

**LABOR CAUCUS SESSIONS AT APHA; SPECIAL EXHIBIT AT THE AFL-CIO ON THE COST OF WAR UNITES APHA, LABOR CAUCUS & PEACE CAUCUS (OPENING RECEPTION NOVEMBER 5, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.); ACTIVISTS PHYSICIANS DINNER, NOV. 4; PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVISTS' DANCE PARTY, NOV. 6, & MORE**

**Session 3336: DUDE, WHERE IS MY RETIREMENT? Monday, November 5, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., WCC, Room 208B**

The ability of American workers to retire when they are no longer able to work and still enjoy a decent standard of living is an important value for American working families and a measure of our social progress as a nation. However, in the richest country in the world, retirement security is eroding for the vast majority of American workers as employers increasingly walk away from their obligations to provide health care and retirement benefits for their employees. It will feature a discussion of the relationship between health and income in retirement and the need for a fundamental reform of our health care system to prevent retirement in America from becoming a privilege of only the wealthiest families. It will also feature a discussion of what the Pension Protection Act might mean for workers' retirement prospects. Public and private-sector solutions to the emerging crisis in retirement will be explored.

**Too Old To Work, Too Young To Die**, Ron Blackwell, Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

**Restoring the Promise: Recent Trends, Examples from Key Industries and Future Prospects for Retirement Security**, Beth Almeida, Executive Director, National Institute on Retirement Security

**Retirement Income and Health: A Clear Connection**, Michele Tingling-Clemons, Chief, Nutrition and Physical Fitness Programs, D.C. Department of Health, Maternal & Primary Care Administration

**Moderator:** Paul E. Almeida, President, Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

**Session 3419: INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT: LABOR'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES, GLOBALIZATION AND WORKER'S HEALTH, Monday, November 5, 4:30 – 6:00, WCC Room 208B**

Globally, the labor movement represents millions of workers. For more than a century, labor and public health advocates in the United States have mobilized to improve the health of workers and their families. For the major global health issues of our times—AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, family health, and others—the labor movement's contributions and potential remain strong. Yet, for many public health professionals and decision makers, the labor movement's involvement in global health is less widely known. This is the case even though workers, their families, and communities are often the intended beneficiaries of health projects; wages, benefits, and workplace conditions have a direct impact on overall health and access to health resources; and workplaces and union structures provide excellent opportunities to directly educate and provide health services to large numbers of workers and their families. Through a facilitated dialogue with three trade unionists from South Africa, Nigeria, and Uganda who possess direct AIDS project experience with unions, and with an executive from the Association of Flight Attendants and the executive director of the Solidarity Center, the value, experience, perspective, and

potential of the labor movement to respond to global health issues will be examined. The Solidarity Center is a nongovernmental organization that works in 60 countries and is an allied organization of the AFL-CIO, the national labor federation that represents 10 million American workers. The Solidarity Center provides support to trade union partners throughout the world, including to AIDS projects in South Africa, Nigeria, and Uganda.

**South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland: Examples from the labor movement's response to the AIDS epidemic in garment factories**, Vivian Ndlovu, RN, SACTWU AIDS Project, Durban, South Africa

**Nigeria: Examples from the labor movement's response to the AIDS epidemic and the health workers' perspectives**, Esther Ogunforwora, RN, HIV/AIDS Unit, Nigeria Labor Congress

**Uganda: Examples from the labor movement's response to the AIDS epidemic among long-distance transportation workers**, Romano Ojiambo-Ochieng, HIV/AIDS Project, Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union of Uganda

**Linking US trade unions to global issues**, Dianne Tamuk, Council 5 - JFK, Association of Flight Attendants, AFA-CWA

**Solidarity Center: Examples from a U.S. labor organization working globally to improve the health of workers and their families**, Ellie Larson, Solidarity Center, Washington, D.C.

**Session 4246: WORKERS FREE CHOICE TO FORM UNIONS – MYTH OR REALITY, Monday, November 5, Rescheduled for 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. (WCC, Room information and details of panel to follow in separate email)**

**Session 4237: Information Technology in the Healthcare Workplace: Impact and Implications, Tuesday, November 6, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM, WCC Room 203B**

Bringing information technology to medical care has become a national priority. It promises to transform one of the largest sectors of the economy. But it will only work if, from the start and at every step, it involves -- to quote a Veterans' Administration nurse -- "the people who touch the patients." This session will address the impact and implications of HIT for both health care workers and for patients. It will explore why involving front-line health care workers early in the design and development of any HIT system, and keeping them involved, is crucial, and will illustrate this by drawing on different experiences with HIT in several settings. It will examine a core issue that has repeatedly surfaced in electronic health information initiatives: How to appropriately protect the privacy and security of health information in an interconnected system. While an interoperable system of electronic health information holds many potential benefits for patients and all consumers of health care, including better coordination of health care regardless of patient location, higher quality and more efficient care, increased system transparency, and patient access to information about providers that allows them to make better decisions, it also raises serious concerns about personal privacy, data security and the potential misuse of their information. The session will address concerns about individual access and control, privacy and confidentiality, reliability, and the ways personal medical information may be used and the necessary measures to address these concerns.

**Nurse involvement in HIT design is crucial: The experience at Kaiser Permanente**, Barbara

Coufal, Assistant Director of Legislation, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

**Implementation of electronic medical records and accompanying technologies in a union workplace: An alternative vision**, Charley Richardson, Labor Extension Program, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

**Nurses on the frontline at the VAMC: Involved in developing and designing new health information systems**, Michael J. Boucher, MSN, RN, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, National Safety Coordinator, National Veterans Affairs Council, United American Nurses

**Medical records rights and privacy issues: Impact and implications of health information technology**, Sabrina Corlette,  
Director of Health Policy Programs, National Partnership on Women and Families

**Moderator:** David Cohen, Executive Director, Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

**Session 4324: THE COSTS OF WAR: THE IMPACT ON VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, Tuesday, November 6, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., WCC Room 147A**

As of May 2007, over 3,400 U.S. soldiers have died and more than 25,000 have been wounded in the war in Iraq. Many of the wounded have incurred serious injuries that have necessitated amputation of limbs or have caused long-term disability. The Surgeon General of the U.S. Army has estimated that 30 percent of returning troops have stress-related mental health problems. Linda Bilmes, at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate, have calculated the cost of the war in Iraq to be at least \$1.2 trillion, and that if this war's veterans receive disability payments and medical care at the same rate as veterans of the first gulf war, their health costs will add up to \$250 billion. If the disability rate matches Vietnam's, the number climbs higher. Either way, Ms. Bilmes has described U.S. veterans' health costs to constitute "a miniature Medicare." This session is a collaborative effort of the Labor and Peace Caucuses and will describe the mental and physical health and economic costs of the war in Iraq on veteran's, their families, and communities.

**Post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans of the war in Iraq**, Evan Kanter, MD, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine

**A veteran's view of the unpaid costs of the Iraq War**, Garrett Reppenhagen, Iraq Veterans Against the War

**What the pamphlets forget to mention: The impact of the Iraq War on military families**, Elizabeth Frederick, Military Families Speak Out

**Discussant: The public health consequences of the Iraq War from the perspective of labor**, Denice Lombard, US Labor Against the War

**\*LABOR CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING,\* November 6, 6:30–8:00 p.m., WCC Room 301**

Discuss the progress of the Labor Caucus during the previous year, APHA Annual Meeting activities, and plan the Labor Caucus program for the coming year. All interested persons are

invited to attend. If you have ideas for future programs but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Pamela Wilson, [pwilson@dpeaflcio.org](mailto:pwilson@dpeaflcio.org) or Labor Caucus Program Chair, Tom Nicholson, at [Thomas.nicholson@wku.edu](mailto:Thomas.nicholson@wku.edu)

**SPECIAL EVENT: APHA, LABOR CAUCUS AND PEACE CAUCUS UNITE TO BRING UNEMBEDDED: FOUR INDEPENDENT PHOTOJOURNALISTS ON THE WAR IN IRAQ TO THE AFL-CIO FOR APHA** – Exhibit on Display at the AFL-CIO (815 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) November 4 – 8. **Join us for a special opening reception on Monday, November 5, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** The program begins at 7:00 and includes leaders from the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the labor and peace movements. Nancy Wohlforth, Secretary-Treasurer, OPEIU, Co-Convener, US Labor Against the War; Linda Foley, President, TNG-CWA and member, International Federation of Journalists; Arlene Holt-Baker, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President; Mike McCally, M.D., Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Bob Gould, M.D., Chair, Peace Caucus; Aseel Al Banna, Founder, Iraqi Voices for Peace, and Garret Reppenhagen, Iraq Veterans Against the War, are among the speakers. **Beginning at 7:30, photojournalist Kael Alford will give a PowerPoint presentation and discuss her experiences and impressions while “unembedded” in Iraq.**

“Unembedded” is a nationally touring photographic exhibit and book that includes 60 images showing the war’s impact on the Iraqi people “on the ground” where the war is being waged. The exhibit at the AFL-CIO features additional text – developed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences’ Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health – about the war’s effect on human health and the environment in Iraq, as well as its impact on returning American veterans, their families, and communities. The exhibit includes a focus on the number of journalists who have died in Iraq while trying to tell the story, and a focus on the deterioration of women’s situation since the occupation.

For additional information about the photographs and the photojournalists, see [www.unembedded.net](http://www.unembedded.net). Information about the exhibit at the AFL-CIO, including a flier, is available from <http://www.dpeaflcio.org/>.

**SPECIAL EVENT: ACTIVIST PHYSICIANS DINNER, Sunday, November 4, 7-10 p.m.** Held each year in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and attended by several hundred health care activists, this year’s dinner will be on **Sunday, November 4 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at Tony Cheng Seafood Restaurant, 619 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.** Each year, several special awards are given. This year, the Activist Physicians honor:

- **Allan Rosenfield , MD**, Dean, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University (Special Recognition Award)
- **Douglas Gwatidzo, MD**, President, Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (Edward K. Barsky Award)

- **Oliver Fein, MD**, Cornell University Medical College (Paul B. Cornely Award)
- **Honorable Edward M. Kennedy** (First Presentation of the Paul Wellstone Award)
- **Student Activist Recognition: TBA**

Originally sponsored by the Physicians Forum – which was organized decades ago, largely as a caucus of progressive doctors in APHA – the list of co-sponsors has expanded to include American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Medical Student Association; Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; Doctors for Global Health; International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War; Physicians for Human Rights; Physicians for a National Health Program; Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health; Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Committee of Interns and Residents, SEIU Healthcare. **All are welcome!** Please help spread the word.

**\$45 in advance, \$50 at the meeting**

**RSVP today!** Checks made out to:

“OHSI-UIC Activist Physician Dinner”

University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center

835 S. Wolcott (MC684), Chicago, IL 60612

312-864-5550

**SPECIAL EVENT: PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVISTS’ DANCE PARTY,**  
**November 6, 8:00 p.m. – Midnight at the Brass Monkey, 2317 18<sup>th</sup> Street,**  
**N.W. (Adams Morgan) 202/667-7800.** Co-sponsored by APHA Occupational Health Section; Labor Caucus; Peace Caucus; and Spirit of 1848.

**\$20 (or as you are able).** Proceeds go to OHS Scholarship Fund. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the OHS Section Booth.

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For information about APHA and the 2007 Annual Meeting, visit APHA’s Website, [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org). If you would like further information about the Labor Caucus and its programs, contact Labor Caucus Chair, Pamela Wilson, Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO, by phone, at (202) 638-6684 or email, [pwilson@dpeaflcio.org](mailto:pwilson@dpeaflcio.org).

