



The Western Kentucky Worker

Official Newsletter of the Western Kentucky Area Council, AFL-CIO

Prepared by Berry Craig, AFT Local 1360 and KEA-NEA
Volume 11, Number 6, June, 2011



W.C. Young Dinner plans to be finalized Thursday night

Council delegates are expected to set the time and the date for the W.C. Young Award dinner when they meet Thursday night.

Longtime local labor activist Ron Spann is the 2011 W.C. Young Award recipient.

“As always, we had a group of excellent nominees,” said Jeff Wiggins, council president. “The vote was close, but Ron was an excellent choice. W.C. dedicated his life not just to his union but to the whole union movement. So has Ron.”

Spann will be presented the award at the dinner. “We hope to see a good crowd to honor Ron,” Wiggins said.

The nominees were Bob Delaney, Ron Spann, Donna Steele and Hardy Williams. Before the vote, Williams asked that his name be withdrawn.

Delaney, who is retired, is a former directing business representative for Machinists District Lodge 154. Spann is a retired Steelworkers District 8 staff representative. Steele is president of USW Local 550. Williams is a retired Machinist, council trustee and former council recording secretary.

The W.C. Young Award is the highest honor the council bestows. It is named for the late W.C. Young, a national union and civil rights activist from Paducah. In 1994, he was presented with the first award. Last year’s recipient was Howard Walker, a former sheriff and longtime member of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 184.

All of our candidates won in May, but hard work lies ahead

Labor batted .1000 in the May 17 Democratic primary.

“All of our endorsed candidates won,” said Jeff Wiggins, council president. “Not all of them had opposition. But they will have opposition – big time – this fall, and that’s when our work will really begin.”

The Kentucky State AFL-CIO endorsed Gov. Steve Beshear, left, and his new running mate, Jerry Abramson, plus Attorney Gen. Jack Conway and Todd Hollenbach, state

treasurer. The federation also endorsed Adam Edelen for state auditor. Beshear, Conway and Hollenbach were labor-endorsed four years ago. Beshear chose Abramson, a former Louisville mayor, as his running mate after Lt. Gov. Dan Mongiardo decided to run for the U.S. senate last year. Conway, left, beat him in the Democratic primary but lost to Republican Rand Paul last November. Edelen was Beshear’s chief of staff.

Beshear and Abramson will be opposed by state senate president David

Williams and Richie Farmer, the commissioner of agriculture. "Williams is a union hater in the mold of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker," Wiggins said. "A lot of Kentuckians were Richie Farmer fans when he played basketball for UK. But he is no fan of labor. He's another one of those ultra conservative union-haters like Williams."

Wiggins added, "Williams and Farmer favor a right to work law for Kentucky. Beshear and Abramson are against right to work. Williams and Farmer want to gut our prevailing wage law. Beshear-Abramson support the prevailing wage."

"The choice for working people could not be clearer. David Williams would be as bad for Kentucky as Scott Walker is for Wisconsin."

Wiggins added that Todd P'Pool, Conway's Republican opponent is "one of the meanest-talking candidates I've ever heard. He's another one of those union-haters, too."

Minutes of the May 5, 2011 Council Meeting

President Jeff Wiggins gavelled the Executive Board meeting into session at 6 p.m. After Wiggins reviewed the correspondence, the delegates, by secret ballot, chose Ron Spann as the 2011 W.C. Young Award recipient.

In other action,

-- COPE Director Howard "Bubba" Dawes said that Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., had introduced a national right to work bill.

-- Wiggins went over the labor-endorsed candidates for the May 17 Democratic primary.

-- Financial Secretary Treasurer Brandon Duncan and Recording Secretary Berry Craig went over the Workers Memorial Day program.

-- Duncan, who is also Labor Day Committee president, announced that this year's Labor Day parade will start at 17th Street and go toward the river

-- E-board members approved a resolution making May 6 "Bill Hack Day."

The E-board meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Wiggins gavelled the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m. After the customary prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, Wiggins reviewed the correspondence and announced that Ron Spann is the 2011 W.C. Young Award recipient.

The Workers Memorial Day and Labor Day programs and the May 17 primary were discussed. Delegates unanimously approved the resolution making May 6 Bill Hack Day.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

JOINT RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 6th BILL HACK DAY

WHEREAS, Bill Hack has bravely served his country and faithfully served not only his union but the entire labor movement, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hack earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, four Air Medals and two Presidential Unit Citations flying as a gunner in B-17 heavy bombers in the European Theater of World War II, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hack joined the United Auto Workers as a teenager before World War II and worked for 53 years out of Ironworkers Local 782 in Paducah and retired as business agent, an office he held for almost eight years, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hack was for many years a delegate from Ironworkers Local 782 to the Western Kentucky AFL-CIO Area Council, a charter member of the Jackson House and W.B. Sanders Retirement Center boards of directors and, in 1997, received the W.C. Young Award, the highest honor the Area Council bestows, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hack is a worthy representative of what the respected television journalist and author Tom Brokaw calls “the greatest generation,” and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hack is the embodiment of “solidarity,” that old union byword that means every union brother and sister is the brother and sister and keeper of every member of every union regardless of their race, creed, color, gender, national origin or religion

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Western Kentucky Area Council and the Western Kentucky Building and Construction Trades Council that hereafter every May 6th, Mr. Hack’s Birthday, will be observed appropriately in both councils as Bill Hack Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be entered into the permanent minutes of the executive boards of the Western Kentucky AFL-CIO Area Council and the Western Kentucky Building and Construction Council, AFL-CIO, and communicated to Mr. Hack and to the president of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO.

PLEASE TELL US WHO YOUR DELEGATES ARE

The council is in the process of updating our delegate list. Please send us the names of your local’s delegates to Berry Craig, recording secretary. Craig’s email address is bcraig8960@newwavecomm.net.

**THE AREA COUNCIL STANDS IN
SOLIDARITY WITH OUR UNION BROTHERS
AND SISTERS OF USW LOCAL 7-669**



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