Papers*, “the accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands...may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

The Constitution doesn’t create hermetically sealed branches, however. It establishes what one Supreme Court called “separateness but interdependence, autonomy but reciprocity.” The branches are distinct but must interact and share certain responsibilities. This careful balance reflects hard-won wisdom about human nature and power. The Framers understood that power, once concentrated, tends to expand and corrupt. They designed a system that would harness this tendency to preserve liberty.

[Separation of Powers vs. Checks and Balances: How America Prevents Tyranny | GovFacts](#)

We suggest further reading on-line at the above link to learn more about the individual branches' powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

The Language of Power

The Constitution’s “vesting clauses” reveal careful attention to how power is granted:

Article I: “All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress”

Article II: “The executive Power shall be vested in a President”

Article III: “The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court”

Notice the crucial difference. Legislative power is limited to what’s “herein granted”—specifically enumerated powers like regulating interstate commerce, coining money, and raising armies. Executive and judicial power get broader grants, leading to centuries of debate about their inherent authorities.

This linguistic choice wasn’t accidental. The Framers feared legislative tyranny in a republic, where the lawmaking branch has the most direct connection to popular majorities. They gave Congress extensive but enumerated powers while granting the president and courts more flexibility within their spheres.

Life's a journey where we live in the present, attempt to plan our future and hopefully learn from our past misjudgments.

Presidential Orders vs. Lawsuits

Nearly everyday, Presidential Executive Orders flood the news in an attempt to change the existing government rules and our constitution. There are so many, it is impossible to keep track of exactly what is going on. All of these changes effect our daily lives.

For those interested in trying to follow all of these actions and subsequent legal challenges, we've provided two links.

The constitutional and legal chaos that has been created by this administration is overwhelming. Our courts are where verifiable evidence is essential in settling these arguments. Good luck with your studies.

[Federal Register :: Executive Orders](#)
[Tracking the lawsuits against Donald Trump's executive actions | AP News](#)

Article II of the U.S. Constitution

[Article II of the U.S. Constitution](#) specifies that the President shall take the following Oath. *"I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."*

**"To believe without evidence and demonstration
is an act of ignorance and folly"**
Socrates - (c. 470 BC – 399 BC)

Proof, Justice and the Rule of Law

[Addressing Risks from Susman Godfrey – The White House](#)

A presidential order issued April 9th was challenged by Susman Godfrey LLP. The order claimed the law firm engaged in unlawful discrimination among a few other claims. On May 8th, the parties were in court to present their material of evidence.

The presiding U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan sought evidence from the DOJ lawyer regarding the that law firm Susman Godfrey LLP “engages in unlawful discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of race” as stated by the Executive Order while the attorney for Susman Godfrey stated that the President's finding was “completely baseless”.

U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan, attempted repeatedly to get the DOJ attorney to present any evidence they used to base their claim to show the law firm engaged in any discrimination that violated federal law. **“I don’t have the hard data on hiring,” the DOJ lawyer said.**

“It doesn’t seem like anything you have alleged in section one constitutes unlawful racial discrimination,..... I just don’t know how you square the circle,” Judge AliKhan said.

[‘The quantum of proof is nonexistent’: Judge tears into speechless DOJ lawyer over Trump's attacks on law firms](#)

[Rule of law - Wikipedia](#)

As time passes and everything evolves with constant change, we are left to choose either to accept and adapt to the change or live in denial and ignorance.

As our world evolves, our rules must honestly adjust as well to remain accurate and relevant. Our rules must evolve to address our issues and problems. The rules must conform to addressing this change or the list of problems will only grow and expand.



UNION CALENDAR

June

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

July

- 8 **Executive Board Mtg.**
6:30 pm
Union Office

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please be safe!
For more news,
information and
updates, visit the
CWA 4603
web page at:

cwa4603.org

To learn more about
the Communications
Workers of America,
visit:

**[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!

Secure Your Future

No plan for your future? This a definite recipe for failure!

Build your knowledge and implement a plan.

Manage your personal finances by saving money, live below your means, stay out of debt, and invest 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, Traditional IRA and 401(k). There are different limits for annual contributions to these savings resources. Research on-line or consult with a financial planner to build and expand your financial knowledge. It is not rocket science.

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

There's a simple (plug in the numbers) compound interest calculator for projecting your retirement savings growth.

Brought to you by the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy.

Investor.gov is an online resource that can help you make sound investment decisions and build a plan.

Not having a plan is not a good plan!

"In my view, for most people, the best thing to do is own the S&P 500 index fund," - Warren Buffet

THE CWA WIRETAP

**MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL 4603
6511 WEST BLUE MOUND ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53213**

**PRESIDENT Greg Tennyson
EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT Adam Schelske
SECRETARY/TREASURER Kwami Barnes**

Wiretap Staff

**Rich Hinderholtz, Editor
Gary Kierzek, Columnist**

Proud member of the Midwest Labor Press Association

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

**TELL CONGRESS: NO CUTS THAT
HURT WORKING FAMILIES**

AFL-CIO | CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:
231-400-0602



Right now, House leadership is pushing through a budget that would have the largest cuts in history to Medicaid and to SNAP food assistance, as well as more cuts to retirement benefits for federal workers.

Make a Call.

Health care, food assistance, dignity in retirement—these programs are a cornerstone of a secure existence for working people. Here's why:

No Cuts to Medicaid

- Medicaid is the single largest source of health care coverage in the United States.
- It is the primary payer for 63% of nursing home residents.
- It pays for 42% of births in the United States each year and provides health care for nearly half of all children in our country.
- Medicaid funding cuts would cause hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and home health agencies to close or downsize, especially in rural and lower-income communities. One analysis shows that cuts could cause [477,000 health care jobs to be lost in 2026 alone](#).
- Medicaid cuts would cause millions of people to lose their health care, including kids and our most vulnerable Americans, and cuts would raise health care and insurance costs for everyone else.

No Cuts to Food Assistance

- 42 million people use SNAP food assistance per month, or almost 13% total of U.S. residents. Working families depend on SNAP to get by and to provide nutritious, healthy food for their children to grow and thrive.
- Cuts to food assistance jeopardize thousands of jobs in food processing, school cafeterias, retail and agriculture.
- Pushing the costs of food assistance to states with already strained budgets threatens many other services and jobs that our families and communities rely on.

No Cuts to Workers' Retirement Benefits or Union Rights

- Like all workers, federal employees deserve a fair and dignified retirement after a lifetime of hard work. But earlier versions of the budget deal have contained cuts to federal workers' retirement benefits and cuts to their current take-home pay.
- Other provisions in versions of the budget deal have required new federal workers to choose between at-will status and lower employee pension contributions, or to be charged a fee to file a claim with the Merit Systems Protection Board to protect their rights.
- Federal workers who run the programs and services we all depend on—and who are already facing job losses and historic union-busting—should not have to pay for tax breaks for billionaires.

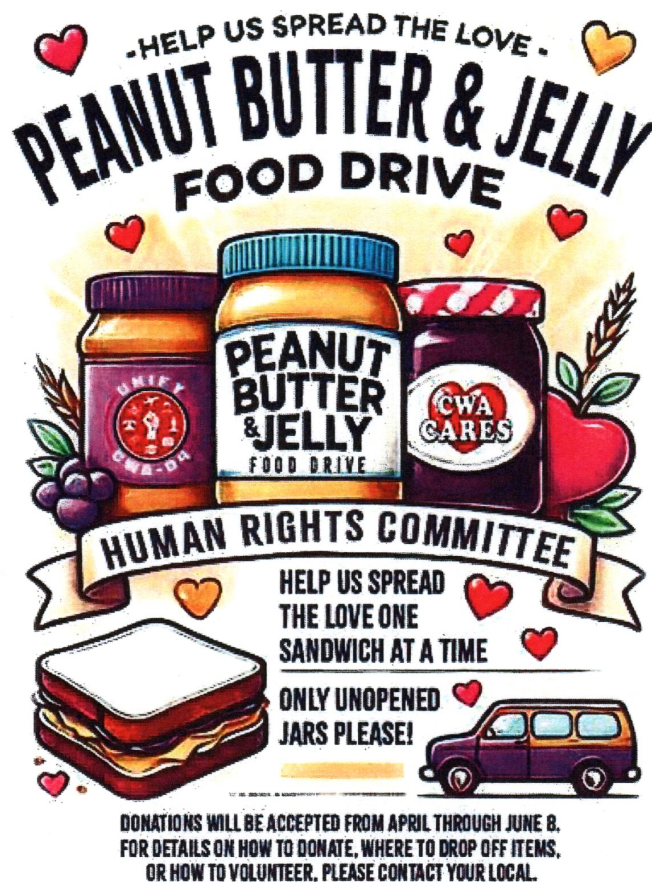
No Weakening of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Protections for Workers

- Lawmakers snuck a provision into the House budget deal that blocks the enforcement of all existing or future state and local AI regulations for the next 10 years.
- State lawmakers across the country have come together to pass legislation that regulates dangerous and irresponsible artificial intelligence (AI)—creating guardrails that protect workers' jobs, safety and civil liberties, and prevent discrimination or the theft of artists' work. This provision would stop that good work.
- This provision is so broad it would even prevent states from enforcing safety regulations related to automated systems, like public transit systems.
- This provision is an irresponsible gift to Big Tech companies and employers to maximize their profits and control. Especially since Congress has not acted to protect workers, states must be allowed to pass regulations to stop the unsafe, unethical, antidemocratic and antiworker use of AI in the workplace.

Gutting essential services like Medicaid, SNAP food assistance and federal worker benefits won't help working families—especially to pay for more tax breaks for billionaires and giant corporations. And the domino effects of cutting these huge and vital programs would be severe and wide-reaching.

[We need you to speak out today. Tell Congress this budget would be a disaster for working families and for our nation.](#)

Call your representative at [231-400-0602](tel:231-400-0602) to tell them, “No cuts that hurt working families!”



Milwaukee Area Labor Organizations

Here's a list of various area labor organizations. We know your time is valuable however actively participating in labor activities is an investment in your future. We never know what the future holds but building connections within these organizations can hold significant potential in building your future opportunities.

It's impossible to predict people you encounter that results into a life long friendship. Active involvement will lead you to sharing experiences with other workers that can expand your knowledge.

The following is only a short list of possibilities to consider:

Young Workers Committee

ywc@milwaukeeclabor.org

The Young Workers Committee is a group for under-40 workers to meet other union activists and leaders, build leadership and organization, and sharpen knowledge and skills to revive unionism for today's working class. We organize trainings, discussions, socials, and support workplace actions such as strikes and pickets in order to help rebuild union culture and build working class power among young workers.

Non-union represented workers who are interested in the benefits of a union or who want to learn how to organize their workplace are welcome to attend!

The Young Workers Committee meets the Third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Join us for our next meeting!

Milwaukee Area Labor Council- Yatchak Hall
633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee

[Committees and Constituency Groups | Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO](#)

Union Veterans Council

Next Union Veterans Committee Meeting

July 8, 2025 at 6:30pm

For more information, contact the Milwaukee Area Labor Council at 414-771-7070.

[Committee on Political Education \(COPE\) | Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO](#)

Political action is a natural part of union activity. Members live in the neighborhoods, worry about the community and understand how teamwork makes life better for themselves and others. There is terrific power in pulling together, despite diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. But there's also terrific responsibility on organized labor not to unleash that force lightly or without deep thought.

Should America Be A World Leader in Research, Technology and Knowledge?

- As a world leader, wouldn't investments in science, technology and knowledge be the necessary elements in building and sustaining a nation's broad economic and social progress?
- Aren't investments in research and development a proven driver of economic development and job creation?

Supporting Evidence:

- [Why Basic Science Matters for Economic Growth](#)
- [U.S. innovation ecosystem is envy of world. Here's how it got started. — Harvard Gazette](#)
- [Large-scale investment in research needed to maintain US agriculture | Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research \(SIEPR\)](#)

The Kierzek Chronicles

Hello everyone and welcome to the first summer edition of the always popular Wiretap. I would like to start out by saying for the first time in my life, I am beginning to feel old. After watching the national news, I was paying attention to the process of electing the new Pope. I was surprised that the conclave had elected a Cardinal from the United States, and that they had elected him in only two days. I'm sure that he will make a great Pope, however I was somewhat disappointed with their choice. You see, for the first time in my life, I am now older than the Pope.

Why couldn't they have picked someone older. An older guy like Leighton Timm or Paul Anderson. No, wait a minute, that would not work because they like women. Just a FYI, if you are planning on attending the Local 4603 membership meeting this month, word has it that our past Local president, Paul Anderson will be there. The June meeting will be held outdoors in the parking lot, weather permitting. The Local also serves hamburgers and brats, beer, and soda for this meeting. If you do not often attend a meeting, this is the one meeting you should try to make. I'm sorry but I have to go now. I have the high priority job of putting new fishing line on my Zebco reel. Hope to see you at the meeting.

CWA 4603 RMO May Meeting

The CWA 4603 RMO meeting was held May 21, 2025 at Meyer's Family Restaurant on 76th St. inn Greenfield. There were about 30 RMO members in attendance.

The guest speaker was Stephanie Bloomingdale, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO President. Stephanie talked about the significance of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court election from this past November in changing the political future of our state in building a positive environment for Wisconsin's workers to improve their lives and succeed. The 11 point election victory for Susan Crawford, indicated the concerns workers have in restoring a legislative balance within our state.

Contractual achievements and gains by unionized workers in pay, better benefits and on the job safety demonstrates union memberships value. All of these improvements find their way to trickle down to improve all workers lives as employers compete to build and retain a quality workforce.

Union workers have collective resources that non-union workers just don't have. Union workers are usually more politically informed and have resources to organized lobbying efforts to promote favorable legislation in improving their economic opportunities. Legislative efforts see greater success when labor friendly majorities control our legislatures and courts. Informing and educating workers regarding these opportunities is a

never ending struggle. Opposing views are a constant factor that attempt to influence public opinions and perceptions.

Paying attention always pays off.



L to R: 4603 President Greg Tennyson
WI AFL-CIO President Stephanie Bloomingdale
4603 RMO President George Walls



4603 Retired Members Organization

President

George Walls
262-377-7744

Vice President

Jim Courchane
262-893-3068

Secretary/Treasurer

Rich Hinderholtz
262-886-9408

June 2025 RMO Report

From RMO Secretary/Treasurer Rich Hinderholtz:

**Our next RMO luncheon will be held on September 17, 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 May 6, 2025 OR SOONER!

They need to be received by the May 14, 2025 deadline!

Remaining RMO 2024 Membership Meeting & Luncheon Dates

September 17, 2025 November 19, 2025

Social Security research group axed, including center at UW-Madison

Wisconsin Examiner - By Erik Gunn

The Social Security Administration has summarily closed a federally funded consortium of research centers, including one at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, that studied demographic trends and the impacts of policy on the federal retirement system.

Terminating the program has sharply limited the program's research sources at a time when the Social Security Administration is poised to cut 7,000 workers, close field offices across the

country and cancel the ability for people to file for benefits by telephone.

"It's very, very frightening," said Nancy Altman, president of the advocacy group Social Security Works. "I've been working on this issue for 50 years and I think this is the most destabilized I've ever seen the administration of Social Security."

The UW center was one of six members of the Social Security Administration Retirement and Disability Research Consortium. The consortium was established in its current form in 2019, a successor to retirement research centers established in 1998.

The Trump administration announced Feb. 21 that the consortium was being dissolved in keeping with an executive order President Donald Trump signed Jan. 22 gutting diversity activities across the federal government.

Shutting down the consortium canceled 19 research projects that were underway at the UW's Social Security research center, said its director, J. Michael Collins. Collins, a specialist in family economics at UW-Madison. Collins holds positions at the university's School of Human Ecology, The La Follette School of Public Affairs and several other university offices.

Research by the center and its consortium partners in collaboration with Social Security represented an important collaboration that has helped shape policy for the 90-year-old Social Security program, Collins said. Studies on the income and expenses of older Americans, for example, have helped guide the formulas that the Social Administration uses to develop its annual cost of living adjustments.

"It really is a collaboration, and that is hard to build," Collins said — and may be difficult to recreate.

Along with canceling the consortium agreements, the Social Security Administration has relocated its own research operations while also cutting staff.

"They've greatly reduced their ability to conduct research internally," Collins said. "Why would they want to eliminate their research capacity to that degree?"

Established during the Great Depression to lift seniors out of poverty, the Social Security program is primarily funded by payroll taxes. As each generation retires, its members' benefits are paid by the generation of workers behind them.

Social Security provides retirement benefits as well as income for people with disabilities. About 73 million people in the U.S. receive benefits from the system, according to the Social Security Administration. Three out of four are 65 or older. Another 15% are people with disabilities under the age of 65.

Join the CWA Local 4603 Community Services Committee and



**Ronald McDonald House Charities'
of Eastern Wisconsin**

**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.
Mail to CWA Local 4603 RMO, 6511 West Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53213

CWA Local 4603

6511 West Blue Mound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213

Office 414-258-4010
Fax 414-258-8542

cwa4603.org

June 2025

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There will be Pain - [Economic Policy Institute.org](https://www.economicpolicyinstitute.org)

Continuing low tax rates for the rich and corporations will hurt working families

By Josh Bivens - Reprinted from EPI.org Economic Policy Institute

Summary: Extending Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will have painful trade-offs for the U.S. economy and most Americans.

Key findings

- The U.S. “fiscal gap”—how much taxes need to be raised or spending cut to keep public debt stable as a share of gross domestic product—was entirely created by the Republican tax cuts of 2001, 2003, and 2017.
- The “tax gap”—the amount of taxes owed but not paid each year—is currently larger than the overall fiscal gap. It is driven by the richest U.S. households and businesses cheating the law and underpaying taxes.
- Extending the expiring provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) would increase the fiscal gap by nearly 50%, from 2.1% to 3.3%.
- No matter how these tax cuts are financed, the result will hurt most working families, especially low-income households. The most damaging way to finance TCJA extensions would be with spending cuts for programs like SNAP or Medicaid.
- Given today's historically low unemployment rate, deficit-financed tax cuts are more likely to put a drag on growth going forward.

Why this matters

If these tax cuts for the rich are financed by large spending cuts, this would greatly damage current incomes and future opportunities for the most vulnerable families in the U.S. Cuts this large would also, all else equal, drag sharply on economy-wide spending, reducing it by roughly \$600 billion, or around 2% of overall GDP. This drag would be large enough to force the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates essentially back to zero to avoid a recession, giving the Fed no further room to cushion the economy against other shocks.

How to fix it

Expanding public investment and raising federal revenue via taxes that mostly come from high-income households is the most optimal way to close fiscal gap, boost economic productivity, and produce a fairer economy. If TCJA expansions for the rich are inevitable, this leaves three options: running deficits, increasing regressive taxes (in the form of tariffs, for example), or spending cuts. While none of these options is ideal, running deficits has the potential to be less harmful for American families, whereas regressive taxation and spending cuts will categorically cause the most harm.