

ADVOCACY

People First of Toledo Monthly Newsletter



**People First
of
Toledo**

Subminimum Wage

By Quinn Thomas

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. This means that every worker in the United States is supposed to get paid at least that or more. But this is not the case. There are exceptions to this law for prisoners, tipped employees, and disabled people. This is called subminimum wage.

Subminimum wage was invented at the same time as minimum wage, way back in 1938 with the Fair Labor Standards Act. This act did a lot of good things, like ban child labor, but there are many gaps in who exactly was granted labor protections. For example, industries with a lot of black workers at the time-- such as agriculture-- were left behind

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAMP CLEAN UP DAYS

May 4 & 11, 9:00-3:00, at Courageous Acres. This is our volunteering opportunity for this month.

TRAIN DAY

May 10, 10:00-3:00, at One Government Center in Toledo.

SUPER SATURDAY DANCE

May 11, 7:00-9:00, at Five Lakes Church.

CEDAR POINT TRIP

May 21, 10:00-5:00. Be at Courageous Acres ready to go at 9:00.

COMMUNITY FILM FEST ACCEPTING ENTRIES

Deadline to enter is May 31. Maximum movie length is five minutes long. The film fest is August 18.

by the FLSA.

A person's wage in this system is determined by their productivity. Because disabled workers are considered "substandard," they are timed and compared to an abled person doing the same work.

"Currently, about 120,000 disabled workers are employed under 14(c) certificates. Half of them are paid less than \$3.50 an hour, with some individuals reporting wages as little as four to ten cents an hour." -Maria Manansala

People are often paid subminimum wages at sheltered workshops. A sheltered workshop is a segregated

work environment meant to teach job skills to individuals with disabilities. Because they provide this service, they get reimbursed by the federal government, in addition to whatever money they make from running their business.

Only 5% of people in sheltered workshops eventually transition to community employment. Their participants there are employees, and should be paid fairly.

There has been a push to outlaw subminimum wage. We have the ability to end this outdated practice and get paid fairly and equally, like everyone else.



OUR NEXT MEETING

April 18th, 6:00-7:30, virtually on Zoom or in-person at the Holland Library in Community Room B. Meeting dues are \$5 or \$50 for twelve months.

Advocate Sally Fish from the Disability Aging Rail Coalition at the Ability Center will be our guest speaker, talking about expanding accessible passenger rail options.