



# Have faith!

**LEFT:** Pointing out that the heavy lifting was done before he became Milwaukee's archbishop, Timothy Dolan was nevertheless moved and grateful Aug. 11 to accept a special plaque to the archdiocese for its leadership in ethical principles for church construction and renovation. At its packed picnic, the Faith Community for Worker Justice also geared up for Labor in the Pulpits, which will focus on corporate social responsibility. A full list of congregations and speakers on **Page 28**. More stories and photos on **Pages 29** and **30**.

# Special Labor Day Edition

- Unions want county to dump Wackenhut** - Page 8
- Children, teachers put dunce cap on Wal-Mart** - Page 18
- Profits at Milwaukee firms, losses for workers** - Page 20
- Big push for better immigration law** - Page 22
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- How labor unity improved state budget** - Page 25
- Congressmen face political price for CAFTA** - Page 27

**PLUS** stories on United Way, the Supreme Court, the Laborfest bash and the current rifts and possible healings within the labor movement.

# AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 65, No. 8 **MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN** Thursday, August 25, 2005 (USPS 350-360)



## Pulling apart Aug. 3

**By Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

**O**n August 3, at the most somber delegate meeting in memory, the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO bid goodbye to 41 delegates and two executive board members whose three national unions had announced disaffiliation from the AFL-CIO.

"It was like when the judge imposes a sentence you know is coming," said one delegate of a leaving union. "You don't believe it till you hear it."

Unlike a hanging judge, though, the leaders of the council were brimming with sadness and regret. If there was anger over the consequence of brinkmanship indulged in by national union leaders, it was carefully swallowed.

Among the delegates, and among the rank and file and even the retirees, there was so much instant shock and unhappiness over disaffiliation that within a week the national AFL-CIO moved to create a local-level solution.

As we went to press it was finalizing the concept of Solidarity Charters that would allow disenfranchised locals of the three departing unions to come back into state and local labor councils with full delegate voting power and weight in local organizing and political mobilization. *See Page 11.*

Until that plan is finalized, and depending on how it is received, the impact on the MCLC will be financial as well as personal.

**I**n Milwaukee as elsewhere around the nation, participating locals of the SEIU, the Teamsters and UFCW were removed from governance and voting power -- and from provid-

ing money through per-caps. The delegates also heard a farewell address full of memories and belief in solidarity from John Goldstein, who is resigning as president effective Sept. 1 because of a new job that has

**Delegates** continued **Page 10**



## Walking together in Sept. 5 parade

**L**aborfest is in the air! (It's also on the air, as we'll get to in a moment.)

For any number of reasons, the free parade and free festival in downtown Milwaukee Sept. 5 seems to be drawing unusual attention.

Some reasons are quite positive. For one thing, this Laborfest has long had its act together, with a huge outpouring of volunteers to professionally keep things humming.

There's heavy advance involvement, extensive planning, and entertainment, games and prizes to attract families whether union members or not.

This is the 30th year Laborfest has anchored itself at the lakefront (noon to 5 p.m., Maier Festival Park, aka the Summerfest grounds).

There are corporate sponsors happy to help, some with their own special displays during Laborfest. Dozens of unions have contributed troops and money. Many will sport the special Labor Day T-shirts that also will be on sale on the grounds.

Other reasons for heavy attention deal with the "troubles." It sure looks like the media will pay higher notice to this Laborfest because of the rifts within the AFL-CIO. There may be some pundit nonsense about unions putting on a "brave face" and there may well be more thoughtful analysis wondering



Ringmaster for Laborfest, Sheila Cochran now expands such duties for the entire MCLC.

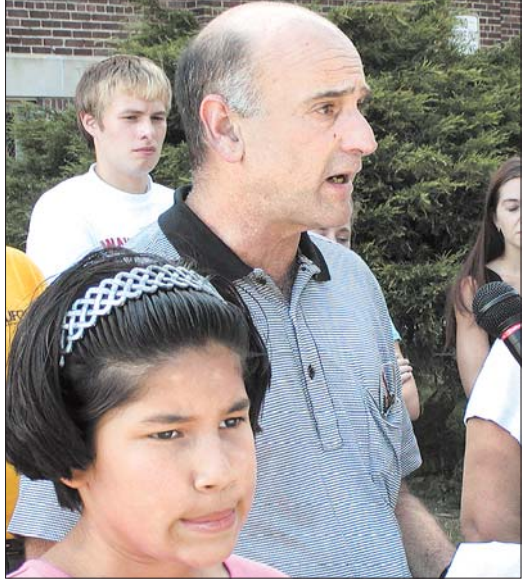
what will happen to America's middle class if unions continue to lose organizing strength or weaken their political clout.

Reporters probably will hear some talk about the national rifts when unions start gathering in the early morning at labor's own downtown park, Zeidler Union Square, 4th and Michigan, to line up people, machinery, politicians and civic partners for the 11 a.m. march to the lakefront.

Let's hope they also notice that virtually all the unions of Milwaukee will be in the parade, affiliated or not, as comrades in celebration and fun -- not to mention close colleagues, since so-called rival unions have worked together for years on local community issues.

They may also note the flood of politicians who will understand that, while some rules of the game may be changing,

**Laborfest** continued **Page 14**



Departing MCLC President John Goldstein continues speaking out for unions, as he did Aug. 10, joining children at Neeskara School to urge a boycott of Wal-Mart as a back to school destination.

## Passion for partnerships lures Goldstein away

**C**ommunity alliances have become a passion of John Goldstein. The seed was planted long before others saw that organized labor would not be strong enough on its own to change communities for the better -- that it had to reach out, understand and accommodate groups with similar values in support of working families and struggling neighborhoods.

Even as a bus driver and then president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998, he saw the power of getting riders to join

**Goldstein** continued **Page 7**



# LABOR DAY GREETINGS



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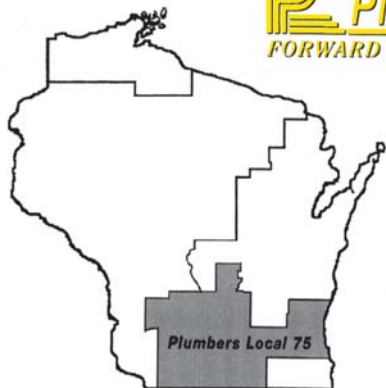
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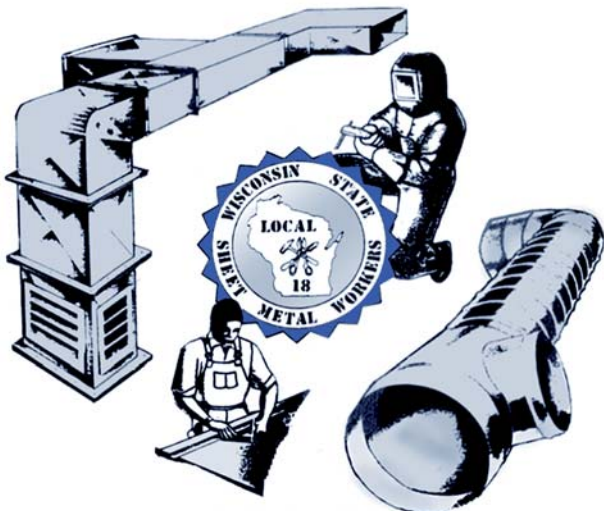


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# Labor Day

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COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA



# Opposites attract in campaign for Zeidler portrait

There's a story behind every good portrait. But there's a doozie behind the recent portrait of Milwaukee's last Socialist mayor, Frank Zeidler, created by the old Milwaukee Sentinel's most famous editorial cartoonist, Thomas Pelham Curtis.

In terms of political spectrum, it sounded weird. Zeidler's lifelong support of issues of social justice, the United Nations and liberal causes puts him way at the opposite end of the political landscape from the old Sentinel's editorial vision, which Curtis' cartoons certainly made

memorable.

But it turned out that Curtis is a big fan of Zeidler. It also turns out the two men hit it off. So while Curtis to this point may be best known for oil-on-canvas of Ronald Reagan, William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and William F. Buckley, it could be the portrait he created for Zeidler's 92nd birthday last year that may become his best known Milwaukee work.

Groundwork has been laid and a campaign is underway to

purchase and frame the portrait and display it in a Milwaukee public building, such as the downtown library or the city office building across from City Hall (not so coincidentally named the Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building). Curtis has kept his cost low, so it will take only about \$3,000 to buy, frame and mount the portrait and hold a suitable reception and publicity for it.

The campaign is being led by Phil Blank, retired member of AFT Local 212, with big support

from the Wisconsin Labor History Society, which has also named its essay contests in honor of Milwaukee's 1948-1960 mayor.

Donations are tax deductible in checks made out to Wisconsin Labor History Society with the notation "Zeidler Portrait Fund."

The Wisconsin Labor History Society address is 313 E. Plainfield Ave., Milwaukee WI 53207.

Call Blank at (414) 873-6359 for more information.



An effort is well underway to find major public space for this portrait of Frank Zeidler, honored Socialist mayor, painted by Thomas Curtis, the old Sentinel's conservative political cartoonist.

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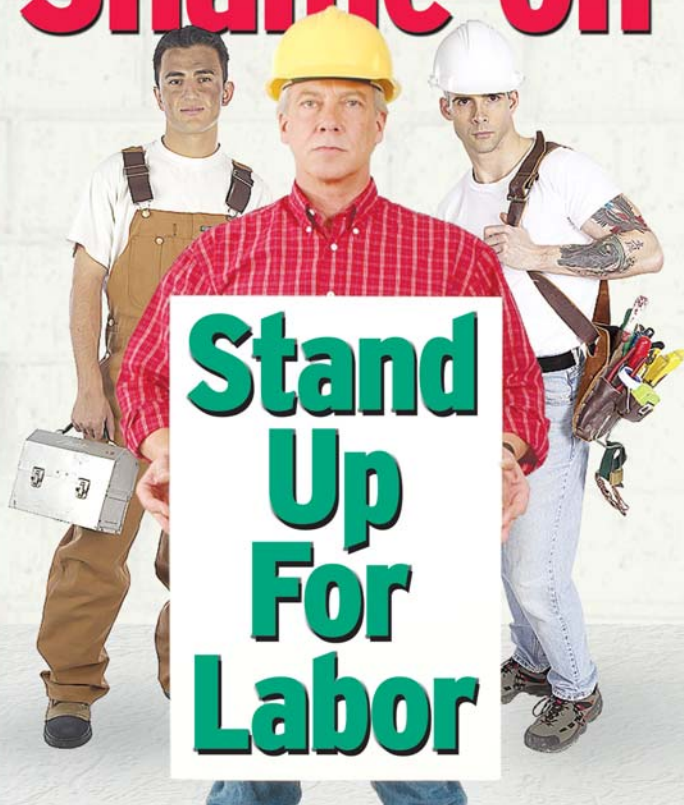
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- Milwaukee County Labor Council, Community Services
- Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 998
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# Shame on Roundy's



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Organizer Annie Wacker (below) cast a wary eye lest the doors to the basement cafeteria at St. Benedict the Moor's at 9th and State open too early. Not to worry. Her three dozen helpers, including a rotisserie of brat-grilling labor leaders, were well prepared (right). And the Community Service cookout once again served more than 450 homeless and hungry guests with donated and purchased food and labor volunteers.



## United Way ready to kick in

**G**irding to fight hunger, disease, poverty and the neglected elderly and disabled, the labor community brings a lot of tools to the battlefield: volunteers, workplace campaigns and money. All are about to head into the newest United Way campaign to help our community.

Yes, Labor Matters, which is also the theme for organized labor as the AFL-CIO Community Services team of the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO opens the

doorway with a motivational night of food and fun. The launch this year is 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, with food and mutual commitment for the annual United Way Labor Kick-Off Rally at the Four Points Sheraton.

Flying in to serve as guest speaker is Jordan L. Biscardo of the AFL-CIO Community Services and vice president of the United Way of America's Department of Labor Participation.

Tickets are \$35 a person (or save money by ordering a table of 10 for \$300). Those checks are also payable to Labor Community@ Work, care of AFL-CIO Community Services, MCLC, Suite 106, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214.

The MCLC labor liaisons and United Way are also helping citizens understand more what

the United Way does. For two weeks, citizens can see firsthand by participating in the Days of Caring, September 12-23. Under this program, community agencies open their doors for those who want to provide meaningful service.

To participate, contact your MCLC Community Services Liaisons, (414) 771-9828, or [dougafcio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dougafcio@sbcglobal.net)

There is also still time (until Sept. 9) to recognize all those hard-working union members who hide their community light under a bushel. At the Kick-Off, the organizers give out the annual Werner J. Schaefer Labor/United Way award, named for an active leader of both the labor and charity community. Nominations for the award (including a list of accomplishments and a photo that will be returned) can be submitted to the above address.

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## AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO  
 633 S. HAWLEY ROAD MILWAUKEE, WI 53214

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# Tower, Sara Lee set stage for plant closings here

Two more likely closings of manufacturing plants, involving the nationally-known names of Tower Automotive and Sara Lee, struck Milwaukee in mid-August, likely to throw more than 250 principally union workers on the street by October.

The one closing that might not be Tower. That sounds curious because, to the union community, Tower has been under a lingering death-watch all year. But stubbornly and devotedly, the unions there have battled to extend the worklife and assure full con-

tractual benefits of their members. It's been nothing but downhill since Tower Automotive took over the giant north side acreage from A. O. Smith eight years ago. At that point, there were more than 3,500 workers. Today there are a couple of hundred.

The frame line for Dodge Rams left this year for a Mexican plant that Tower partly owns. The remaining truck line for Ford Rangers is the last standing.

The unions at Tower continue to fight. Since labor-management discussions continued as we went to press, there is still some uncer-

tainty. Once again, as it did two years ago to wring major concessions from the Milwaukee labor force, Tower management is threatening to move the remaining Ford work to Ohio this fall. Management wants more concessions still.

On Aug. 12, Tower took the formal step toward laying off the workers. As required under the 60-day notice law, it filed a letter with the Department of Workforce Development, telling the state that 154 workers would be indefinitely laid-off, the majority departing Oct. 14-27.

Tower held out the caveat that layoffs might be delayed if production demands required, a nod to the continuing talks and the uncertainty at Ford, but 151 union workers were still put on notice of departure.

Among those affected by the letter are 117 members of Smith Steel Workers (DALU Local 19806), 20 members of District 10, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), six members of Electrical Workers Local 663 (IBEW), six members of the Technical Engineers Association and two members of Local 601, United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry.

Tower has also filed for bank-

ruptcy protection against its creditors and is clearly pressing ahead with outsourcing. "It's really all over," said one union leader close to the situation. "It's more a matter of months depending on what Smith Steel Workers can do across the table."

New life is emerging at the site, but quite a different life. A municipal Department of Public Works facility is already going up within the vast acreage (along Capitol Dr. from 27th to 35th streets) and other plants are locating there. Undecided at this point are the fates of the noted Tower office building and the historical Smith Steel Workers hall across the street from company headquarters.

On Aug. 16, Sara Lee told the state it would stop baking in Milwaukee, closing its plant at 918 W. Somers St. in mid-September and ending jobs here no later than Oct. 15.

More than 100 employees, principally union but some management, are affected.

The machinists (IAMAW) are hit again, losing a handful of jobs in this closing. Also affected is Teamsters Local 344 (drivers for the plant). But most heavily hit is BCTGM Local 205. That's the Baker, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers union, AFL-

CIO, representing the production workers at the plant.

There had been rumors that Sara Lee might close the plant, but the notice apparently took many workers by surprise.

The Sara Lee Baking Group says it is ending bread and bun production here because of over-capacity and its desire to "more efficiently serve" supermarkets. Among its brands are Country Hearth, D'Italiano and Healthy Choice.

It will transfer production to other facilities in the Midwest, it said. The unions here, the company pointed out, have no bumping rights, so jobs will not be open for transplanting.

## Calendar

**Tuesday, August 30**  
Laborfest Planning Committee, 5 p.m.  
Assembly Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

**Wednesday, August 31**  
MCLC Executive Board meeting, 3 p.m.  
MBCT, 5941 W. Bluemound Road

**Monday September 5**  
Don't Miss Laborfest!  
Parade 11 a.m.  
Festival from Noon to 5 p.m.  
See stories on Pages 14, 16.

**Wednesday, September 7**  
Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma

**Friday, September 16**  
Labor Cabinet  
Hmong/American Friendship Association  
8-9 a.m., 3824 W. Vliet St.  
For participation, call (414) 771-9830

**Thursday, September 22**  
Labor Kick-Off Rally  
for United Way Campaign  
6 p.m., Four Points Sheraton



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*Labor Day Greetings*



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# Labor Day



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a day to renew the fight for all that others have gained for us,  
a day to determine what we want to leave for others.*

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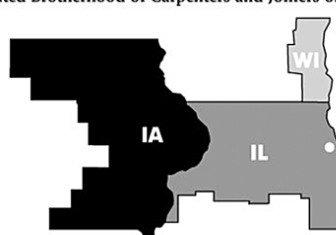
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## Happy Labor Day

FROM USW LOCALS  
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**P.A.C.E. IS NOW UNITED STEEL WORKERS**



# Goldstein

From Page 1

with union workers to get things done.

The passion and innovation grew at the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO, first for a term as secretary-treasurer and then for six years as president.

Goldstein is an acknowledged pioneer in combining community groups in workable precise missions to improve the city across the economic and social divides.

Such efforts were hardly unnoticed. On Sept. 1 he will resign his seat as president to become the national program director for a partnership that seeks to forge labor and community alliances in urban areas throughout the country.

The California Partnership for Working Families combines foundation funding, labor and

religious partners and many other groups in broad community alliances. Having clearly made a positive difference in California's municipal and state legislation and community benefits, it now wants to expand its concept across the country.

Goldstein will lead that effort. As part of that effort, the group's name is changing to simply the Partnership for Working Families.

The Partnership's leaders first approached Goldstein last June after hearing him talk about the methods and successes of the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition in Milwaukee, which brought together more than 25 groups and the labor community and succeeded in establishing community benefits for much of the emerging Park East development.

What Goldstein did here dovetails perfectly with what the Partnership hopes to explore and

## More coverage of the AFL-CIO changes on Pages 10, 11

establish in US communities -- extensive organizing, research and policy development, a commitment to real economic development and family-supporting jobs rather than just developer profits.

The nature of the work will allow Goldstein to live in Milwaukee and, he hopes, not be flying around all of the time.

Even if it's only between arrivals and departures, expect him to remain quite visible in Milwaukee, given his energy and lifelong labor friendships.

Goldstein has literally never met a rally he didn't like. He's

been indefatigable in attending protests, strikes, forums, political meetings, planning committees, corporate gatherings and legislative conferences.

That, of course, was when he didn't have a phone glued to his ear as he typed an email message. Or when he wasn't helping to haul equipment to the union booth at the State Fair, or to Laborfest, or volunteering to unload a truck or drive a delegation to the Madison legislature.

Goldstein probably has a union card for every activity. He worked in a laundry, as a cab driver and as a machine operator before joining the ATU.

As council president, Goldstein forged alliances with the United Way, whose board he sat on, with business/labor com-

mittees, with the religious community, with environmental activists, with educators and much more.

Goldstein said it was "the labor council that allowed me to work with scores of unions and thousands of members on a daily basis."

"I am very proud of what we have accomplished together: supporting organizing, mobilizing for economic justice and building a strong member-to-member political operation."

Unquestionably, he is looking forward to his new national role, but Goldstein's Milwaukee labor roots were much on his mind as he was leaving, and "I look forward to all of us continuing to work together for many years to come."

## A glimpse inside Goldstein's departure

Visibly holding her emotions in check, Secretary Treasurer Sheila Cochran did more than explain disaffiliation to the MCLC delegates Aug. 3. She emphasized her determination to get through the "current difficulties" to a stronger labor council. And she candidly revealed some discussions going on behind the scenes for months -- discussions that helped clarify the timing of John Goldstein's departure as president.

Recalling how Goldstein has asked her to join him on the officers' ballot six years ago, Cochran said, "I'm not sure I've ever sufficiently thanked him for that opportunity." Then she added:

"It's no secret that we are both strong personalities and I don't think anyone in this room would be surprised to know we've had our difficulties over the years."

But then she described how, months ago in conversation, both had seen the same emerging prob-

lem. The handwriting was on the wall that the dispute among unions would lead to disaffiliation and hence reduce members and revenue for the Milwaukee council.

Both were devoted to keeping it strong. "And we both had the same determination of how we might keep the labor council from suffering by coming down to one full time officer and save the cost of one salary (to balance) lost income."

Goldstein had the ATU to fall back on, "and I had 26 years on the line at UAW, and aside from that we both knew there were other jobs out there," Cochran said.

"John was offered something he loved doing, thankfully, and it also solved our problem."

"I have to take this moment to compliment him deeply -- not just for the new opportunities awaiting him but for continuing to think of all of us."

-- Dominique Paul North



Goldstein bids farewell to the MCLC delegates at the Aug. 3 meeting in Serb Hall.



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# Unions move against Wackenhut on multiple fronts

Frustrated by efforts over a dozen years to create better security and response for Milwaukee County bus riders and operators, the union for the drivers has proposed the bus system end its \$1.15 million annual contract with Wackenhut, the nation's second largest private security firm, and turn the money and the responsibility over to the Milwaukee Sheriff's Department in 2006.

County Board supervisors will weigh the proposal in September. The Amalgamated Transit Union and the sheriff's department are currently working out details that would require an absolute commitment of numbers and deputy hours by Sheriff David Clarke.

Meanwhile, Wackenhut is facing a global campaign by another union, SEIU, to open up its company to union representation and start providing real benefits and respectable pay to its on-the-line workers.

Critics complain that Wackenhut is charging private and government agencies far in excess of what its employees actually take home in wages and benefits.

ATU's research into the Wackenhut bus contract dovetails with those complaints, as Wackenhut bills the county transit system from \$21.19 to \$39.46 an hour while guards are listed as getting as little as \$12 an hour with no employer-paid health insurance, sick pay or pension, union researchers say.

Wackenhut, also a leader in creating private prisons, is particularly exploiting African American communities with its

poverty-level wages, said an SEIU spokesman. "They're relieving off our country's social problems and creating more of the same problems," he said. The union's July 13 downtown protest at Wackenhut headquarters was joined by delegates from the NAACP convention and representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Last December, Wackenhut and Vance Security firms in memory to be placed on the AFL-CIO's national "do not patronize" list because of what union leaders have documented: A fierce resistance to organizing, a lack of training as well as decent pay for its domestic guards and security personnel, and a willingness to operate as strikebreaking forces.

Both companies, through their various international ownerships and incorporated names, are involved in a range of domestic and global security contracts, from Los Angeles to Iraq, many using taxpayer money.

In Milwaukee, Wackenhut has held the transit security contract through MTAS, the private company that operates county bus routes with taxpayer money. The concerns of the nearly 900 drivers at the Amalgamated Transit Union escalated last February when there was a shooting death on a bus plus a rash of complaints about rowdy and disruptive behavior on a few of the routes.

The Milwaukee bus system, praised as one of the most efficient in the nation, is also under



SEIU's Sasha Gorman brought his kids. The labor coalition brought NAACP delegates. All marched around Wackenhut Security's Wisconsin Ave. headquarters July 13 to protest its wages, exploitation of minorities and resistance to worker voice at work.

tremendous financing pressure as it seeks to share county property tax with everyone from the parks to the courts. County supervisors will be looking at new funding ideas for the transit system about the same time as the security proposal hits their desks.

Wackenhut, the bus drivers say, puts only two-thirds of its listed personnel on the street and also uses county-owned space, vehicles and communications to operate. While some of its security personnel are retired law enforcement officers with appropriate skills, the bus drivers say, the low pay and lack of benefits have cut heavily into quality, longevity, dedication and professionalism.

The sheriff's deputies have the skill and knowledge plus the efficient communications system to respond to problems, said Richard Riley, president of ATU Local 998.

Supervisors say they are interested in the union proposal because it could be cost-efficient and would return to county supervision a service that has

specific programs or removed funding for Clarke go his own way.

So they would want real numbers and a guarantee from the sheriff of forces devoted to bus security.

The ATU is also insisting on that. In protecting transit facilities and responding to driver concerns on routes in the new proposal, they are asking the sheriff's office to specify the number of deputies devoted to such service and the specific days and hours of coverage. The union also wants ongoing feedback on how the security is working.

The union has held meetings not just with the sheriff's representatives but with James White, District 1 supervisor who is also chairman of the County Board's Committee on Transportation, Public Works and Transit. White says he has called on the parties to put the concept into legislative form by September "so that supervisors can sponsor it."

Last year the county transit system handled 57 routes, 479 busses and 46.6 million riders. Bus drivers make up nearly 70% of its employees.

In addition to the county transit contract, Wackenhut handles other government security contracts in Milwaukee, including City Hall and the Central Public Library.

SEIU's nationwide effort to organize Wackenhut will be an uphill battle, say officials at the National Labor Relations Board. Seeing a potential conflict for employers, the NLRB has barred the same union that has non-guard employees at a concern from also organizing the security force.

There is also a ruling affecting Wackenhut that any union with non-guard employees, such as SEIU, cannot be certified by the NLRB unless Wackenhut voluntarily accepts the union — and even then, Wackenhut might be able to withdraw its recognition down the road, NLRB officials said.

All this is taking place as global terrorism escalates attention to security on transit systems. The ATU proposal here was already in place in July when the Department of Homeland Security, responding to bombings in London, urged all cities in the US to get a handle on security practices in urban transit systems. -- D.P.N.



been privatized out. The county and its taxpayers have been burned badly of late by the trend toward privatization.

The sheriff's deputies also back this idea, said that union's president, Roy Felber.

The hang-up, some supervisors say privately, may not be policy but personality. Sheriff Clarke's most recent excursions into the negative spotlight are old news to many of the supervisors, who have put funding in for

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# Now patrolling union beat

The sheriff that almost was - and that many today wish had been -- was sworn in Aug. 3 as a new delegate to the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO.

Peter J. Misko, retired Milwaukee County Sheriffs Department inspector, has accepted the job of new business agent for Local 18 of the stagehands union (formally International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators of the United States and Canada).

To say he brings deep knowledge of how the community works and leadership qualities to the job may be an understatement.

Misko, not only past president of the Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs Supervisor's Association, has held virtually every training and leadership position in the sheriff's department -- except sheriff.

He was the most experienced candidate on the books when Republican Gov. Scott McCallum, in one of his final shots at Milwaukee, appointed David Clarke to the post vacated by retirement, and Clarke ran on the Democratic ticket while refusing to become a Democrat. In the election game, he borrowed a page from a Republican county exec and sought to tie Misko to

unhappiness over the pension issue.

It worked. As one county official now says, "It took years for the public to see Clarke's self-aggrandizement and tendency to blame others."

Misko isn't looking back (though right now it is hard for the public not to, given how Clarke keeps making headlines). He and the stagehands' union believe his deep connections

within the community and his negotiating and management experience will create better relationships and cooperation between labor and management in Milwaukee's entertainment sectors.

The stagehands' union has contracts throughout the area, from the Milwaukee Theatre over to the Pabst Theater, and some tough negotiating days ahead. Now, it seems, they have the lawman on their side.



Peter Misko (center) is sworn in as an MCLC delegate Aug. 3.

## Cochran will join panel on Supreme Court nominee

The effort to understand John Roberts is not limited to the US Senate, which holds confirmation hearings within weeks for President George Bush's first nominee to the Supreme Court. Leaving aside the extremists on both sides, there is growing curiosity among the public - who is this guy and what will he do?

It is, of course, no surprise that Bush would pick a conservative for the bench. But recall that not just Antonin Scalia (Reagan appointee) Clarence Thomas (first Bush) and Shorewood's William Rehnquist (Nixon) were deemed conservatives when nominated. So was Sandra Day O'Connor (Reagan), whose retirement announcement started this process. So actually were

John Paul Stevens (Ford), Anthony Kennedy (Reagan) and even David Souter (first Bush).

Events and realities change some justices. For Roberts, the uncertainty swims around whether he has an open mind within a strong judicial philosophy or whether he is a closet judicial activist out to change precedent.

Closet judicial activist is a deliberate term, incidentally, since many court observers would admit that those preaching strict US Constitution adherence have actually displayed more judicial activism than so-called liberal members, even as the conservatives grow in numbers on the federal judiciary.

So this is an issue that transcends simplistic labels and

knee-jerk expectations.

What Roberts is and holds for the future particularly intrigues Marquette Law Professor Scott Moss.

He is putting together a panel from progressives and other organizations to raise the issues of importance to them and maybe even predict Roberts' future direction in such areas as reproductive rights, environment, commerce, labor and so forth.

"Probably none of the organizations represented have taken an official pro/con position on the Roberts nomination right now," noted Moss, "but it's fair to say that all are 'concerned' about both the Roberts record and the unwillingness of the White House to allow further inquiry into that somewhat

sparse record."

One of Moss' first choices for the panel was Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer of the MCLC.

The event is free and open to the public. It will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, at Marquette Law School, 1103 W. Wisconsin Ave, in a room to be posted at the door.

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# Delegates

From Page 1

been in the works since mid-June.

The sole remaining full-time officer of the council, Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran, will now take charge of all council operations, working with an executive board that may require new members. The council's by-laws committee met this month to figure out the details.

Willie D. Ellis will remain a part-time officer as he moves from vice president to acting president. Goldstein, who has been known to unwind a sizeable speech or two, joked that the delegates may be getting a bargain since Ellis is noted for brevity. Ellis, a business representative and organizer for the Operating Engineers, in his turn pledged that he would make himself available to Cochran for whatever she needed.

The president of the state AFL-CIO, David Newby, also spoke to the delegates, indicating full support for what they had heard from Goldstein and Cochran about building a stronger labor movement in Wisconsin and not be diverted by the current and hopefully brief dispute.

Leaders of the three disaffiliating unions attended the meeting at Serb Hall as respected guests, though none spoke.

The AFL-CIO leaders who did speak emphasized their sorrow to a hushed room, but they also pointed out that the national leaders of the departing unions knew the rules of the road and the requirements of AFL-CIO

constitutions and by-laws long before they chose to disaffiliate.

"It's important to remember that no one got thrown out" of the labor council, Cochran reminded the delegates. "They chose to leave and we must figure out the consequences."

Local and state labor councils were created under AFL-CIO rules. Some of their programs and projects are inextricably intertwined with the staff, communications structure and money of the national AFL-CIO.

These labor councils are funded by locals through a separate per-capita assessment. Their national unions pay directly for participation in the national AFL-CIO. Disaffiliation, by rule, ended both of those avenues -- you never could fully belong locally if you didn't belong nationally.

That's never prevented the MCLC from working for all unions, though paying fully participating unions always got preference.

In Milwaukee there are AFL-CIO locals that are not part of the MCLC and there are unaffiliated unions that could never join. MCLC has historically worked closely to help such groups in bargaining disputes and to listen to them and invite them in on crucial social and political issues.

The nonaffiliated unions have always known there were limits, to what they could do as affiliates or as delegates, or serve on the committee that chooses political candidates, or take direct part in political mobilization.

By becoming unaffiliated -- by ceasing to pay the national assessment and asking that their

member names be removed from the coordinated national membership lists -- SEIU, the Teamsters and UFCW knew they were stepping into that unaffiliated world.

Cochran, reading from her letter to all delegates, spoke of her "regret and difficulty" but also why it was imperative to comply with the national and local AFL-CIO constitutions and directives.

The Solidarity Charter category does open a new avenue. See opposite page.

It takes advantage of constitutional language that allows the national executive council to create special categories of membership.

If the new category called Solidarity Charters is approved and has appeal, any departing local can return to the fold of its state or local labor councils.

But for now, the old rules produce an immediate loss of foot soldiers and revenue. Milwaukee is in much better shape than other federations -- in California, the result at some labor councils was an immediate loss of 60% of the members.

But at the MCLC, the loss of the three unions reduced the active dues-paying membership from about 47,000 to 42,000, according to preliminary estimates. The current Milwaukee monthly per-cap is under \$1.

With about 225,000 paying members, Newby said, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO will lose about 8%.

Cochran also warned the delegates that "there is another shoe out there" -- the other AFL-CIO unions that have publicly sided with SEIU, UFCW and the Teamsters in the Change to Win coalition.

As we went to press, UNITE HERE had not taken action on disaffiliation. The Laborers and the United Farm Workers had not spoken to the issue and the Carpenters have actually been disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO since 2001.

Goldstein and Newby separately recounted their efforts at national gatherings to reconcile

the disputes, and both believe the recent national AFL-CIO convention in Chicago succeeded in bringing more recognition and voice to state and local labor councils.

The Solidarity Charter concept certainly supports that view. So do several changes voted by the AFL-CIO to compensate local labor councils for losses stemming from disaffiliation and offer protection against one union trying to raid another's organizing effort or existing locals.

That raiding specter has not raised its head in Milwaukee, and delegates from the floor and speakers at the podium pleaded for all unions to keep cool and mutually supportive.

After all, common goals and philosophies still dominate organized labor.

For instance, the national AFL-CIO and the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) remain joined at the hip in a national campaign against Wal-Mart's practices. See story page 18.

Unions in both camps have jointly told the Democratic Party that the 15 Democrats in the House who voted for CAFTA will be denied union support and money that got several elected. See story page 27.

Even the Iraq war, and the need to support US soldiers by bringing them home quickly and support Iraqi democracy by guaranteeing worker rights, has found the national AFL-CIO in basic agreement with USLAW, a coalition of many unions on all sides of the current dispute.

Some of the questions from delegates Aug. 3 were plaintive requests for guidance on how they should treat the disaffiliating unions and continue to work with each other.

Cochran assured delegates that the plans for Laborfest, both parade and party, will remain unchanged for this year.

Some of the ways to move ahead, both she and Newby indicated, still have to be worked out, but many of the crucial MCLC partnerships remain

untouched -- such as United Way involvement and contributions to the nonprofit charity arm of the MCLC, LaborCommunity@Work. The relationships still to be defined involve political mobilization, communication services (some of which might be possible on a pay as you go basis) and intrinsic involvement in MCLC campaigns.

In a "courtesy" letter to delegates, state SEIU council leader Dian Palmer called a "vibrant and effective local labor council ... an absolutely essential instrument" in the view of her Service Employees International Union. In fact, all the disaffiliated unions stressed the importance of the MCLC by offering to continue to pay per-caps.

However well intentioned, that offer backfired on a public relations level. AFL-CIO locals balked, saying they associated jumping in and out of such payments "on your own hook" as symbolic of an "open shop" world, which the dissident unions would strongly oppose in the work place.

National union leaders in both camps received a blunt street-language salvo at the delegate meeting from Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council.

Pointing out his deep working and personal ties, plus contractual unity, with such unions as the Carpenters, the Teamsters and the Laborers, Balistreri said, "I'm not turning my back on anyone. It is imperative to work together to have good, smooth relationships, because we on the local level are the real people in this dispute."

"These national union leaders are" jerks, said Balistreri, or words to that effect. "They're supposed to be top-notch negotiators -- that's why they got up high. That grown men and women can't sit down together and find a way out of a disagreement that no one in the rank and file really understands -- that disgusts me."

"And sometime down the road when these big guys suddenly decide to make nice and kiss up -- and make no mistake, someday they will as if nothing had happened -- it will be up to us at the local level who will have to make this work, as we always have."

"And we'd better make sure we've done nothing in the meantime to make that difficult."

Balistreri drew cheers. Goldstein, Cochran and Newby drew standing ovations.

And there was another warm ovation when Goldstein signaled the deep contributions to the MCLC over many years on the executive board and as chairman of the Community Service Committee by one of the departing disaffiliated -- Dan Welch, president of Local 1444 of the UFCW.

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# Sweeney's 'Solidarity Charters' an olive branch for local return

It was not the locals' fault that their national unions left the AFL-CIO, said John Sweeney Aug. 10 announcing that his executive council would quickly take up the concept of Solidarity Charters to allow these local affiliates to continue working with virtually full privileges in state and central labor councils.

The president of the national AFL-CIO was not alone in getting an earful from unhappy local leaders about the potential fallout from disenfranchising local activists.

Andy Stern at the SEIU, Joe Hansen at the UFCW and James Hoffa at the Teamsters were, by all reports, also getting clobbered by angry members who work closely with their AFL-CIO colleagues on the city and state levels. Instantly, in fact, Teamsters' spokesmen welcomed the Solidarity Charters initiatives.

Sweeney was recognizing that much of organized labor's power was not centralized in D.C. but founded on day-to-day cooperation in cities, towns and union halls.

From a political perspective he was also seizing back to the AFL-CIO the role of problem solver in local concerns, putting the issue of "who's cooperating" back on the dissident unions, and answering criticism within the ranks and from national media that organized labor wasn't united on core principles.

His plan, which no one doubts the AFL-CIO executive council will approve, adjusts existing AFL-CIO rules to make it possible for local cooperation and payments to continue in the face of national disaffiliation. It could mean a reversal of the recent sad scene of turning long-time delegates out at the door of



State AFL-CIO President David Newby shares his sadness with the Milwaukee delegates over the disaffiliations.

labor council meetings.

While the Solidarity Charters would currently be limited to recent disaffiliates -- SEIU, UFCW, the Teamsters and the Carpenters -- the concept does open the door for closer connections in the future with long unaffiliated unions such as public school teachers and the UE.

With some fine print, the plan allows departed locals to return to the labor councils they were previously members of, requiring at least the same level of per-capita participation. It adds a 10% "solidarity fee" to their costs. That, too, would be collected by local councils but it would go into the national Solidarity Fund created to protect local councils.

The 10% is far less than the actual cost of national AFL-CIO staff and involvement in labor councils, but it recognizes the national AFL-CIO operations that disaffiliation halts funding for.

Locals that agree to receive a Solidarity Charter from the

national AFL-CIO have full delegate voting power in the local councils they return to.

The main limit is they cannot run for office (in MCLC's case that would be president, vice president and secretary treasurer) but they can run for executive board.

They must also agree to basic solidarity principles -- such as participating in local political mobilization efforts, not raiding other unions for members and supporting other union members on strike.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

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# Joe Rody stopped by **But now Mondays (and Milwaukee) will never be quite the same**

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

Every Monday when he was healthy enough, Joe Rody would drop off the latest edition of People's Weekly World.

Making the rounds of the offices at the Milwaukee County Labor Council, he would point out, item by item, the strong articles on worker injustice (in Guatemala or Kenya or Los Angeles), the latest White House expose, or the economic and political analysis written by a Milwaukee friend.

He would also bring pamphlets or books that pushed issues he thought the editor of the Labor Press should write about: labor history, trade policy, US relations or lack thereof with Cuba.

"You've gotta read this!" he would insist, offering the book as a loan, though he'd actually



Joe Rody in 2004

bought it specifically to leave behind.

Sometimes he would bring along a community leader or worker he thought we should know. Often he would bring in a pear or other organic fruit and insist that I eat it then and there, chatting knowledgeably about the nutritional values and fiber essential to an active, alert life (something he clearly embodied well into his eighties).

His visits to the MCLC were usually right after the standing Monday lunch at Bob E O's on Bluemound Rd. Recently discontinued, that meal for decades had brought together Milwaukee progressives to catch up on their personal lives and discuss ideas.

That was just Mondays. We all knew that on other days Rody had other visits to make, other people to argue with, other office libraries to broaden.

As generations of politicians and community leaders had learned, Rody could be a dogged questioner, impossible to ignore, able to stand alone in a sea of hostile faces. Or he could move sympathetic peers and sometimes himself to tears with his heartfelt response to religious persecution or the plight of Columbia's mine workers.

His oldest passions could forge new passions. One was education, vital to this self-taught

entrepreneur of the Depression.

Just last May, hearing of the financing problems hitting the nonprofit Rethinking Schools, the excellent organization and magazine that explore progressive issues with detailed analysis, Rody brought along Michael Trokan, the nonprofit's business manager, and suggested we urge people to buy such new books as Rethinking Mathematics or subscribe to the magazine to keep [www.rethinkingschools.org](http://www.rethinkingschools.org) going.

Once again he was absolutely right about the importance of Rethinking Schools' survival and shamed his listeners with his own passion despite the growingly visible signs of his illness.

Everything Rody inhaled as a prolific reader seemed to result in a new project. When a book came out about one of his long-time personal heroes, blacklisted actor, singer and rights activist Paul Robeson, he sought advice on how to buy copies for every American history class in the public schools.

It was not just Wisconsin that knew him. When Sen. Paul Wellstone, another liberal hero for Rody, died in a plane crash in 2002, Rody dropped everything to ride to Minnesota, joining both in the sorrow and the new liberal campaign.

Even when he was clearly ill in 2004, he joined a coalition of activists to visit Cuba and Venezuela. He would literally travel the world in support of Pastors for Peace or to oppose bad trade practices.

To say he was a committed leftie was like saying Muhammad Ali could box.

Phil Blank, an AFT retiree and longtime friend, recalls Rody's enthusiasm in 2003 for another hero, Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and how Rody announced to other progressives and radicals that he would join the Democratic Party as a delegate if it would help Kucinich's campaign for president.

To those who knew Rody,

that's a funny story. For him, joining the Democratic Party would be a move to the right.

His father had organized miners in Pennsylvania. His family helped build Milwaukee's sewers as well as its socialist pragmatism. He would bring public meetings to a standstill when he recounted the virtues of the Young Communist League.

The toughness of his arguments, his ability to hold firm whatever the political winds, was an essential part of his character, and the characters of many who were shaped by Depression era Milwaukee.

Yet for six decades he was also a successful businessman employing as many as 60 workers.

There was no contradiction for his generation. Humanitarian values went hand in hand with a work ethic. Self-education went hand in hand with public education. The common man was a fountain of knowledge in intellectual debate. The belief that the government was up to no damn good walked side by side with the hope that government could also do much good.

Joseph Rody Jr. was 14 and a student at West Allis High School when he bought his first Harley for \$40, hoping his Mom wouldn't find out. That began a bike repair business in the 1930s that moved into a wartime machine shop, car mechanics and then sales, all self-taught.

Rody's Auto Sales & Service sold Jeeps after World War II, and sold Nash's before they became part of American Motors. Rody's company morphed into Greenfield Motors, which he sold in the early 1990s.

He then devoted himself full time to the Milwaukee and even the world community. Fluent in his family's Croatian as well as English, Rody for years taught English almost daily to the mostly Latino fifth graders at Escuela Fratney, meanwhile pestering officials for more funding and involvement

He was delighted when the teacher he worked with at Fratney, Bob Peterson, became the centerpiece of one of Rethinking Schools' articles.

In the new century, illness slowed Rody down but never touched his persistence, or dampened such core beliefs as the need for the world to share wealth more equally, to go back to nature for its produce, to leave children a more humane world focused on peace.

Each day he went out to change us. You couldn't shake him. But then, who would want to?

On Aug. 7, Rody died of cancer. He was nearing 87. Survived by his wife, Geri, and his son, Dennis, he requested no service and no memorial.



When running for mayor back in 2004, Tom Barrett made a point to stop by the Monday Bob E O luncheon to push his ideas and hear those of the regulars who had been meeting there for decades. Of course, no politician always liked what he heard from this band. That's Rody, third from the left, waiting for his opening.


  
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# Laborfest

From Page 1

the combined unions of Milwaukee can still turn out better than anyone else.

But "the troubles" we're talking about extend to our economy and to whether workers today, union and non, are being treated with respect and can continue to hang on to the American dream of advancement.

What's happening to wages, health care and attitudes about work affect all the US, and that, too, is bringing added attention to the union movement that brought us the eight-hour day, the laws thwarting child labor and sweatshops in the US and, in fact, the very existence of this nation today.

That, too, may bring more families and retirees out, with their children, to enjoy an event organized labor heavily subsidizes for the entire community.

For visitors, there is no admission charge for all the activity and entertainment. Only food and drink carry a cost (with major Summerfest vendors participating and meal tickets available for purchase from booths on the ground if your local hasn't already bought them in bulk in advance --10 for \$5).

This is not just a festival for

Map, schedule and tips on Page 16

those who have jobs but for families that are juggling.

Along with no-cost entertainment there will be special assistance at the Union Industry Tent and elsewhere to help low-income families. The children's area also gives parents a break as specialists from the Milwaukee Public Schools supervise the playgrounds, the magic shows, the clowns and crafts that continue all afternoon.

For older kids and adults, there is also a pro-wrestling display full of the villains you love to hiss and the professional dives off the ropes.

On the ground there are free raffles for children and adults (toys, meals and hotel packages), and the one paying raffle (ticket \$3, two for \$5) that at 4:30 p.m. gives out hefty cash prizes and the grand prize of a spanking new Harley Sportster.

All the issues surrounding today's labor will also be broadcast during the day. WMCS 1290 will set up its Morning Magazine at the gazebo in Zeidler Park with hosts Keith Murphy and Cassandra. The radio setup is at 5 a.m., about the time Laborfest volunteers will be setting up the



Tell your kids: Show and Tell can work so well that show is often enough. That's the lesson from this year's Union Label Booth at the Wisconsin State Fair. Showing the Harley folks can win at Laborfest no hard sell was needed. Raffle sales doubled this year over last. Showing off the bike one afternoon were booth volunteers (from left) Operating Engineers 139 retirees Leon Horn, Dave Sohns and Don Fredrick and Insulators Local 19 business agent Greg Hart and organizer Bruce Coleman.

grounds. The show then broadcasts from 6 to 10 a.m.

Then, using WMCS' special mobile van, Eric Von will do his afternoon talk show from the Summerfest grounds 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Both shows will chat with union members and special guests. If you have any ideas for

guests or topics, contact the hosts: Keith Murphy at kmurphy@1290wmcs.com or Eric Von at evontalk@cs.com.

### Who's on tap?

For the children, magician Glen Gerard will offer two magic productions on the children's stage, alternating with shows from Ken Head's "Heads

Up Juggling Revue."

Matthew the Magician, alias Matthew Morgan, will do one show on that stage but also perform throughout the children's area.

"Mom the Clown" & Company will provide face painting. "The Pocket Lady" (Kathleen Mohr) will be providing stories and activities. Also setting up in the children's area will be the popular "Castle Bounce" provided by Fun Services.

Look for a Milwaukee Police Department "mascot" and don't be surprised to see units from the Milwaukee Fire Department.

The Miller Stage will jump again to the Spider George and the Web band. Caricaturist Reynaldo will work the sketch stage and his stilt-walker Debra Davis again will stride the parade and grounds.

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# Laborfest nuts & bolts (and wheels and walking shoes)

Herewith a user's guide to probably the cheapest, least-publicized and most homegrown of the professional lakefront festivals:

**5 a.m.** Setup of the grounds begins with an assortment of volunteers.

**8 a.m.** Undeterred by downtown construction, free parking and shuttle service remain for Laborfest, courtesy of Milwaukee transit busses and the professional drivers of ATU Local 998. Check accompanying map for parking lot and main points.

**9 a.m.** Take a moment for thanks. As is tradition, an Ecumenical Prayer Service will formally kick off Laborfest at 9 a.m. at the Postal Workers Hall, 417 N. 3rd St., two blocks from Zeidler Park at 4th and Michigan.

It's open to the public, provides coffee and donuts and is brief, providing ample time for participants to still mingle at Zeidler Park and get in line for the parade.

**9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Harley motorcycles and vintage cars must be in place by 9:30 a.m., as must the tons of construction machinery, floats and trucks, flatbeds and union road warriors that help make the parade a special window into the world of Milwaukee work. By 10 a.m., those on foot should be at Zeidler Park to find their own union units to march with.

Look for a new parade marshal. In fact, you're unlikely to miss him. Duane McConville, retired Smith Steel Worker and retired member of the executive board of the MCLC, will assume those duties this year. Don't rain on his parade or question his commands.

**11 a.m.** See map for route. The parade is off, led by the Harley riders and vintage American-made cars. More than 100 units will follow, flying union banners, pushing children in strollers, loading wagons with retirees and children and spotlighting some remarkable behemoths of construction.

Near the front will be the police band. In the middle will be the traveling show-tunes orchestra of the Milwaukee Musicians Union. There will be special guest units from the Latino community, the senior citizens, Citizen Action of Wisconsin and more. Try to spot the politicians, who often walk with a supportive local.

This is as always the one parade where participants are expected to be far greater than observers, but observers have a treat, too -- several treats, as several unions are wont to through candy into the crowd.

**Noon to 5 p.m.** The party. The special speaker at the Miller Stage at 1 p.m. is scheduled to be one of labor's podium dynamos and the national leader

in efforts to fight bad trade agreements and keep American jobs strong. He is Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the national AFL-CIO.

The speaker will be followed by an afternoon of rockin' dance music from popular and eclectic Spider George and the Web, a Laborfest favorite. The music continues until the 4:30 p.m. announcement of raffle winners.

(Participants in the free raffles have to be there to win. The Harley raffle winners will be notified if not present.)

**5 p.m.** Laborfest closes with extensive cleanup operations -- and the chief sponsor, the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO, is still looking for volunteers. Call Robin at (414) 771-7070.

WMCS 1290 will continue its broadcast from the Summerfest grounds until 6 p.m.



The flatbed truck stops and jerks. It wheels around corners. But once again on Sept. 5, Laborfest parade watchers can marvel how the volunteer orchestra of the Milwaukee Musicians Local 8 never seems to miss a note as it plays an assortment of show and pop tunes.

## LEAVE THE DRIVING TO THEM

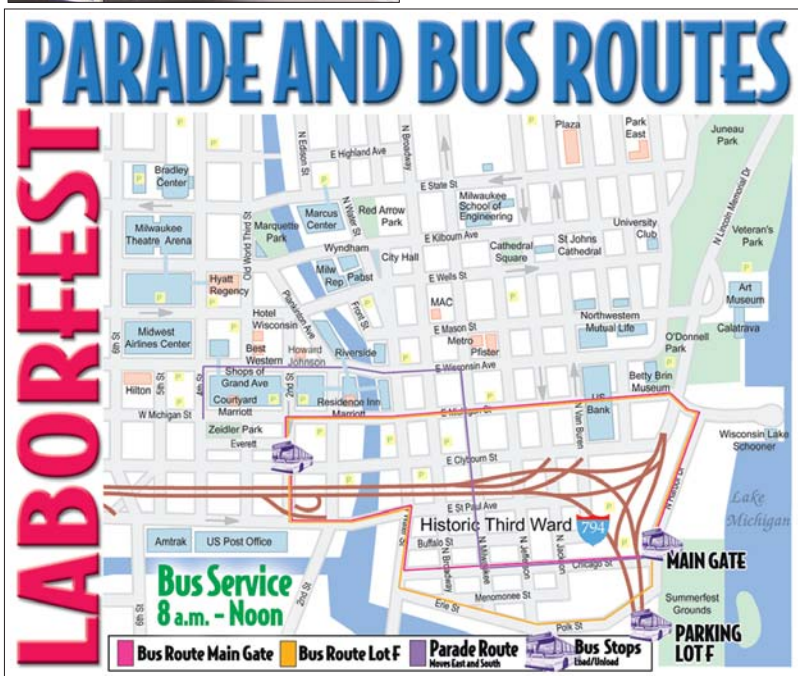
Volunteer bus drivers from ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union) Local 998 will provide continuous free shuttles from the free parking at Lot F near Summerfest, and from the main gate, to Downtown's Zeidler park from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, September 5, as part of Laborfest.

The busses in our map pinpoint the pickup and dropoff spots.

Assembly for the parade starts at 9:30 a.m. at Zeidler Park. The parade itself kicks off at 11 a.m., traveling north on 4th St. from Michigan Ave. to Wisconsin Ave.

Then it heads east on Wisconsin Ave., turns south on Milwaukee St. and then east again on Chicago Ave. directly into the Summerfest grounds.

— Base map courtesy of Milwaukee Key Magazine  
Laborfest design by Port Publications



## Stuff to look for

**The Buckets Return:** The WE Energies bucket trucks will take you high in the air, courtesy of Electrical Workers Local 2150. The IBEW local will ask for a \$1 donation to the Hunger Task Force.

**Food Stamp Outreach:** Near the Union Industry Tent, look for the custom-fitted Milwaukee County van that promotes the food stamp program, now known as FoodShare Wisconsin, and takes applications for federal and state assistance.

Sponsored by AFSCME District Council 48, whose members operate the outreach program for the county's Department of Health and Human Services, the van normally travels Milwaukee's needy neighborhoods as a "mobile benefits issuance vehicle." It has work stations for four employees plus a waiting area for applicants. Now you can tell any food-stamp-eligible family that Laborfest is the place to go to get on board.

**Sketch Artists:** The amazing Reynaldo and his extended family of artists will once again set up shop to create instant caricatures of anyone who wants them. Be prepared to have your secret personality exposed with a few deft strokes.

**Don't Forget the Old Favorites:** Bingo will be going full blast. Vintage cars will be on display at the north end of the grounds. Magic and clown shows will continue all afternoon for the children.

Volunteers mann (and womann) the food ticket booths, so be nice to these folks who curtail their own fun so you can have yours.

Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran and staff and volunteers will be in constant walkie-talkie and golf cart communication.

Expect some surprise visitors and some special awards.



# Celebrating 30 Years of LaborFest

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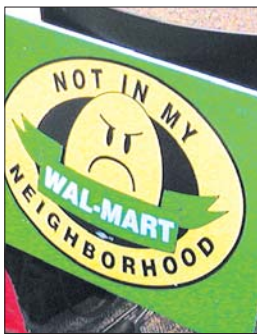


**It all starts at 11:00 a.m. with a parade from Zeidler Park  
in Downtown Milwaukee to the Summerfest Grounds**



Not in our neighborhood became "Not for Our Schools" as community groups joined nationwide in August to protest Wal-Mart's business practices and attempts to generate Back to School sales.

Below, Darcy Haber of Citizen Action of Wisconsin spoke as Milwaukee Public Schools board member Peter Blewett (center) listened. But around the nation Aug. 10 it was the schoolchildren at the mikés who stole the show.



# Children don't spare the rod

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

**F**rom Boston to Chicago, from Seattle to Milwaukee, schoolchildren clearly spent part of their summer doing homework on Wal-Mart.

The most interesting thing about the rallies in 35 cities, urging boycotts of Wal-Mart as a destination for back to school purchases, was the kids.

Yes, the rallies were carefully orchestrated to the same day and message nationwide. The adult organizers even created the big poster report cards giving Wal-Mart an F.

But if you attended the event here, and if you read news coverage of the rallies in the dozens of other cities, it became clear that the children who spoke were not just spoon-feeding back what unions had told them.

They had Googled their way through the giant retailer's practices. They had read up on the history of the company and the abundant lawsuits it faces.

They were particularly bothered by the number of child labor law violations filed against Wal-Mart. Aloud, they were worried that children their own age in far away sweatshops were making the clothes Wal-Mart

wanted them to wear back to school. By so secretive about the location and conditions at the factories of its Asian and Latin American importers?

**T**he second most interesting thing — but clearly of first concern to the retailer — was the heavy involvement of teachers.

It was the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association in Milwaukee outside Neeskara Elementary School, but in other cities the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers had joined the AFL-CIO and the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) and even led the protests, bringing along with them local, state and federal elected officials.

The teacher presence particularly miffed Wal-Mart, which issued a press release attacking their involvement even before the rallies took place.

Wal-Mart, perhaps to compensate for the estimated \$2.5 billion it has cost US taxpayers in subsidizing its low-paid workers with government health insurance and other benefits, pointed out that it has given US school districts some \$46 million in scholarships and initiatives. It apparently felt that was mighty generous for the nation's largest employer making \$10 billion in profits a year.

The teachers, looking at American jobs lost and families stuck at the bottom of wages partly because of Wal-Mart and imitations of its practices, weren't buying that.

Nor did they buy Wal-Mart's references to its 25-cent crayons and other school supplies — "I wonder where they are made," joked Sam Carmen, executive director of the MTEA, at the Milwaukee rally.

**I**f children are concerned, if teachers are involved, that means parents are close behind — and they are the targeted consumers for the Back to School season.

It also means that the "Back to School" campaign Wal-Mart started in June with millions of dollars in advertising money is being blunted at the grassroots level.

That may partly explain Wal-Mart's falling profit margin and its recent moves to seek a more upscale clientele. That may also explain why, after years of ignoring critics and unions, it now issues countering press releases on a regular basis.

In Milwaukee, the children were joined in speeches not just by union leaders and teachers but by community groups (Darcy Haber of Citizen Action of Wisconsin) and by Milwaukee School Board member Peter Blewett (who remembers well how Wal-Mart heirs' money came in from Arkansas and Colorado to try to defeat him in past elections).

## Is media compromised?

**W**al-Mart CEO Lee Scott has admitted vaguely to some failures in social responsibility by the company (fairly obvious given the number of negative verdicts it has been hit with on the environment, illegal East European cleaners, overtime abuse and discrimination).

But Wal-Mart has in ads and promotions actually mounted an aggressive defense against its critics rather than work for openness and change.

Watchdogs say Wal-Mart's status as one of TV's biggest advertisers has also affected media coverage.

FAIR, a group of journalists and media specialists founded in 1986, was particularly critical this August of ABC News' lack of balanced coverage, pointing out that Wal-Mart regularly airs commercials during newscasts, underwrites ABC's daily email preview of the evening newscast and sponsors the "Only in America" series on ABC's Good Morning America. (Wal-Mart also tied in its perfume line to an ABC soap opera according to

Continued Next Page

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# In beating down Wal-Mart's Back to School promotion

## From Page 18

Broadcasting & Cable.  
The case in point for ABC is the nation's largest civil rights case ever, filed on behalf of 1.6 million former and current female employees.

Lawyers pursuing the lawsuit say Wal-Mart systematically denied raises and promotions and paid the women less than their male counterparts.

A federal judge agreed that there was enough anecdotal evidence for the lawsuit to move ahead as a class action violation of civil rights laws, opening the door to millions, perhaps billions, in penalties.

## You won't believe Wal-Mart's defense

Wal-Mart is seeking this month to have the case dismissed by the 9th District Court of Appeals.

Its argument is audacious and wasn't heard on ABC News.

Wal-Mart is arguing in effect that it is too big and important for the US judicial system.

It says its 3,400 Wal-Marts and Sam's Clubs in the US are "independent businesses" with independent management (which must come as a shock to its carefully orchestrated managers).

So, the lawyers argue, the federal judge erred in determining the discrimination reflected companywide practice. And there should be no class action and each charge of discrimination should be returned to each store, each involving dozens if not hundreds of female employees.

More than that, since such an approach would endlessly clog the court system past remedy, Wal-Mart says the courts should just dismiss the whole thing.

Says an attorney for the women, Wal-Mart is "saying we're so big" that you can't challenge our practices.

The argument should send America's schoolchildren running to Google for a new definition ofchutzpah.



From Milwaukee's high schools and elementary schools, students not only attended the rally in front of Neeskara Elementary School on N. Hawley Rd., but they also spoke up with their own spin on Wal-Mart's Back to School blandishments.

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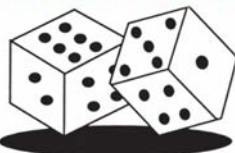
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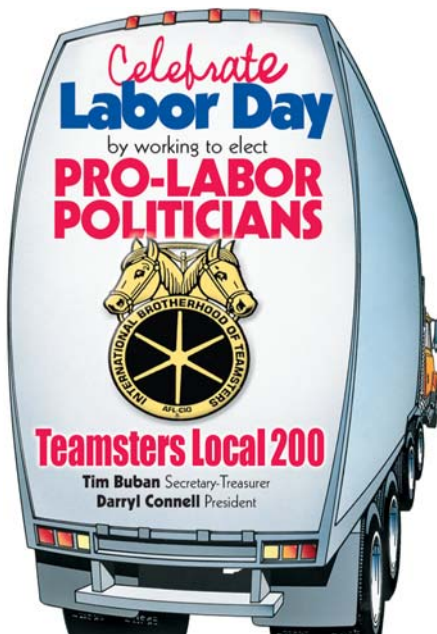
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With charts and graphs and cold evidence at the Local 1111 headquarters, MATC economics teacher Jim Carpenter (left) and the local's president, Bob Rudek, laid out for the press the results of how well Rockwell Automation had been doing, Thursday, August 25, 2005.

# Manufacturers here

**M**ilwaukee companies bucking the current flat-line in US-based manufacturing seem to have two things in common.

- Their success is driven by the insatiable foreign appetite for minerals, fuels and other commodities and for equipping factories (many of them doing production that used to be done here).
- The executives and shareholders of these companies are benefiting way out of historic proportion compared to the US workforce, whose reputation for skill and experience is helping drive the sales.

Rather than being embarrassed by the gap, the companies are still going after US workers for more concessions in health and retirement benefits.

Among the companies enjoying success are Rockwell Automation, Joy Global, Bucyrus and Briggs & Stratton. The disparity between gains for the companies and water-treading by Milwaukee workers became abundantly clear during negotiations for a new contract between Rockwell and the 480 active and 100 laid-off union workers remaining at its South Side headquarters — represented, as they have been since the 1930s, by UE Local 1111.

**T**he local commissioned an economic study based on public and company records. The unrefuted results, widely covered by local media, were embarrassingly revealing.

They were particularly painful to the union, which in 2002 helped Rockwell considerably by agreeing to a one-third drop in its Milwaukee workforce and to harsh wage and benefit concessions.

Since then, Rockwell revenues have exploded, as have sales (heading toward \$5 billion in 2005).

Profits have risen mightily (\$224 million in 2002, \$281 million in 2003, \$354 million in 2004 and heading much higher this year). Figured as profit per employee, the leap has been from \$6,000 in 2002 to \$20,000 in 2004.

Shareholders saw the stock price almost quadruple since 2002 (\$16.27 a share then to nearly \$57 now).

The five top executives exercised zero stock options in 2002 and have made up for that with \$25 million annually while their base compensation jumped more than \$2 million among the five.

Yet the combination of inflation and rising health care premiums means that, in real dollars, the compensation of Rockwell's Milwaukee manufacturing workers has actually dropped \$1,300 a year.

For retirees, increased insurance payments demanded by

**Continued Next Page**



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# gain big from overseas sales, but do their workers?

## From Page 20

Rockwell have lowered benefits \$900 a year.

The report, by respected economics teacher Jim Carpenter of the Milwaukee Area Technical College, revealed something else.

It would cost Rockwell less than one-fifth of one percent of its profits to fully fund health insurance for its Milwaukee workers.

For its global network of retirees, the same could be done with only 1.7% of profits.

And make no mistake, the retirees have seen their dreams shattered.

All too typical is the story shared by Dorothy Konetz, who retired in 1984 after 43 years of work. It was Allen-Bradley back then, what Konetz calls "a real company that thought of its workers." When she retired, health care was entirely paid by the company.

Today a quarter of her pension goes to Rockwell to supplement Medicare, leaving \$357 a month to live on. Her advice to current Rockwell workers: "Don't grow old."

Rockwell did not say it was shamed by this report at the bargaining table, though it knew the local had even more economic

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ammunition and human stories to unload. "It still came after us with guns loaded," said the local's president, Bob Rudek. Rockwell continued to threaten the elimination of the Milwaukee workforce and demand deeper benefits cuts.

But at the end of July after a marathon bargaining session, a new five-year contract emerged better than either side predicted going in.

While refusing to guarantee the future of its Milwaukee workforce, Rockwell did agree to avoid laying off those near retirement, modestly boost pension supplements for active workers, offer other benefits protections, increase the savings and pension formulas and announce general wage increases for the life of the contract (4% more in each of 2005 and 2006 and 3% in the contract years afterward).

It still went after health care, eliminating the high-end plan where it paid 90% and forcing all workers into a 20% premium plan through 2006 and then raising that contribution each year after, from 21% to 24%.

Rudek still thinks it is shameful for companies to shift

"more health burdens onto the backs of employees" when it would take so little to make workers and retirees an asset rather than a drain on the larger community. But the local's bargaining succeeded, he said, in "getting senior employees to full retirement rather than face a hostile job market late in their careers." He revealed that the union came close to striking over this issue.

UE (United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America) is not an AFL-CIO union but received active support in its protests from the Milwaukee County Labor Council and its AFL-CIO unions.

### Gains at Joy Global

Over at Joy Global there is an AFL-CIO union, the steelworkers (now called USW) locked into a long contract that reflected many of the concerns for an aging workforce faced by the UE. The USW in its contract did marry company growth in the cyclical mining business to worker benefits.

"We took minimal raises in the last contract so that we could do something with our pension," said Geno DaRonco, president of

USW Local 1114. "Plus the health insurance costs are a hardship for every worker and company in Southeast Wisconsin."

But also right now, the up-cycle in demand for mining equipment seems unshakable from Asia to South America to Canada, with Africa looming.

For smaller mining machinery and replacement parts, the Milwaukee steelworkers are fighting the same sort of outsourcing pressure that Rockwell wielded against its workers.

But for the enormous mining contraptions that are the center of the Joy Global/P&H Mining reputation — shovels so large that one would stretch from Summerfest's gates to the lakeshore, scoops that could individually pick up an entire Dairy Queen — nobody does it better than the 525 experienced Milwaukee steelworkers.

Realizing that, Joy Global (the parent company of Harnischfeger) has announced a nearly \$17 million expansion at its Milwaukee plant, has added more than 50 union workers and, working through a labor-management team with Local 1114, is set to train replacements for experienced staffers who are within a few years of retirement.

DaRonco also holds out hope that the expanded facility will lure back to the steelworkers

some of the subcontracting the company has engaged in.

"Three years ago I couldn't figure in my wildest dreams where we would sell one shovel," DaRonco laughs. "but now it is Mount Everest, with oodles of overtime. I think a year or two down the road there may be slowdown, but now I don't believe it will be anything close to the bottom-dropping out of a few years ago."

So the union made the right call, he believes, in the contract tie-ins to company profits — this will in effect return a 6% bonus to participating union members this year, as it did last year, which makes up for the minimum wages they accepted, he said.

Still, the level of US worker-reward compared to company profits — this will in effect return a 6% bonus to participating union members this year, as it did last year, which makes up for the minimum wages they accepted, he said.

DaRonco points to the enormous size of executive compensation at a company that in 1998 dropped its guarantee to full health coverage to retirees.

He echoes UE's Rudek: "We've been responsible partners making sacrifice on the bust side of the boom-or-bust cycle — it's time for the other way around."

-- Dominique Paul Noth

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# Rally pushing need right now for immigration reform

Immigration reform efforts will march into Milwaukee's Cathedral Square at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 17, in what sponsors hope will be a massive grassroots invigoration to back the best horse in Congress (where three divergent bills have been introduced) and to shove the White House off the fence into genuine, not politically-expedient action.

The charge is being led by social, labor and faith groups as well as by national experts and organizations. The purpose and flyers will be visible at Laborfest Sept. 5, including tables and signups at the Union Industry Tent. Supervisors Peggy West and Marina Dimitrijevic are introducing a supporting resolution at the Milwaukee County Board in September.

Organizers include the Wisconsin Legalization Coalition, the statewide Wisdom congregations, Voces de la Frontera and LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement).

There is an interesting upscale-downscale timing to the event. The rally is being held on the final day of the national convention in Milwaukee of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. It comes as the Latino population of hard-working but often document-unprotected families is booming in Wisconsin and throughout the nation.

There are still major legislative hurdles to overcome, widespread public confusion and a recognition that even the best immigration proposals require amending. But hard facts on the ground and changing attitudes are propelling a genuine belief that progress is possible and the time is now.

As conservative columnist



Voces de la Frontera, shown at the Workers Memorial gathering last spring, is helping galvanize a mass rally for immigration reform Sept. 17 at Cathedral Square.

David Brooks pointed out Aug. 14 in the New York Times, "It's no longer law-and-order hawks versus amnesty doves."

All sides agree that current US immigration law is a mess — contradictory, repressive, weak, confusing.

Legitimate refugees face deportation back to prison or torture. Hundreds die every year trying to cross the border from Mexico. Thousands more make the passage, many snapped up by American companies and some snapped into penned camps reminiscent of plantation slavery.

Undocumented workers have been demonized as "illegal aliens" (for what is basically a civil violation of the law) and are being driven further underground by such patently punitive measures as the Real ID act.

Yet they live and work among us, they aspire to full rights and responsibilities, and it is certainly not the American tradition to make immigrants fearful of their neighbors and reluctant to speak up for their family values.

What Brooks characterizes as "beer-swilling good old boys" who think brute border force is the answer have been dismissed

as not only wrong-headed but also ineffectual.

The estimated 10 million undocumented in the US (workers, children and nonworking spouses) are deeply valuable to our economy, adding billions to the tax rolls, and apparently billions more to the Social Security trust fund (money they will never see on retirement but quietly accepted by them as an added price for working in America). And they were encouraged to get here any way they could by our own economic policies and practices.

It took bipartisan support in the 1980s for President Reagan and Congress to partly correct and legitimize one wave of immigrants.

Now the Senate is holding hearings on two of the bills with a new determination to address realities and reach compromise.

The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, sponsored by Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, was unveiled in May and now is backed by grassroots coalitions and respected immigration organizations, as well as the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The National Immigration Forum calls it "the only proposal on the table that is truly comprehensive, bipartisan and realistic." It offers a pathway to legaliza-

tion (including fines for those already here), an extended guest worker program, border reinforcement, worker rights provisions, sanctions against unsavory employers, recognition of the student population and roads to family reunification.

Admitting they would like to see some adjustments in the bill, organizers of the Cathedral Square rally will press had for its overall concepts.

The contrasting bill in the Senate, introduced by two conservative Republicans playing to their constituents, John Cornyn (R-Tex.) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), could be labeled the "get out of town" act.

It demands mandatory departure of all current undocumented workers in the US, a limited guest worker program and limited readmission, and no path to legalization.

Even the sponsors concede that it is a fantasy to think of deporting 10 million people, so why is the bill there? Perhaps to distract from Kennedy-McCain's rounded (and actually pretty tough) approach. Some speculate that the GOP bill gives conservative cover to the administration as it moves toward inevitable legalization.

If that's so, as of this writing the White House hasn't moved at all.

Which may not matter, because the Republican base seems to be moving anyway.

In his column, Brooks does not pick between the bills but he is echoing more and more conservative thinkers in recognizing that Kennedy-McCain actually contains real solutions:

"We're not going to get this situation under control until we understand this paradox," said Brooks. "The more we simply crack down, the more disorder we get."

The only way "to re-establish order is to open up legal, controllable channels through which labor can flow," Brooks writes. There is only one bill that

does that: Kennedy-McCain.

Yet the idea of the Senate hearings is compromise. Kennedy himself has said the time for polarization is past, that "to repair what is broken, we need to combine increased enforcement and increased legality. Better border control and better treatment of immigrants are not inconsistent."

Many expect Congress to rewrite the immigration law to merge elements of both bills.

There seems to be some pressure, as nutty as the Republican bill may be in its details, to grab some of its tougher border security ideas — and then more quietly adopt the effective worker program in Kennedy-McCain.

The politics of compromise worry Kennedy-McCain backers who want even that bill to adjust its guest-worker policies and security concepts and offer greater power for workers to organize.

Sponsors of the rally clearly hope that calling attention to the real initiatives and central mission of Kennedy-McCain will lock in essentials before any committee rewriting in Congress.

What's hanging things up is, so far, the administration's failure to take a position despite Bush's campaign promises.

Amid a genuine forward desire on both sides of the aisle, the White House has to this point been curiously silent and even evasive. Senate Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) was clearly both miffed and mystified (and senators from both parties joined him) when the administration canceled testimony on both immigration bills by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

Chao was expected to point out a projected 10 million shortfall in the US workforce in 10 years (which supports more open immigration methods) and Chertoff was expected to push the national security interest in bringing 10 million undocumented workers safely out of the shadows.

Noted Specter with barely concealed sarcasm: "We're going to do our work. And when the administration wants to chime in, we'll be ready to listen."

As with Iraq and Social Security, the politics seem to have changed before the president's men have their act together. But the key to immigration reform remains the involvement of the people affected, which is not just immigrants but all US residents.

In Milwaukee, the march toward understanding begins Sept. 17. To get involved, stop by Voces de La Frontera at 1027 S. 5th St. or call (414) 643-1620.

-- Dominique Paul North

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# Missed Opportunity

## AFL-CIO rift was blown chance for journalists to get real

pontificated. TV chat shows went crazy. News stories abounded. How often does a story about the labor movement get this kind of front-burner treatment?

The AFL-CIO split gave journalists the chance to meet their professional obligation to inform readers about broader union-related issues, which are chronically under-reported due to the event-centered nature of news.

But the major media missed this opportunity. They haven't reported adequately on some of the biggest, most important issues confronting the labor movement. Most of the coverage about the union breakup emphasized that membership in America's labor unions is dropping, but little of the news coverage addressed why this is happening.

Union leaders report that big non-union companies are harassing workers who try to organize unions. Is the federal government adequately enforcing labor laws? And what, if anything, should be done about the situation?

Companies like Wal-Mart see no need for unions. This raises the question, which was barely analyzed in the recent coverage: What if there were no unions at all? How much would taxpayers end up paying for health care and other support for uninsured, non-union workers? What else do unions contribute to our community that might be missed?

And in all the recent news of the breakup of the AFL-CIO, little was written about the minimum wage. An analysis of the politics of raising the minimum wage, to allow workers to make basic ends meet, would have been appropriate.

Some labor issues are complex, and it's understandable that the mainstream media would avoid them. But, still,

with wealth in America becoming more and more concentrated at the top, journalists should take a crack at some of the most complex questions confronting workers and the labor movement.

How much profit is reasonable for large companies to earn and forecast, while at the same time demanding serious concessions from unions or fighting unionization efforts? What does financial health look like to the companies?

And what about addressing, God forbid, the ethical questions involved when a profitable company pays its CEO the big bucks, while at the same time fighting off attempts by workers to form a union? How much should corporate executives and CEOs make? Is there a limit, ethically?

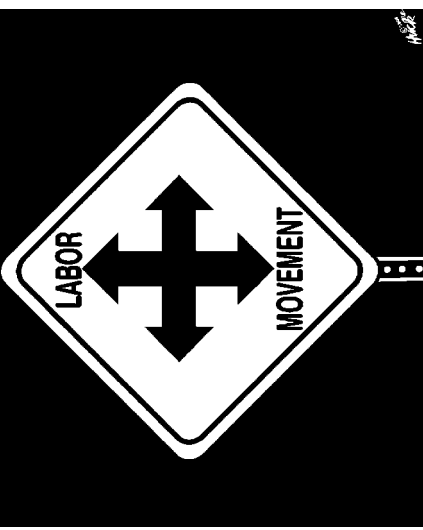
Reporters should ask business ethicists about the decisions facing grocery companies, for example, which try to shed their unions, or the enormous retailers that fight any unionization efforts.

With the AFL-CIO drama still unfolding, it's not too late for reporters to offer a broader perspective on the big issues facing workers in America.

Jason Salzman is the author of "Making the News: A Guide for Nonprofits and Activists" and board chair of www.causecommunications.com.

### Correction

Labor Press last month made the Rev. Julian Jasper pastor of the wrong church. He is at Zion Rock Baptist Church.



By Jason Salzman  
Minuteman Media

It's not news when a construction worker brings her sick daughter to the doctor, using the health insurance she gets through her union contract.

Neither is it news when a non-unionized worker takes her kid to the city hospital and taxpayers pick up the tab.

And it's normally not news when a union helps an injured worker obtain adequate workers' compensation.

The importance of unions to a community usually slides under the news media's radar screen.

But unions do make news -- and lots of it -- in the context of dramatic events, like a strike, bankruptcy, or scandal. And they make big news when they have internal fights or schisms. And so it is with the coverage of the recent decision by the SEIU and others to part ways with the AFL-CIO, splitting America's unionized workers.

The story got wall-to-wall coverage, from the front page of the New York Times to network news. Columnists

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# Good Jobs First leader finds his heroes in labor ranks

By Greg LeRoy

Special to Labor Press

News of the labor movement has been dominated recently by the turmoil within the AFL-CIO. But as we celebrate Labor Day, let's remember: America's labor unions are key watchdogs against corporate tax-and-job scams.

The stakes are huge. In the name of "jobs, jobs, jobs," states and cities spend \$50 billion a year; the average state now subsidizes jobs more than 30 different ways: property tax abatements, corporate income tax credits, low-interest loans, free land — and just plain cash. Such packages routinely exceed \$100,000 per job.

The net result is poorer public services and a big tax-burden shift. Large corporations, with their armies of consultants and accountants, are getting huge tax cuts at the expense of small businesses and working families.

But much of this money is clearly wasted. Companies that get huge subsidies routinely fail to create as many jobs as they promised. Indeed, many actually lay people off, outsource jobs offshore, pay poverty wages, and fail to provide health care.

With big federal budget cutbacks squeezing state and local governments, our communities can ill afford such corporate freeloading.

Fortunately for workers and

taxpayers, the labor movement consistently steps up to the plate. Together with community groups, environmentalists, budget watchdogs, human service advocates, and elected officials of every political persuasion, unions are strong, effective advocates for more accountability and less abuse.

From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, for example, union leaders at many factories blew the whistle when companies announced that facilities were closing — despite having received massive taxpayer subsidies that were supposed to secure the jobs.

Embarrassed by these revelations, state and local officials enacted "clawbacks," or money-back guarantee contracts, to protect taxpayers and recoup money when companies fail to deliver. Today, clawbacks are considered "best practice."

For the last dozen years, unions have formed coalitions through Jobs with Justice and with community groups like ACORN to win living wage ordinances in more than 130 localities. Originally created to cover service contracts for privatized government work, many such laws have been expanded to cover some companies that receive job subsidies.

Thank to these coalitions, governments are giving fewer



Greg LeRoy has visited Milwaukee to work with Good Jobs coalitions here.

subsidies to companies that stick taxpayers with hidden safety-net costs. Indeed, health care advocates, including unions of health care workers, and investigative journalists have gotten 16 states to disclose the names of companies with the most beneficiaries on Medicaid and/or children's health insurance.

Unions are also backing efforts to stop subsidizing runaway suburban sprawl. Smart growth advocates are increasingly saying: no more subsidies for big-box retailers that undermine small businesses, pave farmland, and create more traffic congestion.

*Editor's Note: Organized labor helped win just one such campaign against Wal-Mart in Franklin, but recently failed to reverse the Germantown board's*

decision to allow another.

Union leaders also promote good jobs as members of regional Workforce Investment Boards.

Aided by the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, 1,100 labor representatives across the country promote good wages and benefits and other taxpayer safeguards at companies that benefit from federal training monies.

Through joint labor-management programs in industries such as construction, manufacturing, and hospitality, unions help workers improve their skills and living standards. Such programs are extremely cost-effective compared to corporate tax giveaways.

Unions and labor federations also support tax and budget watchdog groups in many state capitols, promoting good-government reforms such as transparency and disclosure when companies get huge tax breaks for jobs. Thank to such efforts, 12 states now have some form of company-specific reporting of subsidy costs and benefits each year.

Unions have also helped form regional non-profit groups that publish research and organize reform campaigns. The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy — and similar groups in Denver, San Jose, San Diego and Oakland — are pioneering the use of Community Benefits Agreements to ensure that neighborhood residents actually benefit from taxpayer-subsidized development projects.


Milwaukee's Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition has done the same with downtown Park East development.

Labor's strong support for corporate accountability on jobs and taxes has benefited all taxpayers, most of whom are not union members. But then, unions have always advocated for the good of all working families.

If you like Social Security, Medicare, free public education, and your weekends, thank your local unions this Labor Day.

And join their coalitions for more reforms in the coming year!

Greg LeRoy's new book, "The Great American Jobs Scam: Corporate Tax Dodging and the Myth of Job Creation" (Berrett-Koehler, 2005), highlights testimony from executive writers Thomas Frank and Jim Hightower, Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope and such labor leaders as SEIU's Andy Stern and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. LeRoy is executive director of Good Jobs First ([www.goodjobsfirst.org](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org)), a national resource center promoting corporate and government accountability in economic development and smart growth for working families.



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# Unified labor efforts succeeded with state budget

By Phillip L. Neuenfeldt  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wisconsin AFL-CIO

The one truth we must always remember during current discussions about the future of the labor movement is the imperative of solidarity. The victories we achieved during the recent state budget process proved all over again the value of working families sticking together.

A lot of the media coverage was about who got credit for being more fiscally conservative. But beyond the usual spectacle of partisan struggle between the two parties, something more significant happened.

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO and our affiliated unions focused on respecting work and strengthening families. By staying true to core values, we scored important victories and deflected damaging concepts.

Here are some highlights of the state budget:

- **Corporate Accountability:** Both parties ultimately approved a provision in the state budget that requires any business receiving grants, loans, or tax credits from state government to promote economic development — and that then moves those jobs out of Wisconsin within five years — to repay the entire amount of the benefit.

- **Public Sector Jobs:** This budget proposal called for the elimination of numerous public sector jobs. In a bipartisan fashion, the State AFL-CIO and our affiliates worked with leaders in the Legislature to restore 130 health care jobs, 35 forestry jobs, and numerous case managers for BadgerCare, SSI, and other programs.

In the final hours of the budget debate, the Legislature sought to institute a 2.3% across-the-board cut. Fortunately, Doyle vetoed this maneuver.

- **Privatization:** In another late-night move, the Republicans sought to privatize 32 heating, cooling, and wastewater treatment plants and their employees at public facilities.

This would have become another example of the long-range negative impact of privatization efforts. A study conducted for the previous administration of Gov. Tommy Thompson had found that for-profit operation of these facilities could actually raise the cost for taxpayers over the long term.

The proposal was bad public policy and was vetoed as well.

- **Apprenticeships:** The Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature eliminated additional funds for our highly regarded apprenticeship system without recognizing the negative impact.

The State AFL-CIO alerted our building trades affiliates and we sprang into



For Phil Neuenfeldt, herding sausages on a grill (for the July 31 cookout for the homeless at St. Ben's) was a lot easier than lining up votes in the state legislature. — Photo by Doug Curler

- **Industrial Jobs:** Doyle proposed more support for the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help small enterprises modernize, but the Joint Finance Committee removed the additional funds from the budget. The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO has supported a separate bill to restore much of the additional funding, and we remain hopeful that Republicans will join Democrats in supporting higher-paying industrial jobs.

- **Temp Agencies:** The temp industry worked with Republicans to introduce a special-interest tax break into the budget. Temp jobs are far less likely to offer health benefits and pensions than permanent full-time jobs. The tax break would have given temp agencies even more of an advantage, and created an incentive for their customers to replace family-sustaining jobs with temp jobs. Fortunately, the governor vetoed this tax break for special interests.

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assault on comprehensive group health plans.

- **Minimum Wage:** After a protracted struggle, a compromise between the Doyle administration and the Republican Legislature resulted in a 26% increase in the minimum wage. We strongly opposed the provision that prevents local units of government from raising the minimum wage within their jurisdictions, although we should not lose sight of the magnitude of the statewide raise for the lowest paid workers in the state.

- **Technical Colleges:** Doyle's veto of deep cuts preserved the capacity of our technical colleges to help families acquire the needed skills for success in a changing economy.

The labor movement is proud of these important gains for working families.

When we have a voice in the state capitol, we can hold elected officials accountable to the core values of respecting work, strengthening families and both preserving and developing family-sustaining jobs.

Working families need a voice now more than ever.

The radical wing of the Republican Party wants to roll back all the gains working families have made over the last century. They want to destroy Social

Security. They want to destroy public education. They want to make everyone pay for health insurance on their own. They want to shift the tax burden to those who are least able to pay. They just don't want to be honest about it.

Instead they cloak their attack on working families in rhetoric about a new "ownership society." They prey on the aspirations of working families to acquire wealth. They prey on the common-sense notions of personal responsibility for the choices people make in their own lives.

But the new ownership society is actually a very old idea. It is the idea that the business community has no responsibility to provide health benefits and pensions. It is the idea that the wealthy have no obligation to pay a fair share of taxes for government programs. Indeed, it is the old idea that the government has no business doing anything of consequence for working families.

The State AFL-CIO and our affiliated unions are committed to a more moral society that respects the dignity and value of work and strengthens working families in our communities. Our beliefs are heard when we work together.

For a complete update on legislative issues, visit [www.wisafclio.org](http://www.wisafclio.org)

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# Our jails are overflowing with prisoners of bad policies

By Marc H. Morial  
Minuteman Media

*The author is president and CEO of the National Urban League. He succeeded Hugh B. Price as the league's eighth chief executive. Morial served two four-year terms as mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002, and also presided over the United States Conference of Mayors in 2001 and 2002.*

Two developments this month concerning the impact of incarceration in America — one in Iowa, the other in New York City — have dramatized the steady, if still far too slow, turning of the wheel away from America's foolish addiction to incarceration, and the great need for more and faster progress.

In Iowa, Governor Tom Vilsack issued an executive order to restore voting rights to all Iowans who've been convicted of a felony and have completed their sentences.

"When you've paid your debt to society, you need to be re-connected and re-engaged to society," the governor said. "The right to vote is the foundation of our government and serves as a symbol of opportunity for our citizens."

This policy transforms one of the nation's most restrictive felony disenfranchisement laws, making an estimated 80,000 ex-felons in the state eligible to vote.

Earlier this year, Iowa's Great Plains neighbor, Nebraska, repealed its law imposing a lifetime voting ban on ex-felons, replacing it with a two-year waiting period after release.

The states' actions exemplify the revamping of these laws throughout the country, which, by depriving ex-felons of their right to vote after they've served their sentences, violates two fundamental notions of American society: the ideas that the right to vote belongs to all law-abiding citizens, and that once persons convicted of crime have served their sentences, they've paid their debts to society.

Iowa's action leaves four states — Alabama, Kentucky, Florida and Virginia — with lifetime voting bans for ex-felons. Laws in the nation's other states differ in how and when they allow ex-felons to vote again.

Given the hugely disproportionate number of incarcerated African- and Latino-Americans, there is, not surprisingly, a stunning and worrisome racial element to the felony disenfranchisement issue.

Nationally, of the 4.7 million people ineligible to vote because of felony convictions, 1.4 million are black men. In Iowa, where blacks constitute just two percent of the total population, blacks make up 19 percent of ex-felons denied the right to vote. Similar disparities can be found in most states.

*Editor's Note: In Wisconsin, where voting rights are restored to felons after they complete their sentences, some of the incarceration figures are even more disturbingly imbalanced along racial lines, says State Sen. Spencer Coggs, who has led legislative fights to address that issue. Black men may make up only 5% of Wisconsin's population, Coggs point out, but they make up 51% to 53% of "today's adult male prisoners."*

No matter how you slice the arguments, Coggs said, "That is way out of whack and frankly, it smells." The odor he's picking up may relate to the upcoming development in this article.

The second incarceration-related development is equally important.

A study of ex-offenders' job prospects in New York City found that white men with prison records got far more job offers than black men with prison

records — and more even than black men who'd never been arrested.

The study, undertaken earlier this year, used "testers" who were equipped with similar resumes and trained to display to prospective employers similar personalities and interpersonal skills. The crime used was a drug offense that had brought an 18-month prison sentence. The jobs they pursued ranged across a spectrum, including deli clerks, cashiers, couriers and telemarketers.

Yet the study's authors, professors Bruce Western and Devah Pager of Princeton University, said that black men whose job applications indicated a prison term were only one-third as likely as white men similarly situated to get positive responses.

For every 10 white men without convictions who got at least a callback, seven white men with convictions also did. However, for every 10 black men without criminal records who got callbacks, only three with convictions did.

Both New York City's corrections commissioner and the chairwoman of its Commission

on Human Rights labeled the report a call for action and pledged to explore ways to eliminate the racial opportunity gap for ex-offenders.

These two developments underscore the importance of the National Urban League's plan to launch a national commission examining the successes and challenges facing black boys and men. The five-year effort, to begin next year, will recommend solutions to problems afflicting black males in numerous fields.

Certainly, a primary area of concentration will be black males' negative involvement with the criminal justice system (while not ignoring the fact that the negative involvement of women, particularly black women, has become increasingly serious as well) and the extraordinary burden that imposes on African-American families and communities.

That burden, and the growing movement to reform felony-disenfranchisement laws, too, is dramatic evidence that we ignore the need to equip ex-offenders with two fundamental rights of a democracy — the vote, and a job — at their peril, and ours.

MinutemanMedia.org

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from

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS  
LOCAL 1444



Daniel R. Welch  
President  
Int'l. Vice President



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# CAFTA squeaks by as politicians trade under table

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Labor Press Editor

In sports, a win is a win, no matter how close, no matter how ugly. The metaphor extends to votes in Congress — except that a particularly ugly victory historically leads to a political boomerang.

Such was the passage of CAFTA right before the House went into recess. The vaunted centerpiece of the Bush trade policy, and the most significant trade pact in a decade, "NAFTA Lite" as it has become known squeaked through by two votes, a remarkable 217-215 split in a GOP-dominated House.

The aftershock is a rough road for President Bush's future trade agenda. He actually gave some of his most potent trading chips away in the pressure to pass CAFTA.

On CAFTA, 27 members of the president's party broke ranks with him. Even more Republicans — about 40 in all — had been expected to defect hours before the vote. Many had announced their opposition. And that's where the tale turned particularly ugly.

It took personal visits by the president and vice-president, plus cloak-room deals and cell-phone harangues, to turn key votes around.

Neither side disputes news reports of what really happened — threats that sugar-growing states would be punished in the upcoming farm bill if their congressmen voted their conscience, promises (tying the hands of Bush's trade representatives, it turns out) that tariffs would be imposed on Chinese garments.

To give further cover to reluctant GOP congressmen,

pork-barrel pledges spilled out immediately after the CAFTA vote in the highway and energy bills, agricultural states were given largely cosmetic assurance of crop protection, textile states were comforted with an insistence on American-made pockets in pants imported into the US (though the definition of "American-made" passes all understanding as well as international borders).

In the end, a half-dozen GOP congressmen who had publicly opposed CAFTA voted for it. To get them, GOP leaders in violation of House rules held the vote process open for an hour to cajole and jockey, revealing just what the Republican spin machine means with its latest constant mantra of "a fair up or down vote."

You can argue that back in 1994 Congress had excuses when it ignored labor worries and passed the far larger NAFTA (trade with Mexico and Canada). There was speculation but little hard evidence then that NAFTA would steal far more American jobs than it created, elevate the trade imbalance, fail to elevate foreign workers, hurt farmers and the environment and make cheap labor and runaway profits for transnational companies and foreign governments the centerpiece of the American economy.

But by the time of CAFTA, there was hard evidence. There was no excuse for this vote.

You can also argue that CAFTA looks small in comparison since exchange with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic represents less than 1% of the American economy, and 80% of goods

## Comment

from these countries already come in duty free

If all CAFTA did, in fact, was reduce and over time eliminate tariffs on American exports, few would oppose it.

But buried within its 2,300 pages are sweetheart deals that free international companies to invest overseas beyond the rules currently allowed in the US and the Caribbean.

Pharmaceutical companies have a free hand against generics, textile companies have a few rules but no guarantees that these countries will stick with our yarn and fabrics. Agricultural workers are braced for a flood of imported crops and American products will find little traction in countries where wages average 60 cents an hour.

CAFTA, like NAFTA, does nothing to raise working standards in these partner countries or further environmental protection. It also allows service work in the US to be exported to other countries, so far more than manufacturing is newly endangered.

A powerful coalition of fair trade groups, unions, farmers and

environmental groups had in-person, by phone and by e-mail raised hundreds of thousands of voices in opposition to CAFTA. They came close, but — to continue the sports analogy — found the umpires overseeing the House rules on fairness were playing for the other side.

The Democrats in the House — 93% of them at least — held fast against CAFTA.

But the 15 who defected are going to face big consequences.

Several were elected through strong union activity — Illinois' Melissa Bean, for instance, unseated a GOP incumbent with strong labor votes and \$235,000 from unions. Unions on both sides of the recent AFL-CIO disaffiliation argument warned the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) that they would withhold support for any Democrat who voted for CAFTA.

Now they are putting teeth behind that pledge. Unions are urging voters in all these Democrats' districts — and encouraging citizens who know voters in those district — to withhold support for the candidates who withheld support for American workers.

They are actively pursuing primary candidates to oppose these incumbents or even

Republican opponents who can stand up to party leadership and stick by their convictions.

Fair trade advocates have provided the names, state districts and D.C. office phone numbers of Democrats who voted against CAFTA. They are (all 202 area codes):

Melissa Bean, Illinois (8th District): 225-3711.

Jim Cooper, Tennessee (5th District): 225-4311.

Norm Dicks, Washington (6th District): 225-5916.

Henry Cuellar, Texas (28th District): 225-1640.

Ruben Hinojosa, Texas (15th District): 225-2531.

William Jefferson, Louisiana (2nd District): 225-6636.

Jim Matheson, Utah (2nd District): 225-3011.

Gregory Meeks, New York (6th District): 225-3011.

Dennis Moore, Kansas (3rd District): 225-2865.

Jim Moran, Virginia (8th District): 225-4376.

Solomon Ortiz, Texas (27th District): 225-7742.

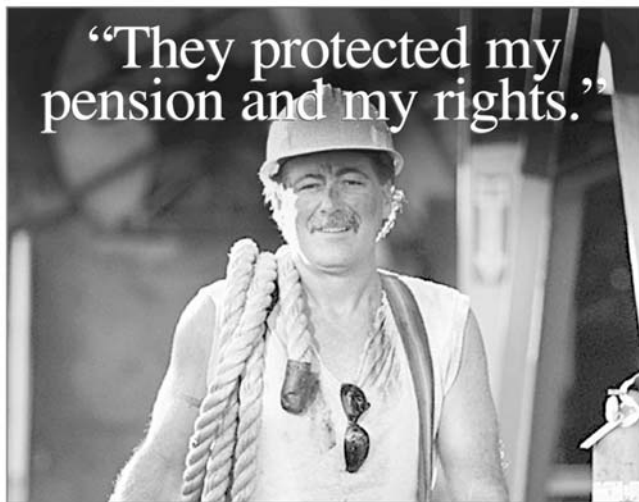
Ike Skelton, Missouri (4th District): 225-2876.

Vic Snyder, Arkansas (2nd District): 225-2506.

John Tanner, Tennessee (8th District): 225-4714.

Edolphus Towns, New York (10th District): 225-5936.

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# Let's talk about the social responsibility of businesses

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**, 8801 W. Lisbon Ave., 462-2370. Jennifer Morales, Milwaukee School Board, Sun/9:30 a.m.

**All Saints Catholic Church**, 4051 N. 25th St., 444-5610. DA E. Michael McCann, Sat/4 p.m., Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Ark of Safety**, 8057 W. Appleton Ave., 462-6706. MCLC VP Willie D. Ellis, Sun/10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Bay View United Methodist Church**, 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 744-4036. Rev. Rick Miller, Sun/8 and 9:30 a.m.

**Blessed Trinity Catholic Church**, 4717 N. 38th St., 463-6921. Lincoln Rice, Casa Maria, Sat/4 p.m., Sun/10 a.m.

**Central United Methodist**, 639 N. 25th St., 344-1600. Art Heltzer and Sandra Edlund, National Lawyers Guild, Sun., Sept. 11/9:30 a.m.

**Christ King Catholic Church**, 2604 N. Swan Blvd., Wauwatosa, 258-2604. Msgr. T. George Gaidos, Sat/4:30 p.m., Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Christ United Presbyterian**, 1930 W. Walnut St., 933-4887. Prof. Dan DiDonizio, Cardinal Stritch University, Sun/10:45 a.m.

**Church Of The Good Hope, UMC**, 8700 W. Good Hope Rd., 353-5555. AFL-CIO field mobilizer Annie Wacker, Sun/10 a.m.

**Community of Christ**, 12320 W. Bluemound Rd., Wauwatosa, 259-1040. retired nurse Bobby Staples.

**Community UMC**, 14700 Water Town Plank Rd., Elm Grove, 262-782-4060. Rev. Ron Retherford, Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**Congregation Beth Israel**, 6880 N. Green Bay Ave., 352-7310. George Strick, Sat/9 a.m.

**Congregation Emanuel of Waukesha**, 830 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, 262-547-7180.

**AFSCME 48 Executive Director Rich Abelson**, Fri/7 p.m.

**Congregation of the Great Spirit**, 1050 W. Lapham Blvd., 672-6989. Teamsters 344's Mary Elizalde, Sun/9:30 a.m.

**Congregation Shir Hadash**, 2909 W. Mequon Rd., Mequon, 297-9159. John Goldstein, departing MCLC president, Fri/7:30 p.m.

**Corpus Christi Catholic Church**, 8607 W. Villard Ave., 464-5033. Rev. Ken Augustine, Sat/4:30 p.m., Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**Cristo Rey Church**, 800 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, 262-632-3151. Maria Morales, Voces de la Frontera, Sun/10:30 a.m. (Sp.)

**Emanuel el B'ne Jeshurun Congregation**, 2020 W. Brown Deer Rd., 228-7545. Atty. Howard Meyers, Fri., Aug. 26/6:15 p.m.

**Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church**, 1138 W. Center St., 265-0400. Artzace Williams, youth from congregation, Sun/10 a.m.

**Faith United Methodist Church**, 400 S. 91st St., 453-1710. UNITE HERE leader Matt Schumwinger, Sun., Sept. 11, 10:15 a.m.

**Gesu Catholic Church**, 1145 W. Wisconsin Ave., 288-7101. Speaker T.B.A., Sat/ 4:30, Sun/ 7:30, 9 and 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Good Shepherd - Waukesha**, 601 N. University Dr., Waukesha, 262-547-2420. Sheila Cochran, MCLC Secretary-Treasurer, Sun/9 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church**, 3030 W. Oklahoma Ave., 384-3520. Rev. George Richter, Sun/9 and 11 a.m.

**Iglesia Luterana Ebenezer**, 1127 S. 35th St., 383-0710. Rev. Roberto Asleben, Sun/9 a.m.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**, 1023 E. Russell Ave., 769-2480. Rev. Ron Kotecki, Sat/ 5 p.m., Sun/9:30 a.m.

**Islamic Center**, 4707 S. 13th St., 405-4254. Ziad Hamdan, Fri/12 p.m.

**Jackson Park Lutheran Church ELCA**, 4535 W. Oklahoma Ave., 545-2828. Dennis Lowder, MICA labor representative, Sun/9 a.m.

**Kenwood UMC**, 2319 E. Kenwood Blvd., 332-5935. John Heckenlively, editor, Wisconsin Senior Advocate ARA, Sun/10:30 a.m.

**Lake Park Lutheran**, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 962-9190. Tim and Diane Ebenreiter, Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**Lion of Judah**, 2466 W. McKinley Ave. AFSCME retiree Lee Henderson, Sun/12 p.m.

**Lumen Christi Catholic Church**, 11300 N. St. James Ln. 28 W. Mequon, 262-242-7967. Fr. Peter Berger, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.



**Jennifer Morales**



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**Peggy West**



**Richard Abelson**



**Leon Burzinski**

## Labor in the Pulpits

Related coverage Pages 29, 30

Match your congregation and speaker  
**Sat = Sept. 3, Sun = Sept. 4**  
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**Mary Queen of Martyrs**, 5409 W. Villard Ave. (Mary Queen); 4234 N. 50th St. (St. Stephen), 438-0669. Rev. Mark Molling, Sat/4 p.m., Sun/8 a.m. (St. Stephen), 10:30 a.m.

**Memorial Lutheran Church**, 7701 N. Green Bay Rd., Glendale, 352-1160. Bill Lange, FCWJ Steering Committee, time T.B.A.

**Milwaukee Friends Meeting**, 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 263-2111. FCWJ's Kay Augustine, Sun/10:15 a.m.

**Mount Olive Missionary Baptist**, 5277 N. 36th St., 461-7755. Linda Gaskin, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Sun/10:30 a.m.

**Mt. Hope Lutheran Church**, 8633 W. Becher St., West Allis, 541-9500. Rev. Chuck Larson, Sat/5:30 p.m., Sun/8 and 9:30 a.m.

**Native American Ministry UMC**, 1738 S. 11th St., 384-1500. Tom Niebler, Sun/10:30 a.m.

**Nativity of the Lord**, 3672 E. Plankinton Ave., Cudahy, 744-6622. Tim Hall, lawyer, Priviant and Goldberg, Sat/4:30 p.m., Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**, 2464 W. Atkinson, 871-0350. Orville Beene, Brewery Workers retired, Sun/7:30, 9:30, 10:30 a.m.

**Oak Creek Community UMC**, 867 S. 13th St., Oak Creek, 762-4600. Gwen Sindel, AFSCME, Sun/8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

**Our Lady of Good Hope**, 7152 N. 41st St., 253-1148. Teamsters 344's Rick Schmidt, Sat/4:30 p.m., Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**, 613 S. 4th St., 271-6181. UWM Prof. Bryan Kennedy (Eng); Mario Ramirez, Voces de la Frontera (Sp), Sun/9 a.m. (Eng), 11 a.m. (Sp)

**Our Lady of Lourdes**, 3722 S. 58th St., 545-4316. Fr. Michael Savio, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/ 8 and 10:30 a.m.

**Our Lord's UMC**, 5000 S. Sunnyslope Rd., New Berlin, 425-7030. Rev. Chris Deaner-Rogers, Sun/8, 10:45 a.m.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**, 3022 W. Wisconsin Ave., 342-5252. SEIU's Ted Kraig, Sun/8:30 and 11 a.m.

**Paradise Sanctuary**, 2705 W. Clarke St., 264-2266. John Goldstein, Sun/11 a.m.

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**, 535 Stow St., Fond du Lac, 920-921-0415. Todd Schmitz, AFSCME, Sun/9 a.m.

**Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church**, 3337 N. Sherman Ave., 873-1045. Rev. Martin Childs, Sun/8 and 10:45 a.m.

**Progressive Baptist Church**, 8324 W. Keefe Ave., 462-9050. Rev. Rolan Womack, Sun/11 a.m.

**Racine Dominicans—Spiera Center**, 5635 Erie St., Racine, 262-639-4100. Speaker T.B.A., Sun/9 a.m.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**, 631 N. 19th St., 933-7004. USW leader Doug Drake, time T.B.A.

**Reformation Lutheran Church ELCA**, 2201 N. 35th St., 444-0440. Rev. Mick Roschke, Sun/9 a.m.

**St. Adalbert Catholic Church**, 1854 W. Windlake Ave., 645-4773. Berta Gonzalez of HIRE Center, 9:30 a.m. (Eng), 11 a.m. (Sp).

**St. Anthony Catholic Church**, 1747 S. 9th St., 384-1730. Supv. Peggy West, Milwaukee County Board, 10 a.m. (Eng), 12 p.m. (Sp).

**St. Augustine of Hippo Catholic Church**, 2530 S. Howell Ave., 744-0808. Jackie Haessly, Peacemaking Associates, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**St. Benedict the Moor**, 1015 N. 9th St., 271-0135. Sr. Pat Norton, Maryknoll Missionary, Sun/10 a.m.

**St. Bernadette**, 8200 W. Denver Ave., 358-4600. Joan Bleidorn, AFI retired, FCWJ Steering Committee, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**St. Casimir (Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish)**, 924 E. Clarke St., 263-9340. Ann Walsh, HIRE Center, Sun/9:30 a.m. (Eng), 11:30 a.m. (Sp)

**St. Cyril and Methodius-Greek Church**, 2515 S. 30th St., 671-5819. Fr. Tom Mueller, Sun/9:30 a.m.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, 12700 W. Howard Ave., New Berlin, 262-782-6760. Fr. Steven J. Amman, Sat/ 5 p.m., Sun/ 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

**St. Francis Convent**, 3221 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, 744-1160. Sr. Irene Senn, Sun, Sept. 11/9 a.m.

**St. Francis de Sales**, 148 W. Main St., Lake Geneva, 262-248-8524. Jim Cusack, Carpenters retired, Mon., Sept. 5/9 a.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi**, 1927 N. 4th St., 374-5750. Speaker T.B.A., Sun/8:30 a.m. (Eng), 10:30 a.m. (Sp), 6:15 p.m. (Eng).

**St. James Episcopal Church**, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 271-1340. Rev. Deborah Trekell, Sun/10:30 a.m.

**St. James UMC**, 3438 N. 24th St., 445-1860. Bill Morris, FCWJ Director, T.B.A.

**St. John Vianney**, 1755 N. Calhoun Rd., Brookfield, 262-796-3940. Fr. Len Van Vlienderen, Sat/ 5 p.m., Sun/ 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.

**St. Joseph - Big Bend**, S 89 W22650 Milwaukee Ave., Big Bend, WI, 262-662-2832. Fr. Richard Robinson, Sun/8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph - Wauwatosa**, 12130 W. Center St., Wauwatosa, 771-4626. Fr. Jerry Hudziak, Sat/ 5 a.m., Sun/ 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.

**St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church**, 3930 N. 92nd St., 461-6073. Rev. Ralph Gross, Mon., Sept. 5/8:15 a.m.

**St. Martin de Porres**, 128 W. Burleigh St., 372-3090. Fr. John Celichowski, FCWJ Steering Committee, Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**St. Mary Czestochowa (Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish)**, 3055 N. Fratney St., 263-9340. Fr. John Celichowski, FCWJ Steering Committee, Sat/4 p.m.

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**, 36014 Sunset Dr., Dousman, 262-965-3924. Rev. Scott Leannah, Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**St. Michael**, 1445 N. 24th St., 933-3143. Eloisa Gomez, Esperanza Unida (Eng), Deacon Julio Lopez (Sp), Sun/9 a.m. (Eng), 12 p.m. (Sp).

**St. Patrick - Whitewater**, 1225 West Main St., Whitewater, 262-473-3143. Fr. Tom Suriano, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m. (Eng), 1:30 p.m. (Sp).

**St. Patrick Catholic Church**, 723 W. Washington St., 645-7624. Fr. Bill Brennan, Sun/9 a.m. (Eng), 11 a.m. (Sp), 6 p.m. (Sp).

**St. Peter Catholic Church**, 2224 30th Ave., Kenosha, 262-551-9004. Speaker T.B.A., Teamsters 200, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8, 9:30 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.

**St. Philip Neri Catholic Church**, 5566 N. 69th St., 464-6721. Rev. Dennis Witz, Sat/4 p.m., Sun/9 a.m.

**St. Rafael the Archangel Catholic Church**, 2059 S. 33rd St., 645-9172. Fr. Ricles Kauffman, St. Francis Seminary, Sat/4:15 p.m. (Eng), Sun/9 a.m. (Eng), 11 a.m. (sp).

**St. Rose**, 528 N. 31st St., 342-1778. Julio Lopez (Sp), Dismas Becker (Eng), Sun/10:30 a.m. (Eng&Sp)

**St. Sebastian Catholic Church**, 5400 W. Washington St., 453-1061. Bill Morris, FCWJ, Sun/8 and 10:30 a.m.

**St. Therese**, 9525 W. Bluemound Rd., 771-2500. Dr. Alexandra Guillano, Parish Director, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8 and 10 a.m.

**St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**, 2114 W. Mitchell St., 654-3400. AFL-CIO field mobilizer Doug Curler (Eng), Mario Ramirez, Voces de la Frontera (Sp), Sun/8:45 a.m. (Eng), 1 p.m. (Sp).

**St. Vincent Pallotti**, 7622 W. Stevenson St., 453-5344. Fr. Joe Koyickal, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/8 a.m. (55 & Bluemound), 10 a.m. (76 & Bluemound).

**St. William Catholic Church**, 440 N. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, 262-547-2763. Fr. Leonard Barbian, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/ 7:30, 9 and 10:45 a.m.

**Sts. Peter and Paul**, 2491 N. Murray Ave., 962-2443. Leon Burzinski, president, Wisconsin ARA, Sat/5 p.m., Sun/9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Tabernacle Baptist**, 2500 W. Medford Ave., 562-1129. Rev. Wynabe Berry, Sun/10:30 a.m.

**Temple Memorial**, 9363 N. 76 St., 355-1120. AFSCME 48 Executive Director Rich Abelson, Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

**Three Holy Monks**, 1716 N. Humboldt Ave., 271-6577. Fr. Tim Kitz, Holy Rosary Sat/4:30 p.m., St.Hedwig Sun/9 a.m., St. Rita Sun/10:45 a.m.

**Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church**, 125 W. Saveland Ave., 481-4680. Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press, Sun/9:30 a.m.

**Tridentine community (St. Mary Help of Christians)**, 1210 S. 61 St., West Allis, 258-9133. Jerry Papa, Sun/11:30 a.m.

**Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church**, 2366 N. 80th St., Wauwatosa, 774-5005. Rev. Jim Rand, Sun/9:30 a.m.

**Zion Rock Baptist Church**, 10230 W. Fond du Lac Ave., 353-9088. Lyle Balistreri, president, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, Sun/10:30 a.m.

# Ideas and principles congregate with faith groups

By Steven Wilco  
Special to Labor Press

More photos on **Page 30**

"Solidarity Forever" was an apt song to open and close the Faith Community for Worker Justice's Annual Picnic and Speaker Training, which brought together more than 75 individuals from varied backgrounds including labor, the religious community, and the business world.

The picnic was held August 11 at the Milwaukee County Labor Council, 633 S. Hawley Rd. In addition to the potluck meal centered around brats and burgers from the AFL-CIO Community Services team, the picnic featured a presentation to Archbishop Timothy Dolan.

He accepted the St. Vincent Ferrer award on behalf of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for its work on principles for building and construction projects of Catholic institutions.

These principles call for the use of prevailing wages and fair hiring practices, as well as open bidding processes to include union firms.

Dolan was quick to recognize the people of the archdiocese as the ones responsible for these guidelines, praising this as a sign of their "real commitment to God and to peace."

Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building &



Religious intern Steven Wilco, author of this report, chatted with Atty. Howard Meyers (left) during the picnic.

Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, presented the award, named after the patron saint of the building trades, on behalf of FCWJ. He along with several others present at the indoor picnic were among those who lobbied for and created the building procedures.

FCWJ had revised the archdiocese's standards for use by all faiths. During the coming year, FCWJ will distribute the guidelines to congregations and seek

endorsements from religious organizations and institutions. The guideline can also be read online at both [www.wisafclcio.org](http://www.wisafclcio.org) and [milwbuildingtrades.org](http://milwbuildingtrades.org).

This would be a step in advancing labor issues in the religious community while simultaneously making real differences for workers. As Dolan pointed out in his closing comments, "This is really meaningful."

Following the presentation

of the award, Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, introduced a notable panel to offer training and presentation ideas for speakers of this year's Labor in the Pulpits program, themed "The Social Responsibility of Businesses and Corporations." *See full list of participating churches and speakers on opposite page.*

The eclectic panel included Father Joe Juknialis, professor of homiletics at St. Francis Seminary; Rev. John Kevin Patterson, pastor of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church; Rabbi Gil-Ezer Lerer of Temple Menorah; and Gervase Rose, CEO of Roman Electric.

They came together to prepare speakers to go out to congregations on Labor Day weekend in order to share the message of labor within a framework of faith.

While each added his own

experience and expertise, the general consensus among the panel was that speakers needed to give a positive message.

Juknialis and Lerer pointed to examples in the lectionary readings for Labor Day weekend of God's views on justice for workers.

Both Lerer and Rose emphasized the need to work alongside each other - worker with worker workers with management, labor with religion. Patterson called clearly for a message of hope to be proclaimed from the pulpit.

Both the panel and the audience pointed to positive examples of businesses acting responsibly. These were cited as proof that this cooperative work is possible, and in Juknialis' estimation a sign that God is active in this movement.

"[Preaching] is about what God is already doing in our midst," he said. "That is what really gives us hope."

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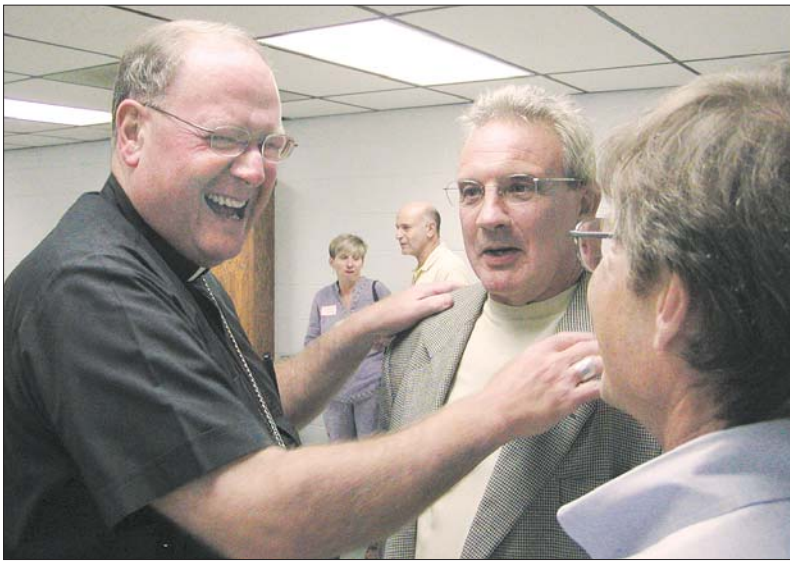
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# Congeniality of faith



It was actually the first real meeting for Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Lyle Balistreri (right), president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, but in minutes they

were sharing laughs. Balistreri later presented Dolan the special award to the archdiocese for its ethical construction guidelines and Dolan complimented the labor leader and others who had driven the guidelines years earlier. In the background at the Faith Community for Worker Justice event are two noted labor leaders, Candice Owley, president of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO, and John Goldstein, outgoing president of the Milwaukee County Labor Council.



**ABOVE RIGHT:** Enjoying the festivities from the back of the room were Bill Morris, coordinator for the FCWJ, and one of the panel speakers, Rabbi Gil-Ezer Lerer of Temple Menorah, who helped guide Labor in the Pulpits participants.



The Rev. Amy Reumann, assistant to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran synod of greater Milwaukee, coaxed her daughter Helen through the singalong, but nevertheless the strong guitars and voices of the Faith Community for Worker Justice choir dominated (below). Reumann also provided the opening prayer for an event where religious leaders almost outnumbered lay and labor people.

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# Emily's Milwaukee list

Emily's List, which nationally recruits and funds progressive women for public office, required a training video to show how it's done for its national workshops. But where would it go to find scads of progressive women who've succeeded?



Welcome to Milwaukee and some fascinating stories for director Ann Liston (on the floor in our photo), who turned the Assembly Hall at the Milwaukee County Labor Council into a movie studio on Aug. 9. One particularly nice mentoring tale: Gwen Moore (center), won the US House race while Lena Taylor (left) won Moore's old seat in the state Senate and Tamara Grigsby (right) took over for Taylor in the Assembly.

Other Milwaukee winners who were available Aug. 9 to participate included state Rep. Chris Sinicki, Milwaukee County Board supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Peggy West, and Milwaukee School Board member Jennifer Morales.

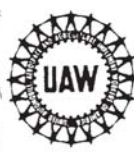
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