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Thursday, September 27, 2007



(USPS 350-360)



## Faces of Laborfest

Were you there? Are you here?





# New city board picks Cochran

Sheila Cochran was one of the 16 fresh names appointed on Sept. 13 by Tom Barrett to the new Milwaukee region board for workforce development.

The chief operating officer of the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO is part of the 26 member board that now will supervise government and foundation money, vendor choices and policy for the countywide area under the mayor's office of workforce development, taking direction from a veteran of community development, CEO Donald Sykes.

In making the announcement, Barrett was clearly signaling his preference for the board to choose as president Dan Bader, president and CEO of the Helen Bader Foundation, which has already supported workforce improvements with special funding for the new office.

Bader reflects Barrett's efforts to develop deeper contacts on the board with businesses and foundations and add private funds to government ones in workforce development.

Contrary to some news reports, Bader also fits the federal rules for a business president of

the board since he serves currently as chairman of Granite Microsystems of Mequon and as a director of Cedarburg Pharmaceuticals of Grafton.

The creation of the board moves the mayor's office into full control of development, as sought by the mayor last February -- his right under federal regulations -- and approved by Gov. Doyle and the state. The board replaces the old Private Industry Council Board attached to the county. Since that board is now defunct, Barrett requested all their resignations but reappointed 10 members to his new Milwaukee Area Workforce Development Board.

In his announcement, Barrett also signaled how hard he expects the board to work on the pressing problems of greater employment, more effective matching of workers to existing jobs and better integration of all the city's resources.

He directly tied job growth to public safety, calling them explicitly interconnected in the city. Major revisions have been clearly needed for some time in "how we serve both the business community and job seekers," said Barrett.

The issues for the new work-



Donald Sykes (center), Milwaukee's new chief of workforce development, joined state Sen. Spencer Coggs (right) in honoring Vincent Toran. See story opposite page.

force development agency and board are profound given the neglect or wasted funds of the past and the size of the jobless problem in Milwaukee.

Bader and Cochran are among the 16 new board members (some of whom had resigned from the old PIC board). The others are David Aragon, SITE Personnel, Mike Fabishak of the AGC (Association of General Contractors), John Jorgensen of Painters & Allied Trades Local 781, Gwen Keller of Astronautics Corp., Don Layden Jr. of Metavante Corp., John Miller, Goodwill Industries, Tom Romoser Jr. of Harley-Davidson,

Thelma Sias of We Energies, Howard Snyder of Northwest Side Community Development Corp., Devon Taylor, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Julia Taylor, the Greater Milwaukee Committee,

Ald. Willie Wade, Wallace White of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewage District and Steven Xiong, Catholic Charities.

Ten picked up from the old board include William Andrekopoulos, MPS superintendent; Lupe Martinez of UMO; Darnell Cole, president of MATC; Supervisor Willie

Johnson Jr.; Carol Sample of Spotted Eagle High School; Robert Cocroft, Center for Veterans Issues.

Sheila Knox, Milwaukee Job Services, Shirley Lanier, EnviroTech, Jeanetta Robinson, Career Youth Development and Linda Sowell, Gilbane Building Co.

The board's first meeting and votes took place after Labor Press' deadlines. Check [www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org) for updates.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

## Kenosha honors labor leader

The Kenosha Laborfest committee in late August chose Tom Reiherzer as Kenosha's Labor Person of the Year.

Reiherzer, a member of Local 599 of the Plasterers and Cement Masons, is probably best known as president of the Southeast Wisconsin Building and Construction Trades Council. He also serves on several community boards.

He was awarded the honor at Labor Day events at the St. Therese Festival grounds in Kenosha.

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# Warm sets of memories intersect at legacy

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Editor, Labor Press

In the week before Labor Day, while preparing a major tribute to a man who had added thousands of jobs to Milwaukee over 50 years, the labor community was shocked by the death of a man half his age who had also added thousands of jobs through union-management cooperation and education.

These symbolic partners in social justice and workforce development could not appear more different on the surface.

Vincent Toran is black, a spiffy dresser and a master tradesman asked to take a front seat at the policy table from the 1950s on, serving unions, government and the Milwaukee Urban League as director of workforce initiatives for low income families and minorities. Projects such as LEAP (Labor Education Advancement Program) and successor BIG STEP (Building and Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program) chose him as pioneer director.

There was truth to the observation that he was the Jackie Robinson of Wisconsin construction - only he broke the ground for women as well as minorities.

Eric Parker was white, ruffled, self-effacing, slyly humorous, holder of a UW doctorate in sociology - and the first staff member from 1990s on of WRTP (Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership), the remarkably successful cooperation of unions, companies and community agencies and funders to find, train and promote workers into needed jobs, while demanding good salaries and benefits for them.

Parker was masterful at thrusting his union and management partners into the spotlight he deliberately avoided. He successfully disguised how often in today's environment it was his ideas and practical steps that provided the moral and intellectual base for workforce improvements.

He collapsed while swimming in shallow water on the North Carolina coast Aug. 25, succumbing to what friends speculate was a heart condition



Among the many telling Vincent Toran (left) how much he inspired them was Willie D. Ellis, president of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, and a business representative, organizer and community outreach person for Operating Engineers Local 139.



Eric Parker, WRTP director, a few months before his tragic death while on vacation.

no one knew about. He was 45.

All this made the week before Laborfest "strangely bittersweet," as Sheila Cochran noted to MCLC delegates in September. Cochran knew well that her counterpart at the state AFL-CIO, Secretary-Treasurer Phil Neuenfeldt, helped prepare the legacy celebration for Toran and then had to leave for Indiana to attend funeral services for Parker.

The parallels kept cropping up. Toran, now 84 and retired for 20 years, was the first executive director of BIG STEP. Parker, who since college had built a remarkable public service career, was the executive director of WRTP, which works in lock-step with BIG STEP. Earl Buford, longtime colleague of Parker and now head of BIG STEP, was

immediately asked to step in and run WRTP even while planning the Toran event.

Another WRTP/BIG STEP leader, Rhandi Berth, brought back from Indiana the thanks of Parker's family for how deeply the Milwaukee community had embraced "a humanitarian whose wealth was the vision of service to those less fortunate."

It was Parker's dream come to fruition, the Center of Excellence, that served as the site to honor Toran Aug. 30 with a reception and dedication of a new apprentice training laborato-

ry in Toran's name, supported by the announcement that the federal government was adding a quarter of a million dollars to the center's expansion.

It will be the center at 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave. that will host a memorial tribute for Parker at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, open to the community. Under Parker, WRTP has helped 4,000 residents gain long-term family supporting jobs. The Center of Excellence with its apprentice classes, tutoring and advice will make even more of that happen.

Back on Aug. 30, hundreds of the thousands brought to good jobs and high skills by Toran's efforts gathered for a catered reception that overflowed the facility. These were first and second generation beneficiaries of Wisconsin's first African American apprentice in construction.

Toran, throwing off the feebleness of his age and health, attended with his family and there were dozens there who could not pass up the opportunity to hug him and thank him -- not just for breaking the color line but for grabbing the reins of leadership to advance minorities both in construction and in unions, as Laborers Local 113 leader, Nacaraci Feaster, noted.

"Do you know how many

of us you were an inspiration to?" Feaster whispered into Toran's ear.

Beaming agreement was Donald Sykes, the new head of Mayor Tom Barrett's office for workforce development, and state Sen. Spencer Coggs. Offering a similar hug and tribute was Willie D. Ellis, president of the MCLC.

More memories flowed from Toran's own children and from members of the plumbers, the steamfitters, the auto workers and on and on -- people whose lives Toran had literally changed for the better. Toran's remarkable career was recounted in the Labor Press last month and by the Journal Sentinel in an extensive Labor Day weekend remembrance.

After a half century, it seems the entire community has come to recognize how powerful - and difficult - his contributions had been.

Parker's friends hope it won't take that long to recognize his important, but "I fear we won't fully understand for a long time how much he did and how much we relied on him," noted Lyle Balistreri, head of the Milwaukee building and construction trades council.

"And I lost a dear friend."



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Mrs. Annie M. Smith, Ladish Corp.  
Mrs. Bessie M. Oden, Milwaukee County  
Mrs. Judy D. Moore, Milwaukee Public School  
Mrs. Doreatha Cole, Milwaukee County

## Calendar

### Monday, October 1

Memorial Tribute to Eric Parker  
Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
5:30 p.m. See story this page.

### Wednesday, October 3

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

### Wednesday, October 31

MCLC Executive Board  
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.



# CWA local still feeds the hand that bites it

Just as Manpower was adding 900 workers Downtown at its new headquarters, AT&T was dumping 103 veteran employees from one of its existing central offices.

This was not just another advance-retreat moment in workforce development for central Milwaukee. The dumping was particularly infuriating to the Communications Workers of America.

It and other unions had stepped up bigtime to support the marketing expansion of the most famous phone company brand. But yet again, in the march to lower labor costs, corporate America picked on the established experienced American workers to show the door.

Talk to any consumer and it is the quality represented by the union workforce that has aided and helped define AT&T's service reputation. That's certainly

why AT&T was chosen as the surviving brand (remember Ameritech?) in the mergers of many baby Bells. It is also the brand name with proven leverage to compete for bundled services (video and Internet as well as phone) with cable companies.

But losing these 103 jobs in October are 97 telephone service representatives and six clerks — members of Local 4603 who worked those jobs at the least 19 years and at the most 39 years, noted George Walls, president of Local 4603.

Many had monitored AT&T itself when it was just a provider in the company that now bears its name after those complicated mergers.

True, the mergers brought national promises, negotiated by CWA, for union jobs to be part of any expansion. But consolidation has also cost the CWA 550 jobs locally. Some losses were antici-



Quickly responding to a call from CWA Local 4603, several unions joined a Downtown rally protesting job cuts being endured by veteran workers at AT&T. — Photo by Mike Balistreri

pated and the union could help soften the landing even as they fought for new opportunities. But the current round seems to have surprised the union. It left the victims stunned or crying or seeking to console colleagues they had spent decades alongside.

"It was a sad scene," said Walls, who led one of the downtown protests over the lost jobs.

That local's call to the mid-day event took only a few emails by the Milwaukee County Labor Council to draw 90 workers from several unions to picket AT&T. UNITE HERE, Teamsters and USW were among the participants who clearly recognized this event as another tiring example

of corporate America behaving at its worst.

Once again employees with veteran experience, benefits and wages were first on the chopping block, while less attractive jobs are added for younger workers with far lower benefits.

AT&T may be lowering its labor cost as it develops new services. But it has also banked substantially on the reputation established by the union workers it is letting go — even as it forces lower living standards on newer employees.

While CWA did win a commitment to union jobs and even bringing back jobs from overseas, AT&T has proved hardly even-handed in how it expands and contracts its salaries. Its CEO and executive pay place it on the "shame on you" list of excess that has become a national scandal.

The dilemma for Wisconsin unions goes further. The state is a crucial target for rolling out one of AT&T's important new initiatives, U-verse. The emerging video service has added jobs in the same offices where the service representatives are being laid

off. The company has turned to unions to support its U-verse effort, promising expansion of union jobs.

The unions have used both their political and residential muscle to support AT&T, enduring some heat along the way.

There is legislation in Madison, supported by unions, to even the playing field for AT&T in its battle for business with cable companies.

There is a grassroots effort to support AT&T with local communities. CWA and Local 4603 have launched a campaign to encourage union members to sign up for AT&T video services and have pointed out in ads and other materials that Time Warner uses outside contractors and is persistently non-union in its hiring. Time Warner in response has launched a blitz of ads to promote its entry into the phone market.

The situation has put CWA rank and file on the spot, several admitted: How can AT&T in conscience seek continued union support to sign up clients while downsizing local jobs and upsizing executive pay?

— Dominique Paul Noth

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# Chavez-Thompson leaves top AFL-CIO position

At age 10, Linda Chavez-Thompson spent her summer in Texas picking cotton to earn 30 cents an hour. She went to work full time in the fields at age 15. Her first union job came 40 years ago as a secretary at \$1.40 an hour.

From such beginnings she rose to the No. 3 position in the AFL-CIO as executive vice-president, the first person of color to serve as a top officer.

On Sept. 12, calling it the hardest decision of her life and assuring friends and colleagues that there was no issue of health or pressure, Chavez-Thompson officially resigned her position effective Sept. 21 in order to finally spend more time with her family and her grandchildren back in San Antonio.

They are not the only children who no longer have to work the fields to get ahead and their grandmother has long yearned for "the chance to enjoy being part of their lives," as she wrote in her resignation letter.

"Countless working women and men, not only in the United States but throughout the Western Hemisphere, have a better life because of all she's contributed," noted AFL-CIO President John Sweeney in sadly accepting her resignation.

He also recommended her replacement to the executive council - an African American woman who served as her executive assistant and for the last few years has served as his assistant: AFSCME veteran Arlene Holt-Baker, who most recently has led the AFL-CIO's working families and Hurricane Katrina efforts.

Chavez-Thompson has also agreed to Sweeney's request that she continue to develop key projects she has led, projects that have made her a frequent visitor to Wisconsin. Among the efforts she will continue to advise are national immigration policy, adviser for the reorganization of state federations and local labor councils and the activities of



Chavez-Thompson on one of her frequent Wisconsin visits.

ORIT (the acronym for the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, which plays a central role in union trade policies).

Commented Chavez-Thompson, "I am blessed to have had 12 years worth of wonderful experiences, meeting thousands of union members and workers who have given me hope that our labor movement continues to be a major factor in their lives. My retirement does not mean I'm leaving the labor movement."

## Trapshooting

Final results: After 20 weeks of shooting in the Milwaukee County Labor Council league, here are the results by team, reflecting wins, losses and ties:

### Class AA

1. Pipers-Plumbers Local 75..... 17-2-1
2. Wire & Fire CWA 4603. 8-9-3
3. 6 Volts to Lighting IBEW 494-1..... 7-13-0
4. Blind..... 4-12-4

### Class A

1. Plumbers Local 75-2..... 9-8-3
2. APWU Local 003..... 10-10-0
3. Wirenuts IBEW 494-2 ...8-9-3
4. Blind..... 8-10-2

### LEAGUE HIGH GUN

- Gregg Brzezinski .....478  
 Tom Armstrong ..... 476  
 Jeff Jeske ..... 475

Reported by League Secretary Ron Wahl

# Legislative body taps Coggs as new leader

At the annual meeting of the National Labor Caucus of State Legislators (NLC), held this summer in Boston, Wisconsin Sen. Spencer Coggs was elected president.

The NLC is a bipartisan organization formed in 2001 to allow legislators who are union members or union friendly legislators an opportunity to share ideas and develop agendas for working families.

More than that, NLC is an auxiliary of the National Conference of State Legislatures whose meeting runs concurrently. Participation in the NLC is open to all elected members of state legislatures, regardless of political affiliation, who have demonstrated an interest in a commitment to working families.

NLC has also been a strong proponent of quality, affordable health care for everyone. Wisconsin Senate Democrats included a provision in the state budget to make health care available to all residents of Wisconsin at rates lower than current costs of private health care plans.

Coggs is a member and former chief steward of Local 1091 of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

He was first elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1983 and served until winning a special

election for the state Senate in 2003. He is also chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs and co-chair of two governor's commissions -- one advisory on business opportunity and the other on reducing racial disparities in the justice system.

NLC's work is supported by

the AFL-CIO and its affiliates, who are committed to increasing the number of public officials concerned about the issues of working people. The AFL-CIO has actively assisted union members running for public office. Around the nation today, more than 2,500 union members hold elected office.

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# Seeing red over Wisconsin's budget blues

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Editor, Labor Press

**B**udget evasiveness, budget anger and budget panic — for the last months, fed by an impasse in Madison between Assembly and Senate negotiators, budget anxiety has dominated public debate in Wisconsin.

It has rendered impotent most strategies of school, county and city governments. All have their own budgets that depend on knowing what the state will do for fiscal 2007-09. That remained unsettled as we went to press, making Wisconsin the last

state in the nation to resolve its fiscal spending plan.

And all this is rather amazing if you think back six months. Granted a disagreement here and there and the “fixes” that any legislature engages in, there seemed general agreement that Gov. Doyle had submitted a pretty good plan for the state, including a pioneer plan to attack the problems of jobs, crime and education for Milwaukee. OK, not liberal enough for some and not conservative enough for others but maybe, like porridge in the fairy tale, just right.

So how did this become

**See photos on Page 8**

hung up in stubbornness and stridency?

**T**he impasse has many fathers: Assembly Speaker Mike Huesch, the flailing of desperate and apparently fading talk radio — but mainly the ugly side of partisanship, that divisive American political dinosaur.

By 2006 the public finally noticed and voted against a succession of horrible ideas that crippled national economic, domestic and foreign policies. But the public didn't vote hard enough to provide a dominating majority for progress, either in the US Senate or the Wisconsin Assembly. So out came the tired old playbook of interference and obfuscation.

Witness the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce whose policy stances, detailed in Labor Press last month, fly in the face of progress for their own industries and blindly support the GOP budget constrictions.

Witness the GOP legislators, unwilling to seek productive compromise, but eagerly offering repressive and regressive concepts of governing and fiscal policy.

It's been left to progressive groups to attack the Assembly concepts, explain their logical deficits and push the negotiators to get the job done without crippling effective services.

**I**n mid-August, more than 250 citizens gathered at Serb Hall to complain at a public hearing arranged by the Milwaukee County Labor Council, One

Wisconsin Now and other groups. Not surprisingly, no Republican legislator had the gumption to attend, but seven Democrats did — to detail how extremely the Assembly version of the budget would hurt the state, and how it seemed curiously aimed at the largest city in the state, Milwaukee.

Rep. Pedro Colon made no bones about it: “They want to kill our city.”

Sen. Lena Taylor detailed how the Assembly budget particularly attacked areas that had gone for Doyle in 2006 — Milwaukee, Beloit, Racine, and Superior. Other testimony also showed the pain radiating around the state should the Assembly budget succeed over the Senate version.

In writing about the hearing, blogger Jay Bullock got amusing mileage out of Rep. Jon Richards' observation that the GOP happily included a tax break for people who deal in gold bullion, but eliminated the School for Workers at the UW-Extension.

**R**ank and file union members — and these were both public and private sector unions — joined community leaders in testifying (see Page 8) on the general harm and on the human beings who will suffer under the Assembly version. Every helpful project seems on the cutting block in the GOP version.

Republican legislators again refused to show up Sept. 11 when they were invited to a “Back to School” event for area elected officials sponsored by MTEA.

There, backed by Milwaukee

Public Schools administration, parents and students, state officials were urged to get going on a budget deal — this from a school system that had its plans ready for months. The MTEA quietly suggested it was way past time for the legislature to “do their homework.” And please, not the Assembly version, which slices away education money for such things as a math and science teaching initiative.

**C**ounty officials are likewise stymied and have been holding meetings urging the state to come to a good agreement.

The county is facing shortfalls in courts, parks, mental health, etc., and is further burdened by County Executive Scott Walker's refusal to solve problems.

Walker doesn't want to raise property taxes, though he is not averse to the state and other taxing districts picking up the slack. So until the state pulls the trigger, the County Board is stalled on solving Walker's cut-and-slash budget.

**C**ities are frozen as well. Indeed on Sept. 13 Milwaukee's Mayor Tom Barrett abandoned the “let's try to talk to these guys” approach and came out swinging when the Assembly Republicans dared describe their budget ideas as “property tax protection plan.”

As Barrett pointed out: “With critical city services like police, fire and libraries on the line, the Assembly Republicans have decided to toss aside the bipartisan recommendation for a \$15 million increase in state shared revenue.

“Pouring salt on the wound, the Assembly Republicans have decided to saddle Milwaukee homeowners with an additional \$13 million burden to pay for the Parental School Choice Program.

“This proposal continues to force Milwaukee to pay the salaries of cops convicted of a crime.

“That's not a protection plan — that's a sham for Milwaukee taxpayers.”

But probably the worst aspect of the Assembly version was pointed out by Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

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Citizen Action of Wisconsin has released several reports pointing out the Assembly approach is another tax boon for the wealthy, would double the cost of traditional health coverage, neglects needs up and down the middle class and will actually prevent good preventive medical programs.

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# Seniors' power lunch

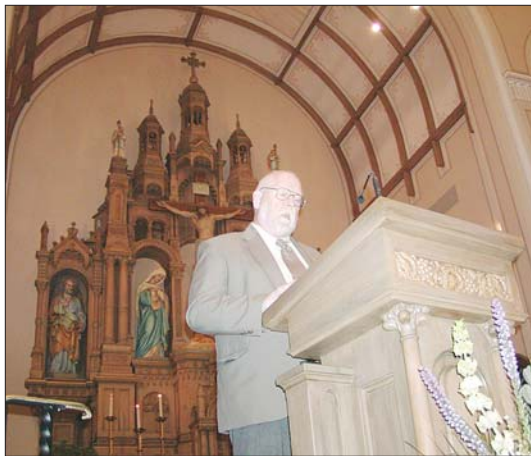
U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore will be the guest speaker and notables from the community will be special honorees at the 12th annual major fundraiser and luncheon for the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans.

The Senior Power Luncheon as it is known will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8, at the Four Points Sheraton in Milwaukee. It serves as the group's major source of funding as it protects the health and economic security of retirees and older Americans by providing information and activities and promoting services and legislation. The Wisconsin chapter is an affiliate of the Milwaukee County Labor Council.

A particularly active group will be honored at the event, headed by state Rep. Pedro Colon, noted for his championing of senior citizen interests in the Madison legislature, including the SeniorCare prescription drug program. Colon is also an announced candidate for the Milwaukee city attorney race in April.

Other honorees at the lunch-

eon are housing and Latino official Ricardo Diaz, Family House founder Cordelia Taylor, noted nurse and union activist Vivien DeBack and senior and long-term care advocate George Potaracke.



Leon Burzynski, president of the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans, spoke out on faith, workers and immigration at the three Labor Day masses at Sts. Peter and Paul Church on Milwaukee's East Side. It was one of 100 faith centers participating in Labor in the Pulpits.

RIGHT: See story Page 6. Union and community voices brought out the human cost of the budget impasse while legislators derided the GOP behavior. Three of the seven officials participating in the Serb Hall hearing Aug. 15 (bottom right) were state Reps. Jon Richards, Josh Zepnick and Barbara Toles.



BELOW: At the Vincent Toran tribute (see Page 3), building and construction trades council President Lyle Balistreri (left) congratulated Terrance E. McGowan on winning his second three-year term as business manager of the statewide Operating Engineers Local 139. On Sept. 12 at the union's Pewaukee headquarters, the international general secretary-treasurer, Christopher Hanley, inducted McGowan and the full slate of officers: Daniel Sperberg, treasurer-training director; Charles Warner, recording-corresponding secretary; Dennis Luciani, president; Robert Larson, vice president, and Ryan Dehlhof, financial secretary.



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LEFT: The hotel component of UNITE HERE is always a big part of its spirited march during Laborfest, cheek to jowl with the garment industry and hotel participation.

## Laborfest signs of change



## Sale of Hyatt won't diminish Downtown union commitment

The news briefly unsettled union leaders -- Downtown Milwaukee's second largest hotel, the Hyatt Regency with its 483 rooms and a prime reputation and location at 333 W. Kilbourn Ave., was being sold.

The purchaser -- Atlanta-based Noble Investment Group -- apparently paid nearly \$44 million but also committed to \$18 million in renovations. Was it equally committed to

the 160 union workers at the hotel - members of UNITE HERE Local 122 - and their jobs, representation, benefits, seniority and wages?

Turns out Noble is. The new owners have recognized the union and promised to honor the current agreement, continuing the local's long harmonious relationship with the Hyatt. The union workers are eager to help with any refurbishment of the guest rooms, restaurants and common areas.

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# Raffle rewards

It was union all the way for Phil Barron, a union worker who believes he bought his winning ticket at the Union Label Booth at State Fair, from one of the union volunteers.



Phil Barron is a member of USW Local 1114, which made its union concerns felt in the parade by demanding that Joy Global come through with its three-year-old pension promises. Barron's name was drawn and announced at Laborfest as the winner of the 2007 Harley Sportster motorcycle. It was the grand prize but there was also

1,300 dollars to give away. Top cash prize of \$500 was won by Dan Graft. Eight \$100 prizes were won by Steve Riphahn, Mark Zimkowski, Rick Stencel, Richard Saeger, Don Hull, Arielle Reed, C. Ridge and John Weigelt.

And then there were the free raffles out of boxes around the grounds.

They made happy a lot of grownups and kids, who were for the first time offered some age appropriate prizes as well as some traditional sports giveaways.

**For the kids the prizes and winners lined up like this:**

Milwaukee Sportservice Inc. — Autographed Brewers Baseball (Tony Gwynn) and Bat (Damien Miller) Winner: Blaque Robinson

Also: Autographed 2007 Brewers Team Ball. Winner: Brandon Robinson

Portable Basketball Hoop (1<sup>st</sup> Place Basketball Shoot-Off) Winner: Keyuonni Campbell

Autographed Michael Redd Jersey (2<sup>nd</sup> Place Basketball Shoot-Off) Winner: DeAair Mudd.

For Ages 2-5: USW 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary tote bag/bandana/pen/Marcus movie tickets/Betty Brinn Museum tickets/Zoo tickets/IMAX certificates/fun food.

Girl Winner: Catherine Jolie Tabe

Boy Winner: Wyatt Dudeck  
Age 6-9: USW 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary items/Marcus movie tick-



A rousing speech on workers rights and the Employee Free Choice Act was delivered by International President, Michael Goodwin of the Office & Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) in opening ceremonies at Laborfest. Surrounding him and signing on their support for EFCA were a variety of local officials, including US Rep. Gwen Moore.

ets/Betty Brinn Museum tickets/Zoo tickets/IMAX certificates/fun food.

Girl Winner: Lily Ferreira  
Boy Winner: Chris Sobczak  
Age 10-13: USW 70<sup>th</sup>

anniversary items/Marcus movie tickets/Zoo tickets/IMAX certificates/Blockbuster gift card/fun food.

Girl Winner: Katie Miller  
Boy Winner: Blaque Robinson

Age 14-16 – USW 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary items/Marcus movie tickets/Zoo tickets/IMAX certificates/Blockbuster gift card/fun food.

Girl Winner: Lindsay Wille  
Boy Winner: Tony Hull  
**For the adult free raffles:**

American Serb Hall \$20 gift certificate. Winner: Jodi Szklarski.

Hilton Milwaukee City Center – one-night stay with deluxe accommodations and waterpark privileges. Winner: Jack Harris.

Pfister Hotel – one night stay and \$30 dining. Winner: Lucy Williquette.

Karl Ratzsch's Restaurant \$40 gift certificate. Winner: Kathryn Retzlaff.

Benefit Services Group. – four Brewers baseball tickets, includes a preferred parking pass and four guest passes for the .300 Club. Winner: Richard Stechter.

Four Points Sheraton Hotel - one overnight stay. Winner: Jim Zenda.

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The union representing the rank and file of the Milwaukee police used Laborfest and Zeidler Park just before the parade to loudly endorse Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler for a second term in the 2008 spring election. Milwaukee Police Association President John Balcerzak (left) announced the choice for the TV cameras.

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# More Laborfest

**TOP RIGHT:** The MCLC's newest affiliate made instant friends marching in the Laborfest parade. Representatives of the 360 members of AFGE Local 3 also joined the September delegates meeting. Most of this unit of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, are skilled in various services to take care of our military veterans at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. On Sept 26, members of the MCLC joined a reception at the New Colony for the national vice president of AFGE's 7th District (Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin), Dorothy



James.  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** From the gifts given to child raffle winners to a special plaque presented by USW leader Ernie Dex (left) at the Miller Stage festivities, the 70th anniversary of Local 2-209 at Harley-Davidson served as a backdrop to Laborfest – and a frontal unit in the parade.

**BELOW:** Former marine Mike Balistreri, now an AFL-CIO field mobilizer, poses with the Fox Company Marine color guard he helped arrange to lead off the Laborfest parade.



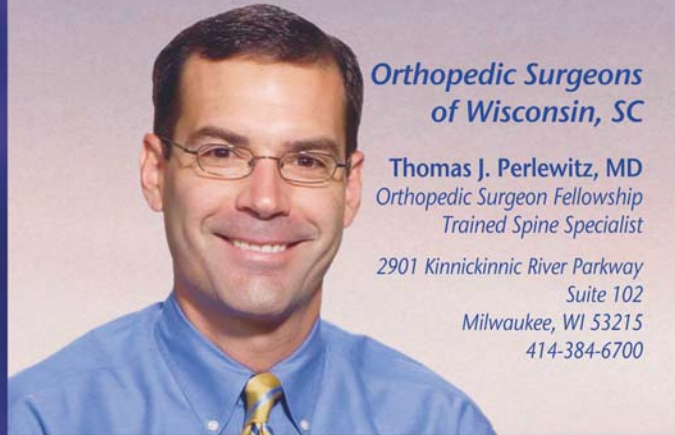
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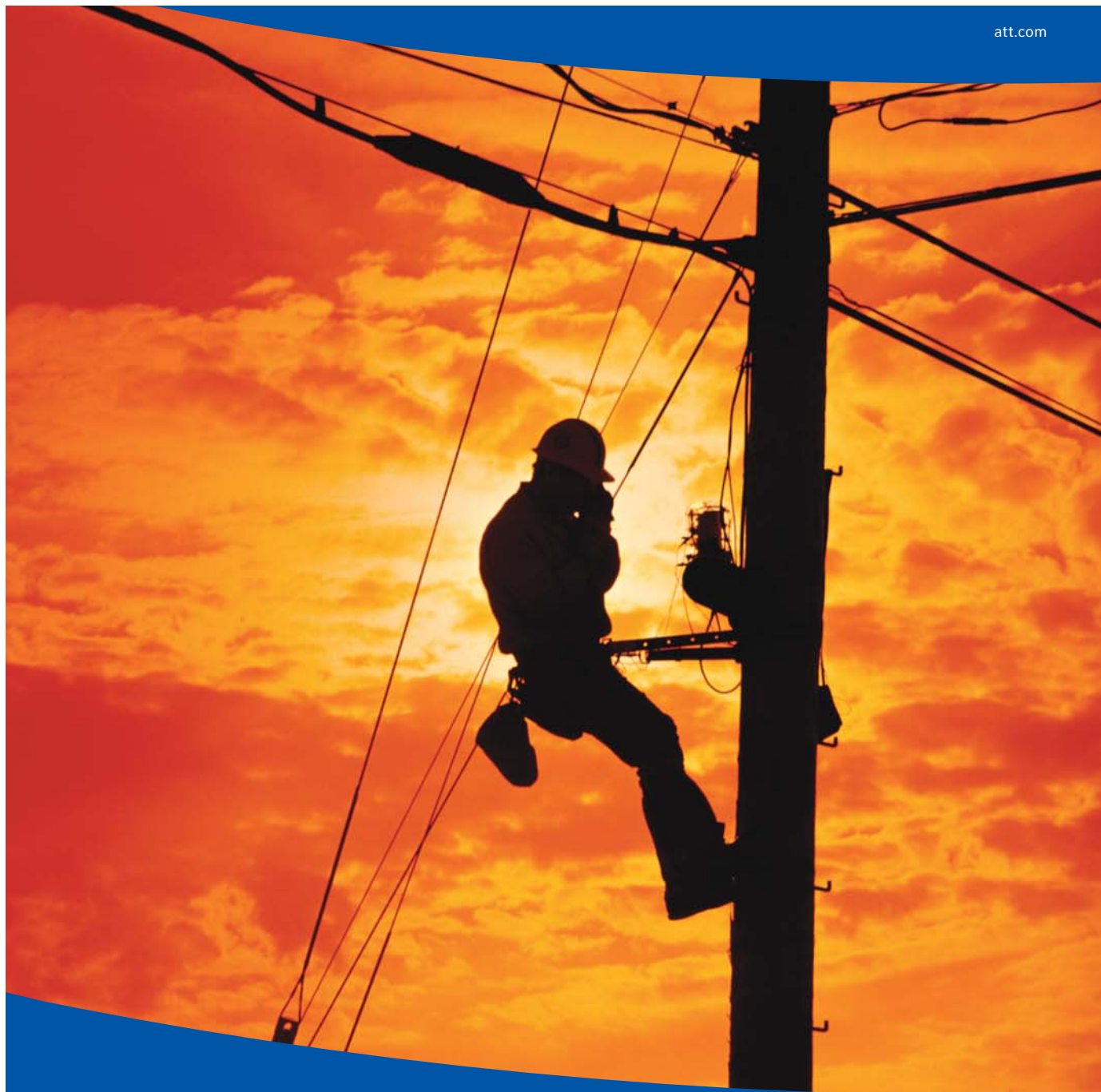
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