



Local 4603 December 2024

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Our union, CWA strives to provide opportunities for CWA member's in securing their future stability, safety, success and fulfillment.

As a CWA member, your informed decisions play a key role in building opportunities for your ability to succeed.

CWA seeks to educate members in recognize and use the benefits and resources made available through our collective bargaining and subsequent employment contract.

It's your responsibility as the union member to become knowledgeable in using these valuable resources.

Use the resources you have available

Work Smarter to gain the greatest return

### CWA Members and Retirees Turned Out to Elect Pro-Worker Leaders

Over the past few months leading up to the November election, CWA members and retirees had been reaching out to union households to turn out the vote for pro-worker candidates. Through their hard work and dedication, including making nearly 700,000 phone calls and text messages, CWA volunteers, organizers, supporters, and allies made the difference in several key U.S. Senate and House races.

- ◆ In Arizona, Ruben Gallego will become the state's first Latino to serve in the U.S. Senate.
- ◆ In Maryland, Angela Alsobrooks will become the state's first Black woman to serve in the U.S. Senate.
- ◆ In Wisconsin, Tammy Baldwin was re-elected to a third term.
- ◆ In Nevada, Jacky Rosen was re-elected.
- ◆ In Michigan, Elissa Slotkin won her election to the U.S. Senate.
- ◆ In Ohio, Marcy Kaptur and Emilia Sykes were re-elected to the U.S. House.
- ◆ In New York, Pat Ryan was re-elected to the U.S. House.

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### Trump in second administration promises mass deportations, tariffs and spending cuts

Reprinted from Wisconsin Examiner.com

By: Ashley Murray and Jacob Fischler 11/6/2024

WASHINGTON — Voters delivered a win for former President Donald Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris in November's election, laying the groundwork for a second administration — a "golden age," he calls it — in which he has vowed to conduct mass deportations of migrants, impose stiff taxes on foreign goods and install wealthy supporters in key positions.

And according to numerous media reports, the former president is expected to enter office free of his federal criminal charges as the U.S. Justice Department plans to wind down its classified documents and 2020 election interference cases ahead of inauguration day.

Trump's populist campaign was at least as focused on cultural resentments as concrete policy proposals, while he consistently promised to take action on immigration and the economy.

A hardliner on immigration since he began his first White House run in 2015, Trump promised on the campaign trail this year to conduct a mass deportation of more than 13 million immigrants in the country illegally.

The logistical challenges and cost of such an enterprise, which may include temporary detention camps and a massive boost to immigration enforcement funding, may prove difficult.

Experts across the fiscal policy spectrum have also warned that Trump's plan to impose across-the-board tariffs on foreign goods that will increase consumer costs and risk triggering a trade war.

The former president incessantly threatened to spike tariffs as high as 60% on all Chinese goods, and anywhere between 25% to 200% on goods coming over the U.S. border from Mexico.

Trump taunted at a Cabinet and staff featuring billionaire Elon Musk, a major campaign donor and surrogate, who told thousands of Trump supporters he could cut \$2 trillion in federal spending.

Trump also promised a top health spot for Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., whose reputation includes spreading misinformation about vaccines and leaving a dead bear cub in New York's Central Park.

Kennedy had promised on social media that a new Trump administration would "advise all U.S. water systems to remove fluoride from public water" on its first day in office.

The former president thanked Musk and Kennedy, Jr., in his victory speech, promising that the latter "is going to make America healthy again" as the crowd chanted "Bobby, Bobby, Bobby."

"He wants to do some things, and we're gonna let him go to it," Trump said.

Harris called the former president the day after the election to congratulate him on his win, according to a senior campaign aide. The conversation, during which the aide said she stressed a peaceful transfer of power, which represented a departure from Trump's behavior in 2020, when he refused to concede to that race's victor, President Joe Biden.

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said the former president "acknowledged Vice President Harris on her

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◆ In Pennsylvania, Chris Deluzio was re-elected to the U.S. House.

CWA President Claude Cummings Jr. expressed his gratitude to all CWA volunteers and allies who participated in this year's election. "Union members and retirees did what we set out to do. We knocked on doors, had conversations, and turned out union voters. CWA activists left it all on the field. I'm not just saying it; I saw it firsthand because I was out with them, too. I'm very proud of the work we did, and we will continue to fight for our members and retirees and all working families."

## **CWAers Decisively Win Denver Bargaining Rights on the Ballot!**

CWA members, as part of a coalition of labor activists, won a major victory in Denver, Colo. this election. A ballot city charter amendment on public worker collective bargaining received overwhelming support from voters, paving the way for over 7,000 city workers, such as librarians, social workers, and sanitation workers, to secure the same negotiating rights as teachers, firefighters, and police officers in the Mile High City.

CWA District 7 members with Local 7799, Local 7777, and the Denver NewsGuild (TNG-CWA Local 37074) collected over 20,000 signatures and successfully organized the entire Denver City Council to put the matter to a public vote. When the measure goes into effect, over 700 library workers can move forward with plans to form a union with CWA.

The Stronger Denver coalition was formed by CWA and included members from the Teamsters, Denver Area Labor Federation, Colorado Working Families Party, Denver DSA, SEIU, AFSCME and CEA. Organizers knocked on over 35,000 doors to build support with voters for the issue. Their ambitious and aggressive campaign paid off, with nearly 65 percent of the voters agreeing that public workers deserve to have a union voice as of the current reporting.

## **CWA Members Win Elections**

CWA's Central Region At-Large Executive Board member and President of CWA Local 4319, Erika White, won her election to represent Ohio's 41st District in the Ohio House of Representatives. She defeated Republican challenger Josiah Leinbach. In an interview with the Toledo Blade, White pledged to continue knocking on doors to meet constituents so she can be a voice for their concerns.

In New York, CWA Local 1123 President Chris Ryan holds a slim lead in the race for the New York State Senate's 50th District. The close margin will likely trigger an automatic recount. Ryan wants to improve job opportunities, healthcare, and housing, especially in light of the new semiconductor manufacturing plant that is slated to be built with CHIPS and Science Act funds in his region.

Several CWA members in District 7 racked up wins on election night. United Campus Workers UCW-CWA member Priya Sunderashan successfully defended her Arizona State Senate seat while UCW-CWA member Lauren Kuby, who had previously served as a councilmember and vice mayor in Tempe, joined her as a senator representing Arizona Legislative District 8. In Minnesota, Association of Flight Attendants AFA-CWA member Kaela Berg won re-election to the Minnesota State House.

Other CWA member wins include former Newsguild-CWA President Linda Foley, who was reelected to the Maryland House of Delegates, and CWA Local 3204 member Nikki Merritt, who protected her Georgia Senate seat.

*(Continued from page 1 - Trump in second administration)*

strength, professionalism, and tenacity throughout the campaign, and both leaders agreed on the importance of unifying the country."

Trump, who is poised to be the first-ever convicted felon elected to the Oval Office, now faces a presidential transition period that will entail filling thousands of political appointees' positions, a process that is expected to be made smooth by a Republican-led Senate.

Federal criminal charges trailed Trump through his entire second presidential run, and the former president made clear on the campaign trail his ire for political foes, at times labeling them the "enemy from within."

A U.S. Supreme Court decision this year that granted presidents wide latitude to take criminally questionable action if they purport to do so in service of the office could provide Trump an opening to wield the department against political opponents.

Upon taking office this time, Trump, 78, will also make history as the oldest person ever elected to the U.S. presidency, while his running mate, 40-year-old Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, will be among the youngest to assume second in command.

### **Geopolitical impact**

Even before the AP had called the race, world leaders began congratulating Trump for his win.

"Congratulations on history's greatest comeback!" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote on X in a post addressed to the president-elect and former first lady Melania Trump. "Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America."

Qatar's leader Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani offered his best wishes on X around the same time as Netanyahu, declaring that Qatar is looking forward "to working together again to strengthen our strategic relationship and partnership, and to advancing our shared efforts in promoting security and stability both in the region and globally."

Qatar is a major broker in negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage deal to end the Israel-Gaza war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also swiftly congratulated Trump on "an impressive election victory."

"I recall our great meeting with President Trump back in September, when we discussed in detail the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership, the Victory Plan, and ways to put an end to Russian aggression against Ukraine," Zelenskyy posted to X the day after the election.

"I appreciate President Trump's commitment to the 'peace through strength' approach in global affairs. This is exactly the principle that can practically bring just peace in Ukraine closer. I am hopeful that we will put it into action together," Zelenskyy continued.

U.S. aid is critical to both Israel and Ukraine in their respective conflicts with Hamas and Russia.

Trump has frequently criticized U.S. support for Ukraine but is not expected to significantly alter U.S. policy toward Israel.

### **Trump legal problems**

The former president has faced numerous criminal charges and civil lawsuits since his term ended in January 2021.

Trump's long presidential campaign was punctuated by a busy legal schedule that included two federal cases, still ongoing, and cases in Georgia and New York.

Just over a month before Election Day, a federal judge unsealed new evidence from U.S. special counsel Jack Smith outlining Trump's alleged role in the plot to overturn the 2020

presidential election results that culminated in the violent Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The high-profile case was stuck in a holding pattern for most of 2024 while Trump fought the charges, arguing that former U.S. presidents cannot be criminally tried for actions they took while still in office.

In July, the U.S. Supreme Court returned the case to the lower court after ruling that former presidents enjoy criminal immunity for any actions related to core constitutional powers, and presumed immunity for duties on the office's outer perimeter, but none for personal actions.

Smith has argued in hundreds of pages of new court filings that Trump undermined the 2020 presidential election results as a candidate, in his personal capacity working with private attorneys.

Trump has indicated numerous times that, if elected to another presidency, he would oust Smith from the U.S. Justice Department.

The only criminal case against Trump to reach trial played out in a Manhattan courtroom in April and May, and concluded when a jury found Trump guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. The former president had covered up hush money paid to a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.

Trump's sentencing in his home city, originally scheduled for July, is now set for Nov. 26 — though it's unclear how New York Judge Juan Merchan will proceed following Trump's second trajectory to the White House. The case had already been delayed as the parties began to argue how the Supreme Court's immunity ruling affected evidence presented against Trump.

Trump made history in June 2023 as the first former president to be indicted on federal criminal charges alleging that he hoarded classified documents at his Florida Mar-a-Lago estate and refused to return them to the National Archives. A federal judge tossed the case in July, but Smith had appealed it.

#### **How the states were called for Trump**

The Associated Press projected Trump's victory Wednesday morning the day after the election when Wisconsin notched the former president's Electoral College vote count to 277 — over the 270 needed to secure the presidency. Harris had 224.

Trump by midday on that Wednesday gained Michigan, bringing his electoral vote total to 292 and snagging five of the vital seven swing states in which he and the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, spent most of their time campaigning through 2024.

North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin all voted for Trump.

#### **GOP Senate**

Republicans also took control of the U.S. Senate, guaranteeing Trump a relatively smooth path in confirming his appointments to the courts and the Cabinet in the coming months.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who is leaving his leadership post at the end of the year, called it "a hell of a good day."

Republicans won 52 seats in the Senate while Democrats hold 47.

#### **Democracy as an issue flops**

Harris' campaign emphasized Trump's threat to democratic norms, citing his refusal to accept his 2020 election loss and conviction on 34 felony counts.

But that message appeared not to resonate with voters, who told exit pollsters they were more concerned about economic factors like high inflation.

Leaders with Common Cause, an advocacy group that sought to engage voters on democracy issues, accepted the results following the election but continued to warn about the "grave threat" Trump posed to the country's democratic norms.

"We respect the democratic process, but we now must face the fact that Trump's stated intentions and actions pose a grave threat to the core principles of our democracy," Virginia Kase Solomón, Common Cause president and CEO, said on a call with reporters. "As a twice-impeached former president with multiple felony charges, his return to office brings unprecedented risk to our nation's foundational values."

Ariana Figueroa, Jane Norman and Jennifer Shutt contributed to this report.

#### **About the Wisconsin Examiner**

The Wisconsin Examiner is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news site offering a fresh perspective on politics and policy in our state. As the largest news bureau covering state government in Madison, the Examiner offers investigative reporting and daily coverage dedicated to the public interest. We take our inspiration from the motto emblazoned on a ceiling in our state Capitol: "The Will of the People Is the Law of the Land."

The Examiner is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization, supported by grants and donations. We retain full editorial independence.

Accuracy and transparency builds vital trust with you, our readers. Our policy is to update a story to correct errors promptly and note the change at the bottom of the story. If you believe we've made a mistake, please email Ruth Conniff or Erik Gunn so we can address it.

## **2024 Election Consequences**

As with every election, consequences are inevitable as those chosen to represent by the voters remodel our public policies. Contemporary society is employment-centered for most. As such, it's important for voters to have a thorough understanding of the workings of capitalism, economic markets, work and the effects these mechanisms have on personal life. Modern societies are based on a system where work is normally the primary source of income and a central feature of day-to-day life.

Transition from the Biden to Trump's administration will likely swing 180 degrees. Biden's policies "and his NLRB have been one of the most effective and aggressive in modern history at protecting workers' rights to organize," said Kate Andrias, a labor law professor at Columbia Law School. "I think that we're likely to see many of those achievements undone under the Trump administration." Labor experts widely expect the Trump administration to quickly remove all Biden-era gains for unions and workers.

The election exit polls identified the economy as the top issue in the 2024 presidential election where the majority of voters felt Trump was their best choice. Time will tell if their judgement was correct.

With the return of Donald Trump to the Whitehouse for a second term and a Republican majority in both houses, we can most likely anticipate risky and severe change in federal government. Trump has already begun to announce his cabinet choices declaring harsh consequences in day to day government operations that could result in long term consequences.

We hope those who voted for this shake up are prepared for what may lie ahead. Here are two potential plans that members from Trump's administration have publicly announced that

*(Continued on page 5)*

**UNION  
CALENDAR**

**December**

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

**January**

- 14 Executive Board Mtg.  
6:30 pm  
Union Office
- 15 Membership Mtg.  
7:00 pm  
Pallas Restaurant  
1657 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

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 that  
you visit this link:  
[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!

**Labor Radio Podcast Network**

**www.laborradionetworg**

Where the people speak!

Over 200 labor radio/podcast shows are just a click away..

Working people are raising their voices more and more each day, demanding better treatment from their workplaces and their elected officials.

While labor columnists at daily newspapers have become a dying breed and union news has largely been sidelined within traditional print and televisual media, affordable and easy-to-use recording and editing technologies now allow workers, union members, leaders and activists to create their own alternative means of communication. These days, that often takes the form of either podcasts or radio shows (which often are also available via podcast).

So plug in your headphones and find your new favorite labor radio show or podcast!

It couldn't hurt to listen to what's going on. Get information straight from other working people like you. Their observations, ideas and opinions on where we're going as American workers, trying to support a family and live our lives.

Of the 345 million people living in the U.S., 157 million Americans make up the U.S. workforce. Nearly 16 million U.S. workers are union members while support for labor unions is at a 57 year high at 71 percent.

Roughly 10 percent of the current U.S. workforce enjoys a negotiated written contract with their employer which is down from 1980's union density percentage of 20 percent.



**THE CWA WIRETAP** 42

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**  
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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: [wiretap@cwa4603.com](mailto:wiretap@cwa4603.com)

**To contact the RMO Report**

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

*(Continued from page 3 - Election Consequences)*

could be implemented.

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy have been tapped to head a new "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE). Ramaswamy publicly stated that they intend to eliminate unnecessary federal agencies and make others more efficient. Their plan is to hold federal agency workers accountable through mass firings. Asked if DOGE will shut down entire federal agencies, to which Ramaswamy said "it will."

"We expect mass reductions. We expect certain agencies to be deleted outright. We expect mass reductions enforce in areas of the federal government that are bloated. We expect massive cuts in federal contractors and others who are over-billing the federal government. So, yes, we expect all of the above, and I think people will be surprised by, I think, how quickly we're able to move with some of those changes given the legal backdrop the Supreme Court has given us," Ramaswamy said.

Prior to the November election, Trump had said he planned to let vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy "go wild" on health, food and medicine if elected.

"For too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation, and disinformation when it comes to Public Health," Trump said in a statement in October. "The Safety and Health of all Americans is the most important role of any Administration, and HHS will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives that have contributed to the overwhelming Health Crisis in this Country."

Kennedy had posted on X, formerly Twitter "FDA's war on public health is about to end," "If you work for the FDA and are part of this corrupt system, I have two messages for you: 1. Preserve your records, and 2. Pack your bags."

Trump's second term could also realize more new appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court which would certainly create an enduring far-right supermajority well into our nation's future.

### **NLRB's Final Push - NLRB.gov/news**

11/13/2024 - The NLRB issued a decision in Amazon.com Services LLC, ruling that an employer violates the National Labor Relations Act by requiring employees under threat of discipline or discharge to attend meetings in which the employer expresses its views on unionization in captive-audience meetings. These meetings have a reasonable tendency to interfere with and coerce employees in the exercise of their Section 7 rights. The Board also made clear that an employer may lawfully hold meetings with workers to express its views on unionization so long as workers are provided reasonable advance notice of: the subject of any such meeting, that attendance is voluntary with no adverse consequences for failure to attend, and that no attendance records of the meeting will be kept.

Such meetings interfere with an employee's right under Section 7 of the Act to freely decide whether, when, and how to participate in a debate concerning union representation, or refrain from doing so. Second, captive audience meetings provide the employer to observe and surveil employees as it addresses the exercise of employees' Section 7 rights. Finally, an employer's ability to compel attendance at such meetings on pain of discipline or discharge lends a coercive character to the message regarding unionization that employees are forced to receive. The employer's ability to require attendance at such meetings demonstrates the employer's economic power over its employees and reasonably tends to inhibit them from acting freely in exercising their rights.

### **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](http://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](mailto:kayeh@uwgb.edu).**

*Deadline for submissions is*

*Feb. 15, 2025*

**Send your essays to the following email address:**

**[info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org).**

**Put "essay contest" in subject line.**

**Sponsored By:**

**Wisconsin Labor History Society**

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**6333 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213**

**Email: [info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org)**

**Website: [www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org)**



**Equal Pay For Equal Work  
Regardless of Gender, Race,  
Religion or Sexual Orientation  
UNIONS BUILT THIS!**

## 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](mailto:crodriguez@collegenowgc.org)

### About College Now Greater Cleveland Inc.

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## 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**

### 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](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

**December 2024 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 payable to checks to: CWA 4603 RMO - 6511 W Bluemound, Milwaukee, WI 53213**

**Mail payments by March 3, 2025 OR SOONER!**

**Payments need to be received by the March 11, 2025 deadline!**

**Retiree Medicare Open Enrollment Ends December 7, 2024**

**RMO Luncheon Report**

The November 20<sup>th</sup> RMO Luncheon had nearly 40 retirees and guests attend the event. The guest speaker was Michelle Allison who is the Information and Outreach Coordinator for Milwaukee County Health and Human Services on Aging and Disabilities Services.

Congress established the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in recognition of the need for social services for older adults in our country. Area Agencies on Aging are a requirement of the OAA and are responsible for the development of a coordinated system for the delivery of social

and other critical services to the community. The Area Agency on Aging, provides funding to home- and community-based services and programs that affirm the dignity of older adults by supporting their choices for living in and giving to our community. The Area Agency on Aging receives funding through the OAA, the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County.

**The Aging & Disability Resource Center** is the first place to go to get accurate, unbiased information on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability. The ADRC offers information, referral, consultation and assistance regarding access to short- and long-term care services. The ADRC is here to help seniors get the information and resources they need to stay independent.

The presentation was very informative . These services are not exclusive to just Milwaukee County. To find services available across Wisconsin visit online: **Aging: County and Tribal Aging Offices | Wisconsin Department of Health Services** - You will find links for every county in Wisconsin to locate services in your area.

Greg Tennyson, CWA 4603 President presented an update regarding AT&T's business and employment activities. Greg reported that deployment of fiber to business and residential housing in the greater Milwaukee area has helped to support area telecom jobs and is going well.

The fiber build is funded by the \$42 billion federal bipartisan infrastructure bill passed in 2021. The money is intended to expand and improve access to high-speed internet and bring connectivity to more Americans. Wisconsin received over \$1 billion from the federal program. AT&T is also looking to hire more technicians for jobs in the Tier II Tech Support in the Broadway building downtown.

**The Kierzek Chronicles**

I would like to start out by wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It's hard for me to believe that another year is just about over. The other thing that I have to get over is the Presidential Election. It did not go the way that I hoped it would, but could 74,720,374 people be wrong? I guess we will find out in the next four years.

The thing that worries me is Donald Trump's claim from this past October is that he has a great relationship with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

There's a new book out by journalist Bob Woodward claiming that Trump sent Putin COVID-19 testing devices during the height of the pandemic, highlighting their friendship. Trump has also said that because of his relationship with Putin, he would solve the Russia-Ukraine war in one day if he were in office. If he can accomplish that, I might even start to like him a little. As to why Kamala Harris lost the election to Donald Trump, I have no idea. But there are a lot of people that are claiming it was the way that the Democrats were campaigning prior to the election.

The only campaign experience I have, is when I ran for the position of Chief Steward back in 1996. I did get elected as Chief Steward that year. Did I mention that I was unopposed? Anyway, I hope that President Elect Trump turns out to be the right choice to lead our country the next four years and proves that 71,028,223 people were wrong. Me included, along with some of you.

**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](mailto:bsawyer@cwa-union.org)

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

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## *Merry Christmas To All!* *A Significant Historical Moment*

World War I began in late July 1914 and ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918, leaving 17 million dead and 20 million wounded. U.S. Soldier fatalities were 116,516 and approximately 320,000 sick and wounded of the 4.7 million that served.

Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace and no more fighting) that had been prepared by Britain and France. At the start of 1918, Germany was in a strong position and expected to win the war.

Union organizing was not particularly strong in the early days of the telephone industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. What seems to have happened was that electrical workers, IBEW members, began to get jobs as linemen and cable splicers in the phone industry where there were literally thousands of phone companies all across the nation.

The image on this page is from an original copy of the Bell Telephone News from December of 1918. Woodrow Wilson won the November presidential election of 1912. The Democratic governor unseated the incumbent Howard Taft and beat "Bull Moose" (progressive candidate) Theodore Roosevelt and Socialist Party Candidate Eugene V. Debs.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the U.S. declared neutrality as Wilson tried to negotiate a peace between the Allied and Central Powers. He narrowly won re-election in the 1916 United States presidential election, boasting how he kept the nation out of wars in Europe and Mexico. By April 1917, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany in response to its policy of unrestricted submarine warfare that sank American merchant ships and the U.S. entered the war later that month. Due to the war effort, widespread labor conflicts and issues within the telephone industry, Wilson put the telephone and telegraph system under the direction of the postmaster general in July of 1918. It was a turbulent and challenging time for all American workers and particularly those working in the telephone industry.

Always remember that today, each of us has been favored with employment opportunities we hope provide decent wages, quality benefits, job safety and the collective bargaining rights that helped establish a system where we as workers get our fair share of the wealth that we create by providing our labor. we enjoy today accomplished by former workers who joined together to build a better future. This has not always been the case!

As we enjoy the holidays, please take a moment to reflect on not only your own personal accomplishments, but the accomplishments of those from our past who fought and struggled to improve our lives and our families futures. It's easy to take for granted how far we've come, but there is still more work to be done.

**It's a fact that we are all citizens in this world journey of life and survival!**

***Happy Holidays & May Peace Be With Us All!***

