



The day before he won the election, Chris Abele joined Mayor Tom Barrett (with one of his children, Erin) to listen to Ald. Milele Coggs (center) and other speakers at the Day of Action April 4 in front of the Martin Luther King statue on the street that now bears his name, while organizer Biko Baker (right) spun appropriate lively music.

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RECALLS

Where they stand

Some recall efforts are already successful, forcing two Republican senators to face summer contests against powerful opponents who almost beat them the last time around. One Milwaukee recall has enough signatures to force Sen. Alberta Darling into a race, but the organizers have built the numbers far beyond the minimal threshold (one-quarter of the votes cast for governor in Senate District 8).

Two Democrat senators -- Dave Hansen in Green Bay and Kenosha County's Robert Wirth -- are sure to face contests as well, given the outside money

And see Page 9 for the strategy of where they're headed

and apparently outside hires helping gather signatures (one of whom was caught stealing at Lambeau Field). It's a humorous turnaround for Republicans used to accusing Democrats of buying votes with cigars. Apparently their outside money is happy to buy motel rooms and meals for signature gatherers.

The push is on to charge past the minimum, since neither Wirth nor Hansen will feel much bothered by a mere 25% of the normal vote patterns. To that end, the Democrats are focusing as they did in the early

Recalls continued Page 8

SPECIAL SALUTE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES



No wiggle room for Walker in D.C.

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Illuminating and skewering sound-bites are either lucky happenstance or unlikely surprises at congressional hearings, where the testimony is often controlled by the majority party, the patter is planned, dull and technical and the party in charge offers up softballs to its own knights and is prepared to cut off unpleasant scrutiny.

Little of that happened April 14 when Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was invited by sympa-

thetic GOP chairman Darrell Issa, at a time when Walker was something of the golden boy of GOP politics, to testify before the House Oversight Committee exploring "tough choices" in state budgets.

But a few weeks can tarnish any golden boy, especially when the opposition is prepared and the party in House power isn't. The GOP is suffering internal disarray over Walker. He is no longer the featured hero on many Republican websites, no

Wiggle continued Page 7

Remember jobs?

Meet WRTP, a busy place that does

The state is in political turmoil - and what's been completely ignored is the core problem that brought voters out in droves: The need for more jobs.

Look in vain in Walker's state budget for programs that directly create jobs. You have to search elsewhere for how labor and business are actually providing training that leads directly to jobs. You have to look for developmental programs, federal stimulus money, cooperative financial ventures involving labor,

ALONG JUNEAU AVE. near Old World 3rd St., cars can't miss the only towering construction crane Downtown. It is erecting the 30-story Moderne where MBCT leader Lyle Balistrieri reports several hundred union members at work with more on the way, funded by the AFL-CIO Trust.

business and even targeted public funds. It turns out that real progress in the economy doesn't come in fantasyland dreams that big business tax breaks will eventually trickle down to actual jobs, or that gains will come from big chunks of ideology. No, it's rolling up the sleeves, thinking smart, modernizing and seeking ways for labor and management to work right now hand in hand to move upward.

So you have to look to Milwaukee's Center of Excellence and the WRTP/BIG STEP program. Largely unnoticed at an old building at 38th and Wisconsin, where workshops, classrooms and computer classrooms have sprung up, it continues to focus on how to bring the light of hope and direct employment to residents long out

Jobs continued Page 4

Wackiness in Waukesha

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

I'm still trying to understand why the wrong political party is demanding an investigation and firing of Republican Waukesha County election clerk Kathy Nickolaus - and why her own party so casually reacted to the event and her refusal to step aside.

Step back to the election night of April 5. As weak as Gov. Walker has become in reality, she made it look twice as bad and cost the party that first gave her big-time attention -- working under Assembly leader David Prosser in Madison before assuming major election office -- the only moment of victory that could have been claimed the morning after a very rough day at the polls. The preliminary conclusion of state nonpartisan election overseers is no malice involved -- but is it normal for the Republic party to act like contented cows when public workers commit massive blunders?

Let's suppose there was no hanky-panky by a veteran GOP operative and acknowledged expert on every GOP cranny of a lopsided GOP county. Let's believe for now - until the detailed recount that virtually every responsible citizen wants to confirm no hanky-panky -- that she just blew it. That though she received 14,315 votes from the oh-so forgettable Brookfield, the county's second largest city, she not only neglected to save the votes, she didn't notice till days later that she failed to forward 11% of the county tally to the state. A closest

Sudden Votes continued Page 5



National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka is scheduled to participate in Milwaukee's May 1 events, including the massive Downtown march organized by Voces de la Frontera and the Bay View remembrance.



May 1 march morphs into Bay View

Richard Trumka, the Bay View Tragedy and the massive immigration march all morph together Sunday, May 1.

The name this year is the "Wisconsin Solidarity March for Immigrant and Worker Rights" but the entire state knows it best as the annual May 1 mass march through Downtown sponsored by Voces de La Frontera.

It is supported by many community groups as well as unions calling on their members to join the Latino community in an outpouring of solidarity and political feelings, a concept certainly in the air this year. But this Voces' march can be credited with establishing the power of street mobilization. And that power may be one reason the keynote speaker at its rally this year is national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, flying in from D.C. for events on the same day his Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO, is a key sponsor of the Bay View remembrance.

This immigration event asks participants to assemble at 1:30 p.m. that Sunday at the worker rights center's headquarters at 1027 S. 5th St and then head off through Downtown - hitting National Avenue, then Pittsburgh and Milwaukee Sts, then up to Wisconsin Avenue and on to the lakefront Veterans Park. Many people join the marchers along the way.

But this growing assembly, covered by copters in the air and cameras on the ground, also takes quite a turn that Sunday afternoon. There will again be that big rally at Veterans Park complete with vendors and music and an array of short speakers starting a 3 p.m., culminating in a talk by Trumka.

But then leaving by 4 p.m., busses will be available for people who want to join another traditional event that this year falls on the same May 1. Or take your own transportation to the Bay View Tragedy at the special marker at Superior and Russell, where a special theatrical presentation and ceremonies are also planned involving theater professionals.

The May Downtown march is built around several themes - fighting back efforts to emulate the racist Arizona immigration law (portions of which were just declared unconstitutional in a second federal court opinion), defending collective bargaining rights and stopping Gov. Walker's cuts in education and health care.

The busses to the Bay View event underscore how many of the marchers' causes and organized labor's causes are joined at the hip. In fact, sponsors including the Wisconsin Labor History Society have pushed back its special commemoration until 4 p.m. to allow participants in the May March to join the festivities. For more information on the march, call (414) 643-1620, or email joe@vdlf.org.

It was 125 years ago that the state militia was actually called in under orders of the governor and opened fire on



In March they gathered at the Bay View marker as a prelude to the traditional big gathering May 1. Even then it was quite a crowd of people and officials listening to state Sen. Chris Larson's salute to the temporary blockage of Walker's attack on bargaining rights.

workers peacefully marching for an eight hour day. Compare that to only six weeks ago when another Wisconsin governor raised the specter of calling in the National Guard in case of labor unrest at the state's prisons, a future he concocted that was never threatened.

On the one hand, a specter as opposed to actual violence could be regarded as progress. On the other, the attitude behind the view of workers' activism struck many as pretty similar. And that has given new impetus and creativity to this annual event. The remembrance of the Bay View Tragedy will be held at the special state marker of the bloodiest moment in Wisconsin labor history. Seven workers were killed as they marched to the enormous Bay View Rolling Mills.

The theatrical reenactment involves the Actors Equity Association's Daniel Mooney, the Milwaukee Public Theatre, the Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theater and Michael Rosen, president of Local 212 of the American Federation of Teachers. Also planned, is the traditional laying of a Memorial Wreath, folk singing by Larry Penn and a talk by Harvey Kaye, noted labor historian and scholar.

All of this will be at the pastoral lawn around the marker at E. Russell Ave. and S. Superior St.

Participants are invited to continue the fellowship afterward by walking two blocks south to 2590 Superior St. to the Beulah Brinton House, historic headquarters of the Bay View Historical Society. Drinks and hot dogs will be available for purchase.

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Wisconsin proving one day isn't enough

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates, Inc.

Washington, D.C. -- Organized labor turned out en masse for workers' rights on April 4. From Seattle to South Florida, from Boston to Los Angeles, workers wore red, massed at workplaces, went to religious centers and city halls and more to show their support for workers' rights, particularly the right to collective bargaining. In Milwaukee -- see Page 1 photos -- they gathered amid school bands around the statue of Martin Luther King Jr. The turnout was great, the show of solidarity was wonderful.

But it can't stop now - because one day isn't enough. Don't believe us? Look at Wisconsin.

Unionists sat in the Wisconsin State Capitol building for weeks, in ever-increasing numbers. Their solidarity emboldened supporters around the country - indeed the world - to come to their aid, verbally, physically, by letter and e-mail.

Egyptian unions bought the Wisconsin unionists pizza by long-distance cellphone. Six big Brazilian union federations handed President Barack Obama a letter protesting the anti-unionism of state and local officials in Wisconsin during Obama's visit to Brazil. US unionists held pro-Wisconsin rallies nationwide.

All this is great, and it produced results. It also lasted longer than a day.

Again, look at Wisconsin.

On April 5, the Badger State held an election for a seat on the state Supreme Court. Such votes are usually yawners, especially for voters. Not this time. See related stories.

A governor who bargains will speak in Milwaukee

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick will focus on how to resist over-reaching power grabs at the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's 2011 Founders Day Gala Saturday, April 30, at the Milwaukee Athletic Club.

Patrick will be featured speaker and the entire event, with ticket prices scaled to every income level, will focus on how to support ongoing recall efforts to create a true balance of power in the Madison legislature.

Patrick, unlike Walker, has used negotiation and compromise as a way to solve his state's budget challenges, without putting education, health and infrastructure at risk.

Doors open at 5 p.m. For the event and information about tickets and how to reserve them are available at www.wisdoms.org, or by calling (608) 255-5172.

Guest Editorial



A portion of Milwaukee's April 4 crowd at the MLK statue.

As you may know, the Wisconsin legislature finally passed Right Wing GOP Gov. Scott Walker's law virtually outlawing collective bargaining, by stripping the law as part of his "budget" provisions. That meant the state GOP could disregard both the unionists demonstrating at the state capitol and the decamping state senate Democrats and ram the anti-worker legislation through, 18-1. The state Assembly passed it, party-line. Walker signed it.

But Walker's anti-union law was brought to a dead halt by a local judge in Dane County. She said the committee meeting that approved it violated the state's open-meetings law. She issued an injunction against it. Walker's administration double-downed and pretended the law was in force, risking being held in contempt.

Why not simply re-vote the bill? Because the delays led by the flight of 14 Democrats to deny the state Senate a quorum forced the public to realize what was in the law passed in defiance of basic open meeting procedures and against common sense. Now a re-vote will require open

debate - and a growing suspicion in the media that after all the exposure Walker no longer has the votes.

Sen. Spencer Coggs, one of the 14 who fled, told a Serb Hall full of admirers March 29 at a town hall organized by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, that "you in labor did it - you gave voice to our absence."

Sen. Lena Taylor reminded the same crowd that "you stopped Walker dead in his tracks," but she also reminded the crowd that this was not enough. She reminded them of Jesse Jackson's admonition that no one dies from just being in deep water. "You die when you stop kicking."

So what have the Wisconsin unionists been doing? Not sitting on their hands, that's for sure.

Eight members of the 19-member GOP state senate majority are subject to Wisconsin's recall law for elected officials. They've been in office for more than a year each. (There are 14 Democrats.)

But to recall a Wisconsin state senator, foes need two things: They need signatures (matching one-fourth of the vote for governor in a district) to



Sheila Cochran introduces Spencer Coggs to a cheering town hall at Serb Hall March 29.

force an election, where a much higher threshold will be needed when actual recall elections roll around in the summer (50% plus one).

Playing it close to the vest by not revealing numbers -- see Page 8 and 9 -- most recall organizers quietly expect to meet the first threshold. They may not do so everywhere. But they have already scored some knockouts. Now they're pushing further, recruiting more viable foes against GOP state senators who voted with Walker.

Our point? In both the state Supreme Court vote and the recalls, and regardless of the outcomes, Badger State unionists have kept at this far longer than one day. They are not stopped by setbacks, they just keep pushing on.

Not doing that has been labor's flaw for longer than we care to remember. We adopt a cause, trumpet it, hold a mass rally, organize events nationwide, make speeches - and then drop it for the next cause. No staying power.

That must stop. April 4 was great, but no more one-day events.

To generate staying power far into the future, we must organize. Not everybody can be out there every day, so set up teams to keep issues before the public, day after day after day. Team A tramps the streets on Monday, Team B on Tuesday, and so on - and everybody gets out on the weekend.

Pick one issue: Workers' rights, including the right to collective bargaining. Recall focus. Stick to it, day after day after day.

And keep up not just public protest, but public and private lobbying. Make it personal. Visit lawmakers, friend or foe, daily, and say: "This is what you are doing to me. I'm your constituent. You're hurting me. You can help me. You want to be re-elected? Help me. Here's how."

Sustained, constant drumming of one key message day after day wins for workers. We can't beat big business dollars. We can beat business with our feet, as long as we stay on them -- tramp, tramp, tramp -- for far longer than one day.

Just like Wisconsin.

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Jobs

From Page 1

of work or newcomers eager to find a place in the shrunken workforce.

The goal is not job training in the abstract, but working with businesses on training people for jobs that are there, and making sure that businesses connect the work to existing eager workers with families

One moment of such progress was celebrated April 8 in graduation ceremonies when dozens of relatives, trainers, dignitaries and co-workers crowded into the Center of Excellence for speeches and food to applaud the

16 adult students who had completed two months of training to go to work at a starting pay of \$15 an hour for Milwaukee Gear.

The Glendale based manufacturer of precision gears and drives has seen steady growth in the last year and needed to hire qualified CNC machinists, but it would be hard to find workers specifically trained for the company's needs. The existence of WRTP, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, ended that problem because it is a specialist in such efforts. It worked closely with Milwaukee Gear to develop the training course, recruit and select community members. (The company has an open shop deal with



Chatting with guests after the graduation was workforce board CEO Donald Sykes.



Families and community guests crowded the Center of Excellence for the graduation ceremonies.

the machinists union.)

Their two month training included two days per week of math, blueprint reading, and gauging skills enhancement and industry essential skills training. There was also two days per week of hands-on CNC training through the Waukesha County Technical College, and one day a week job shadowing experienced employees at Milwaukee Gear.

The funding was provided by the Workforce Investment Act through the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, but the philosophy of WRTP played an essential role.

Earl Buford, head of WRTP, knows well from long experience that "job training for the sake of job training doesn't work very well." With funding and community support he has found the key -- "getting employers to participate in the process."

How well that works was celebrated at the graduation not

only by Milwaukee Gear CEO Richard Fullington but by Mayor Tom Barrett, Ald. Willie Wade, Milwaukee workforce director Donald Sykes and the students themselves, several of whom started work right after the graduation.

Virtually all are city of Milwaukee residents, Milwaukee public high school grads, some long out of work and now starting on a determined road with a growing manufacturing company.

Weatherization grows

Despite the political rhetoric you hear these days, it is mainly these established unsung cooperatives that are paying off. Another major effort actually sprung from basement facilities at the Center of Excellence late last summer.

Then known as ME2, the program attacks unemployment directly. It requires 40% local resident hiring and pushes the union-established concept of trained skills and long-term family supporting jobs. Led by initial materials from the Skilled Trades Collaborative and its partners in construction, galvanized by some \$6,000 in materials from Laborers Local 113, fed by the

Obama-created federal stimulus money, the training house in the basement became a central location for some 24 students, who also devoted hours in upstairs classrooms absorbing complex and simple knowledge, like which water heaters benefit from weatherization and which don't.

This weatherization program started out bringing modern energy savings through refurbishment to businesses. A month ago, Barrett and Ald. Michael Murphy attended the expansion of the program from corporate buildings into local residences, by visiting the first home to benefit from the effort.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

Official notice

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 is notifying members that an election will be held during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday membership meeting May 15, 2011, at Yatchek Hall, 633 S. Hawley Road (Corner of Hawley and West Main Street).

The election fills the position of Briggs & Stratton trustee. If election creates any vacancy that also will be addressed. And note this is the new location for all member meetings of the local.

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ONE BOARD OVER	79	124

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 190

WALLY GEISE	243
ROGER BARANOWSKI	235
GREG MARTIN	234
DAN LAACK	213
STEVE LINK	203
BOB WAGNER	201
DON WIEDMANN	197
DELL GROSS	190

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400

EILEEN WESTERFIELD	563
RAE MATOWSKI	462
MARY ESSER	461
JOYCE KNIPPEL	461
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	421

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 135

EILEEN WESTERFIELD	215
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JOYCE KNIPPEL	185
MARY ESSER	181
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MARLENE CORTEZ	140

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 500

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WALLY GEISE	551
GREG MARTIN	541
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Sudden Votes

From Page 1

socialist couldn't have done the GOP greater harm.

Consider the consequences. To the entire state and the nation, the unknown JoAnne Kloppenburg did the night impossible in six weeks. She came out of nowhere to run even with -- and then actually beat -- established GOP figure and incumbent Prosser by 200 votes. She robbed Walker of his surefire conservative bloc on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and she guaranteed the national media view that Walker had swooned in the hearts and minds of the Wisconsin public.

She gave Democrats good reason to think they were gaining even more quickly than the realists among them actually believed election night. I heard the proof - the crossed fingers giving way to flabbergast -- at Chris Abele's victory party near the Pabst Brewery late election night.

This from a partisan crowd that expected him to clobber Jeff Stone as he did in the county executive race with 61% of the vote but kept disbelieving, hoping, groaning, praying, then hollering in amazement as Kloppenburg inched past Prosser on the TV screens at 2 in the morning.

All that enthusiasm is not going away - it is still fueling the campaign against Walker and the recall of GOP senators - but it certainly took a setback two days later when Nickolaus mystified all sides with the announcement that she had omitted all those votes in her tally and that Prosser was now 7,300 ahead rather than 200 behind - and more than that, she didn't share that reality for a day after realizing it.

Everyone expected a few dozens votes might move around. Everyone (even extremist radio early in the game) understood the expert advice offered to both sides -- to declare victory if you're ahead in the final count, even by a few votes. But 7,500? Votes that were there but weren't included?

Unbelievable! If there can be a moral victory without actually winning, this would describe where Kloppenburg now stands.



With the possible exception of Kloppenburg, organized labor's candidates swept the table April 5. Accepting victory that night as his wife, Miriam, listened was the new county executive, Chris Abele. Other winners were county board supervisors Eyon Biddle and Jason Haas, Judge Pedro Colon and new MPS board member Meagan Holmon.

But frankly there are no moral victories in politics, just a very bad odor when something doesn't feel right and you can't prove it.

Candidly, the biggest limburger in this case was that the GOP was not calling for her head. At worst Nickolaus was the inevitable discolored fruit of partisan blindness or flat incompetence - as it was described on national TV by UWM Prof. Mordecai Lee and others. But she robbed the GOP of any shred of media victory, cost Walker tons of bad publicity and made the state's most

Republican county look like it is not open for business but open for hiring boobs.

The only reason I can think of that the GOP didn't land all over her is that they also thought there was something fishy going on -- but in their favor, and they didn't want to say anything to undo the game. In truth, no one was sure.

Certainly the Republicans can take no comfort in the aftermath. Nickolaus' record as an untrustworthy and secretive official in previous races and in confrontations with her bosses has

come back to haunt her. That insistence on secrecy, passwords, her own private computer and her own methods simply exposed how missteps or something worse were bound to happen.

Moreover, the entire voter I.D. bill and attacks on same day registration for voters the GOP has been engaged in now look doubly ridiculous.

The "Where's Waldo Prosser?" dilemma reminded all that the dangers of voter fraud lurk within the computer, with how Excel templates and Access macros can be manipulated, how people who proudly proclaim their computer naiveté are leaving too much of their information (not to mention money) in the hands of people who know a little more about technology. The haughty database doyen becomes the one-eyed king in the land of the blind.

The bizarre indifference of Waukesha County to what had happened to its vaunted voting procedures underscored the inequality expressed to the Labor Press April 8 - and widely quoted since -- by Milwaukee District Attorney John Chisholm, who has investigated endless false claims from the GOP about voter fraud along with real cases of poll blunders.

He pointed out what would have happened had 7,500 more votes for Kloppenburg been found in Milwaukee County: "There would be state police squads flying in immediately and

every computer and ballot box would be confiscated and secured instantly."

Of course, no such concern erupted where it probably should have - in Waukesha County.

Such is the myth that is now becoming expensive state law, such is the foolish belief that flashing a photo ID in front of an octogenarian poll worker will combat invented miscreants (as opposed to double-checks on computer networks and voting records where missteps do occur). As Chisholm pointed out, the lack of even-handed dealing tells you something far more essential about creating good systems.

I'm trying to give the GOP and Waukesha County the benefit of the doubt why they have not been the angriest at Nickolaus for costing them so much with her "human error."

They can't be credited with greater tolerance of inept public servants -- not given the way they're acting everywhere else in the state, not given the glee so many in the GOP are taking at the loss of older workers and teachers who are rushing into early retirement because they fear what Walker will do to them before they are ready to stop working.

No wonder a lot of citizens who want to believe in impartiality are reading what happened in Waukesha as rotten. If that was jumping ahead of the facts, it is a taint that Walker and his cronies' behavior sure fostered.

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The crawl is on for Fair Trade!

More than 25 shops in the greater Milwaukee area, anchored by all Outpost stores, will participate from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 14, in the 4th Milwaukee Fair Trade Crawl in celebration of World Fair Trade Day.

A display poster honoring the event and the sponsors can be downloaded from the Take Action section of www.milwaukeeelabor.org. A full list of retailers hosting events is also available at www.milwaukeeelabor.org. Socially responsible fair trade/green retailers



will be joining people across North America to celebrate World Fair Trade Day, and part of the effort will get 100,000 people to take a Fair Trade Coffee Break. Six outlets here will be participating in offering free fair trade coffee to crawlers.

Outpost Natural Foods - 100 E. Capitol Drive; 7000 W. State St.; 2826 S. Kinnickinnic Ave -- is the main hub of the Crawl. Shoppers can pick up prizes between 3 and 5 p.m. Meanwhile, Fair Trade for All - 8730 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa - will host a large and colorful all-day celebration.

The Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition supports the project, recognizing that buying more than \$1 billion of Fair Trade products annually has allowed US consumers to help millions of farmers and artisans who make the goods we consume. Fair Trade also helps producers get paid a fair wage, and work in healthy conditions.

Milwaukee is the first official "Fair Trade City" in the US and has a history of hosting the largest, most successful World Fair Trade Day event in the nation.

Calendar

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

Sunday, May 1

Immigration Rights Rally and Bay View Tragedy Remembrance
 Marchers gather at 1:30 p.m. at Voces de la Frontera, head to Veterans Park where AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka will speak at 3 p.m.
 Some busses to Bay View Remembrance at 4 p.m. Russell Ave. and Superior St.,
 Special speakers, theatrics.

Wednesday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 14

Letter Carriers Food Drive
 Put out bags of nonperishable foods for home pick-up and delivery to food banks.

Saturday, May 14

Fair Trade Crawl
 25 retail outlets participate in Fair Trade events and prizes.

Continuing to Friday, May 27

MALC Health & Hygiene Drive
 Drop off new paper products and needed items at 633 S. Hawley Rd. to benefit homeless shelters.

Monday, May 30

Downtown Memorial Day Parade
 Union veterans will march as a unit. Parade starts 2 p.m. from Zeidler Union Square Park

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Wiggle From Page 1

longer touted as the face of the future, not when his actions in Wisconsin have clearly electrified progressives. Many of his supporters are in the fight of their political lives against recalls.

Many of those who voted for him last year are now part of the resistance. They may not be ready to move over to the Democratic side, but they hardly think his image has been helpful or even traditional Republican. While some like Trump and Palin are scooting over to the Tea Party side for political advantage, pragmatic citizens are not about to swing so harshly in their basic human values.

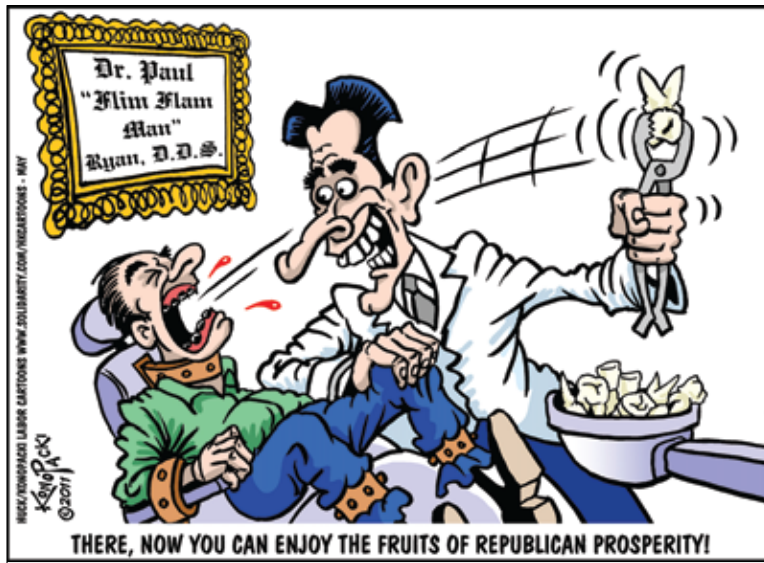
So that became the background reality that Thursday. And more than that, the GOP in the House were clearly ill-prepared and the Democrats in Congress were loaded for bear and braced with facts and pointed detailed questions. Walker was grilled from all corners of the minority party and the fluff offered by his GOP allies could not hide his embarrassment on C-SPAN and in sound and video clips picked up by the national media. Walker is usually smooth in such conflicts, but the

Big food drive coming to your door

The nation's largest food drive to combat hunger will be conducted this year on Saturday, May 14, when letter carriers from more than 1,400 branches of the union will collect nonperishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along their postal routes.

The 19th annual drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers is led in the Milwaukee region by Branch 2. Nationally the campaign by 300,000 members is conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The food is delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters that serve the communities where they are collected. Rural letter carriers and other postal employees, support the efforts as do other unions and civic volunteers. Collect nonperishable items and place them in bags near where the mail is dropped off, so carriers can pick up after handling the mail.



Democrats were clearly better equipped and in D.C. he is not the king and does not have the clout to railroad opponents.

Virginia's Gerry Connolly, hardly regarded as a leader of the progressive Democratic wing, got Walker to admit something he had ducked Wisconsin media on, that he had never campaigned explicitly on stripping bargaining rights from public workers. It is one of several fascinating exposures of Walker that are enlivening YouTube and in this case made the Washington Post. *An online version of this article at milwaukeeelabor.org provides video clips.*

Another was Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich's ruthless questioning of Walker on several

points, including forcing him to admit that there were no financial benefits at all in his desire to force public worker unions to re-certify every year and remove the ability to deduct union dues from paychecks. Kucinich was not only relentless. He even challenged chairman Issa's attempts to sidetrack his evidence. It was actually a devastating admission by Walker who has long claimed that his anti-union "budget repair bill" was designed to save the state money, not bust unions.

Iowan Rep. Bruce Braley came in not from left field but from farm land and his background as a public worker to question Walker's campaign commitment to good government and avoiding cronyism. He contrasted that to Walker's record in office, catering to the families that filled his campaign coffers.

Even before Walker testified, his attitude toward workers was excoriated by the ranking Democrat on the House panel, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), who tore apart the Republican's anti-union record. "Working America - fire fighters, teachers and nurses - are not responsible for the reckless actions of Wall Street, which led to this crisis in the first place," he said in a "wel-

coming" speech.

Every time Walker thought he was off the hook, along came a bigger attack, culminating in a Wisconsin member of Congress who knows him well. In fact, Rep. Gwen Moore of Milwaukee still holds the record of the only candidate to beat him head to head in a race, but that was 30 years ago.

In a courtesy extended to House members, she was allowed five minutes and somehow actually fulfilled the rules and asked a question. But in a dazzling demonstration of how to rapidly roast an opponent on a spit, she took apart piece by piece how his state budget cripples the economy, schoolchildren, citizens and the image

Wisconsin has long enjoyed as an attractive state.

The Democrats also deftly outmaneuvered the majority by making sure Walker testified alongside Democrat governor Pete Shumlin of Vermont, who detailed how working with state workers allowed him to solve a deeper deficit crisis than Wisconsin faced.

In fact, Shumlin landed the punch that dominated East Coast media when he showed up at a pre-hearing rally by union workers discussing what Walker had done to Wisconsin. Pointedly noted Shumlin in detailing his approach: "In Vermont, we know that we have more success with maple sugar than we do with vinegar."

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Recalls

From Page 1

er announced recalls -- against Dan Kapanke in La Crosse and Fond du Lac County's Randy Hopper -- on oodles of signatures, both to worry the GOP and survive challenges. The numbers also reaffirm as the recalls against the Democrats don't -- apparently only three out of a potential eight will be threatened -- that this is not party payback but furthering the will of a vast segment of the community.

The Democrats are also succeeding beyond swing districts. That much harder task of recalls in traditional GOP strongholds was pending as we went to press against Sheila Harsdorf of Menomonee Falls, a surefire GOP district in the past, Luther Olsen of Ripon, previously unopposed, and according to the buzz Robert Cowles.

At this point it looks like the Recall Grothman groundswell -- see story *this page* -- was a few thousand votes away April 20, but it has until May 2 to add signatures in what has long been regarded as a surefire GOP district.

Psychology is definitely part of the strategy game on both sides. Since the organizers want to pile up more than the minimum, the status is undisclosed, hence shaky, in the



Aggressively, Darling organizers moved their headquarters far up Green Bay Rd. into more hostile territory.

recall of Mary Lazich, GOP.

And let's be honest. Established political veterans are not enamored of the basic idea of recall elections. In the past this was associated with the angries or the crazies. It is a legitimate democratic movement but can do as much mischief as good. It strikes many as the last resort.

Remember 2002 and the Milwaukee County recalls where most culprits in the pension scandal escaped untouched while some victims rather than culprits were sent packing by furious voters? The voters also chose some healthy replacements but they made some terrible boners as well in their desire to throw the rascals out.

One in particular, it is now clear, was Scott Walker. Only the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in its editorials can pretend that

he was better for Milwaukee's economic health than even his flawed predecessor. And clearly the county will pay out millions over the next years for his thoughtless stubbornness.

The reason JS still longs for the good old Walker days is because it was the watchdog that totally missed the pension shenanigans and has been over-reacting in catch-up since.

But even those philosophically cautious about recalls admit there are times when events make them necessary. Consider the comments April 13 in D.C. by Russ Feingold, still a political force as he proved by raising \$1 million with his new progressive PAC within a month, but hardly a fan of recalls. Still, he conceded there were times they were appropriate and looking at Wisconsin in an interview, "this could be" such an occasion.

Reclaiming Grothman land



State AFL-CIO's Stephanie Bloomingdale stirs the Recall Grothman crowd packed into Saukville's Grady Park shed.

Glenn Grothman's chief enemy seems to be his own big mouth. YouTube videos of the Senate GOP's designated media spokesman are exposing in detail his demeaning attitudes toward working women, his ferocity against unions, his scorn at anyone who stops working to have babies (please Lord, not babies who grow up to be Grothmans!). His fund-raising begging letter to stop the growing recall effort against him in a traditional GOP stronghold describes his enemies not just as "angry leftists," a few of whom you may find in Ozaukee and Washington countries, but also "Madison bus drivers," Dane County trial lawyers and Milwaukee professors, none of whom even live in his district.

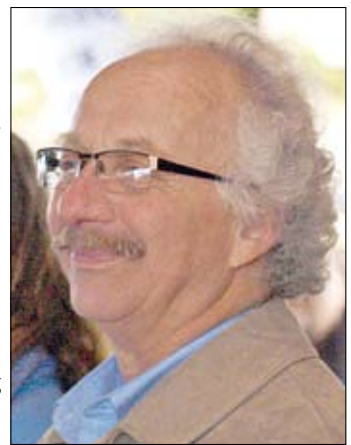
A grandmother who does live there has made it her mission to make every woman in Grothman's district hear the last minute of his Tea Party diatribe about working women - at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BincmtWINMs>. "Not a solitary woman will vote for him if they hear that," she said.

More immediately, a deeply motivated recall effort has launched against him. However uphill the effort may be, its organizers are determined and their ranks are growing. In terrible weather on April 16, hundreds of the self-proclaimed SLOBS, picking up on a derogatory term Grothman used about his own constituents who oppose him, gathered for a rally in the heart of Grothman country, Grady Park in Saukville. Only these SLOBS have flipped the meaning of the term. It now stands for Support of Labor Over Billionaire and it has made Grothman's attitude the butt of more jokes. One speaker, state Sen. Chris Larson, noted with amusement that only in Grothman's world "does free speech have a dress code."

Another speaker, state AFL-CIO leader Stephanie Bloomingdale, charged up the crowds with calls not to allow Grothman to demean and demonize their working class roots.

With signs, trucks and the energy that stems from conviction, the rally used the speakers as a launchpad for even more signatures, setting up canvassing, intersection signage and door to door signups.

The effort is not going on in isolation. On May 3 in a special Assembly District 60 election -- one of three assembly districts nestled within Grothman's state senate district -- a little known badly outnumbered Democratic candidate named Rick Aaron (*photo at right*) takes on an even lesser known opponent with a big advantage in this region, an R rather than a D after his name on the ballot.



The post is vacant and historically regarded as so secure GOP that Gov. Walker had no hesitation about tapping its occupant, Mark Gottlieb, to be his new transportation secretary, figuring that nothing bad could happen to the seat. Though traditionally outnumbered 3 to 1 by Republicans in the district, Aaron emerged strongly from the Democratic primary and is now proving a pointed, prepared combatant on the issues that directly affect private and public workers seeking fair treatment for their children and their seniors..

He may also have a couple of special weapons. One is that he is hip-deep supporting something Walker hadn't envision, that energized recall campaign against Grothman that may be within hailing distance of rounding up enough signatures by May 2. Aaron's speeches resonate with residents when he embraces the working people that Grothman called slobs and slackers.

Need we point out that every signature landed in Assembly 60 for the recall is a pretty likely vote for Aaron? That makes this lazy special election in portions of Port Washington, Cedarburg, Grafton, Newburg, Trenton, and Saukville something to watch.

Aaron has no illusions. The former union teacher and musician is candid about how his race is even more an underdog battle than, say, someone with a forgettable multi-syllabic name like Kloppenburg, who also came out of nowhere to scare the pants off the GOP.

-- Coverage by Dominique Paul Noth for Labor Press

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GOP confident Walker recalls will fade away

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

The recall even as "last resort" has to reflect the will of great many people, not the manipulations of one political party, say Democrat strategists, one reason they are insisting on grassroots foundation and enthusiasm far beyond the traditional party base. And even the GOP concedes the Walker opponents have a started off with a successful formula, out-hustling them and even grabbing the high ground on public opinion.

But the Dems are also focusing on the next step -- really good candidates. So far they have an abundance.

In the LaCrosse area, Dan Kapanke is now facing a veteran member of the Assembly known for her industry and common sense, Jennifer Shilling. In Fond du Lac County, Randy Hopper not only has to answer for some questionable marital and residential problems but for virtually escaping state income tax and helping business buddies do the same with corporate taxes. And he is facing a public official who came within a couple of hundred votes of taking him out last time, Jessica King, an Oshkosh deputy mayor, graduate of the Emerge Wisconsin training for women Democrats and someone who has never abandoned her public duties, standards and principles.

For North Shore Milwaukee District 8, Alberta Darling's coterie in River Hills has done more than circle the wagons. They're calling in the big corporate guns -- power company officials and GOP stalwarts to defend her with money and influence. In other words, the rich who benefit from her attitude.

One reason they need those big guns is the quality of the two noted Democrats eager to take her on, and as we went to press talking with each other about which should get the chance. I've spoken with both and they are mutually supportive. On April 5, speaking of Sandy Pasch, who replaced him in the Assembly as



One of two likely candidates against Darling, Rep. Sandy Pasch (D-Milwaukee), was seen in March leading a legislative hearing at UWM on education.

he lost by 1,000 votes to Darling, Sheldon Wasserman told me, "I'm her biggest fan and we're working it out."

Pasch in three years has emerged as a top Democratic leader in the Assembly and a pretty formidable campaigner and personable stump speaker. A nurse, teacher, Whitefish Bay mother and expert in areas of education and health that Darling can only pretend to know, she is also tough as nails. She actually won her Assembly race campaign from a wheelchair and on crutches because of a fall.

Democrat Party insiders say the key is to bring the strongest candidate forward in every contest and to keep the fire burning. The Republicans don't think even that will work - and their reasons for expecting the recalls to go down in flames are both fascinating and cynical.

"We can appear conciliatory." That's one tactic to dampen down the opposition. Have threatened senators give in on the most inflammatory Walker budget ideas because a lot of voters will cheerfully accept half a loaf in these hard times.

"The unions and Democrats will wimp out." That's based on the track record of making deals or falling apart in internal squabbling.

"The full budget pain won't happen until after the recalls." That view is true enough. The court blockade of his bargaining rights attack may be only temporary; union contracts and the simple pace of the economy may delay many of the restrictions; the full weight of Walker's regressive budget won't land until late in the year or next

year. So if people don't feel the pain viscerally and immediately, they may think it will never happen and won't be motivated to vote. Hence the GOP doubts that the opponents will have the staying power to outlast them.

"History is on Walker's side." That sums up the belief of many national supporters, such as New York Times conservative columnist David Brooks, who looked back even to Calvin Coolidge attacking union cops, Reagan dumping air controllers, even Margaret Thatcher attacking British labor to note: "I can't think of a single leader who was injured by standing up to unions."

Democratic Party leader Graeme Zielinski doesn't agree, He's been active in helping coordinate and orchestrate the recalls, and he has been blown away by the citizen reaction and active support.

"This is hardly my first rodeo," said the veteran of national campaigns and rallies who is also busy working on federal races, "but I've never seen anything like this."

He sees no abating in the fever to dump Walker, just a building momentum even though those signatures directly targeting the governor can't be official-

ly gathered until next January.

He sees Walker and the Republicans continuing to make the mistake of defying the courts, sneering at opponents and treating the people of Wisconsin as chattel. That alone will engender perseverance.

I pointed out to Zielinski that this is not a patient electorate, and union people are notoriously impatient for changes -- they even change their own leaders if things don't happen fast enough.

"He's done something I never expected," Zielinski countered. "He's helped us educate the people about what is at stake. Now there are a lot more of them involved in this effort than he imagined" -- including many who voted for him.

These recall movements are sweeping in a lot of non-union participants and a lot of non-regional thinking -- they may actually be the dominant forces. And that requires a change in historical union methodology of reaching out to members at work or in councils. Now they have to think more broadly.

Union members may hunt in Kapanke's district, fish in Hopper's, camp or share a club in Grothman's area, but now they have to think about who they know up there,



Oshkosh's Jessica King is targeting GOP Sen. Hopper

relatives, friends, social circles and drinking buddies they seldom talked issues with. Now they have to reach out, risking getting slapped down or receiving the one-finger salute. They have to speak up.

"This is bigger," said Tanya Lohr, a 9th grade teacher in Ozaukee County who comes from a hometown background and confesses she sat on the political fence for years, figuring it was someone else's job and not really feeling bold enough to get involved.

"Walker has activated even me," she said as she gathered signatures to recall Grothman. "This is now the people's fight and we can't quit."



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Midwest air died, worker rights didn't

Technically, Midwest Airlines is no more. Even its website has been appropriated by Republic, the company that bought it out in 2008 in a confusing series of events where Republic first loaned Midwest money, then Midwest agreed to let Republic take over operations and ownership. Everyone proceeded to play games with new planes and workers while Republic clone Frontier operates much of the same routes Midwest once ruled, but with largely different planes, pilots and flight attendants -- and much weaker labor contracts.

It sure seemed to many that all the financial maneuvering was really a shell game to use pleas of economic distress to allow corporate leaders to retire wealthy and dump the highly experienced and highly regarded pilots and flight attendants that were responsible for Midwest's stellar reputation.

What looked like a duck sure has been quacking in the halls of justice. Now after years of court battles, the price of those shenanigans by Midwest and Republican Airway Holdings is coming back with a vengeance, with suits and decisions that suggest they did indeed short-change their best workers.

It may also remind the public that it was only because these workers had unions geared for action and equipped with good lawyers that they could use the law to start rectifying the situation.

In March, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA) won a major arbitration for hundreds of former Midwest flight attendants, validating the union's assertion that its contract was violated after Republic purchased Midwest Airlines and staffed the same flights with non-Midwest attendants, often compensated up to 70% less.

Midwest veterans told the Milwaukee labor council back then in a series of articles how they were being forced to leave the airline business or accept huge salary cuts and loss in seniority if they

wanted to keep working. Many didn't.

Now the arbitrator has ruled that since Republic violated the terms of the contract, a remedy must be reached through a mandated negotiation with the AFA, ensuring that the resolution will be in the best interest of workers. It was a sweeping victory that, former Midwest flight attendants such as Cat Reed told me may even force the company to hire several workers who have moved on to other jobs while compensating many who lost pay and benefits as well as their jobs.

Recalled Toni Higgins, former AFA Midwest president, in a statement: "We dedicated our careers to this hometown airline that was repeatedly one of the highest rated domestic carriers in the country. Yet after we merged with Republic, it was the Midwest Flight Attendants and other flight crew who were tossed aside, without jobs, while our flying partners from other airlines worked our flights for significantly less pay. Management's behavior was not only reprehensible, but it was also in violation of our legally-binding contract."

The same issue of being tossed aside seems about to bite down on Midwest and Republic for their treatment of the pilots, again as the result of legal action by the major union for such workers. The Air Line Pilots Association filed a federal suit April 15 asking a judge to order Midwest Airlines and its now corporate parent, Republic, to resolve similar disputes about pay lost and pilots dumped in the complicated maneuvering to "furlough" and then abandon higher-paid pilots rather than train them wholesale on Republic airplanes.

The companies have long claimed they did not violate labor contracts, but the precedents are emerging. The companies are fighting against legal professionals on the union side who have been winning decisions. -- Dominique Paul Noth




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A salute to state from We the People past

By John Cory

Reader Supported News

When he began the book, he wrote: *I want to put a tag of shame on the greedy bastards who are responsible for this.*

It started three years earlier with articles for the San Francisco News. He investigated camp life, and drove Route 66 so he would know the terrain. He walked and talked with the people, capturing language and lives, and then put ink to paper.

The book was an immediate bestseller -- revered and reviled, banned and bought. The corporate world denounced the author; the FBI compiled a file to track him, and radio and political pundits pummeled him. He was called a socialist, a communist, a propagandist, and for good measure, a socialistic communist propagandist agitator. One slur is never enough.

The book won a Pulitzer Prize. A year later it was turned into a movie. Twenty years after its publication, the author won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

John Steinbeck wrote "The Grapes of Wrath" to tell the story of the Great Depression. Of farmers turned into migrants, of every-day citizens turned into beggars, while the corporate owners grew fat and fierce and greedy for more. He wrote to give hope amidst the vicious and divisive tactics of corporations and to remind them and us *the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed.*

At the end of the film ver-

sion of "The Grapes of Wrath," Tom Joad lays it out: *A fella ain't got a soul of his own - just a little piece of a big soul. The one big soul that belongs to everybody ...*

And there is the beauty of Wisconsin. "From the many - one."

And that is the fear of the corporate sponsors of Gov. Walker and the would-be owners of America. The people. We, the people -- coming together.

The facile mantra of "what's good for business is good for America" is nothing more than the promotion of indentured servitude. And if we accept it then we are truly lost.

The Wisconsin issue is not about politics, economics, or good governance. It is about stopping "we the people" from gathering together. It is about stirring envy and crisis in order to corporatize, consumerize, and conformitize the masses for the profit of the few, the rich - the privileged owners of America.

This is all about the separation of we, the people - divide and conquer - about turning neighbor against neighbor, scrambling for crumbs while the corporation steals the loaf.

Where once we cheered "united we stand, divided we fall," we are now sold on "looking out for No. 1."

Steinbeck learned that those greedy bastards couldn't be shamed. They could be blocked only if we banded together and supported one another in the battle for rights and equality and dignity.

What does it say about America when unions are more

Comment

regulated, more controlled, and are subject to more oversight than Wall Street, or corporations that profit from pollution and poison?

What does it say about America that our Supreme Court has ruled that corporations are persons and money is free speech and therefore persons with lots of money have more free speech than persons without money?

The people of Wisconsin say different.

Wisconsin says that people matter, that we, the people matter, and that we the people belong to one another and not the Corporate States of America.

Tom Joad said: *They breathe profits; they eat the interest on money. If they don't get it, they die the way you die without air, without side-meat ... The bank is something more than men, I tell you. It's the monster. Men made it, but they can't control it.*

Too big to fail. Too big to be managed. Too big to be held accountable.

The beauty of Wisconsin is that the people have no fear. The fear comes from the political puppets of corporate sponsorship. The people do not fear the power



The book's author, decades before he won the Nobel Prize

of the wealthy; the corporate lackeys fear the loss of power over we, the people.

Maybe it is true that the wealthy manipulators of the Tea Party and corporate conservatism of the modern GOP are taking America backwards, back to the Gilded Age of 1890. But we can only go backwards, even a single step, if we allow ourselves to be pushed without pushing back. And that is the beauty of Wisconsin.

The great owner ignored the three cries of history. The land fell into fewer hands, the number of dispossessed increased, and every effort of the great owners was directed at repression ... For a man ... he may slip back, but only half a step, never a full step

back ...

That is what the barons of business fear most, and why they grab as much as they can, as fast as they can. They may not acknowledge that "little screaming fact" of history, but deep inside they know it is coming. That is their fear - the fear of we, the people.

And that is the beauty of Wisconsin. The people know.

The people understand. ... *in the eyes of the people there is the failure: and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.*

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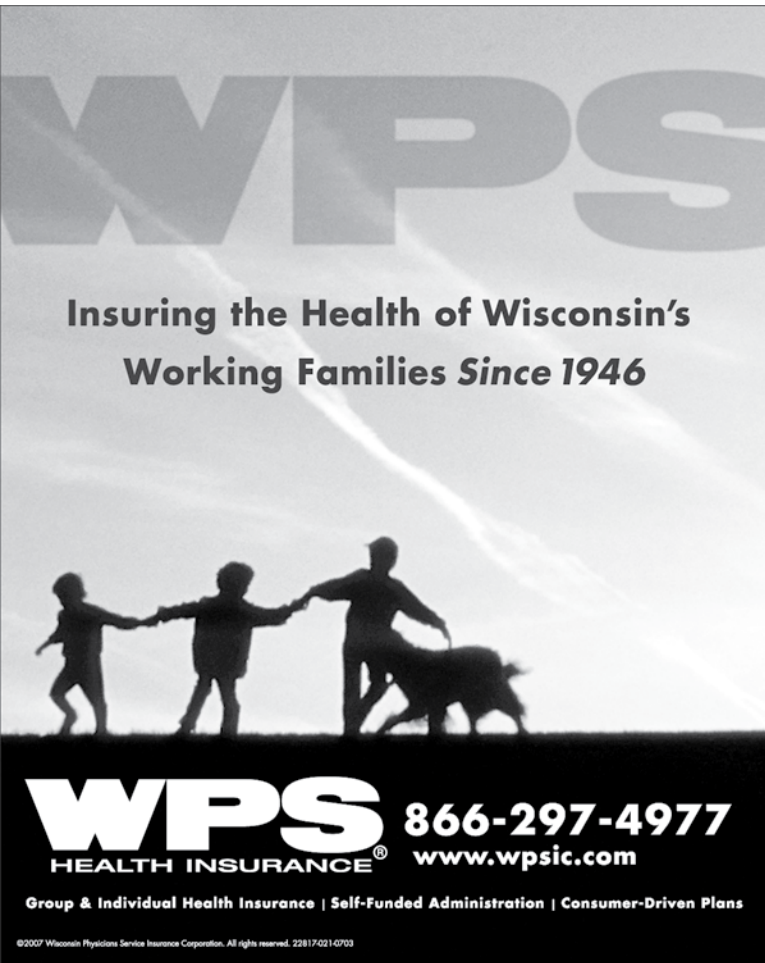
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Veterans Corner

In 2010 for the first time, the Memorial Day Parade invited union veterans to participate as a unit, recalls Mike Balistriere, a veteran, AFL-CIO field liaison worker and organizer of veteran activities for Wisconsin organized labor. "We had about 25 union veterans holding an AFL-CIO Union Banner," he said. "It turned out to be a very proud day for us as we marched from Zeidler Union Square to the War Memorial Center. The cheers from the spectators were not expected but when they gave us their applause all of us were filled with pride and lots of goose bumps."

The parade organizers have invited the union veterans to march again, in a formal invitation letter from the General Memorial Day Committee. The Monday, May 30, parade kicks off from Zeidler Park, corner of 4th and Michigan Streets and then proceeds to Veterans Park on Milwaukee's lakefront starting promptly at 2 p.m. All participating units are expected to be there earlier.

This time, said Balistriere, "we hope we can get at least 100 vets to march. Trust me it will be worth your time -- and also your children and other family members will feel the honor you gave to our country."



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Wisconsin can't see itself

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

On March 10 the eyes of the world focused on a raucous state assembly meeting in Madison where Democrats tried to shout down the rapid-fire and potentially unlawful Republican votes on Gov. Walker's bill stripping most bargaining rights from public workers (a piece of legislation now revised, rushed through and hung up in court controversy). "Eyes of the world," yes -- but not most of Wisconsin, which didn't know about or couldn't get to the blow-by-blow WisconsinEye coverage or dip in on their local TV sets.

If they turned to the main option, wiseye.org on the Internet, they were probably swamped out of connection during and after. Thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands like-minded global users were also attempting to get in, buckling servers with over-peak traffic that broke all standing records. As great as net video has become in the last decade, it's a distant second choice for a non-profit created as a high quality television service for the Wisconsin public, supported to this point by donations, providing hundreds of hours of public events programming from Madison to Milwaukee and points in between.

Unless the public takes action with TV providers, the service is at the mercy of home computers of varying degrees of Internet speed and sophistication. It is also at the mercy of local and global media providers, since its nonpartisan news



feed and balanced coverage are available by mandate at no cost, though usually used in mere snippets and with no WisconsinEye control or credit on local news shows.

That's part of a festering irony for WisconsinEye's president, Christopher Long, and program manager Claudia Looze. They may love the Internet, they may use Facebook and Twitter expertly to promote their nonprofit, but none of that makes up for seeing a service created for TV denied a place on so many Wisconsin TV sets.

Long points out that while most of Wisconsin couldn't see what was happening in its own backyard, WisconsinEye's wall to wall assembly coverage was on Al Jazeera throughout the Middle East. But except for a founding partner, Madison centered Charter Communications, WisconsinEye is not on your television system.

This maddening situation has now become a massive campaign by WisconsinEye to get the service on such primary providers as Time Warner Cable and ATT U-Verse. The demand has continued full bore as Wisconsin continues full bore as the center of a political storm, requiring public hearings to air both sides of the issues. In the interim the public missed the testimony that has caused Republicans to back away from Walker's recycling elimination

and other retreats. They missed the embarrassment felt by senators when they were shamed by schoolteachers on live but not widely available TV.

Problem is, most commercial systems are more interested in profit potential than public service, so as hot as Wisconsin is right now it will take demand to wake up the big providers.

WisconsinEye is urging customers of U-Verse and Time Warner to write, call and email these providers saying they would be willing to pay 5 cents more a month, 60 cents a year, to add WisconsinEye. This is, of course, a bargain for companies that pay an average 20 cents a month for a station (as high as \$4 a month for ESPN or 99 cents for TNT and even undercutting the 6 cents for C-SPAN).

Of course, urging providers to add the channel may actually wind up not costing the customer anything since WisconsinEye would be folded into a subscription offering. Most customers don't realize they are paying for all the channels they take and don't look at, and virtually everyone can think of channels they'd be happy to drop (many simply fade away on their own in the process).

WisconsinEye explains the campaign on its website -- <http://capwiz.com/wiseye/home/> -- where it also includes sample letters and automatically passes messages on to the governor and relevant legislators. Also encouraged is direct access to:

Tom Adams, Regional VP Operations, Time Warner Cable, 1320 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53212, phone (414) 277-4032, tom.adams@twcable.com.

Scott VanderSanden, president, AT&T Wisconsin, 722 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202, phone (414) 270-5900, sv3456@att.com

These contacts grow in importance because Wisconsin citizens are missing a lot of fireworks. For example, on April 11, when the state joint finance committee deliberately scheduled State Fair hearings so as to exclude people who work for a living (in a cynical ploy to pretend that the folks disagreeing with slashes to education aid and transit were only those people who didn't work for a living), hundreds of citizens submitted written testimony, photographs and even balloons. Where could you hear the exchanges that public hearings require and taxpayers support? Only on WisconsinEye.

Workers in Egypt, watching events unfold on Al Jazeera, can hold up placards referencing Wisconsin. Folks in Brookfield, who may need public forums on their TV more than folks in Bahrain, are left out of the loop. Unless customers of all political persuasions write in.

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Community leaders will honor Kit Murphy McNally and her work for community justice as executive director of the Benedict Center at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5, at the Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave. Tickets for the dinner are \$60 for individuals and \$75 for patrons.

Her retirement and the family decision to leave the Milwaukee area will soon cost Milwaukee one of its most dynamic couples. Husband Joel was for decades the highly respected journalist and then witty and defiantly political "Innocent Bystander" columnist at the Milwaukee Journal, emerging as one of its most popular as well as controversial figures. The merged newspaper in 1995 paid a steep financial and

Who reflects spirit of Zeidler? City search is underway

City residents who are not publicly elected officials are eligible for the 2011 Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award. Names of those who reflect the commitment to public causes are being sought and nomination forms are available at www.city.milwaukee.gov or by contacting Joanna Polanco at (414)-286-2366 or jpolan@milwaukee.gov.

Six copies of the nomination letter (three pages maximum) must be submitted by June 30 along with the nominee's resume and any supporting materials that would help the committee make its selection, according to 4th District Ald. Bob Bauman, a member of the selection committee for the award.

Nominations will be announced before Aug. 31 and the award will be presented in September.

Farewell to the McNallys

image price in its maneuvers to get rid of him, but his political independence continued to win fans -- both followers at the Shepherd Express and in syndication as well as in his duties as radio and TV commentator.

(Full disclosure: The editor of the Labor Press worked with Joel at The Journal and even played his boss.)

Kit McNally's influence has been quieter but more directly influential on the power structure. For 23 years, McNally and the Benedict Center have advocated ways to reduce the racial and economic inequalities of the criminal justice system. Kit McNally incorporated best practices from around the country into the center's holistic, gender-

responsive women's harm reduction program, which is used as a diversion program for offenders by Milwaukee County judges and district attorney's office.

The center has provided drug and alcohol treatment, edu-

cational programs and training in job and life skills as an effective community alternative to incarceration without rehabilitation.

On the executive committee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council, she works with top policymakers including the mayor, county executive, police chief, sheriff, district attorney

and chief judge. She also has served on the national boards of the National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists and the International Community Corrections Association.

For info including sponsorship opportunities, contact Janet (414) 347-1774, ext. 220.

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Special moments for labor



LEFT: In a special meeting moved up to precede the April 5 election, a new slate of leaders was sworn in as officers at the delegate meeting of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. Left to right: executive council veteran Larry L. Nunley, new member Christine Vidmar of Workers United, returning after an absence Candice Owley and Vice-President Annie Wacker, all taking the oath from state Sen. Lena Taylor.

RIGHT: Also re-sworn in that day, Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran received a special award April 13 – Mastery of the Trades – so inscribed on the plaque presented her by MATC Vice President John Stilp at the Apprentice Dinner. Cochran was singled out as the event’s special honoree for service in an evening of recognition for the lasting value of apprentice programs.



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UW scholar dissects Walker concept of rights

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

It is not surprising that Scott Walker stands in ideological opposition to President Obama. But to the pope? The conservative Milwaukee archbishop? International courts, the UN and the Protestant leaders of his upbringing? Call it stubbornness, density or basic ignorance of history, but that sure takes a lot of something stupid.

The issue is workers' rights - and few on either side would now disagree that Walker overreached badly in concept and tactics. Whatever ill will he sensed in his corporate buddies about public workers, the answer was not robbing them of their rights while pretending it wasn't about the unions and political power.

Though temporarily blocked by court order, Walker for days further inflamed citizens by standing Wallace-like in the doorway against the court decree, raising bad memories of elected officials who considered themselves above the law. On March 31 it took a third absolute court decree to make him stand down for now.

As noted University of Wisconsin scholar and author William Jones explained in the prestigious annual Zeidler lecture, there has always been a clear distinction in bargaining rights between public and private workers -- but that does not mean such rights don't exist on both sides, long codified in laws and discourse.

To try to pretend otherwise requires deliberate oversimplifications of history. It requires legal dancing about how many angels fit on the head of a pin, devices that have become common practice for right wing ideologues.

One common exaggeration puts us back in the semantic games of the health legislation debate. Is health care a right or a privilege? It became clear back then that it was a privilege if you had the money for good health care and it was right too long denied if all society was required to do was cart you off the street into the hospital when you were seriously ill or dying.

So those who worried about cost and those who worried about basic human decency were on a collision course created by the lexicovivance of "privilege" vs. "right."

Walker probably thought he would get away with the attack by separating public workers from private industry, a distinction carved out in the 1935 US labor law. Even the National Labor Relations Board is excluded from intruding on state laws about public workers despite years of collective bargaining success for both man-

agement and labor, despite Walker spitting in the face of so many established precedents.

More of the history and the current reality were explored by Jones in eloquent clean terms that enthralled an audience of several hundred at Centennial Hall, while the speaker resisted the vitriolic bait of questioners who wanted him just to unload on Gov. Walker.

He stuck with measured if pointed scholarship in explaining how misguided were backers of Walker who flooded the Internet with statements that bargaining rights for public workers were regarded as unneeded and unwanted "privileges" by famous civil libertarians of the past.

One example they cited was Frank Zeidler, the socialist mayor of Milwaukee after whom the lecture is named, and the other was the founder of the New Deal and of labor laws, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

FDR famously opposed public worker strikes and so did Zeidler, since both feared that power could threaten essential public safety. And even today, the right to strike is denied many public workers. Of course, conservatives extend that caution to try and restrict many workers whose strikes would hardly jeopardize public safety such as might be the case with police and air controllers. The ban often extends to payroll clerks, woodcutters, teachers and garbage collectors - yes, those abused public workers whose right to strike in the bigoted South was what Martin Luther King was marching for when he was assassinated.

But, as Jones explained in detail, supporters of Walker carefully don't quote the paragraphs before and after the statements of Zeidler and FDR. That would make it clear they validated full-throated collective bargaining "rights" for public workers with certain distinctions and limitations because of their public responsibility to service. It's quite a fabrication to suggest that, just because collective bargaining was in their view different for public workers, it did not exist.

Jones also points out that the shrinking of private sector unions and other changes in the economy had actually knocked labor history on its ear. Forty years ago public workers were the underpaid and abused orphans of society whose work in hospitals and on the streets was scorned while private sector workers and their employers gained ever greater wages and benefits as engines of the economy.

Society and enterprising public administrators who wanted their own pensions and wages to rise welcomed union efforts to grow toward private



Zeidler lecturer Will Jones exposes the half-quotes used by the right-wing on worker rights.

standards. But then, unable to stand up to capitalistic power, private workers lost unions and ground even as public workers and unions grew in value. Today's effort to disembowel their rights is viewed by many as an attack on union political power, the last bastion of resistance to big money dominance in politics - and simply a major step to then knock out the last union props from under private workers.

Jones didn't say that as bluntly as I write it, but his historic view of the progression made it clear. He was more diplomatic than many progressive groups are these days.

You will hear the right wing claim that federal workers cannot bargain on wages and benefits, which is true, though their unions rigorously bargain in other areas that Walker would deny. But then, presidents and congresses of both parties have always provided strong wages and benefits as both a matter of self-interest (they're public servants, too) and to keep the best people.

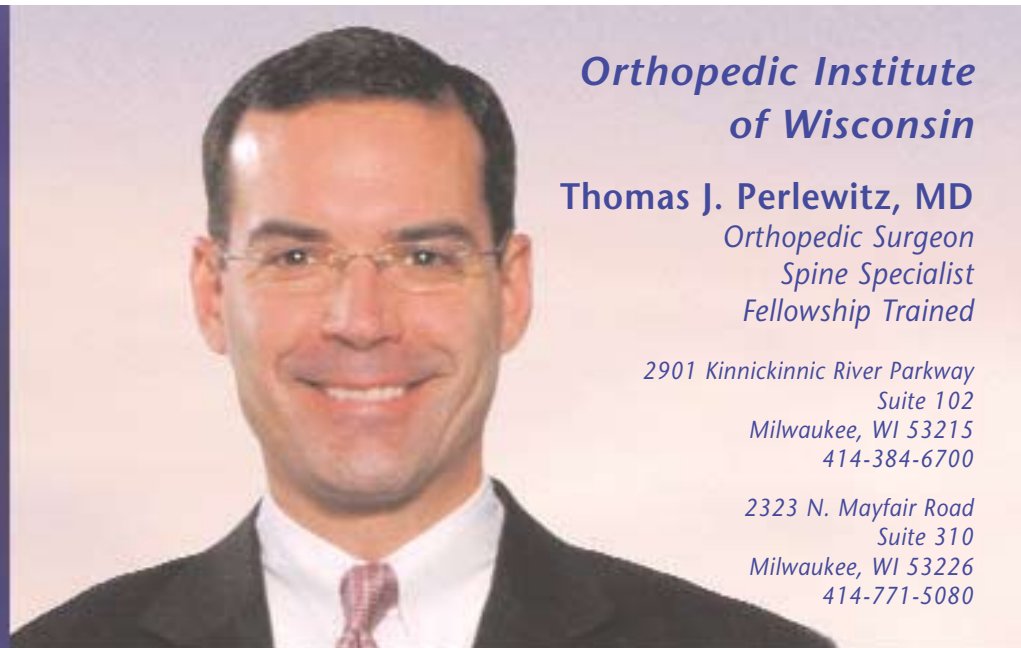
The International Commission for Labor Rights (ICLR) defiantly argues that this is just a convenience of benevolence and that Obama should reinstate in bold language the rights of federal employees to collective bargaining on wages and benefits -- even within the concerns expressed by FDR and Zeidler. Affirming rights by executive order as presidents regularly do is not enough, the ICLR insists. - not in the current environment, when there are misguided governors and their dutiful lawyers trying to suggest collective bargaining rights for state employees are illegal. They've fooled some of the public into thinking the same way, as you will hear at any Tea Party rally.

The ICLR actually sent a

notice to the Wisconsin legislature that its attempt to strip collective bargaining rights from public workers was illegal. It cited why "freedom of association" was a fundamental right and collective bargaining is an essential element of that freedom, recognized worldwide as a brake on unchecked power either by corporations or government.

Jones did not need to touch the ICLR statement. He focused instead on the strong history of collective bargaining both public and private, instituted in Wisconsin by leaders of both parties, and the lessons of labor peace, progress and civility.

He also shared a personal story of how a sleeping national giant has wakened. As historian, Jones had abandoned five years of work on a book about collective bargaining because publishers were not interested in so esoteric a subject. He turned instead to a contract to write about the history of civil rights - and then Wisconsin erupted and publishers and reporters started clamoring for his research on collective bargaining. He faces an eager public that can't be satisfied until he fulfills his civil rights contract.



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