



Laborfest **You've earned it!**

Organized labor's annual Milwaukee party - on the national holiday workers helped create - has always been accessible and free to Milwaukee families. On Labor Day 2010 it's grown more inclusive in offerings while elevating the celebration of union personality and power. Events, promotions, sponsors and participants have grown despite hard economic times to encompass the pre-parade gathering at Zeidler Union Square Park, the 11 a.m. downtown parade and the subsequent free festival on the Summerfest grounds until 5 p.m. Monday, September 6.

The labor council keeps the best of the past including Bingo, a supervised children's stage plus activities, sports events and live dance music, while adding surprises. In a hot election season, don't be surprised to see a number of politicians in the crowds.

Since July the labor council has been giving out its special celebratory poster. Also being sold on the grounds are T-shirts with a special logo, \$10 each, though many unions have also been selling customized versions.

RADIO BROADCAST -- Eric Von from radio station WMCS 1290 will be broadcasting from Zeidler Park from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. The park is where unions chat, find their respective signage and get ready to march. It is labor's own park, between 3rd and 4th on the south side of Michigan St.

THE PARADE - It's kicked off once again by Harley riders and color guards. Any local disappearing because of their company's fortunes or decisions will get a place of honor toward the front of the parade, which travels east on Wisconsin Ave. from 4th St., then south on Milwaukee Ave. to Chicago St., where thousands of parade marchers will enter Maier Festival Park (Summerfest).

Again this year the All-City Parade and Pageant will join unions and invited associates in the parade and also provide a special presentation at Summerfest of puppets, performers and community messages. Created by the Milwaukee Public Theatre and the Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre, it will add artistry and community purposes.

Laborfest continued Page 24

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A bad, bad sheriff **Let's help real lawman move in: Chris Moews**

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

The September 14 primary gives Milwaukee County voters a chance to bring in a real cop as sheriff - and also a real Democrat.

Chris Moews has been doing the doors and preaching to a largely buffaloed public that it's past time for consistent public safety programs, solid administrative ability and actual cooperation with other Milwaukee law enforcement agencies -- all missing in the present sheriff, who embodies the old cowboy definition of "all hat and no cattle."

The police lieutenant doesn't strut in uniforms or puff up with self-importance, which must confound those who actually voted for that strut, flash and air of promotion.

Moews (pronounced Mays) is actually soft-spoken, direct and detailed about his law enforcement aims. He provides smart answers to voters' questions and has clearly inspired confidence within the Milwaukee Police Department. He's done everything from rescue children to help catch a serial killer to leading officers (he current supervises a homicide division shift).

He rose through the ranks to prominence (in 10 less years than the current sheriff, who was sidetracked, within the police department according to the record, by internal fights with his subordinates and fellow officers and accusations of drinking on the job).

In fact, one surprise is this primary race is that the usual code of silence among officers has been punched through when not shattered if you look at the endorsements or talk privately to prosecutors, suburban and Milwaukee officers tired of the sheriff hogging the media spotlight while they do the work or pick up the pieces.

The challenger studied to be a priest before he became a police officer, noting to voters who seem surprised by this that both are professions that "serve the public." But the police career won because he wanted to marry and raise a family while making the community better. Now the Moews family lives in Jackson Park and he's found time to serve as a literacy tutor, retreat leader and "Big Brother" in between fighting bad guys. "I was lucky," he says today. "My wishes came true."

Moews is offering a big test for primary voters:



Police Lt. Chris Moews deserves the sheriff's job

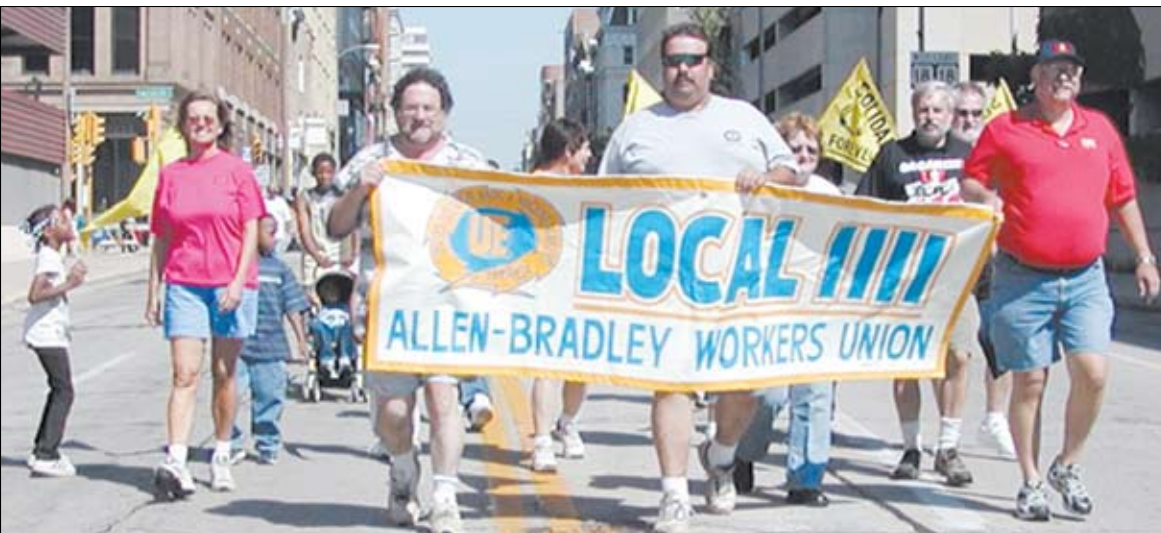
Can they tell the difference between genuine law and order savvy, which Moews has demonstrated over 16 years, and horseback posturing (perfected by the current sheriff over eight years in office)?

They can also correct a disturbing deception -- namely Sheriff David Clarke's pretense to be a Democrat. That's only for one month out of every 48 to win their party's primary (a historic prerequisite to getting elected in Milwaukee County).

Appointed by a Republican governor, Clarke spends the rest of the months expounding his thoughts in email missives to conservative talk admirers, promoting his ideas (and theirs) on their radio air, buddying with the Karl Rove crowd, catering applause at tea party rallies, and demeaning the service of black legislators (most from Milwaukee, of course). The Democratic Party may be a big tent, but Clarke's antics sure have torn a gaping hole in its canvas.

He did fool a lot of supporters eight years ago with his clotheshorse demeanor (guarding visiting

Moews continued Page 22



Rockwell's insistence on getting rid of its last union workers here will end UE Local 1111's tradition of marching as a proud unit year in the Laborfest parade. This final year the MALC will give them a place of honor up front.

Their last march

Rockwell ends its fabled union

Though not a member of the AFL-CIO or the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, UE Local 1111 has marched prominently every year at Laborfest. It found the MALC a cooperative partner in its protests and even a fellow strike walker over decades of battles to protect workers at Rockwell Automation, the former Allen-Bradley plant with the famous clock that in the 1970s employed thousands of Milwaukee union workers in manufacturing.

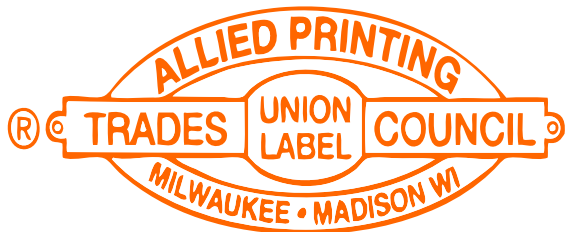
The marvelous fight of the local comes to an end this Labor Day, the last time the Local 1111 banner will be unfurled during the Laborfest march. The local

will be honored, as is tradition for departing unions, by a prominent position near the start of the parade.

All the manufacturing work and manufacturing service at Rockwell in Milwaukee concluded this summer, reflecting the Aug. 1 final contract between Local 1111 and management. The remaining 140 union workers -- down from the thousands who once stepped daily through the doors of the enormous building -- are being replaced not by Rockwell employees but by outside contractors when the company agreed in exchange to protect the retirement and health

Farewell continued Page 23

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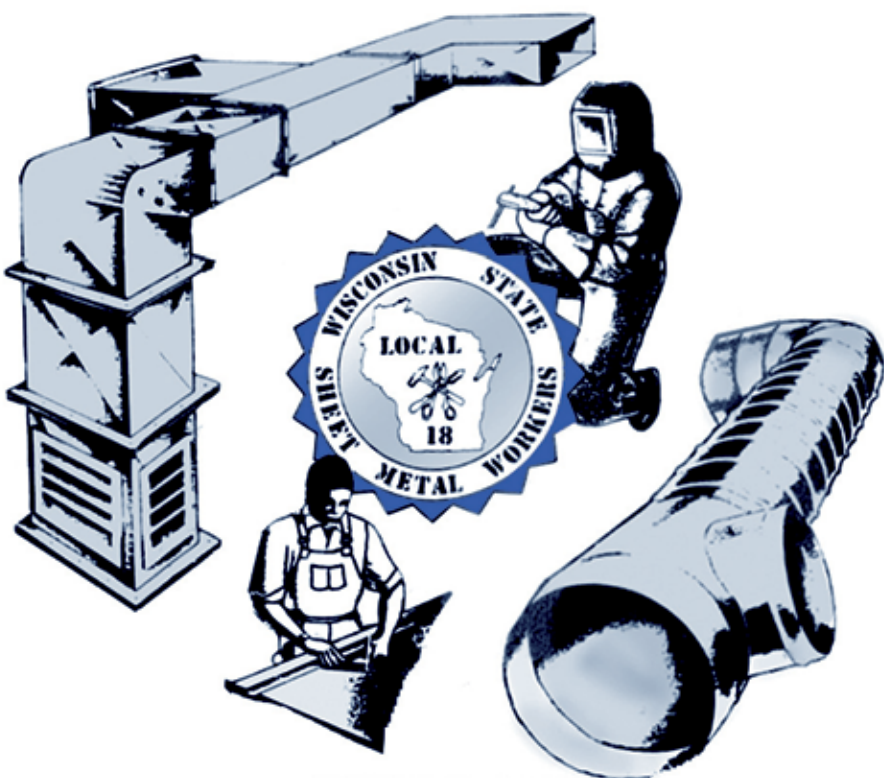


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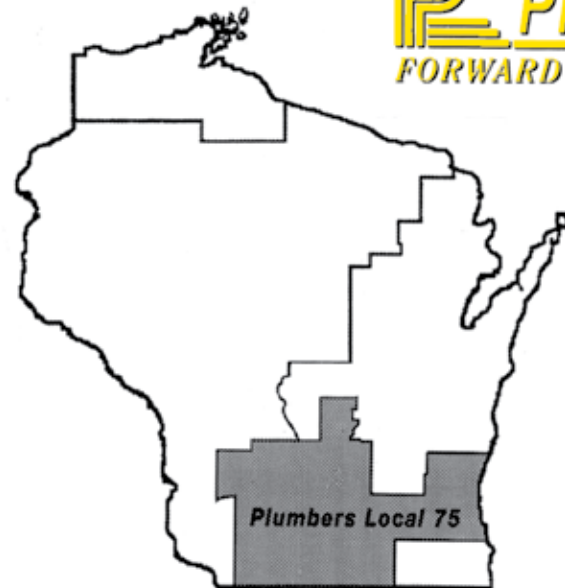
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Greening volunteers his mission in life

By Lynnda Guyton
Editorial Assistant
of the Labor Press

Spotlight

Focus the Spotlight this month on Kenneth Greening, who on June 5 won yet another major community service award, this one from the Milwaukee Area Labor Council at its first Annual Awards Banquet, honoring his dedication and unselfish support when it comes to anything to do with the MALC and other community based organizations.

After being in the military service Greening worked many jobs and took a number of classes in college including engineering before deciding that he wanted to become a plumber. His father was a self taught and non-union plumber who spent a lot of time in the library researching the trade but what the young Greening saw growing up was how hard it was for his father, who had problems because of limited education.

Greening went to college and took engineering for a year at UW Madison (which he didn't like and quit) and then took three semesters in plumbing at MATC and attended a 5 year apprenticeship program. He attended night school at Boys Tech to become a journeyman and received a journeyman and master plumbing license.

After working for 40 years as a plumber he retired on November 13, 2007, from Plumbers Local 75. Since then you can find Greening at almost if not all of the MALC labor activities and actions as well as any cause that has to do with workers rights and justice. He's always on time and always ready to go.

He says he has a list of people who were influential in his life but credits John Goldstein former secretary-treasurer and president of the MALC, for really getting him involved in many different organizations because Goldstein outlined to him the many problems workers faced and always had a solution for fighting back. So Greening's motto became that he would volunteer in a minute.

Now, his goal in life is fighting for social justice issues such as workers pay, safe work place environments and for employees to be able to speak out without any consequences. When there are workers that have problems who are losing strength in the workplace it motivates him and he can't just walk away, he feeds on it. He volunteers at LCLAA, WisCosh, the health & hygiene drive and is a sergeant-at-arms at the MALC delegate meetings. Through his volunteer work he has met many people along the way that he says he admires and appreciates the work they do by standing up for workers strug-

gles.

He made it abundantly clear that unions are a benefit to many people and knows with a union job the wages you receive are family supporting - even when, as he quipped, he's the only one in his family.

Among the organizations that have grown to count on Greening are Voces de la Frontera and Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Workers (he sits on both boards). He is also the recipient of many special awards such as the Volunteer of the Year award from MALC in 2000, the Schafer Award given to him in 2006 by the United Way for community service, Faith Community for Workers Justice award also in 2006 from St. Vincent Ferra, a Peace Action Service award for 10 years of service and volunteer work from Voces de la Frontera and then in June 2010 he was recognized and given an award for his undying service to the community and labor council at the MALC banquet.

He recalled, when Gina, one of the leaders from Workers Justice, and others in the organization threw him a surprise birthday party. Custodians, UWM stu-



Friends from Voces de la Frontera, including founder Christine Neumann-Ortiz to his right, celebrated with Ken Greening at the Milwaukee Area Labor Council first annual fund raiser in June as he received another major for volunteer service in worker causes.

dents and many others - in all about 40 people representing many organizations -- were there. Oh, they had food, cake, pina colodas, all the party treats. When he walked in they had that look like "We Got You!" The humorous part of this story is that the surprise was on them, because it wasn't even his birthday.

Greening is divorced -- sin-

gle right now and has no children. He's had many hobbies in his life may surprise you such as hiking, biking, and ice skating. He told the interviewer that he used to be able to jog 42 miles, sometimes running 3 to 5 hours straight. He is now an avid gardener who grows asparagus, rhubarb, blackberries, raspberries, pumpkins, beets and potatoes, all of which he's very proud of.

He's also a shy, humble man who doesn't like a lot of fanfare. Yet he is the model of active involvement for all union members and is usually both the first to arrive and the last volunteer to leave an event.

You can join Ken at about 5:30 a.m. Labor Day as he always helps setting up tables and chairs and covering tables at the Summerfest grounds.



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Whatever the national federation, the Milwaukee laborers have been a vital and often leading part of both the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. Local 113 has also been one of the most energetic and watchable marching ensembles in the Laborfest parade, as it was a year ago. This Labor Day, the march will be on the eve of the national union re-affiliating with the AFL-CIO, a move hailed by Richard Trumka, the AFL-CIO president, as a union creating the "moment for a unified labor movement . . . Together, brick by brick, we will build an economy that works for everyone."

For more on this year's Laborfest, see story, map and photos on Pages 24, 25 and 26.



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LIUNA Half million workers marching back into AFL-CIO on Oct. 1

Effective Oct. 1, LIUNA - the Laborers' International Union of North America - will re-affiliate with the AFL-CIO. The change was announced Aug. 15 by the union's president, Terry O'Sullivan, following a vote by the union's executive board.

In departing Change to Win, Sullivan praised that federation

for building research efforts and particularly for its organizing insights as the laborers built its weatherization and residential construction programs.

But now, more than ever, "working people and our country need a united union movement," O'Sullivan said. "Despite the historic success of the 2008 federal elections, too much is not getting done on Capitol Hill. A united union movement can better focus Congress - and particularly the US Senate."

O'Sullivan said the economy has decimated the finances of millions of working men and women. In the construction industry alone, two million jobs have been lost in the current recession and nearly one in five construction workers are jobless

- many going on a year.

LIUNA, with a half million members, disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO in June 2006 and joined the Andy Stern SEIU-led Change to Win federation. The AFL-CIO immediately made moves to continue coordination through regional councils and even at that time Sullivan expressed hope for an eventual reunification and his union continued to organize much of its political efforts through the AFL-CIO. It has been engaged in ongoing discussions with the national federation for some time. Laborers Local 113 in Milwaukee remains one of the most active and valuable members of MALC, holding many council events in its hall.



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Why unions must think young to grow

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Editor, Labor Press

All the growth in union membership since 2000 has been among women, Latinos and part-time employees, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. AFL-CIO writer James Parks uses that harsh reality in a blog posting to frame a bigger question, essential to the nation's future:

How can the union movement attract the next generation of working women and younger workers?

Clearly this concern is behind the surge in new support groups and political organizations among unions, locals and their sympathetic affiliates. These are dynamic groups and movements training the next generation of leaders and speaking to young workers to protect their own future by organizing into unions.

Unions are working across the progressive movement but there is growing pressure to aim part of this effort on encouraging young workers and women struggling on their own in the workplace to seek solidarity and strength through organized labor.

Bolstering the effort is a new report suggesting major changes within union organizing

and encouraging deeper thinking to achieve these goals. This report says unions must become more diverse and open up more opportunities for young workers and women in leadership or they will move on to other social justice organizations.

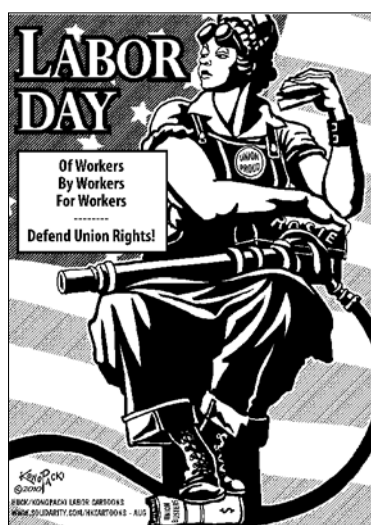
It quietly urges longtime union members to start reaching out to their younger workers caught in a non-union environment and work through the natural resistance of labor people to toot their own horn and discuss the advantages they have that these other workers don't have or are fast losing.

The report is "Stepping Up, Stepping Back: Women Talk Union Across Generations," details frank discussions at a two-day summit in New Orleans sponsored by the Berger-Marks Foundation.

Aimed at women, it broadened the discussion to young workers in general.

While acknowledging the significant gains for women in the workplace made possible by unions and the growing diversity in the union movement, the report urges unions to do even better to become more open.

The AFL-CIO is committed to increasing diversity in the union movement. At the federa-



tion's 2009 convention, 43% of the delegates were women or people of color. The convention also passed two resolutions, "A Diverse and Democratic Labor Movement" and "Unions Should Give People with Disabilities a Voice and a Face," that, among other things, require every state federation and central local bodies to establish concrete goals for expanding diversity in their leadership.

At the national level, several unions, including the Communications Workers of America (CWA), increased the membership of their executive boards to increase diversity. At AFT, for the first time, all three top officers are

women.

Still, union leaders agree with the report that all this is not enough.

It is sort of parallel to the obvious and largely successful stimulus efforts of the Obama administration in creating new jobs and making capital more available. But note how there are misgivings and hesitation even in the applause, even in the reality that no such movement to help the workers existed in the Bush administration (which also holds the US record for failure on the job front).

Yet most unions while conceding the direction is right are fighting for the government to realize that the effort of new jobs is still not enough and to address the disaster. Organized labor has as much trouble as other sectors of the nation in getting good messages across in tough times.

Unions can also see how this argument about commitment cuts both ways. The unions have also made heroic efforts and yet must do more for their own future growth to attract young workers and women, not just into unions but to a belief that unions are open to their role and ideas as leaders.

The report recommendations include adopting term limits for

elective offices, zero tolerance for sexual harassment, creating "safe spaces" for women and younger activists who want to air their concerns and training programs so young workers can learn how to "talk union" with their peers. To download, visit www.bergermarks.org/resources

"It's not enough that the door is open," one young participant in the Berger-Marks session said. "You have to grab them and bring them through."

The opinions expressed by the women and young workers were very similar to the ideas that came out of the AFL-CIO Youth Summit in June. One key point: New social media such as Facebook and Twitter aren't nearly as powerful as face-to-face contact with young people deciding whether to join a union. Many participants in both summits also said they felt frustrated that too many union officials stay in office too long.

The Berger-Marks Foundation is dedicated to achieving a voice for working women through organization and union membership. It provides funds for women workers involved in organizing and support working women who want to form a union.

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Obama's vision (jobs, autos, UAW, progress)

Editor's Note: To put this all in perspective President Obama's July 30 talk to UAW workers at a Chrysler plant in Detroit was the opening salvo in a month of memorable political talks developing themes of accomplishments on jobs, economic recovery and belief in American workers. He was not only rallying support for his candidates but striking back at much of today's media coverage, the dominance of partisan myths and society's tendency toward philosophical oversimplification. In many ways, Obama's talk in Milwaukee Aug. 16 combined the best ideas and one-liners of his remarkable summer, while adding new material. The views deserve further airing, and the outline began in Michigan when he cited the unpopularity of the government bailout of GM and Chrysler, still referred to by leaders of the "party of no" as the death of the American economic system. Here are some excerpts

I've got to disclose, I'm a little biased here because the first new car that I ever bought was a Grand Cherokee. First new car. Up until that point I had had some old, beat up (laughter) used cars -- they were not state of the art. And I still remember walking into that showroom and driving out with that new car. It had that new car smell, and everything worked. I wasn't used to that. Had all these -- everything was electronic -- I'd had to roll up my windows up until that point. So I've got some good memories of that car.

But I've got to tell you when I sat in this car (just off the factory floor), this is a better car. This is a state-of-the-art car. This is a world-class car right here.

Now, I want everybody to think about where we were. We were in the midst when I took office of a deep and painful recession that cost our economy about 8 million jobs -- 8 million jobs -- and took a terrible toll on communities like this one.

Our economy was shrinking about 6% per quarter. Now, this morning we learned that our economy grew by 2.4% in the second quarter of the year, so that means it's now growing again for one full year.

Our economy is growing again instead of shrinking. That's a welcome sign compared to where we were. But we've got to keep on increasing that rate of growth and keep adding jobs so we can keep moving forward. And that's especially important for places like this.

In the 12 months before I took office, the American auto industry lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. Sales plunged 40%. Think about that. The industry looked like it was going over a cliff. As the financial crisis and the vicious recession collided with an industry that for too long had avoided hard choices and hadn't fully adapted to changing times, we finally reached the point where two of the Big Three -- Chrysler and GM -- were on the brink of liquidation.

And that left us with very few choices. One choice, one option was to keep the practice of giving billions of dollars of taxpayer money to the auto industry but not really forcing any accountability or change -- so you just keep on kicking the tough problems down the road year after year and hopefully seeing if you can get more and more money out of Washington.

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Obama takes the floor July 30 at a Michigan Chrysler plant to meet United Auto Workers who would otherwise be out of a job. This is an official White House news photo. Labor Press' own photo gallery of the Aug. 16 fund-raiser for Tom Barrett at the Cellular Arena in Milwaukee is on Page 20. Obama's talk to the AFL-CIO is reported on Page 10. For all political persuasions, the month brought a remarkable series of speeches justifying his efforts for workers and his take-charge agenda.

A second option was to do nothing and risk allowing two of the Big Three to disintegrate. And that could have meant the end of an industry that, like no other industry, represents so much of what makes up the American spirit.

This industry has been the source of deep pride for generations of American workers whose imaginations led to some of the finest cars the world has ever known -- and whose sweat built a middle class that has held the dreams of millions of our people.

I just met one of your co-workers on a line. He is third generation working at Chrysler. His grandfather worked at Chrysler. His father worked at Chrysler. And now he is on the line at Chrysler. And that could have all vanished.

Now, the worse thing about it is that if we had done nothing, not only were your jobs gone, but supplier jobs were gone and dealership jobs were gone, and the communities that depend on them would have been wiped out. And, by the way, when you talk to the CEO of Ford, he'll tell you that wouldn't have been good for Ford either, because a lot of those suppliers that they depend on might have gone out of business.

Independent estimates suggest that more than 1 million jobs could have been lost if Chrysler and GM had liquidated. And in the middle of a deep recession, that would have been a brutal, irreversible shock not just to Detroit, not just to the Midwest, but to our entire economy. So I refused to let that happen.

And we came up with a third way. What we said was, if you're willing to take the tough and painful steps necessary to make yourselves more competitive; if you're willing to pull together workers, management, suppliers, dealers, everybody to remake yourself for changing times then we'll stand by you and we'll invest in your future. Our strategy was to get this company and this industry back on its feet, taking a hands-off approach, saying you guys know the business, we don't. We're going to give you a chance, but we do know you've got to change.

Now, not surprisingly, a lot of folks were skeptical. You remember last year. A lot of folks were saying, well, this is stupid, we shouldn't be helping them. And I understood that. Look, this was a hard decision. I didn't want government to get into the auto business. I've got enough to do. (Laughter.) And the politics of it weren't good. Your (congressional) delegation was supportive. But . . . they'll tell you there are a lot of folks in Washington who said it couldn't be done.

But I believed that if each of us were willing to work and sacrifice in the short term -- workers, management, creditors, shareholders, retirees, communities -- it could mark a



Continued Next Page

culminates in Milwaukee rally for Barrett

From Page 4



An official White House news photo of Obama on the summer podium trail.

new beginning for a great American industry. And if we could summon that sense of teamwork and common purpose, we could once again see the best cars in the world designed, engineered, forged, and built right here in Detroit, right here in the Midwest, right here in the United States of America

So I placed that faith in you and all of America's autoworkers, and you've vindicated that belief. The fact that we're standing in this magnificent factory today is a testament to the decisions we made and the sacrifices that you and countless stakeholders across this industry and this country were willing to make. So today, this industry is growing stronger. It's creating new jobs. It's manufacturing the fuel-efficient cars and trucks that will carry us toward an energy independent future. You are proving the naysayers wrong, all of you

They thought it would be impossible for your company to make the kind of changes necessary to restore fiscal discipline and move towards viability. Today, for the first time since 2004, all three US automakers are operating at a profit, the first time in six years.

Last year, sales plummeted and manufacturers and suppliers across the country were forced to idle plants and furlough workers. Today, Chrysler is responding to more demand than anticipated by keeping this plant and others running through the usual summer shutdown. The same goes for GM's plants. Sales have rebounded. Across the supply chain, plants that wouldn't exist without the sacrifices made across this industry are running at nearly full capacity.

Last year, many thought this industry would keep losing jobs, as it had for the better part of the past decade. Today, US automakers have added 55,000 jobs since last June, the strongest job growth in more than 10 years in the auto industry. This plant just hired a new shift of 1,100 workers last week.

I met one of your co-workers on the line. He said, "Thank you, Mr. President, I needed to get out of the house." *(Laughter.)* I said, "I know your wife really felt that way." *(Laughter.)* "I'm sure you were driving her crazy."

The Dundee Chrysler plant will begin production of an American-made, advanced technology, fuel-efficient engine this December. The Sterling Heights Chrysler plant that was scheduled to close after 2012 will stay open and add a second shift of 900 workers next year. And when a plant thrives, that doesn't just affect the new workers, that affects the entire community.

Now, it also helped that we took steps to stimulate demand, steps like Cash for Clunkers, which said that if you trade in your old car in for a new, more fuel-efficient model you'd get a rebate. That program was good for automakers. It was good for consumers. But you know what, it was also good for the environment. It was more successful than we ever imagined and it saved at least 100,000 jobs, giving dealerships sales numbers they hadn't had in years and communities an economic boost they wouldn't have otherwise seen.

So there's no doubt that the auto industry is growing stronger.

But, look, the hard truth is this industry lost a lot of jobs in recent years. Some of those jobs aren't coming back partly because automakers have become so much more efficient than they used to be. This is a lean, mean operation. And so there are people who have still lost their jobs, haven't been hired back and it wasn't their fault. Mistakes were made in managing the company that weren't theirs.

So that's why we still also got to make targeted investments to encourage new private sector manufacturing growth. We got to encourage clean energy. That's why we're taking steps to help communities revitalize and redevelop old, shuttered auto facilities, preparing them for new industries and new jobs and new opportunities.

I'll give you an example, those investments that we're making are helping to create an entire new advanced battery industry take root right here in Michigan. That industry was producing only 2% of the world's advanced batteries last year, but by 2015, we expect to produce 40% of the advanced batteries that go into our cars. . . .

Investments like those mean jobs for American workers to do what they've always done: build great products and sell them around the world.

So the bottom line is this -- we've got a long way to go, but we're beginning to see some of these tough decisions pay off. We are moving forward.

I want you to remember, though, if some folks had their way, none of this would have been happening. I just want to point that out. Right? I mean this -- this plant -- this plant and your jobs might not exist. There were leaders of the "just say no" crowd in Washington -- they were saying -- oh, standing by the auto industry would guarantee failure. One of them called it "the worst investment you could possibly make." They said -- they said we should just walk away and let those jobs go.

See Page 20 for a color photo gallery of Obama's Aug. 16 Milwaukee visit to support Tom Barrett's campaign for governor. Related photos on Pages 15, 26 and 31.

See Page 10 for Obama's back and forth with the AFL-CIO exec council.

I wish they were standing here today. I wish they could see what I'm seeing in this plant and talk to the workers who are here taking pride in building a world-class vehicle. I don't think they'd be willing to look you in the eye and say that you were a bad investment.

They might just come around if they were standing here and admit that by standing by a great American industry and the good people who work for it, that we did the right thing. It's hard for them to say that. You know, they like admitting when I do the right thing. But they might have had to admit it. And I want all of you to know, I will bet on the American worker any day of the week!

You know, when World War II hit Pearl Harbor, we didn't throw up our arms and said "Boy, this is tough. I don't know what we're going to do." We rolled up our sleeves. We got to work. And it was workers just like you, right here in Detroit, who built an arsenal of democracy that propelled America to victory. It was workers like you that built this country into the greatest economic power the world has ever known; it workers like you that manufactured a miracle that was uniquely American.

We faced down impossible odds. We can rise to meet any challenge.

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Janitors win downtown

The front page story in July's Labor Press was "Justice for Janitors" as 400 downtown custodians gathered for speeches from officials and union leaders and then marched to promote a new contract for cleaning downtown office buildings.

Not only had the old contract expired but one office building at 789 N. Water St. had departed the general agreement and handed its contract to Metro Clean, a non-union cleaning company that paid \$8 an hour with no benefits and refused to hire the three SEIU Local 1 workers who had been there.

Well, that fight will continue (it may be only three members but an injury to one is an injury to all for Local 1) but on July 31 the local's membership voted overwhelmingly to approve a new two-year agreement with downtown cleaning companies that would preserve health benefits, give cleaners the modest raise they had sought and retain unionized cleaning in the downtown business corridor.

It was pretty much a complete victory in difficult economic times, noted David Somerscales, one of the local's organizers for the campaign. The two-year contract provides 10 cents an hour increase January 1 and another 20 cents August 11, then a lump sum 30 cents increase in 2012. While employer health care costs went up, they



When organizer David Somerscales helped launch the campaign, he may not have envisioned success within a month.

didn't for Local 1's members.

Demands as always been realistic, noted bargaining team members, so getting even a small raise is "better than none" in the current economic climate, and particularly important was keeping workers' health costs from rising.

As pleased as the custodians were for the quick resolution of

the central campaign, they intend to continue to pressure that "8 bucks in not enough" for the one holdout. The local intends to change the attitude of building management at the Water St. building (Heartland Funds is the main tenant).

State AFL-CIO to hold its big convention in Green Bay

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention will hold its conference at Green Bay's Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Green Bay September 27-29, including elevation of new officers elected in the summer.

For details on costs, workshops and how to register, contact 414-771-0700.



The local's banner became very visible Downtown.

Calendar

For updated master list of events, visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org

Wednesday, August 25
MALC Executive Board Meeting
2 p.m., Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Saturday, August 28
Labor2010 Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Monday, September 6
Labor Day, Laborfest!

Wednesday, September 8
Monthly Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Friday, September 10
LERA Luncheon Focuses on Stimulus Bills
See details Page 11

Saturday, September 11
Labor2010 Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Tuesday, September 14
Wisconsin Primary Election
MAKE SURE TO VOTE! See Pages 1 and 18
for organized labor's choices.

Thursday, September 16
Labor's United Way Kick-off Rally
Speakers, appetizer, announcement of gifts
6 p.m., Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Saturday, September 18
Labor2010 Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Saturday, September 25
Labor2010 Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Monday, September 27
State AFL-CIO Convention in Green Bay
Three-day conference, Radisson Conference Center
Costs, workshops contact 414-771-0700

Wednesday, October 6
Monthly Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Saturday, October 9
Labor2010 Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

{ RALLY FOR CHANGE }

Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO Labor Kickoff

Thursday, September 16, 2010: 6 p.m.
Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres



Center of Excellence
3841 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208
Please R.S.V.P. to Annie Wacker: 414-771-9830, annieaflcio@sbcglobal.net

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United Way

Tragedy exposes Walker's idea of governing

By Roger Bybee

From In These Times

Imagine the public outcry if, after the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion killed 11 workers and unleashed the nation's largest environmental catastrophe, BP was chosen to inspect other oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Yet that's exactly what's happening in a parallel situation in Milwaukee. On June 24, a 13-ton slab of concrete fell off of a county-owned O'Donnell Park parking structure, killing a 15-year-old on his way to a summer festival. Graef USA, the engineering firm in charge of maintaining the structure since 1991, has since been appointed by County Executive Scott Walker -- a Republican candidate for governor -- to carry out inspections of other county facilities.

Observers of the pervasive payoffs-and-paybacks relationship between private contractors and government will not be totally shocked to learn that Graef USA executives have contributed \$15,000 to Walker's campaigns. But they might be just a bit stunned to find out that Walker also chose Graef for a \$300,000 no-bid emergency inspection of other county facilities.

But the Milwaukee tragedy is more than a local story about cushy treatment of campaign contributors. It exemplifies the hypocrisy embedded in the Republican philosophy of "small government" that Scott Walker so zealously advocates.

In reality, "small government" treatment is reserved for the bottom 80% of society, the "little people" who are essentially told at times of need, "you're on your own."

But for corporations and the rich, "small government" actually means lavish big-government subsidies and bailouts so that their survival is never threatened. Meanwhile, an approach of strategic neglect is applied to public facilities and services mainly used by working people and the poor.

This was most glaringly obvious in the "heckuva job" performed for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

In "The Wrecking Crew," author and TV commentator Thomas Frank explains how this split-level role of government first and foremost opens up a giant opportunity for private plunder.

The Milwaukee tragedy is the latest in a string of alarming cases (just one example: bridge collapses -- a report card by the American Society of Civil Engineers said 160,570 bridges, or just over one-quarter of the nation's 590,750 bridge inventory, were rated structurally defi-

cient or functionally obsolete). So this "wrecking crew" approach has resulted in critical public infrastructure collapsing due to a lack of inspection and upkeep.

The O'Donnell Park death is emerging as a symbol of the governing philosophy of Scott Walker.

In response to the case, local labor organizations led by Service Employees International Union Local 1 and County Board officials have called for a third-party investigation by a state agency. "Our goal is that the public, through an objective and independent agency, gets the thorough investigation to which they entitled," declared County Supervisor John Weishan. "You can't have a campaign contributor be in charge of the investigation."

Walker responded that it is "despicable that anyone would use this tragedy for political purposes."

But the collapse of the parking structure façade was clearly the outcome of Walker's political decisions for deferred inspection and maintenance, reported a local TV station. WTMJ's I-Team said that last December Milwaukee County Department of Public Works inspectors conducted an audit of county facilities and found that the O'Donnell Park parking structure needed nearly \$600,000 in maintenance and repairs -- maintenance and repairs which were deferred due to cost.

The deferral of these necessary outlays was in turn directly tied to Walker's decisions. As an editorial in the conservative Milwaukee Journal Sentinel revealed, "The county budgeted \$150,000 a year for the inspections, but that was zeroed out [by Scott Walker] the past two years because of budget constraints." (Now Walker intends to add millions more than requested into the next budget, hoping that critical supervisors who long fought for a cheaper way will be put in a pickle.)

Up until the collapse of the parking structure, the most visible casualty of Walker's selective neglect was the county's treasured parks system. The decline of the county's parks-the legacy of Milwaukee's Socialist mayors (who ruled the city almost continuously from 1910 to 1960)-is increasingly obvious.

Yet Walker remains fiercely opposed to a 1% sales tax increase designed to revitalize the parks and restore bus service reductions that cut off access to suburban job opportunities for more than 40,000 inner-city residents, according to the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Center for Economic Development.

Opinion

But those inner-city residents are not Scott Walker's real constituents, unlike private contractors. So they get the "you're on your own" version of government.

As economist Dean Baker writes in his book "The Nanny State": "The reality is that conservatives have been quite actively using the power of the government to shape market outcomes in ways that redistribute income upward."

The "nanny state" for corporations and the rich includes bailouts for the banks and insurers, trade policy enshrining investors' privileged status while ignoring worker rights, privatizing government operations for profit by capitalist cronies and virtual giveaways of public resources like mineral and oil rights on government-owned land and water to outfits like BP.

Thus, the conservative "Wrecking Crew" has succeeded spectacularly in colonizing government as a source of easy profit and reducing its capacity to serve the public. For example, the federal government even under Obama continues to award contracts to



A non-campaign photo of Scott Walker

firms like Blackwater (re-branded as Xe) despite its multiple crimes because the government's own capacity to provide vital security services for diplomats has been destroyed. To top it off, citizens are implicitly taught that they cannot count on the government to be on their side in times of desperate need, and that they can only rely more on their own meager resources and, of course, the merciless market.

Yet the façade of "small

government" sometimes collapses-literally and tragically as in Milwaukee-revealing the sordid reality of government resources commandeered by corporations and the rich while shamefully shedding its obligations to protect the vast majority.

The author operates www.inthesetimes.com and was the editor for 14 years of *The Racine Labor*. His article has been excerpted.

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Wannabe union guy Obama stirs up AFL-CIO executive board

"I know you are talking to a lot of your locals," said President Obama to the AFL-CIO Executive Council, consisting of the federation's top leadership and the 50 plus leaders of its members unions.

"I'm sure they are feeling like, 'Boy, change is not happening fast enough'. They have every right to be frustrated" as the consequences of bad policies and deficits 2000-2008 continue to paralyze the nation.

But here's why "you have to remind them," Obama told union leaders, "this election is a choice,"

In an unusually frank talk and question and answer session in D.C. in August, Obama put the future in stark terms as an election approaches that could, if it turns against his approach, reverse the engine of the better economy. The car is not moving fast enough, clearly, but it is gaining speed in the right direction, and Obama's analogy was simple: Why should voters give the keys to folks who can't even find the ignition and certainly have no clue how to move things forward?

"A lot of your membership had been hurting long before (my election), partly because we just live in a more competitive world. There's nothing we can do about that, that's just the truth. But a lot of it also had to do with the fact that we put policies in place that were not good for working families."

"There's a reason why incomes, wages, were stagnant for average workers, even while the costs were going up. And part of it had to do with the fact that we had a philosophy that said that providing help to workers, allowing them to collectively bargain, allowing them to negotiate for better benefits, that that all was something of the past instead of something we need for the future."

Now, he said, "You have these folks who drove America's economy into a ditch. And for the last 20 months we put on our boots and we got into the mud and we have been shoving that car out of the ditch, inch by inch, and they have been standing on the side the whole time watching, telling us 'No, you're not pushing hard enough, you're not doing it the right way,' not lifting a finger to help. And now we finally get that car [out of the ditch]... we are about to drive and they say they want the keys back."

"Well, you can't have the keys."

To applause at this gathering, Obama reinforced his commitment to the Employee Free Choice Act and his belief in unions:

"It is my profound belief that companies are stronger when their workers are getting paid well and have decent benefits and are treated with dignity and respect. It is my profound belief that our government works best when it's not being run on behalf of special interests, but it's being run on behalf of the public interest."

"You can't have the keys. You drove the car into the ditch!"

-- Obama to the AFL-CIO, an analogy about the GOP he expanded in his Milwaukee speech. See photos Page 20.

"So FDR I think said-he was asked once what he thought about unions. He said, 'If I was a worker in a factory and I wanted to improve my life, I would join a union.' Well, I tell you what. I think that's true for workers generally. I think if I was a coal miner, I'd want a union representing me to make sure that I was safe and you did not have some of the tragedies that we've been seeing in the coal industry. If I was a teacher, I'd want a union to make sure that the teachers' perspective was represented as we think about shaping an education system for our future."

As the executive council met to discuss a major push in the fall elections and the ongoing AFL-CIO strategy to address the jobs crisis reach out to young workers, it also welcomed new members to the council and added two more seats to improve diversity and regional representation.

They include United Auto Workers President Bob King, UAW Vice President General Holiefield, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders, North Carolina State AFL-CIO President James Andrews and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maria Elena Durazo.



Richard Trumka

The Council also honored two departing members - former UAW President Ron Gettelfinger and former United American Nurses President Ann Converso for their service to working people. Former UAW Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Bunn announced her retirement from the Council in March to become AFL-CIO organizing director. Holiefield was elected to fill that vacancy.

The new members and the US president were introduced by Richard Trumka, head of the AFL-CIO who this month also welcomed the Laborers union reaffiliation.

Excellence! United Way kick-off

Labor annually makes a big push to support the agencies of United Way through workplace campaigns, special events, other generosity and treasury gifts from area unions and locals.

This event is the official Labor Kick-Off Rally for United Way. It features cocktails and appetizers. Check with your local or union for invitations. It will be held starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave., an operation of WRTP/BIG STEP that turns into party center for the kickoff with lavish decorations and the tongue-in-cheek name of Chez Excellence.

There's quite a bit to this kickoff. Along with the variety of catered food, there are tours of this training facility, speeches, dignitaries, and gifts -- plus the event features announcement of the most prestigious community service award offered union members, named in honor of a legendary labor and United Way leader.

The annual Werner J. Schaefer Labor/United Way Community Service Award is given each year to a union member in the four-county region

who reflects outstanding community service as a volunteer, resource and/or trainer.

Nominations for the Schaefer honor can be submitted until September 14. A written explanation, nomination form and when possible a photo should accompany nominations, which are voted on by a special labor committee. Send nominations to AFL-CIO Community Services, MCLC, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 106, Milwaukee, WI 53214. For a past winner, see the profile of Ken Greening on Page .

To reserve your tables and pay for tickets, and to help union efforts for United Way or offer nominations for the award - or to find out what field mobilizers can do for workers in trouble - contact

Annie Wacker - 414.771.9830 / annieaflcio@sbcglobal.net

or Mike Balistriere - 414.771.9829 / mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net

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Labor Day greetings from the Milwaukee Newspaper Guild (Local 51)



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REGION 4 MEMBERS AND STAFF

LERA's seasonal lineup of heavy hitters

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Editor, Labor Press

A remarkable year of workplace and community insight has been announced by LERA in its monthly luncheons and November conference schedule. The speakers range from one of President Obama's new appointments to the National Labor Relations Board to Milwaukee Public Schools' new superintendent, Gregory Thornton, speaking candidly about the impact of the "Race to the Top" federal initiative on teachers and students.

The Wisconsin chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, whose events are open to guests, represents all sides of the workplace equation. Lawyers for unions, businesses, academia, government agencies and so forth are members as are union and management leaders, teachers, students and others concerned about these issues.

(Full disclosure: its advisory council even includes one journalist, though health reasons briefly prevented me from attending any meetings this summer or offer advice on speakers.)

LERA seems to have done just fine without me.

Its monthly luncheons, usually Fridays, are all held at Alioto's Restaurant, 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, with registration 11:30 a.m. followed by noon lunch (always two choices) and a speaker around 12:15 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, but students and retirees can dine and listen for \$10. CLEs (Continuing Legal Education credits) are available.

It opens Sept. 10 when Scott Adams, a UWM associate professor of economics who is also a



Mark Pearce

published author, addresses a truly burning question: Is the federal stimulus package working?

On October 8, changes at the National Labor Relations Board since the Supreme Court ruling in the New Process Steel case will be discussed by someone who should know: Irv Gottschalk, who is not only president of the Wisconsin chapter of LERA but also the director of Region 30 (based in Milwaukee and handling all the National Labor Relations Act cases in this area).

November brings a move downtown for the annual conference. This one will be held November 16, a Tuesday, at the Hyatt Regency, with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. and welcome remarks at 8:30 a.m., followed by eight important workshops on workplace concerns, running from 9 a.m. to noon.

Lunch brings Milwaukee's first opportunity to hear from a new member of the top NLRB board, Mark Pearce, appointed by the president in an interim move made necessary by partisan gridlock (Pearce and Craig Becker, both Democrats, will thus serve definitely through

2011).

But so much of the GOP hoopla fell on Becker, who had worked as counsel for labor unions, that many did not have an opportunity to learn more about Pearce, who is quite an interesting fellow, once chief partner in his own law firm in Buffalo, N.Y., and a specialist on employment law. He has also taught at the university level and is a respected amateur painter. Now he has a powerful (and majority party) vote on a board responsible for interpreting the national's labor laws.

The conference workshops hone in on crucial workplace, contract and human concerns: Health benefits and the Health Care Reform Act will be run by Gerald (Jerry) Frye, president of the Benefit Services Group, Inc. an employee benefit brokerage firm; "The Neurology of Conflict" is the a clever title for the workshop from Marquette University law professor Paul Secunda; "Mediation Process" will be explored by Julie Betz of the EEOC, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for enforcing discrimination laws.

In addition, interest-based bargaining will be explored by a panel led by honored mediator Ron Sweet while domestic partner benefits and rules will be discussed in another workshop by Ron Hudson of SEIU Local 1199 and Atty. Gary Marsack of Lindner Marsack.

Atty. Michael Cramer will lead two separate workshops, one on the impact, often hidden, of social networking in the employment relationship, the other an update on what is happening to the Fair Labor Standards Act. LERA veteran and state vice president Cary Silverstein will



Gregory Thornton, MPS new superintendent

join another presenter to explore the emotional components of layoffs for employer, employees and survivors.

Cost of the conference including meals is \$100 for members, \$125 for non-members (inquire for special student/retiree rates) with \$8 parking with registration.

The luncheon talks return December 10 with Thornton in his first year as MPS superintendent discussing the consequences

of "Race to the Top."

Luncheons and speakers are also being scheduled January through March - including session on arbitration and the status of the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission -- with a concluding dinner and speakers at Alioto's in April. For more information, contact Suzanne Clement at (414) 297-3883, or Suzanne.clement@nlrb.gov, or visit www.uwm.edu/Org/LERA

Kohl invites seniors to special hearing

Join Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.) for a hearing on "The Older Americans Act: Making Reauthorization Work for Wisconsin's Seniors." Kathy Greenlee, the US assistant secretary for aging, will join Kohl for the hearing on how to improve services at 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 7, in the main hall of the Wilson Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave. (free accessible parking available). The Older Americans Act programs provide assistance for those that want to live independently in their communities and include home care, home delivered meals, protection services, transportation, caregiver support and other services.

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They say it isn't racism – oh, really, Fox?

By Donald Kaul

Special to Labor Press

Tea partiers get upset when you call them racists. "We're not racists," they yell. "We're God-fearing Americans who don't like Obama's socialist, affirmative-action ways. We just want freedom from government interference in a color-blind society."

So you say, "What about that time a bunch of you lined up at the Capitol and yelled racist epithets at black congresspersons as they went into the building?"

"It never happened," the tea partiers shout. (When they're not yelling, they're shouting.) "Show us the clips. There are no videos of the alleged incident. It never happened."

Comment

Well, they've got a point. Everything that happens these days seems to be recorded on somebody's camera and find its way to YouTube with startling rapidity, yet there are no pictures or recordings of the incident at the Capitol.

Maybe it didn't happen. Maybe the "congresspeople" misheard. The protestors could have been yelling "Freedom for Niger," or something like that.

Right-wingers like Glenn (Loony Tunes) Beck have taken up the partiers' cause with a counter-attack, charging the black legislators and their allies with "reverse racism." I don't know exactly what

that means but I'm guessing "Nyah, nyah, you're another" is close to it.

It is my considered opinion that they are both right. Tea partiers are racists. So are African Americans who object to tea partiers.

Racism is woven into the very fabric of our society. It's written into the Constitution, our founding document, which for purposes of representation and taxation counted black people as three-fifths of a person. (Indentured white servants were counted as whole people, but not blacks.)

We practiced chattel slavery here for nearly a century after we became a nation and abandoned it only after a brutal civil war. For the next 100 years or so, most of the country indulged in some form of racial segregation.

And we're not racists? All of a sudden we're colorblind? Come on, get real. Racism is as American as apple pie. There's no reason tea partiers or their playmates should be exempt from it.

As further evidence I offer a column by Charles Blow of The New York Times. Blow writes about polls he's found interesting, complete with charts and graphs. Recently he laid out the results of a Quinnipiac poll on attitudes toward President Obama, broken down by race and ethnicity.

For example, the poll asked people whether they would vote for Obama if the election were being held today. Eighty-seven percent of African-American respondents said they would. This compared with only 49% of the Latinos interviewed.

Whites? A mere 28% said they would

vote for the president this time around.

That remarkable gap is repeated in the poll on a variety of issues. Does the respondent approve of the way Obama is handling the presidency? Ninety-one percent of the blacks say yes as against 37% of the whites.

Oil spill? Seventy-two percent of the blacks said Obama was handling it well, only 37% of the whites thought he was. On foreign policy the score was 72 to 38.

Latinos tended to be divided evenly on most questions, the exception being illegal immigration, on which only 38% thought he was doing a good job. That compares to 28% of whites who like what he's been doing.

All of that would suggest that people's views of Obama's presidency are being colored by color, so to speak.

What clinched it for me, though, was the question: "Do you think that Barack Obama has been a better president than George W. Bush?"

Only 37% of the white responders thought he had been.

George W. Bush! Who ran the economy into a ditch. Who took us to war in Iraq on a false premise. Who fiddled while New Orleans flooded. Who some scholars consider one of the two or three worst presidents in our history. That George W. Bush.

And two-thirds of the white people in this country think he was better than Obama.

That's racism, baby.

Retired syndicated D.C. Kaul now lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

From OtherWords

Labor Day Greetings



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Union groups help unemployed

The AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department (known as BCTD) has launched a "Back on the Job" campaign to help unemployed workers make their voices heard. (The unions are also working hard to make sure that Congress listens, which is why decisions about a new Congress are so important.)

The Machinists (IAM) and Working America also have made reaching jobless workers a priority, with IAM's U-Cubed site organizing workers online and Working America's Unemployment Lifeline offering information and support.

With unemployment in the construction industry at 20 percent nationwide, the BCTD campaign is a national education and lobbying effort to capture the attention of elected officials of all political parties and spur them into action. If you don't think you need this information, we bet you know someone who does, so pass it along.

The campaign features a new website, BackOnTheJob.org, where unemployed building and construction workers can tell their stories of how being without a job has put their lives on the brink of collapse and ask elected officials to take immediate action to create real jobs.

The website also will provide facts, figures and reports that support the need for robust measures to create jobs.

If you lost your job and need help, check out the Unemployment LifeLine at www.unemploymentlifeline.com. Sponsored by Working America, the AFL-CIO's community affiliate, it's a one-stop guide that links workers to the resources in their area, from unemployment offices to veterans' services to child care. It also offers the oppor-

tunity to talk to others and share support and lessons learned.

To join with other unemployed workers to organize and build political and economic power, there's the Union of Unemployed - nicknamed UCubed. A project of the International Association of Machinists, UCubed connects the unemployed in a specific ZIP code into small groups and links them to larger neighborhood groups and then into power blocks that politicians cannot ignore.

Learn more about UCubed at www.unionofunemployed.com.

Meanwhile, Jobs Not Done

The Job's Not Done nationwide tour will hit 17 states from late August to September 3, organized by the BlueGreen Alliance and spearheaded by union and environmental leaders.

The bus tour demonstrates support for senate action to create and preserve millions of American clean energy jobs. Among the leaders offering reasons for the senate to act are Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America, Carl Pope, chairman of the Sierra Club, Mike Langford, national president of the Utility Workers Union of America, and David Foster, executive director, BlueGreen Alliance.

The alliance is a national, strategic partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations working to expand the number and quality of clean energy jobs in the United States. For more information visit www.bluegreenalliance.org.

Labor Day

a day to rest,

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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Fairgoers found what makes America at MALC's Union Label Booth



The community leaders were visiting the State Fair the same day that retirees were celebrating Social Security's 75th birthday with a cake and speeches. So it was natural for them to take in the Union Label Booth, operated daily through the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and the state AFL-CIO. Especially since one of this quartet was in charge of the whole shebang. That's Willie D. Ellis (left in photo), president of MALC and chair of the union booth committee. With him (from left) were Leon Burzynski, retired IBEW, now president of the Alliance for Retired

Americans; William Christenson of IAM, a member of the executive council, and Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran. They then visited (bottom photo) the busy booth where shifts of volunteers give away union made trinkets and information. The booth ran into the evening August 5-15 and reported busy traffic as people stopped by to browse, inspect and chat. And several took advantage of the first opportunity to win the Harley Fat Boy auctioned off at Laborfest Sept. 6. The fair is always the first chance to buy raffle tickets for the Harley motorcycle.

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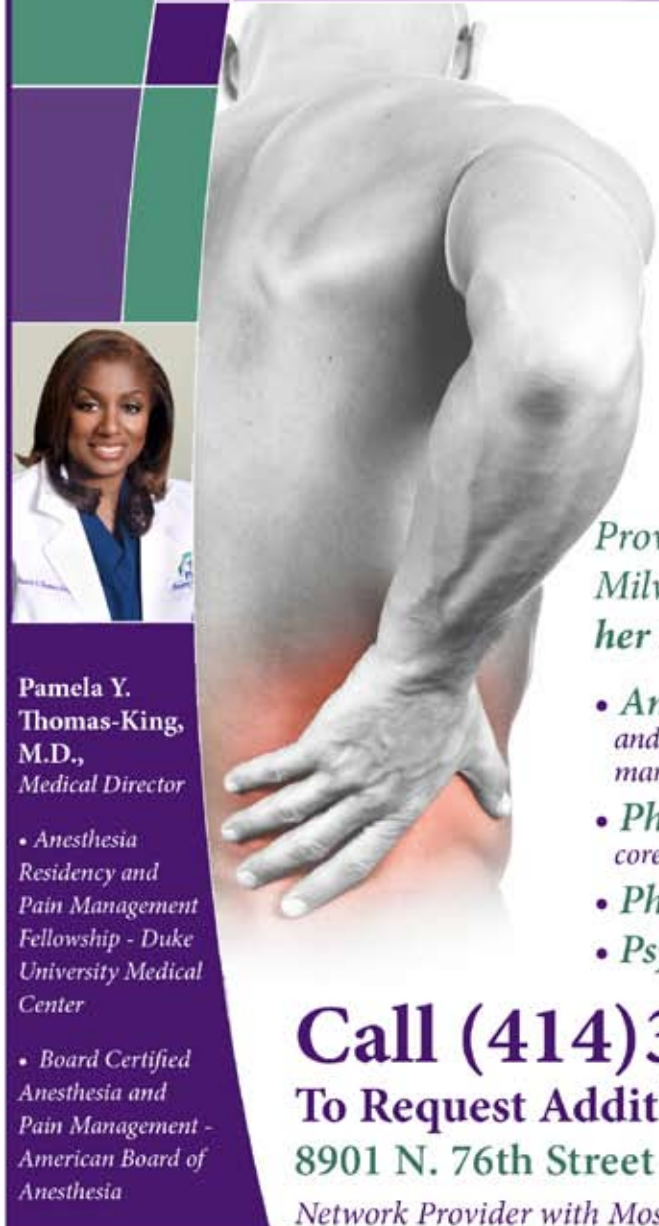


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Direct talk you'll like on Social Security

By Karyl Richson
Special to Labor Press

These days, almost everyone gets their benefit payment by direct deposit. Whether you receive Social Security or

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you can depend on your payment arriving in your account on time, every time. If you don't already have direct deposit, there are good rea-

sons to sign up. For one, less money and time spent driving to the bank to cash your check helps you save. Second, fewer paper checks, envelopes, and stamps, and less fuel to deliver the checks mean less waste and pollution for the environ-

ments will be deposited into your account on time, so there's no reason to worry about the safety of your benefit or to ask a neighbor to look out for your check when you are away.

As an added bonus, many banks offer free checking accounts for people who use direct deposit because it saves the bank the cost of processing paper payments. Plus, the payment probably will show up in your bank account sooner than a paper check will appear in the mailbox ... and there's no need to cash it. It's already in the bank.

Hurricane season is here for some areas. Other areas bear the brunt of flooding. Some areas of the nation are plagued by tornadoes, and still others must deal with wildfires, severe thunderstorms, or even earthquakes. If you are unfortunate enough to be in the line of a natural disaster, the last thing you want is for your income to be interrupted because of an evacuation or a missing mailbox. With direct deposit, you know your payment will be in your account on time no matter what.

Skip the line at the bank, save money, get your payment faster, and know you can depend on your payment being in the bank no matter what. You can do all of this with direct deposit.

When on vacation, direct deposit ensures pay-

P.S. You've probably heard that it's the 75th anniversary of Social Security. However, there is another important birthday going on. Social Security's online Retirement Estimator is now celebrating its second anniversary.

The Retirement Estimator stands as the most popular online service in both the public and private sector -- a position it shares with another popular service, Social Security's Benefit Application. That's according to the most recent annual American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), published earlier this year.

The online Retirement Estimator is a convenient, secure, and quick financial planning tool that lets you calculate how much you might expect to receive in Social Security benefits when retirement rolls around. The tool uses your actual earnings information on file at Social Security, without displaying your personal information. So you get an instant estimate of your future retirement benefits.

The Retirement Estimator even lets you run personalized scenarios and "what if" situations. For example, you can change the date you expect to retire or change expected future earnings to create and compare different retirement options. To use the Retirement Estimator, you must have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits and you must not already be receiving monthly benefits.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

The author is the Milwaukee based Social Security public affairs specialist.

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A POSITIVE FORCE IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES

City stimulates retrofitting

Both the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition and the Wisconsin Laborers' Pam Fendt, who once worked for the coalition, are heralding the Community Workforce Agreement approved in a key Common Council vote in late July.

In addition to the jobs already saved through federal stimulus money, this project sets hiring and training standards for the energy retrofit work that will be conducted through the city, funded with US Department of Energy money escalated in impact by a coalition of groups. Note that some 40% of worker hours for those trained and employed in the work will be filled by workers under the City's Residents Preference Program.

Known as the Milwaukee Energy Efficiency program, or ME2, this is a Milwaukee program to help homeowners and businesses cut energy use. Over three years according to the Common Council resolution it is expected to attract \$72 million in federal, state and private support to retrofit at least 4,500 buildings.

It plays into something announced last April by Vice President Joe Biden, who said Milwaukee, Madison and Racine would split a \$20 million energy conservation grant, aimed at retrofitting buildings to be more energy-efficient, under a program coordinated by the Madison-based Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp. But a lot more clout is expected to be put into the effort than federal funding.

While Milwaukee's share of that federal grant will be at least \$12 million, according to Common Council President Willie Hines Jr. who wrote the resolution, it turns out that the federal money would be matched more than 5 to 1 by a combination of incentives and in-kind services from Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corp., the state's Focus on Energy program, We Energies, the state Office of Energy Independence, unions and private lenders.

The Community Workforce Agreement that sets up ME2 has resulted from long effort by a number of players who have pushed for city action and civic participation, note leaders of the Good Jobs coalition.

One key result through residential preference in hiring will be to foster employment opportunities for historically disadvantaged or underrepresented groups in the city and the creation of a long-term construction career pathway for them and others that will be seeded with community investments as well as federal money.

Consider the five-fold effect of the cooperation:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding will combine with a diverse group of stakeholders -- private and state sources of capital and services -- in order to reduce

energy costs for the owners of homes and businesses, lower Milwaukee's carbon footprint, and create jobs for local workers.

It is unusual proof at a time when the nation sorely needs signs of such cooperation. But there are still some doubters in city government and the business community, so unions and the coalition are urging the public to bring the skeptics aboard by learning more about the possibilities of ME2.

The Good Jobs coalition is now a project of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.



Happy minglers at the Barrett-Obama event Aug. 16 included Common Council President Willie Hines, who signed the ME2 resolution in our story, and Sen. Herb Kohl who chatted throughout the crowd and then listened to the president's speech. More Labor Press photos from the event are on Pages 16, 20 and 31.



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At his Aug. 16 fund-raiser with President Obama, Tom Barrett was mobbed when he mingled and barely had time for hellos. But he paused for a special welcome and chat with Sheila Cochran, chief operating officer of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, who was seated for the event with their mutual good friend, Rep. Gwen Moore. Cochran is playing a key role in organized labor's get out the vote events and strategies, as all the candidates know full well. The MALC is also the prominent sponsor of Laborfest, where you can expect to find a lot of politicians on Monday, September 6.

Let's talk jobs

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

As Tom Barrett pointed out in a gala fund-raiser with President Obama, he will leave it to others to tear people down (he kindly did not name the chief culprit who is running against him) -- what he wants is to build Wisconsin up.

To that end, Barrett has taken to heart the need to prove to unions he's on their side. The workers know he is by far the most competent administrative choice in the race for governor. They know philosophically he is not about blindly cutting jobs in the hopes that the free market will reward the working class - a dream unrealized in all those Bush years when the GOP "tough it out" approach drove even many of their stalwart believers into economic chaos.

But what they do want to know is how Barrett will specifically work for them? In terms of experience, ability to think, he may be the only responsible choice. But he's also known for his balance and diplomacy. Is he a fighter and thinker for these times? How will he make jobs?

Actually, that's just the question Barrett alone among the candidates has been answering, with little attention. For months he has unveiled a series of job-creating bills or streamlined government service that will reduce costs and lift the appeal of Wisconsin.

In early August a bipartisan team of economists handed Milwaukee's mayor and leading Democratic candidate for governor a gift in the form of "Be Bold Wisconsin." This report

Comment

underscored the lack of focus on jobs in the state's Department of Commerce, which would be directly under Barrett's administration. Many of the recommendations in the report dovetailed with a comprehensive 67-page plan Barrett released several months ago.

Both the report and Barrett's plan echoed how, before and within the Doyle administration, economic development was fragmented badly. Barrett followed up by reminding the media of his own analysis and details, which the report backed.

"A minimum of 152 economic development programs are scattered across at least 26 agencies, councils, and other bodies," he noted. "A large majority of Commerce's staff and budget is devoted to enforcing the state's building code, safety laws, and to cleaning up leaking underground oil storage tanks -- worthy activities but having little to do with economic development. In fact, according to the recent bipartisan study, only 11% of the Department of Commerce's 328 permanent employees are actually tied to business development."

Barrett has prepared not some wishy-washy hope for blind luck as his opponents have tended to do but a very specific, principled series of steps he would take as governor. To touch on those:

1. Tie tax cuts directly to job creation. "By providing tax credits, incentives and cuts to businesses that invest in our state and create, retain and attract jobs here, we can spur greater economic growth in Wisconsin," he wrote.
2. Launch a top-to-bottom review of all of the state's economic development tools -- strengthen the efforts that are proven to work, and get rid of those that don't.
3. Consolidate all of the state's job creation tools under a unified "Office of Jobs Creation" that reports directly to the governor.
4. Build regional economic development organizations. "I worked to establish a highly successful regional economic development group in southeastern Wisconsin that has created and retained 2,000 jobs in our state in the past 10 months alone," Barrett says in support of this concept. "We can replicate that success in every corner of Wisconsin."
5. Create a Wisconsin Venture Capital Fund - modeled on successful efforts in states like Ohio - to provide at least \$500 million in financing for emerging businesses and industries that create good-paying, family supporting jobs.



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3 new candidates endorsed for election

Backing a challenger over a seasoned incumbent in the state legislature was the surprise Sept. 14 Democratic primary decision by the state AFL-CIO, acting on recommendations from the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, which conducted an extensive education session, questionnaires and inter-

views with most of the area candidates.

The endorsement went against Margaret (Peggy) Krusik, who had organized labor's backing in the past. The preference this year was strongly for a relative newcomer but a knowledgeable, clear-spoken, organized campaigner, **Scott Dettman**.



Scott Dettman
He's the choice for the **7th State Assembly District**, on the southwest of Milwaukee including half of Greenfield, where Dettman grew up and continues to work with young people.

The union interviewers had to face the reality that Krusik has drifted from issues and advocacy central to working family issues and hasn't proven a reliable or effective leader on labor issues in the Assembly after 17 years. Dettman in contrast is a go-getter with pragmatic experiences in policy and politics, having worked for several campaigns, led on environmental causes and co-hosted revelations about toxic chemicals with Gwen Moore.

A Greenfield High School graduate who then played quarterback at Valparaiso University before earning a degree in political science and scholar honors at UWM, he has also run a research and publications firm focused on health system efficiency and promotes sustainable environmental practices and renewable energy. Each summer he works at quarterback camps in the Midwest.

In the Assembly, he wants to take the lead on the state funding schools properly and well. An environmental expert, he strongly supports the legislation and goals of organized labor for good jobs and a clean energy industry. Other key advocacy areas he

Primary Choices

citizens are property tax reform, community health and safety and the effort to give the state a crucial role in ending harmful environmental practices.

All that, combined with his energetic grassroots campaign and belief in worker rights, made it easy for the interviewers to recommend him to primary voters. Learn more at DettmanForWisconsin.com

Annette (Polly) Williams' decision to retire after long independent-minded service in the Assembly for **District 10** (north side of the city plus parts of Glendale and the Riverwest area) stirred an active field eager to replace her on the Democratic ticket in the primary.

But the state AFL-CIO, acting on the Milwaukee council's suggestion after extensive interviews, found an experienced one of their own to back. Labor is endorsing **Stephanie Findley**, who works at AFSCME District Council 48, long has been a leader in the local Democratic Party (recently chair of the 4th Congressional District), served varied community roles as a management consultant and a teacher (she has several advanced degrees), has a daughter about to go to college and is known to many voters because she's lived in the area for more than 20 years.

Findley knows firsthand the trials of running for office, since she's worked the doors before on her own and others' behalf. This time she faces some tough competition in newcomer Sherman Hill and a member of the politically active Coggs family who already has a job as county supervisor, Elizabeth Coggs.

Findley, however, is established as a labor progressive and advocate for local families.



Stephanie Findley



JoCasta Zamarripa

Supporters say she's what is sorely needed in Madison -- people who know the problems and have lived the territory. Expect a hard race to Sept. 14 since the Democrat who wins in this area of the city survives any challenges in the Nov. 2 finale.

For more about her platform and how to help, visit www.findleyforassembly.com.

Williams' retirement and **Pedro Colon's** decision not to run guarantee some new Milwaukee faces in the Assembly, and the primary has drawn a crowded field in **Colon's District 8** on the near South Side, a center for Latino families that has long suffered from low voter turnout in state elections.

Fortunately there was a dynamo in the race, a progressive candidate easy for the state AFL-CIO to endorse. **JoCasta Zamarripa** had already won backing from workers in the community at SEIU Local 1 and Voces de la Frontera.

A community organizer, graduate of UWM and a Latino leadership program, JoCasta (everyone calls her JoCasta for ease of the tongue and because she has a first-name air about her) says her goals in the Assembly are always progress always forward -- quality education, family-supporting jobs, intelligent crime prevention and making sure the district "gets the dollars and resources it deserves."


The challenge, several observers noted, will be keeping the largely Hispanic community in the Democratic lane, since anger over right-wing tactics and local GOP failures have stirred up the voters. But the Sept. 14 primary doesn't allow crossovers, so Zamarripa's backers are being urged to vote her in first and "save their anger at the GOP until November 2." For more on her views and how to help, visit www.forwardwithjocasta.com or call (414) 384-2786. - D.P.N.

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LEFT: Yes, that is our Page 3 profile, once again one of the first to volunteer and clap loudly for an articulate candidate. Ken Greening was reacting to the candor of Chris Moews, who is running for sheriff and making a lot of believers along the way.

BELOW RIGHT: A veteran of Labor Walks, Steve Kwaterski, welcomes a union member to the event and explains the drill. Volunteers pick up stories about candidate and issues, information packets and the names of the union households they can visit on their walks.



They pair up with other union members or retirees participating, often making new friends in the process or working with old friends. The walks are targeted to specific issues and often neighborhoods in districts in contention. Labor2010 events are taking place most Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the Nov. 2

election, except, of course, Labor Day weekend. Breakfast and lunch are provided to participants. Most walks start and end at 633 S. Hawley Rd., where the MALC has its office. To learn more or become a part of Labor 2010, contact Jenisse Volpintesta, jvolpintesta@wisafclio.org or call (414) 771-7070.



Walks to win

The candidates know the power of Labor2010 since many go out of their way to listen and to talk easily and candidly to the union members who volunteer. At right one of the listeners was State Sen. Jim Sullivan, who has a lot of door-to-door union supporters in his fight to keep his seat against a well-heeled GOP talk machine, Leah Vukmir. Other candidates who have made a visit or are expected to range from the famous (Gwen Moore, Russ Feingold) to newcomers eager for labor to help them capture seats (see opposite page).

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Listeners from left: Gov. Doyle, Dan Bader and Sen. Kohl.

Our big crush on Obama

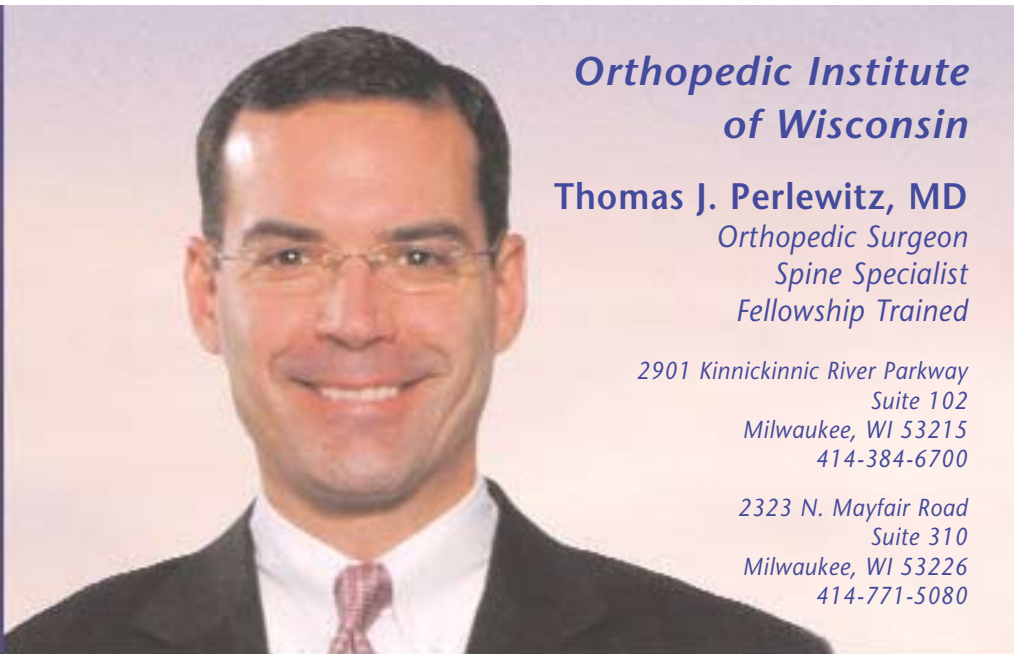
Good thing Tom Barrett is tall, otherwise you couldn't see it was him enveloped by nearly 2,500 luncheon



guests at Milwaukee's US Cellular Arena. More than 1,600 paid the \$250 a plate freight not just to help him in the governor's race but mainly to see and hear President Obama, who seamlessly wove the themes of American jobs (more on Pages 6 and 10) with humor and determination. His half-hour speech, expressive face and gestures seemed to mesmerize a crowd that had its share of professional cynics as well as devout fans.



All photos by Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Milwaukee Labor Press.



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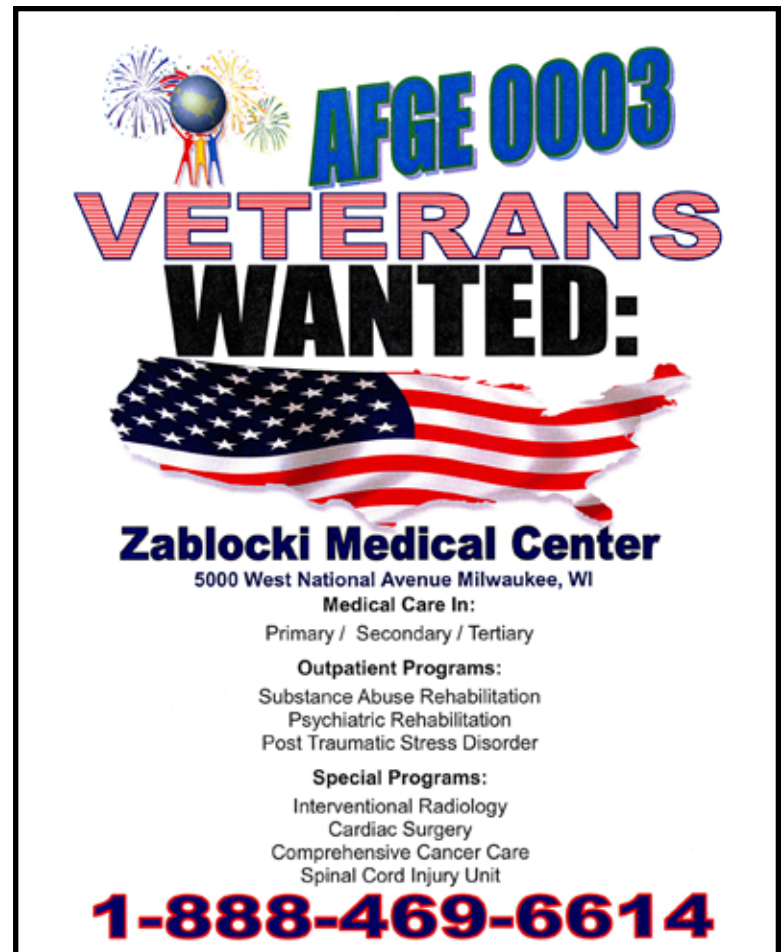
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Newby urges public fire to re-educate greedy

By David Newby

Special to Labor Press

Labor Day is the one day of the year intended to honor workers for their work. On this day all work should be acknowledged as conferring dignity, and working people should be recognized as the creators of wealth in this society.

Labor Day 2010 should be no different -- except that this year working people have little to celebrate. We have the highest unemployment rate since the

GOP gasses out at 70

By Tula Connell

AFL-CIO Managing Editor

Republican Rep. John Boehner from Ohio says if his party took over Congress in the fall elections, it would raise the Social Security eligibility age to 70. Sharron Angle, Republican candidate for Senate in Nevada, said Social Security should be phased out.

As Social Security turned 75 in recent days, the nation's most successful safety net is under attack as never before.

Writing at Huffington Post, Barbara Easterling, president of the Alliance for Retired Americans, asks:

"Can you imagine working until 70?"

In jobs like construction, manufacturing, and the service sector, I just don't see how you can.

A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research showed that 45% of workers age 58 to 69 are in physically demanding jobs.

And in a tough labor market, who would hire someone in their late 60s?

In fact, without Social Security, 19.8 million more Americans would be poor, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). Without Social Security, 45.2 percent of older Americans would have incomes below the poverty line. With Social Security, only 9.7% are poor.

CBPP's Paul Van de Water and Arloc Sherman remind us that Social Security isn't only for retired folks: Social Security lifts more than 1 million children out of poverty.

More children and elderly living in poverty doesn't seem to bother the likes of Boehner. He's too busy playing golf at the ritzy clubs he belongs to when he's not relaxing in his gated community.

High time for social celebration

But working people know the value of Social Security. On the 75th birthday in Wisconsin, it was celebrated with a series of cakes, speeches and parties honoring the successful federal program and urging respect and continuity.

Great Depression. We have lost nearly 70,000 manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin during this Great Recession (and that's in addition to more than 50,000 manufacturing jobs that our state lost due to fundamentally flawed trade agreements such as NAFTA). Tens of thousands have lost their homes.

Yet the "experts" say that there is little that can be done. Recovery from this recession is going to be slow and long in coming, they say.

The parties were thrown in mid-August at the State Fair and in Green Bay, Kenosha and Madison, with special speakers as well as cakes. Sponsoring these events were the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans, the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, AARP, the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

See related photo story on Page 13. See practical help on Page 14.

All pointed out how Social Security, one of America's great success stories, has been maligned in public debate. Social Security has enough money to cover full benefits for another 30 years, and has not contributed one cent to the nation's budget problems.

But some in Washington, including members of a new federal commission on deficit reduction, have suggested either cutting Social Security benefits or raising the retirement age as a way to "fix" the deficit.



Expect to hear his familiar voice speaking out on issues of worker justice, as he did at this year's Bay View Tragedy ceremonies, but David Newby is departing this summer from his longtime role as president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

And so the economy stagnates. But we don't have to tolerate this. We can make large public investments in our infrastructure and increase support to state and local governments to get our economy moving again.

However, the rich and the right-wing have mounted a sophisticated, well-funded and alarmist campaign to convince us, falsely, that the immediate threat is not unemployment but the growing federal debt. This well-orchestrated media opera-

tion has persuaded an astounding number of politicians and pundits (and, unfortunately, a small but vocal minority of working class and middle class Americans) that our biggest problem is indeed the deficit, and that we need to cut back government spending.

What we need is precisely the opposite.

What we really need is public investment to keep people in their homes, provide desperately needed health care, feed and clothe those who are struggling,

and put people back to work so they can support their families and regain their pride. We need to fire up the factories, keep small businesses alive, and operate our financial system so that it supports our economy, promotes economic growth, and fosters home ownership.

For the health of our whole society, we need to rebuild, maintain and adequately fund our public structures including schools, roads and transportation systems, libraries, police and fire protection, and parks. We need to end the consolidation of media ownership, which excludes almost every progressive voice.

There is so much to be done. To its credit, the labor movement has tried to sound the alarm. While some progress has been made, the voices of workers and unions have been largely muffled - and certainly ignored. Meanwhile, Wall St. and CEOs prosper.

Still, we will not be silenced. Unions in America will continue to sound the alarm and fight for the interests of working people here in the United States and around the world. We will find new ways to communicate, new ways to organize, new ways to exercise power, and new structures that serve working families - because even when everyone gets back to work, we still will not have established social and economic justice in our society.

But workers will always find a way -- to restrain greed, restore economic justice, and build community for us all.

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Moews

From Page 1

dignitaries first gained him political attention) and pretense to erudition but it took only a few years for his Democratic handlers to discover that good posture and secondhand phrases simply masked poor management skills.

Some in the public have yet to catch on. Call them gullible, call them fearful that bad guys lurk around every corner, but they are sincere in their misjudgment. They're not alone in America in confusing swagger, tough talk -- even a cowboy hat worn in public -- as competence.

Such fans dismiss his detractors as wimps who won't charge up the hill on Clarke's command. They forget that even a soldier who charges up the hill obeying a bad, illegal or criminal command can go to prison.

Intelligent enforcement relies on mutual respect and teamwork among trained professionals and a lot of internal discussion about strategy, rules of engagement and coordinated trust before you take a hill. Leaders who don't think are dangerous and usually ineffective. When they believe their cult of personality is bigger than teamwork, they easily become pawns of wasteful schemes and tilted political ideology.

Clarke knows some find his style artificial and empty, but he's convinced his backers don't. Typical was the moment at a primary election interview when Clarke was jokingly asked by this reporter if the two aides accompanying him were his bodyguards. Clarke grinned and patted his sidearm, suggesting that was all the bodyguard he needed.

Some find such smirking machismo appalling, others appealing. Both reactions miss the real question:



Chris Moews

What has Clarke done to the sheriff's department over eight years?

It's pretty clear. He has decimated its ability and reputation, destroyed morale, wreaked havoc with the safety programs that worked, turned smart budgeting into a relic of the past and used his political platform (similar to the County Exec's) to twist his agenda and then hide failures behind a law and order mantra.

His weaknesses emerged in his self-inflicted aborted run for Milwaukee mayor but the proof is his tenure as sheriff. He never misses a media opportunity to pontificate about lakefront rowdiness but he has nearly cut the number of deputies in half, confused his corrections officers, assigned too much staff to ineffective pet projects, stepped away from a leading role in area law enforcement unity, forced the DA to save the witness protection program and fraud investigation, reduced county cooperation in region narcotics and metro patrols, and fought against incorporating job training, anger management and drug counseling to halt the revolving door of returning prisoners.

Clarke not only has been called to account numerous times by the civil service adjudicators for mistreatment of his own employees, he also has wasted taxpayer resources through budget over-

runs, abandoned programs, crime campaigns more about publicity than successes, and topped it all off with the constant scramble to blame others (the "liberal media," supervisors, the public, even his own deputies).

When trained deputies point out the obvious -- his elevation of sycophants over test-proven pros, his defiant breaking of contract rules to reward "yes men" and punish those who question his methods -- he demeans critics as political enemies who don't know how to obey commands.

Still, Moews insists, his campaign is not "about me or even my opponent." It's about public safety and administrative competence, "a better run department" that knows how to use its crimped resources wisely.

Even in these tough economic times, he suggests, the county should fund safety programs, truancy abatement and drug treatment that Clarke has opposed "because they work." It should pursue intelligent handling of prisoners rather than farming this off to private companies. It should more efficiently patrol the freeways and guard the courtrooms.

"If we address the pocket-book issues and think progressively," says Moews, the county can do a lot more with current resources. "We can use what we have to increase safety, save money, and grow relationships with suburban departments."

A little attention to the sheriff's record and a comparison of their methods and abilities make him confident the "public will see the difference."

Press Moews, though, and he is clearly disgusted with the

tatters Clarke has made of his profession -- particularly disturbed by Clarke's treatment of fellow professionals.

If you bluntly ask if Clarke is a poseur, Moews pauses for a moment. He clearly doesn't like the sheriff's message or tactics, but says Clarke should be honest about what he is and believes.

But that, Moews adds, is one of the problems. Clarke runs as a Democrat even though "his policies and philosophies don't align." It's a purely political move that, to Moews, is an issue of integrity.

"I'm the true Democrat in the primary," he points out. "If he can't be honest about who he is," he told one newspaper, "then how can we expect him to be honest with the general public?"

Big Backing

Moews has won a surprising number of endorsements from public safety professionals, far beyond the Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs Association, which has suffered under Clark.

He's backed by the Milwaukee Police Supervisors Organization and the Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters Association. The Democratic Party and US Sen. Russ Feingold (hardly a pushover in giving primary endorsements), key state legislators and county supervisors are also backing him, as is the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.



Moews made a convincing low-key case to hire him as sheriff before union rank-and-file at a recent Labor2010 walk.

Clarke's departing temper tantrum

The latest destructive tirade from Clarke, which he hasn't denied but calls "politically motivated," made for quite a Journal Sentinel column August 8, when Clarke erupted in a f-word-laden tirade against a deputy sheriff who simply wouldn't let him break contract rules right and left. Clarke called it a "counseling session." The meeting had nothing to do with Rick Graber's duties as a sergeant but, as Graber detailed, his role as a union officer.

Clarke's venom came a day

after the sheriff assigned some selected favorites to overtime in the wake of that fatal O'Donnell parking pavilion tragedy. The union didn't complain until it became clear that Clarke was going to give more OT to his own choices, so Graber reminded the sheriff of the legal requirement to make such pay opportunity accessible to all members.

The sheriff unleashed what the column described as "an expletive-filled, anti-union rant," increasing in volume and hostility, calling the deputy a "terrorist" and the union a "cancer." All for defending a contract.

The newspaper column provided the deputy's account of one portion of the conversation:

"Why do you keep calling me a (expletive)?" Graber asked. "I'm not a (expletive)."

"You're a (expletive)," Clarke countered, repeating the term.

"Well, you don't know me well then," Graber said.

"I don't want to know you - I want to get rid of you," Clarke said. "I want to rid this agency of waste like you."

The sheriff, of course, hit

the ceiling again when read the column's account but read his response and you will see he doesn't contradict a word.

Graber's account is actually undisputed if you parse Clarke's reply carefully. He tries to discredit the deputy because of his union's motivation, not the facts. And there is a witness, a sidekick to the sheriff who stonewalled the press about what happened.

But now that the union has filed a formal complaint, that witness will have to testify before civil service judges, who have already agreed several times about the sheriff's attempt to sidestep the rules about promotion. As a result of these rulings, the taxpayers have been forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars in the union's legal fees.

The county has been required, however reluctantly, to defend Clarke and cost the taxpayers much more. But unlike the union, which had to report its legal costs to gain reimbursement, the county doesn't provide such details. Another thicket for this sheriff to hide in.

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Farewell

From Page 1

costs of the remaining union members.

Accepting outside contractors to do the union's work was hard but still "a very solid agreement" under the circumstances, as outlined by the local's president, Robert Granum, who recalls starting work at the plant in 1972, when it was Allen-Bradley, and there were 6,500 employees. Local 1111 is part of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE), which has represented workers at Allen-Bradley since 1937.

The founders of the factory are recalled as profit-minded hard negotiators but also most often honest dealers and civic-minded industrialists, a species that seems, like large manufacturing unions, to be vanishing from the American conscience.

The sale to Rockwell laid enormous fortunes on the Bradley heirs, who reflected the civic concern. The money resulted notably in the Bradley Center, largely a gift where the Milwaukee Bucks still play, and other notable halls and grants. Those buildings are regarded today as "outdated" but what a remarkable stretch of largesse for the city. It answered that largely unspoken contract between hard-working folks who make the industrialists' success possible and the owners' bigger income because of their commitments to bring more jobs to the community. It is the once assumed contract that may also be vanishing from American morality, given the cold facts of today.

(The revenue for heirs from the Rockwell sale had other consequences. It also laid the funding power for the Bradley Foundation, which now has more respectability but then emerged as a rabid funder supporting questionable right-wing philosophies and authors. In its first 15 years the foundation laid the unhappy groundwork that even today perpetrates myths of the free market, the excesses of unregulated voucher schools and even some tea party machinations.)

On the whole, though, the Allen-Bradley riches benefited Milwaukee in a different era of manufacturing. While Rockwell management speaks about more efficient manufacturing in the lobbying hallways of D.C., its behavior toward Milwaukee pretty much belies that.

Local 1111's battles at Rockwell were largely to force the company to delay its constant stripping of US workers. The union bargaining largely limited departures to worker retirements, so that the lowering would not result in wholesale layoffs.

This year, with a union finally small enough at 140 members to be eliminated, Rockwell imposed its final con-

ditions, and the union fought back to win some important protection for its older workforce.

Two-thirds of its members, Granum points out, are close to retirement (between 55 and 60), and the contract assures all receive their full pensions, including medical benefits. They also receive health and dental insurance and supplemental income from Rockwell until their retirement dates. Workers not yet close to retirement age will receive supplemental income for about six months, health and dental insurance for a full year, this year's vacation pay and a pro-rated portion of next year's vacation pay. Since Rockwell conceded that the job losses resulted from moving production work out of the United States, the workers will also be eligible under the federal Trade Adjustment Act. That includes extended unemployment compensation and tuition assistance for retraining.

Granum admits to some mixed feelings about the results. On the one hand, "We are proud that our union was able to achieve this outcome despite the terrible economic circumstances facing working people right now. Our more senior members can have a decent retirement and those who still have a portion of their working career ahead of them receive some much needed assistance as they transition to a new employer."

On the other, he said in an interview, he is disgusted with Rockwell, a gigantic corporation enjoying big profits even in these hard economic times for working



families. It has some manufacturing left in Mequon and Ladysmith but has outsourced its main industrial production to the "Dominican Republic, Mexico, China, Poland and like that." Some of this is the seemingly inevitable global movement but much lines executive pockets and placates unthinking shareholders. It has clearly resulted in decimation of work opportunities in Milwaukee. (Though ironically, while Rockwell flees, look at what is leading the economic growth at home in the private sector: It is manufacturing, still too slow but nevertheless a growth industry in the US.)

Not at Rockwell, though, even as globally it tripled its quarter profits this year -- \$119.4

million, or 83 cents per share, for the April-to-June period compared with \$32.8 million a year ago. Its revenue has gone up 25% to \$1.2 billion.

Yet it gladly relied on US taxpayer largesse to shed US employees. Granum is upset that in the final contract, "Rockwell is using taxpayer-funded dollars for health care and unemployment (using the Obama administration's tax credits intended to help needy businesses survive the economic downturn)."

"Great that we have health insurance but they are using federal dollars despite the fact they're making millions. Rockwell's decision to close their factory operations in Milwaukee will deprive future generations of the opportunity to have a decent, family-supporting job."

His local is calling on Obama and the US Congress to create an industrial policy that "stops companies from moving any more jobs abroad." Notes Granum, "Today it is production jobs but tomorrow it will be

engineering. Our nation cannot afford this race to the bottom."

Given his workers' experience, Granum cannot dispute the chief worry of today's American families, even those that recognize the administration is moving things in the right direction, albeit slowly. The devastating inheritance of the Bush years is only now coming into focus, and its effects are so deep that most parents doubt that their children will have a better economic life than they did as a consequence.

"It's a sad thing," said Granum, "We are replacing family-supporting jobs with poverty level jobs. The next generation is getting the short end of the stick."

The long battle to stop that from happening has come to an end for Local 1111, with satisfaction that the retirees are protected as best could be done. So heads will be held high as they walk Sept. 6 in their final Laborfest parade as a union.

Salute them as they go by.
-- Dominique Paul Noth

Anne Feeney fighting lung tumor

One of the labor movement's favorite performers is suffering health problems, as she alerted her friends in a recent email. Veteran singer/songwriter Anne Feeney has been hospitalized with a lung tumor and is undergoing tests to find out what can help her.

Feeney has always performed for labor causes for 40 years, sometimes without full recompense. The self-professed union-maid and hell-raiser calls her touring buddies the "fellow travelers," and she has performed in Milwaukee and around the world. At best she faces months of lost income.

Friends are being asked to help through 2240 Milligan Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15218 or getwellanne@annefeeney.com. Many union members are also leaving messages at annefeeney.com.

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Laborfest

From Page 1

es to Laborfest using some 200 volunteers.

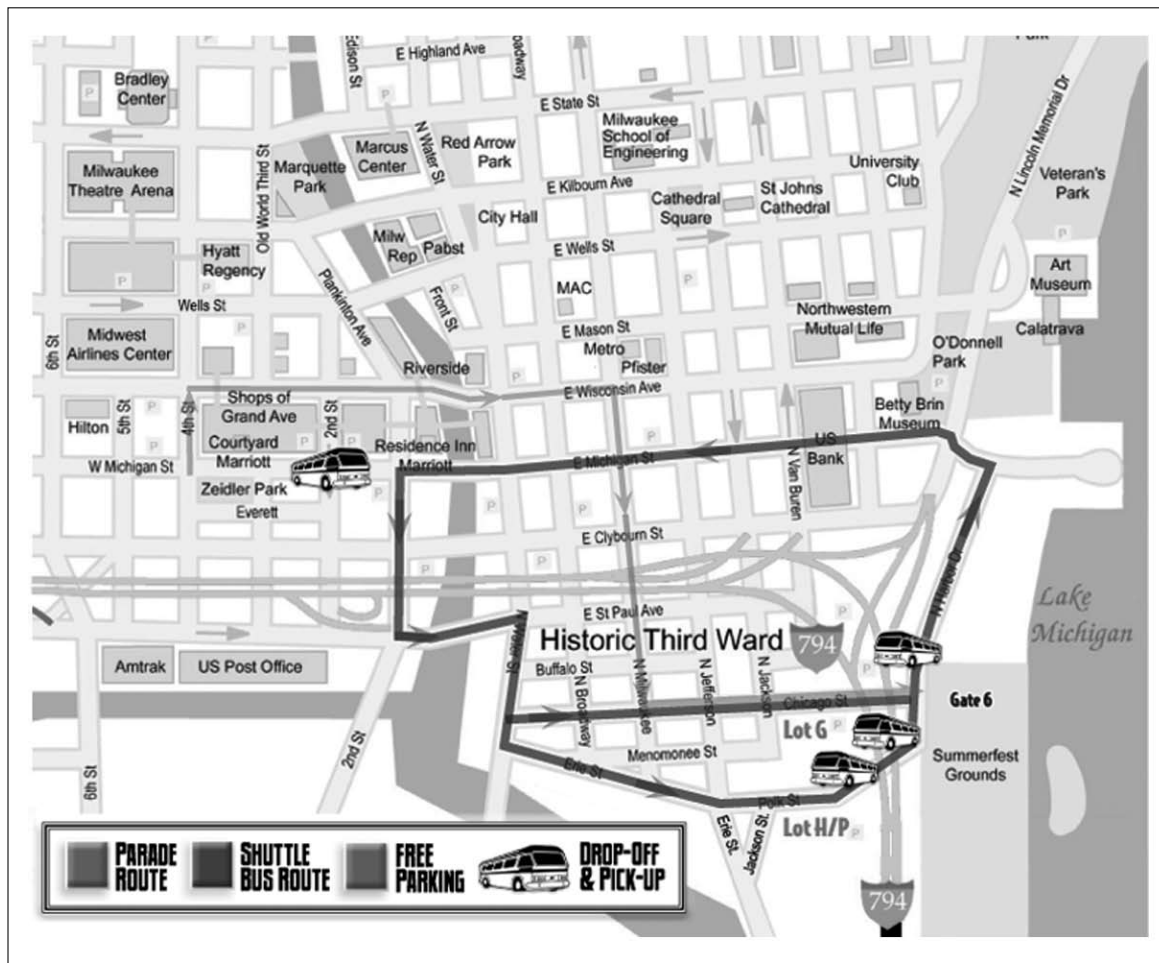
Each local is also encouraged to pick a marshal for its parade activities

RAFFLES FOR ALL AGES -- The granddaddy of Laborfest raffle fever actually began at the State Fair and has continued - the sale of tickets (\$6 each or 2 for \$10) to win a Harley Davidson FAT BOY motorcycle. The bike and several cash prizes (the one raffle you don't have to be there in person to win.) will be drawn toward the end of Laborfest on the Miller Stage. So buy a ticket before it's too late.

Around the grounds will also be the boxes for free raffles, for both children and adults. All visitors have to do is drop their names, clearly written, into the boxes, but you have to be there to win -- the rule in free raffles. So stick around for the final drawing. Giveaways are for all ages -- there are raffles for children and for adults.

THE KIDS' OWN FUN -- Laborfest is also an adult-supervised festival for children and families. Not only playground equipment and face-painting occur in the children's area, but also the stage features an afternoon of revolving performances.

Among the acts that delight children of all ages are:
 Magician Glen Gerard.
 Ken Head's "Heads Up Juggling Revue."
 Matthew the Magician, alias Mathew Morgan.
 "Mom the Clown" & Company
 "The Pocket Lady" (Kathleen Mohr), providing stories and activities.
 Castle Bounce
WRESTLERS WILL GET YOUR GOAT --- And sometimes imitate goats in the ring. Those exasperated by the artifi-



cial good and bad extremism of modern political debate will turn fondly to the pro-wrestling version of heroes and villains, some dressed like barnyard animals. Once again, to the delight of children and men (and apparently some women), the world of independent professional wrestling returns to Laborfest in a ring set up to the south of the children's area.

NO CLUNKERS HERE -- One of the great traditions of Laborfest will have additional meaning this year -- the workmanship of legendary American-made cars, restored and polished with loving attention and seldom subjected to the strains of modern traffic.

In an era when older cars are largely fodder for "Cash for Clunkers," here are the classics that no owner would ever sell and whose artistry of manufacture is still something to envy. Only pre-1990 American-



As they did last year (above), ATU Local 998 bus drivers will wend their way around parade blockades to shuttle passengers safely.

made autos are allowed in the Cruise & Car Show. The masterpieces follow the Harley motorbikes in the parade, with the first 100 entries receiving special dashboard plaques. Then the cars are set up for display throughout

Laborfest at the north end of the Henry Maier Festival grounds (Summerfest).

Those cars participating in the parade should assemble between 9 and 10:45 a.m. between Wisconsin Avenue and

Wells St. on 4th St.
LIVE MUSIC START TO FINISH -- In the parade once again, on a flatbed provided by Operating Engineers Local 139, you'll hear the show tunes provided by the professional musicians of Local 8, American Federation of Musicians. The truck will also carry actors and stagehands in what the entertainment unions call their MASH unit.

Starting at 11 a.m. on the Miller Stage, two familiar live bands will kick off afternoon sets of dance music: Nightlife starts things off, followed by Spider George and the Web.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE -- Some of the most familiar and favorite vendors of Summerfest will be participating in Laborfest, but any food and drink tickets will be given out in advance by union locals.

For the second year there will no food ticket booths. Vendors will directly accept both credit cards and cash. This eliminates many labor volunteers from manning the booths and setting up a system of runners, thus giving everyone an opportunity to enjoy the festivities.

MAP OUT ACTIVITIES --- Our map reflects a lot of info. The free shuttle busses start around 8a.m. and will pick up passengers every 10 to 15 minutes. The last one picks up stragglers at the end of the 11 a.m. parade. Park your car or bike for free at one of the designated lots (G, H or M) near Summerfest. If you're marching in the parade, get to Zeidler Union Square Park around 9:30 a.m. and locate your local.

The bus planners are Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 members, volunteering their services to Laborfest. Give them thanks as you get on board.

YOU CAN HELP -- Along with the All-City Parade event volunteers are needed to set up Laborfest at 3 p.m. Sunday, the afternoon before at the Summerfest grounds. (tables, chairs and banners)
 Folks are also sought to help tear Laborfest down -- in a positive way -- at 5 p.m. Monday.

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Seniors keep gaining under Affordable Care Act

On August 10, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius revealed that the third round of one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate checks have been mailed to eligible Medicare beneficiaries whose drug costs are so high they have reached the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage gap known as the "donut hole."

Experts estimate that more than a quarter of Part D enrollees hit the donut hole and often stop following their drug regimen as a result of the added cost burden. Sebelius pointed out that \$250 rebates will go a long way in preventing seniors from having to make such difficult and almost certainly harmful health decisions.

In Wisconsin, 12,293 seniors and persons with disabilities who rely on Medicare for access to health care have received new help with their prescription drug costs to date, thanks to the Affordable

Care Act. Across the country, more than 750,000 Medicare beneficiaries have already received checks this year, and more beneficiaries will be receiving checks in the coming months as they enter the coverage gap.

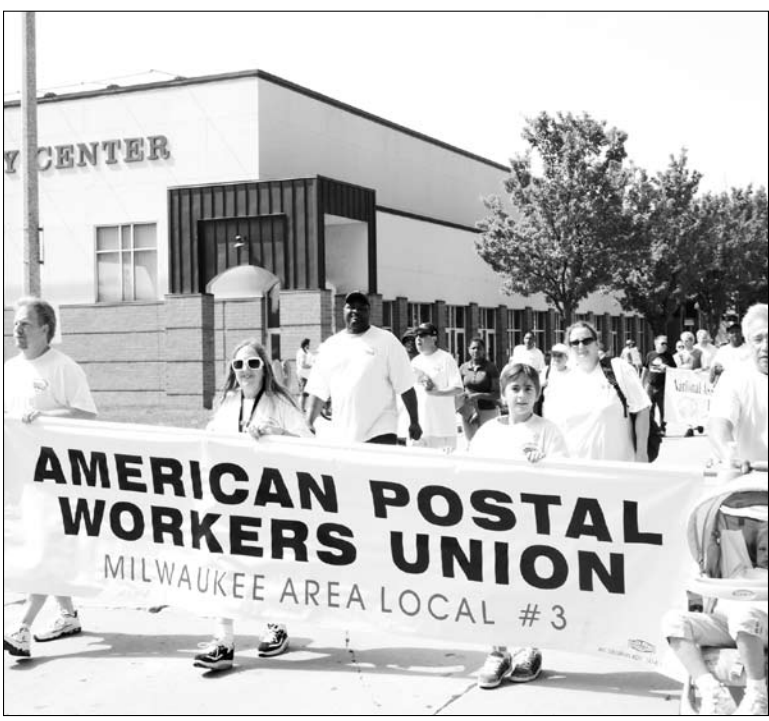
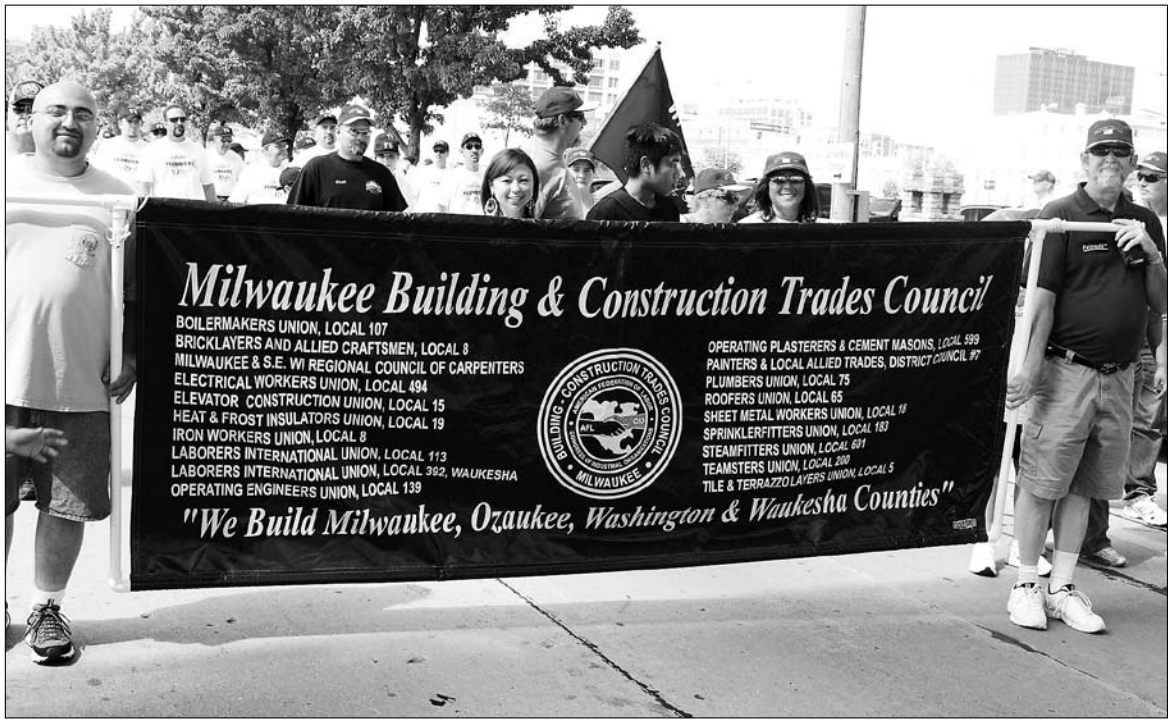
In addition to savings on prescription drugs, the Affordable Care Act means:

Medicare beneficiaries will receive free preventive care services like mammograms and certain colon cancer tests and a free annual physical starting in 2011;

By 2018, seniors can expect to save on average almost \$200 per year in premiums compared to what they would have paid without the new law, and most beneficiaries will also see a significant reduction in their Medicare co-insurance.

These measures have also helped extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by 12 years.

Laborfest provides a meaningful memory lane



Just a year can bring a lot of memories. But they can also trouble the labor community with lingering concerns.

As close-to-vest negotiations continue at Harley-Davidson, will the roar of motorcycles (photo top right) that opens each Laborfest remain an exemplar of Wisconsin labor power?

The Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council has seen many of its unions suffer loss of work for 20% of its members in the economic turndown. Tirelessly they train for the future and try to make things move faster in the right direction. Their might and determination hits Downtown every year in a powerful assemblage (photo top left) under the council's Laborfest banner.

Laborfest is the unsung postal workers (bottom right) now facing the demons of federal cutbacks in service.

Yes, the sniping of right-wing radio continues its shrill din in the ears of public service workers, but each Laborfest reveals an

AFSCME District Council 48 determined to fight back (photo above). And this year they have an election cycle to make the community understand it is losing a major economic base and skilled service in the rush to diminish, demean and privatize public service. It is not the public that will profit from this trend to

eliminate and ship out. The AFSCME workers know that someone not of the community will be making money if this privateer shell game succeeds.

So Laborfest is more than a celebratory day of union power. It is a day to remember where the nation would be without it.

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Will you help make Laborfest memories?



Zeidler Park before the parade is always a treat, whether it's the police trying to keep the motorcycles, vintage cars, color guards and trucks from tangling on the side streets to the children brought down to watch the fun (**below**). They're all a year older-- will their parents bring them back for 2010 Laborfest?



Operating Engineers Local 139 regularly loads its young people on its trucks to do the entire parade route. Look for them again this year. **BELOW:** Also look again for the Milwaukee Public Theatre, whose masks and creatures await human transporters early in the morning at Zeidler Park.



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Safer work demands stronger OSHA rules

The AFL-CIO Safety and Health team is supporting this bill with a fact sheet issued last month.

This year has been deadly for America's workers. Major disasters at the Upper Big Branch Mine, the Tesoro Refinery in Washington State, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and other workplaces have claimed dozens and dozens of workers' lives. Too many employers - including Massey Energy and BP-- have put profits and production ahead of worker safety.

In 2008, more than 5,200 workers were killed on the job and millions more were injured or diseased because of their jobs. Every day, an average of 14 workers die from job injuries, never to return home to their loved ones and families.

The nation's job safety laws were enacted 40 years ago. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) has never been updated. Penalties are weak even in cases where workers are killed, the government's enforcement tools are limited and protections for workers who raise job safety concerns are woefully inadequate.

Legislation has been introduced in the Congress to prevent future disasters and protect the safety and health of miners and other workers. H.R. 5663 strengthens the Mine Safety and Health Act and Occupational Safety and Health Act, the nation's primary job safety laws.

The bill -- the "Miner Safety and Health Act of 2010" -- provides for stepped up enforcement and tougher penalties for employers who flagrantly violate the law and enhances the protection of miners and workers who speak out about job hazards, report injuries and exercise their rights. The mine safety provisions address problems identified after the Upper Big Branch disaster, including increased oversight, enforcement and penalties for mines with a pattern of violations. The provisions to strengthen the OSH Act come from H.R. 2067 - the Protecting America's Workers Act - legislation introduced last year and the subject of

numerous congressional hearings. Specifically, H.R. 5663 would:

- **Increase OSHA and MSHA Civil and Criminal Penalties for Serious Job Safety Violations.** The bill would raise penalties for OSHA violations to \$12,000 for serious violations and \$120,000 for willful and repeat violations.

An employer's history of violations under both federal and state OSHA plans would be the basis for repeat violations. For violations resulting in worker deaths, new higher penalties would be set and include a mandatory minimum, so fines could not be reduced to a slap on the wrist, as too often is the case now.

The current median OSHA penalty assessed for worker fatalities is only \$5,000. Criminal violations of the OSH Act would be made a felony, instead of a misdemeanor, and be expanded to cover cases that involve serious bodily injuries, not just worker deaths. Individual corporate officers and directors could be held criminally liable for knowing violations of the law.

For MSHA, the bill would increase the maximum penalty for mine safety violations that are "significant and substantial" to \$150,000. Criminal violations of the Mine Act would be a felony and corporate officers, directors, mine operators and their agents could be held civilly and criminally liable for knowing violations.

- **Require Correction of Hazards While Employer Contests or Serious OSHA Violations Are Pending.** H.R. 5663 would require that employers fix serious violations, even if they are challenging OSHA citations, to make sure that workers are protected. This is already required under MSHA. Employers could seek a stay of this abatement requirement on an expedited basis if they can demonstrate that workers' safety and health will not be adversely affected.

- **Strengthen MSHA's Enforcement for Mines with a Pattern of Violations.** Mines with a pattern of significant and



substantial violations, withdrawal orders or other significant safety and health problems that exceeded thresholds set by MSHA would be subject to increased enforcement. These mines would be required to withdraw miners from the mine until conditions were improved and be subject to increased mandatory inspections and enhanced penalties while on a pattern status. Additional training of miners, the establishment of a safety and health management program and other measures could also be required.

H.R. 5663 would also give MSHA stronger enforcement tools for all mines including the authority to seek injunctions to stop practices that constitute a continuing hazard to miners and subpoena power to seek testimony and documents in

investigations.

- **Enhance Whistleblower Protections for Workers Who Raise Job Safety Concerns and Report Injuries or Illnesses.**

H.R. 5663 strengthens anti-discrimination protections which are now 40 years old. It brings protections under the OSHA law into line with other whistleblower statutes by streamlining procedures, providing for preliminary reinstatement and allowing workers to pursue their case if OSHA fails to act in a timely fashion. It makes clear that an employer cannot retaliate against a worker for reporting a job injury, illness or hazard.

The bill writes into both the OSHA and MSHA laws a worker's and miner's right to refuse unsafe work. For the Mine Act, H.R. 5663 would add new civil

penalties for retaliation against miners and criminal penalties for knowing retaliation against miners who report hazards to government officials.

- **Provide Victims of Job Injuries and Illnesses and Family Members the Right to Be Heard in OSHA Investigations.**

The bill would give workers who have been injured or made ill, the right to meet with OSHA investigators, receive copies of any citations and to be heard before any settlements are reached. In cases where a worker is killed or incapacitated, the bill gives family members the right to participate on the worker's behalf. It requires OSHA to designate a family liaison for each area office to keep victims informed of investigations and to assist them in exercising their rights.

What You Can Do?

Workplace disasters and serious workplace hazards are claiming the lives, limbs and health of too many workers. The job safety and health laws must be strengthened to hold employers accountable, to give OSHA and MSHA stronger enforcement tools and to protect workers who exercise their rights.

But what you can do as a voting citizen is vital. Contact your members of Congress and urge them to support and co-sponsor H.R. 5663.



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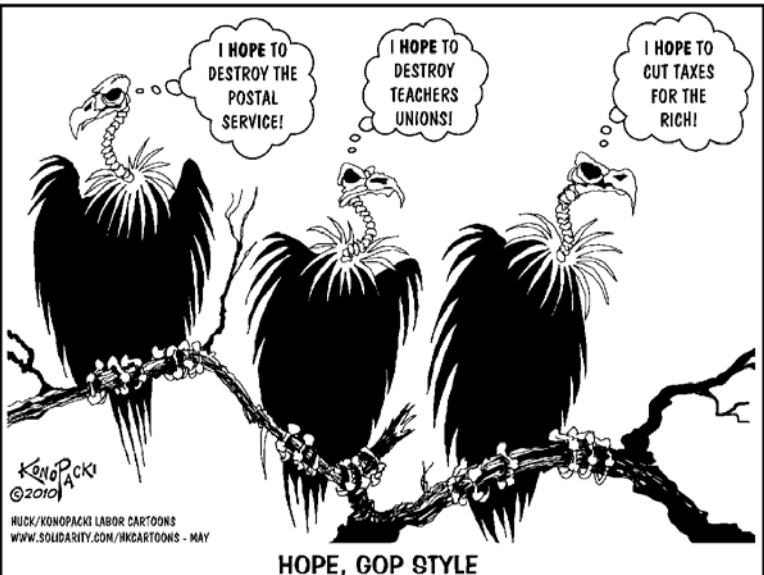
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What One Nation project will bring to D.C.

Working people are frustrated and angered by the inability of lawmakers to stop the massive loss of jobs and decline in living standards, while Republicans and some Democrats freely hand over the economy to corporations that are growing richer and more powerful each day.

To help renew the American Dream for everyone, some 170 progressive groups, including the AFL-CIO, NAACP, National Council of La Raza and many affiliated unions, have come together in One Nation.

One Nation is a multi-racial, civil and human rights movement whose mission is to reorder our nation's priorities to invest in



our nation's most valuable resource—our people.

One Nation is holding an Oct. 2 rally at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with tens of thousands of activists taking part. They will then return to their neighborhoods, congregations, schools and, especially, voting booths, fired up with new energy to take back the country.

On the same day, the union movement will walk door-to-door in targeted states around the country, mobilizing union members exactly one month before the fall elections.

During its Aug. 4-5 meeting in Washington, D.C., the AFL-CIO Executive Council issued a statement supporting One Nation and saying we must fight the fear mongering and scapegoating that

is dividing our country.

“We have to fight this hateful demagoguery that only benefits our foes, and we can't do it alone. History has taught us that the best way to fight the forces of hatred is to address the economic policies that led to our economic suffering, and that our fight must draw its strength from an alliance of the poor and the middle class—everyone who works for a living.”

Speaking at Harvard University this past April, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka warned that massive unemployment and growing inequality threaten our democracy. Saying “the stakes couldn't be any higher,” Trumka told the mostly student audience:

“If you care about defending our country against the apostles of hate, you need to be part of the fight to rebuild a sustainable, high wage economy built on good jobs—the kind of economy that can only exist when working men and women have a real voice on the job.”

The organizations that form One Nation support the union movement's agenda of an economy that works for all; good jobs, fair jobs, safe jobs, and more jobs; reforming Wall Street; repairing our immigration system; quality education for every child; and ensuring that everyone

in America has the opportunity to contribute to and strengthen our country, according to the statement:

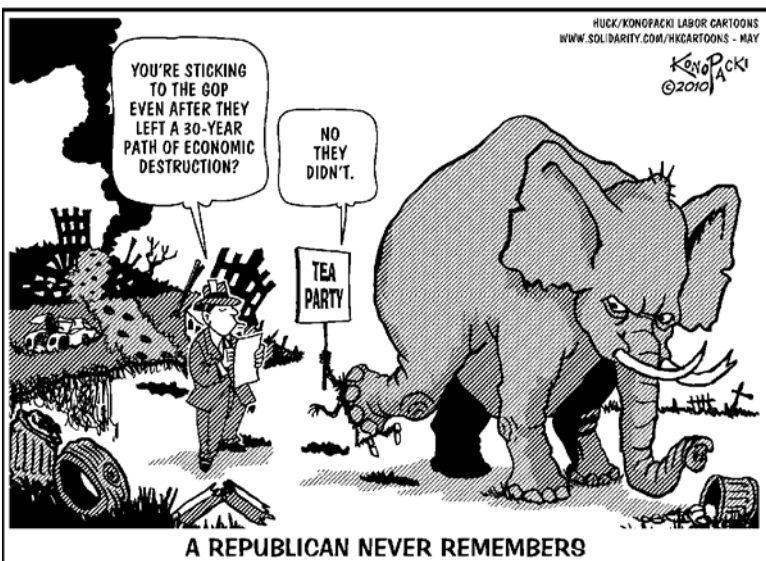
The Council statement also issues a rallying cry to workers: “Working people can make a difference when we rely on ourselves and act collectively. We are America. And together we can make our voices heard.”

Workers force victory at Delta

IAM organizers cite involvement by Flight Simulator Technicians at Delta Air Lines for the government's decision to order a new vote after the group fell short in a representation election last February.

Union elections for air and rail workers are conducted by the National Mediation Board (NMB), which investigates interference but rarely overturns results. It did this time and unanimously ordered a new vote, which is underway.

The IAM claimed that Delta promised pay raises for non-union employees and held coercive one-on-one meetings with employees. The board attached considerable weight to the testimony of many technicians induced by Delta promises.



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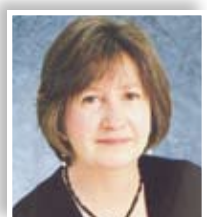
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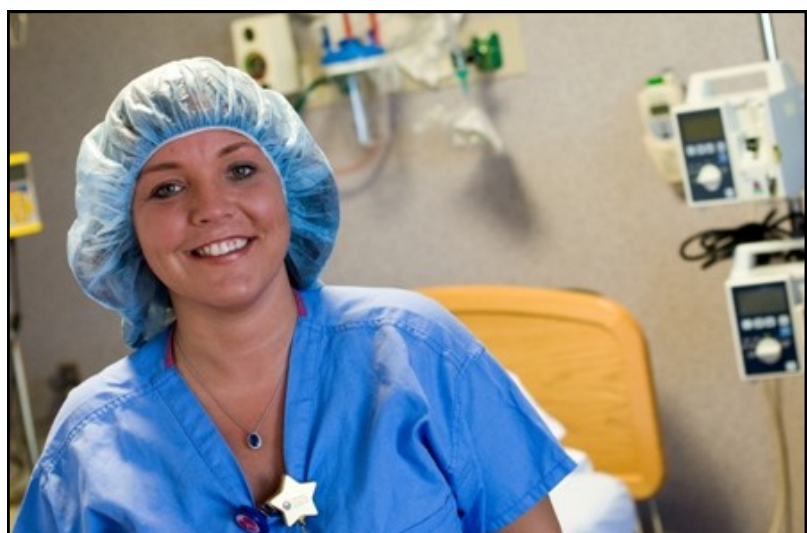
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More (and Moore) at the Obama luncheon



Celebrity doesn't always get preference. After spending the day with President Obama and hanging around with him backstage at the Arena, Rep. Gwen Moore joined the Arena luncheon guests late -- after servers had removed all the metal knives and forks, as is customary before presidential speeches. While dinner companions (Sheila Cochran at left and Moore aide Lois O'Keefe at right), called in vain for a fork and pleaded the obvious (that Moore was a safe bet for security), and as old friends such as Vel Phillips stopped by to say hello and as total strangers swooped down to greet her, Moore remained unfazed. She concocted a dining utensil and tried to get a few bites in before the speeches.



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www.usw.org

Proud member of Building Advantage



TEACHER TESTED



UNION APPROVED.

The #1 health insurance choice of Wisconsin educators is now available to state health plan members !

Why pick the WEA Trust health plan?

1. Freedom to see who's best for you

You may see any doctor or dentist—anywhere—and still get benefits, whether in or out of our Network. (Non-Network providers are subject to a \$1,000 individual/\$2,000 family deductible and are then payable at 70%).

2. A Network like no other

Our 24-county service area in eastern Wisconsin includes more than 24,000 Network providers and 50 hospitals. We also have a statewide and national Network. Call (800) 279-4000 to find a provider outside the service area.

3. Exceptional service

When you call us, you're greeted by a helpful Trust employee here in Wisconsin, usually on the first ring. To us, you're a person, not a number.

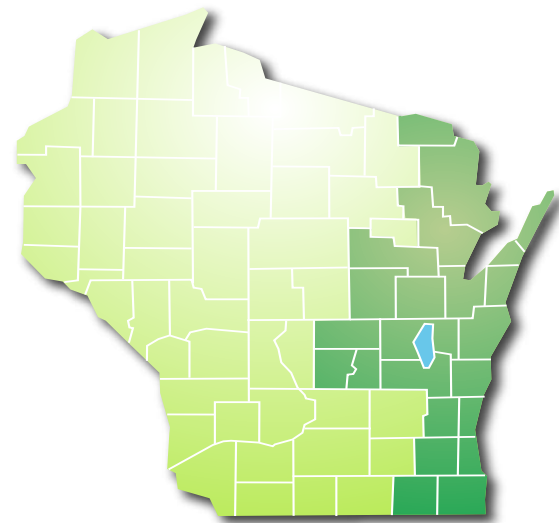
4. Not-for-profit union roots

We were created by a union and have a 40-year history of providing health and dental insurance to union members in Wisconsin public schools.

5. Keep your doctor, get a new plan

It's likely your current doctor is already in our eastern Wisconsin Network. That means you can switch your health plan and keep your doctor.

To discover more about the WEA Trust PPP now available to state of Wisconsin health plan members, call (800) 279-4000 or visit www.weatrust.com/state.



Enroll between October 4-29.

Serving the following counties

Brown
Calumet
Door
Florence
Fond du Lac
Green Lake
Kenosha
Kewaunee
Manitowoc
Marinette
Marquette
Milwaukee
Oconto
Outagamie
Ozaukee
Racine

Shawano
Sheboygan
Walworth
Washington
Waukesha
Waupaca
Waushara
Winnebago



Defining Excellence.
Delivering Value.
THE TRUST DIFFERENCE.