Philadelphia rally supports SAG-AFTRA strike

By Joe Piette and Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Dozens of members of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) held a rally at Love Park in Philadelphia July 20. They were joined by an equal number of Philadelphia area unionists, including members of the Writers Guild (WGA) — who are also on strike, Teamsters Local 623 representing workers at UPS, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers and others in a strong show of solidarity.

The highlights of the rally were the energetic talks by actors Sheryl Lee Ralph and Lisa Ann Walter from the popular TV show “Abbott Elementary,” set in Philadelphia.

Walter said: “When the world sees people on television and movies, they figure they’ve got it made; they’re all millionaires; they have several yachts. As the years have gone on, the business has paid those of us who are not the $20 million actors less and less and less until it is just about basic wage.”

She spoke of problems she faced trying to raise four children in Los Angeles earlier in her career when her income was barely above minimum wage.

“That is not about your favorite stars on TV or in motion pictures,” Ralph told the crowd. “Eighty percent of our union is made up of plain old ordinary people trying to make a living.” Stressing the importance of the WGA and SAG-AFTRA striking at the same time, she said: “For the first time since the 1960s, both unions said enough is enough, and we demand more.”

Veteran actor David Morse and local elected officials and labor leaders spoke at the rally. Morse, whose work is made up of plain old ordinary people trying to make a living.” Stressing the importance of the WGA and SAG-AFTRA striking at the same time, she said: “For the first time since the 1960s, both unions said enough is enough, and we demand more.”

The Philadelphia rally was bolstered by other union and community supporters. As the current United Parcel Service (UPS) contract with the Teamsters union approaches its end date of July 31, “practice” pickets have been occurring across the country, including in Atlanta and all over Georgia, at various UPS facilities. Other union members and labor allies have joined these actions to make clear to UPS that the community has the workers’ backs.

That solidarity and support was also evident at a huge rally held July 22 in the new Teamsters Local 728 hall. Around 180 workers at Republic Services-Waste Management, who collect the garbage from hospitals, industrial sites and other businesses, held a rally on July 21 outside the facility’s Bankhead site. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, their job is one of the most dangerous and deadly. Yet, despite the very necessary work they do, their grievances about low pay, long hours, safety issues and more get little attention from Republic bosses. These Teamsters union members have voted to strike when their contract expires on July 31 if their demands are not met. The rally numbers were bolstered by other union and community supporters.

Thousands in Atlanta back strikes

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Mass rallies and militant worker solidarity are becoming an almost everyday occurrence in Atlanta. On July 18, a rally in support of striking members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Actors (SAG-AFTRA) brought out a crowd of over 1,000 people.

The main hall of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 479 was filled to standing room only and five additional watch rooms with TV monitors were filled to capacity.

SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher and National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland provided an update on the unsatisfactory negotiations with executives of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) over Zoom. Other labor activists, including members of Starbucks Workers United, were among those in the loud crowd determined to win the strike demands.

Support for UPS Teamsters, Atlanta, July 22, 2023. PHOTO: TEAMSTERS

Ongoing COVID-19 health threat

Editorial: Apartheid Israel — no right to exist

Starbucks Workers United tour

Boston Medical Center interns, residents organize

The clock is ticking down!

Dianne Mathiowetz is a retired auto worker who worked 30 years on General Motors assembly lines, a United Auto Workers Local 10 member and producer and co-host of The Labor Forum on WRFG 89.3 FM.

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Mass rallies and militant worker solidarity are becoming an almost everyday occurrence in Atlanta. On July 18, a rally in support of striking members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Actors (SAG-AFTRA) brought out a crowd of over 1,000 people.

The main hall of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 479 was filled to standing room only and five additional watch rooms with TV monitors were filled to capacity.

SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher and National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland provided an update on the unsatisfactory negotiations with executives of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) over Zoom. Other labor activists, including members of Starbucks Workers United, were among those in the loud crowded determined to win the strike demands.

Around 180 workers at Republic Services-Waste Management, who collect the garbage from hospitals, industrial sites and other businesses, held a rally on July 21 outside the facility’s Bankhead site. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, their job is one of the most dangerous and deadly. Yet, despite the very necessary work they do, their grievances about low pay, long hours, safety issues and more get little attention from Republic bosses. These Teamsters union members have voted to strike when their contract expires on July 31 if their demands are not met. The rally numbers were bolstered by other union and community supporters.

That solidarity and support was also evident at a huge rally held July 22 in the new Teamsters Local 728 hall. National Teamsters President Sean O’Brien was the featured speaker. The crowd roared in approval as he made clear the union’s determination to see the billions of dollars in profits—that the corporation raked in off the hard work of 340,000 Teamsters—go to higher wages, improved benefits, and the upgrading of tens of thousands of part-time workers into full-time status.

For months, O’Brien has stated, without equivocation, that if a satisfactory contract is not reached by midnight July 31, all 340,000 UPS Teamsters will go on strike.

Although negotiations had broken off, it is reported that talks will resume on July 25.

The clock is ticking down!

Dianne Mathiowetz is a retired auto worker who worked 30 years on General Motors assembly lines, a United Auto Workers Local 10 member and producer and co-host of The Labor Forum on WRFG 89.3 FM.
Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigendered and multiracial organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth are saddled with ever-greater profits.

In 1972, Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-California) introduced a bill on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus (founded in 1971), calling on Congress to pressure South Africa to end apartheid and other racist practices. CBC members would introduce at least 15 more such bills until the U.S. Congress finally passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act in 1986. Congress wasn’t any more liberal in 1986 than in 1972, but a broad anti-apartheid movement had developed in the interim. Over 5,000 people were arrested for protest in front of the South African Embassy in the U.S. Specked with blood, the movement to diversify, or cease operations in South Africa, forced universities and businesses to withdraw investment dollars.

However, the real game changer was the growing success of the armed wing of the African National Congress — uMkhonto we Sizwe.

During her historic address to Congress, prior to a July 18 vote to support Israel and deny it is a apartheid and racist state, Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan) told Congress, “Don’t forget, apartheid South Africa once had bipartisan support in Congress too.”

Tlaib is the first Palestinian American woman elected to Congress. During the debate on the pro-Israel resolution, Tlaib delivered a scathing indictment of Israel’s genocidal policies impacting Palestinians. She quoted from current Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who recently said about Palestinians: “Beat them up not once, but repeatedly. Beat them up until it’s unbearable.” And he said that Israel must maintain its Brutal, Crush Palestinian hopes for a fully sovereign state.

Tlaib and nine other colleagues boycotted Israeli President Isaac Herzog’s address to a joint session of Congress. A press release from Tlaib and Rep. Cori Bush (D-Missouri), who also voted against the resolution, read in part: “It’s contradictory to claim to support human rights when you’re arming the oppressors with billions of dollars of bullets and bombs. It is hypocritical to claim to be deeply concerned about attacks on Palestinian families, and then smile for a photo op with the president of the government enabling these human rights abuses and maintaining the status quo.

“Tlaib and nine other colleagues boycotted Israeli President Isaac Herzog’s address to a joint session of Congress. A press release from Tlaib and Rep. Cori Bush (D-Missouri), who also voted against the resolution, read in part: “It’s contradictory to claim to support human rights when you’re arming the oppressors with billions of dollars of bullets and bombs. It is hypocritical to claim to be deeply concerned about attacks on Palestinian families, and then smile for a photo op with the president of the government enabling these human rights abuses and maintaining the status quo.

“The facts are clear, and the international consensus surrounding — Israel is an apartheid state. To assert otherwise in the face of the colossal body of evidence and the consensus of the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B'Tselem — the largest human rights organization in Israel — and countless others is to deny this reality.” (tinyurl.com/mnxrv7q4n)

The lapsed congressional vote came as no surprise. Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign aid — $850 billion between 1999 and 2022. The U.S. is Israel’s largest trading partner, with bilateral trade at $50 billion a year.

But as with South Africa, the progressive anti-Is- rael movement, including the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign, is growing. And the militancy of Palestinian resistance is also on the rise in what many now call the third Intifada.

Massive “pro-democracy” demonstrations by Israelis are taking place right now. But none openly oppose the oppression of Palestinians — essentially exposing the apartheid nature of Israel.

Workers World fully asserts that the apartheid state of Israel has NO right to exist. Founded with the brutal, forced removal of hundreds of thousands of indigenous Palestinians, Israel should never have been recognized as a state. Palestinians were never given a say on Israeli “statehood” imposed on them by the United Nations-brokered cease-fire in 1949.

Without the billions of dollars in backing from the U.S. in weapons and trade, Israel could not exist today. We demand, “Stop U.S. money and weapons to Israel!”

If you’re interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

National Office
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18213
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.272.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Bay Area
PO Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
225 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02135
617.322.6626
boston@workers.org

Cleveland
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.391.2334
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
tcelona@workers.org

Cleveland
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.322.6626
buffalo@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
PO Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.501.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
PO Box 2947
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.913.2615
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
SLC@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
West Virginia@workers.org

Workers World

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Stop Congressional support for Israeli apartheid!

Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP organizer near you.

If you’re interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 65, No. 30 • July 27, 2023
Closing date: July 16, 2023
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: Albeer, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear down the walls
“They’re killing us in here!”

West Virginia rally condemns jail deaths

On the Picket Line

TKP: Struggle against NATO must begin

Haitians throughout the world demand “relief”

Around the World

In the U.S.

Heat waves’ uncounted death toll on workers

Don’t fall for the humongous military budget

If ‘we don’t get it, shut it down!’

On the Picket Line

Denver protest to free Julian Assange

The inevitable de-dollarization

Ukraine: Communist brothers appeal

Macron represses anti-racist protests

Noticias en Español

La desolización inevitable

Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001

Vol. 65, No. 30 • July 27, 2023
Closing date: July 16, 2023
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: Albeer, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear down the walls
“They’re killing us in here!”

West Virginia rally condemns jail deaths

Noticias en Español

La desolización inevitable

Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.

Subscription: One year: $36; institutions: $50.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Calligan, Steve Gillis and K. James

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewold, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

© Copyright 2023 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: $36; institutions: $50.

Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited.

Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc. P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A deadline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Submission information is at workers.org.
**Starbucks Workers United tour hits Philly**

By Joe Piette

Starbucks workers and organizers plus other area workers and union leaders rallied at Philadelphia City Hall on July 22. The rally was a planned stopping-off point for the 13-city “The Union Is Calling” bus tour, which includes Minneapolis-St. Paul; Atlanta; Chicago; Knoxville, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; Pittsburgh; Philadelphia; Buffalo, New York; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Eugene and Portland, Oregon; and Seattle.

Over 335 Starbucks stores in 38 states and the District of Columbia have successfully unionized into Starbucks Workers United. But for over a year, Starbucks has racked up hundreds of federal labor violations while resisting to negotiate in good faith with the union.

Organizers demanded Philadelphia city officials remove a non-union Starbucks store from city-owned property on the other side of City Hall from the rally. Starbucks workers used rainbow placards and fans to point out that workers’ rights are queer and trans rights.

Speakers, including Starbucks Workers United President Lynne Fox and Danny Bauder, President of Philadelphia Council, AFL-CIO, also described Starbucks’ hypocritical treatment of workers and the company’s illegal union-busting campaign.

The union’s nine “core demands” include the right to organize; a strong foundation of rights (seniority rights, grievance procedures and just cause employment); worker safety; fair wages; health care; no schedule reductions; consistent schedules; expanded leave of absence and personal time-off; and immediate access to the withheld benefits corporate officials have only been granting to non-union employees.

Protesting illegal union busting, workers at five Philadelphia locations went on strike July 23.

---

**Boston Medical Center interns and residents organize for contract**

By Madeline Stump

Hundreds gathered near Boston Medical Center’s (BMC) entrance, July 20, to support the residents and fellows of the Committee of Interns and Residents of Service Employees International Union (CIR/SEIU). Many BMC doctoral residents and fellows joined the rally. The crowd included BMC patients, representatives from 1199SEIU, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, the Boston Teachers Union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn, Liz Breacon and Ruthzee Louijeune.

During the rally, union members spoke of the importance of negotiating for competitive wages, substantially reduced-cost or free parking, and a living expenses stipend, among other benefit improvements, as demands for their new contract.

For context, according to the BMC’s website, a first-year resident’s salary at BMC is currently just under $67,000, making them among the lowest-paid residents in the Boston area.

This non-competitive salary means that many of them are paying tremendous portions of their monthly paychecks for rent alone. This has led some residents to work additional jobs on top of their 80-hour workweeks as residents; routinely access food stamps; take out loans; and pursue other means in order to meet their basic needs while living in one of the most expensive cities in the U.S.

Speakers noted throughout that negotiating a stronger and more fair contract, two of their main goals are to create more livable conditions for current residents and fellows, and to provide for the possibility of Boston Medical Center to both attract and retain doctors who more fully represent the communities which make up BMC’s patients.

BMC is New England’s largest safety-net hospital. This means the medical facility is designed to provide care to patients regardless of access to health insurance or ability to pay for their medical care. Consequently, patient loads at safety-net hospitals tend to include greater-than-average proportions of people from marginalized backgrounds.

To keep tabs on future progress made by the CIR/SEIU union at BMC, follow them on Instagram @cir_bmc.

---

**Philadelphia supports SAG-AFTRA strike**

Continued from page 1

includes “The Green Mile,” Philadelphia-shot “12 Monkeys,” and “Hack,” about a Philadelphia taxi driver, told the crowd: “The studios want to make us poorer and themselves richer. There was always an excuse as to why they couldn’t make our lives better. AI is the excuse now.”

Nicole Izaac, president of SAG-AFTRA Philadelphia, noted that most members of the local union are, “working to be middle class; the ones who are middle class are working to keep it.”

She addressed a key strike issue: health insurance. “Qualifying for health care every year isn’t a given by any means. Union members must make at least $26,470 from their acting work in a given year to be eligible for coverage.”

Some 11,000 members of the Writers Guild have been on strike since May 2 against television and film studio giants like Netflix, Amazon, Sony, Disney, Fox and others. They were joined on July 13 by 160,000 actors in SAG-AFTRA. This united strike has effectively shut down studios in Hollywood, New York City and

WWW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE
Tras el asalto del alto tribunal a los derechos civiles

“Igualdad ante la ley”. Estas palabras están inscritas sobre la entrada principal del edificio del Tribunal Supremo. Son un engaño y una mentira. Tres decisiones de los días 29 y 30 de junio deberían haber hecho aquí aíses cualquier ilusión persistente de que el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos existe para defender la justicia o la igualdad.

En primer lugar, el 29 de junio, el TSE votó 6-3 para erradicar lo que queda de la discriminación positiva en las admisió-nes a colegios y universidades. El tribun-al prohibió hacer tiempo las “cuotas” que obligaban a que un determinado número o porcentaje de los nuevos estudiantes fueran personas de color. Ahora se pro-híben incluso las “políticas de admisión basadas en la raza.”

Un día después, el tribunal complicó aún más el acceso de los jóvenes negros, marro-nes y de todas las clases trabajadoras a la educación superior al amular el programa de perdón de deudas de prestamos estu-diantiles del presidente Joe Biden. El plan, instituido el año pasado, aliviaba a millones de estudiantes estudiantados por las deudas, condonando hasta 20.000 dólares en pagos de préstamos.

La decisión afecta a la clase trabajadiora de todas las edades. El Detroit Free Press del 2 de julio informa de que unas 864,000 personas de todas las edades solicitaron la cancelación de sus préstam-os sólo en Michigan. Entre ellas se encuentran una maestra de 51 años, Lisa Mitchell, y su hija Briana, una estudiante de posgrado de 30 años con 70.000 dóla-res de deuda estudiantal ya acumulada.

Briana Mitchell explica: “Los costes de la vida ahora mismo son astronómicos, y creo que el alivio de no tener que pagar durante los últimos tres años me ha per-mitido invertir en mi vida de forma dife-rente a antes, especialmente siendo una mujer negra. Las mujeres negras, estadís-ticamente, ganan menos que sus homoló-gos blancos y masculinos”.

Las mujeres negras son las que más deben por sus estudios: “De media, las mujeres se gradúan con una deuda estu-diantil de casi 22.000 dólares, mientras que la cifra para los hombres es de 18.880 dólares”, según un artículo de Politico del 9 de junio. Pero “las mujeres negras se gradúan con una deuda media de 37.558 dólares”.

Esta disparidad aumentará como resul-tado de dos sentencias del SCOTUS. Las ramificaciones son muchas. Por ejemplo, si muchas mujeres negras pueden graduarse de la escuela de medicina, entonces menos mujeres negras están proporcionando atención médica a sus comunidades, lo que puede traducirse en una tasa aún mayor de mortalidad materna negra.

Para esperar—hay más

No contento con dictar sentencias racistas dos días seguidos, el Tribunal Supremo aprovechó la oportunidad anterior de su receso de verano para atacar a la comunidad LGBTIQA+. El tribunal falló a favor de una evangélica intolerante, concediéndole el derecho legal a negarse a diseñar una página web de bodas para parejas del mismo sexo.


El otro caso que se basaba en un escenario ficticio fue el que un abogado vaticinó que la ley antidiscriminación de Colorado no podía impedir a Smith ejer-cer su llamado “derecho a la libertad de expresión” para practicar la discrimina-ción si se le presentaba la oportunidad. Esta sentencia tiene consecuencias poten-cialmente ominosas, ya que implica que la Primera Enmienda podría utilizarse ahora para legitimar cualquier forma de discriminarion.

SCOTUS: pilar de la supremacía blanca


John Marshall, el cuarto presidente del Tribunal, fue durante toda su carrera un esclavista y un defensor del atroz sistema de esclavitud. El quinto juez designado, Roger Taney, fue el autor de la infame decisión Dred Scott, que declaró que “los derechos e inmunidades especiales garan-tizados a los ciudadanos no se aplican” a los afroamericanos.

Desde el 29 de junio, esta institu-ción antidemocrática no elegida continuó su tradición de defender la propiedad pri-vada de la suprema blanca. (Abolir el Tribunal Supremo!)