

PO Box 7688 • Mobile, AL 36670

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SWALC Newsletter

AFL-CIO SOUTHWEST ALABAMA LABOR COUNCIL



SWALC Labor Day Parade

The weather could not have been better for the 74th Annual SWALC Labor Day Parade. Labor unions from around Southwest Alabama were out in full regalia to celebrate the Labor Movement and all working people in our community. We had marching bands from Blount HS, Citronelle HS, Murphy HS, and Vigor HS. Each provide music to fill the streets of downtown Mobile. The Mobile County Democratic Party, Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County License Commissioner Nick Matranga, and representatives from the Senator Doug Jones Campaign all joined in on the fun.

As always, we had our toilet tissue to throw to parade-goers. We are thankful to Dees Paper Company for having the product we needed on such short notice so as not to disappoint the crowds.

Next year is the 75th Annual Labor Day Parade that will roll on Monday, September 7, 2020. We are planning an extra special celebration. If you would like to join the planning committee, contact Leslie Schraeder at lschraeder@uwswa.org.

Next Meeting
SWALC Monthly E-Board &
Delegates Meeting

Monday,
September 16
908 Butler Drive, 36693

Upcoming Events

AL AFL-CIO 32nd
Biennial Convention
Montgomery, AL
October 21-23

Veteran's Day Parade
November 11

Mobile BCTC
Christmas Party
December 13

SWALC Christmas Party
December 14



CWA 3907 August Strike

On August 24th, over 20,000 Communication Workers of America went on strike against AT&T. The strike included unions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and our own CWA Local 3907. CWA District 3 filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board arguing AT&T was not bargaining in good faith and would not provide company representatives with decision making authority.

After four days, CWA and AT&T reached a handshake agreement and returned to work on August 28th. "CWA members' spirit and solidarity over the last four days showed the company that we would not back down until they bargained with us in good faith," said CWA

District 3 Vice President Richard Honeycutt. "This was a historic strike that showed the power that working people have when they join together."

Days later there was a final new five-year agreement including wage increases of 13.25%, pension and 401(k) plan enhancements, improved job security, and additional customer service positions. There will be no increase in the health care cost sharing percentage for the life of the contract and employees will now have the ability to contribute to a Health Savings Account via payroll deduction.



Community Service Spotlight: Ronald McDonald House



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF MOBILE

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile provides a supportive home environment and foundation donations – it is truly "The House That Love Built."

offering care, compassion and hope to families with seriously ill and injured children being treated at area hospitals through our Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms. Ronald McDonald House in Mobile can accommodate up to 38 families a night with families staying for days, weeks, sometimes months at a time while their children receive care. The Ronald McDonald Family Rooms located inside USA Children's & Women's Hospital provide places of peaceful respite – just steps away from the child's bedside.

Since opening their doors 19 years ago, Ronald McDonald House has served nearly 9,000 families from around the Gulf Coast, across the country and around the world. Families are asked to donate \$12 a night to stay at Ronald McDonald House but no one is ever turned away for an inability to contribute. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile is a non-profit organization supported by individual, corporate

and foundation donations – it is truly "The House That Love Built."

Great love and consideration has been taken to ensure each family's temporary stay at Ronald McDonald House of Mobile is as pleasant as possible. Each resident has access to each of the following accommodations during their time at the House.

- Guest Rooms – A spacious private guest room.
- Kitchen/Dining Area – Up-to-date kitchen that you can choose either to enjoy a family meal prepared by volunteers or cook a meal for your family.
- Laundry Facilities – Residents may use one of our three laundry facilities that are equipped with washers, dryers, irons and other appliances.
- Play Areas – Children can enjoy the fun playroom and outside playground equipment.
- Exercise Room – From treadmills to exercise bicycles, we have it all for your family to use.

For more information, <https://rmhcmobile.org/>.



In 2020, we as Alabamians have a tremendous opportunity to positively affect our state's future for the next 10 years and beyond. How? By taking less than 10 minutes to complete a 2020 Census form.

Data from the census affects everyone. In 2010, Alabama had a 72 percent response rate to the census with lower rates particularly in west Alabama and in some urban areas. We all have something to gain from a full census count.

- Funding to Alabama for many important programs that affect health care, education, housing assistance, infrastructure development and more is tied in some form to census data. An accurate count will ensure that the state receives its fair share of funding for these important programs.
- The population count taken in the 2020 Census will determine the allocation of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. States with the most population gains are projected to gain additional seats while states with population losses or slow growth are at risk of losing seats.
- Data collected by the Census Bureau is considered by business and industry as valuable, unbiased data collected by a neutral third party. An improvement in a community's Census data could mean additional retail and restaurant growth as well as more consideration from companies wishing to expand or relocate, creating job opportunities.

SOURCE: <https://census.alabama.gov/>

A Good Day for Labor

The United Way of Southwest Alabama Annual Meeting was two days long and concluded with the Keynote Luncheon in which Pulitzer Prize winner Fox Butterfield spoke and the UWSWA recognized their 2019 award winners.

President of the Alabama Afl-Cio Bren Riley was awarded the W.O. Mazingo Community Service Award. The Mobile-Pensacola Building & Construction Trades Council was awarded the Red Leachman Community Service Award. The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 119 were awarded one of the top awards given by the UWSWA the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award for their 2019 United Way Campaign. At this meeting, Mark J. Burnett, Jr. (Mullet) was elected to the United Way Board of Trustees as the Mobile BCTC representative. Congratulations to all the winners. The partnership continues and we couldn't be more thrilled.

