

Season's Greetings

AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE

LABOR PRESS

WWW.MILWAUKEELABOR.ORG

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 66, No. 12

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Thursday, December 21, 2006

(USPS 350-360)



EVEN BACK IN 2003, when thousands of clothing labels were spilling over her living room, Terese Agnew knew the photo of a Bangladesh sweatshop worker would shadow her life and vision for many years. Now the acclaimed "Portrait of a Textile Worker" will haunt Manhattan permanently as part of a major museum opening.



Artist Agnew sews up New York

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Labor Press Editor

Behind her typically enthusiastic exterior, artist Terese Agnew was in pain a few months ago – physical and fiscal.

It was excruciatingly uncertain if the crown of her creative life (so far) was going to be locked away, become a dusty vagabond or emerge as a centerpiece of the most anticipated New York museum opening of 2008.

Today the third option is assured and a truly ebullient Agnew enters the holidays with her hopes realized and, perhaps more importantly, her wrists healing. She had drawn strength from her own salesmanship and the enthusiasm of some well-heeled patrons – but mostly, she says, from the labor community.

"I can never thank them enough for what they did for my heart and soul," she said this December, just back from a trip to Manhattan where board members and the acquisition committee of the Museum of Art & Design had confirmed purchase and installation into the perma-

nent collection of "Portrait of a Textile Worker," a tapestry that had relied from the start on thousands of clothing labels supplied by everyday people.

The "Portrait" had consumed over four years of Agnew's life, more than two in actually conceiving and creating it out of thousands of labels from Milwaukee workers and then by a worldwide flood of volunteer contributors (thanks to the Internet and stories in many publications).

It had then consumed more years in caring and finding homes for a vision drawn from a photo of a sweatshop in Bangladesh but made up entirely of the little labels in our clothing, brands that spoke volumes about the hidden and sometimes tragic human effort hanging unnoticed in everyone's closet.

Agnew had not realized the physical damage she suffered over nearly 6,000 hours. She had held increasingly heavy folds of

Agnew continued **Page 12**

Truly an AFSCME family party



It might seem the nieces took over as AFSCME's Patty Yunk fed Emily and (right) Milwaukee County Supervisor Toni Clark hugged Baakia. But **See Page 19:** Doves of union members, public officials and candidates for office also floated in for the holiday open house thrown Dec. 7 by AFSCME District Council 48.

Pressing new Congress

Talk to the miners at the world's largest private coal company or to the workers at the world's largest hog slaughterhouse in North Carolina. They're just two of the reasons unions are keeping pressure on the new Congress to elevate the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) to the first tier of action in the House and then the Senate.

The Democratic-majority House that will be seated in January is gearing up to pass many legislative ideas the unions agree with -- and start the ball rolling even before President Bush makes his State of the Union speech. Likely legislation includes a higher minimum wage, direct government power to negotiate Medicare drug prices, congressional ethics reform, instituting the 9/11 Commission's recommendations for homeland security and reducing interest on student loans.

But in December, the AFL-CIO is charging hard to move EFCA up to the front burner despite the opposition from legislators married to big business lobbying money.

Nor is the AFL-CIO waiting for Congress to act. Meeting in D.C. as we

Here are just two reasons card-check rises to top: Peabody Mines – Page 4 Smithfield Foods – Page 5

went to press were organizers from throughout the affiliated unions to strategize how to put pressure on Peabody Mining, which has deliberately closed its union mines and opened nonunion ones for the last 15 years.

In North Carolina, the AFL-CIO has strongly supported the moral as well as wage issues underlying a difficult long-term campaign by the United Food and Commercial Workers, which has been thwarted by company tactics since the 1990s to create a safer and fairer work environment at Smithfield Foods.

In both cases, as well as in countless others involving large and small companies, the lack of legally imposed neutrality and simple card-check procedures allows employers to intimidate and threaten workers and even fire union activists

Congress continued **Page 4**

Special Edition

• **In politics, being right not as powerful as being a winner**
Why labor suddenly has sway in Democrats' economic agenda **Page 9**

• **Labor historian exposes roots and cures for legacy of bad NLRB decisions**
Page 16

ALSO
Unions part of year-round commitment and successes in fight against AIDS **Page 7**

While Delphi plant goes through a strange deathwatch **Page 14**, there's a new path for skilled workers in US manufacturing **Pages 10 and 11**

Ancient order honors new apprentices **Page 20**

Gathering planned in January to honor Jane Palmbach

On January 13, family, friends, co-workers and the UNITE HERE members whose better lives were long her passion will gather to remember Jane Palmbach.

Jane Palmbach-Gibbons was 52 when she died Oct. 13 in Appleton, on the day she had returned to a hometown hospice after being hospitalized with a failing liver. Her illness was sudden and unanticipated - and she was never deemed strong enough for a transplant operation after its eruption.

She was the Wisconsin State Director of UNITE HERE at the time of her death and her adult life was dedicated to worker and human rights causes.

A University of Wisconsin graduate in 1972, with a degree in political science, she worked at Zwicker Knitting Mills before devoting her career to the union as service representative and an organizer in Ohio and Minnesota as well as Wisconsin. Her

In Memoriam



Jane Palmbach

warmth, humor and toughness in a variety of campaigns and leadership positions made her a natural to move up to state director and she was always counted on for practical advice and grassroots expertise.

Thirteen years ago she married Gregory Gibbons and as

aunt, daughter and step-mother she now leaves behind a large, shocked and saddened family.

Her labor family was also large, with five UNITE HERE locals that are part of the Milwaukee County Labor Council.

Her friends have arranged a memorial gathering from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, at the Downtown Milwaukee Hilton, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave. Call Jo-Ellen at UNITE HERE's new Chicago headquarters (a result of the merger of the two unions) for more details about participation: (312) 282-5625.

Sherrer recalled as quiet activist in AFSCME ranks

Robert Sherrer was almost the definition of an AFSCME activist. Weeks before his unexpected death he was out canvassing union households door to door for Gov. Doyle as part of the Labor 2006

campaign.

He was also a model of the devoted, dedicated public worker. More than 10 years ago, when Doyne Hospital was scooted out of Milwaukee County control to become part of Froedert, Sherrer could have gone private as a trained respiratory therapist. Instead he largely self-taught himself to qualify as a forensic assistant, one of three assisting in autopsies in the county medical examiner's office. It was while working there that he felt ill and only a few weeks later he died of gall bladder and liver cancer.

Unassuming and efficient, Sherrer was elected president of his AFSCME local, 1055, and was serving as vice president and delegate to the Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, on Nov. 13, the day of his death.

No one expected the illness or its rapid progression. He was 57.

Sherrer had attended River-side High School and earned a



Robert Sherrer

respiratory therapist degree from MATC. A guitar player in several local bands in his youth, he later enjoyed travel excursions, particularly to jazz festivals and other musical events.

He is remembered by co-workers as the first to volunteer to help them personally and professionally. "He asked for little and always gave a lot," recalled a fellow delegate. "He was a sweetheart," said another.

The labor community joins the sadness of his family, which includes two daughters, his parents, a brother and sister and several grandchildren.

Happy Holidays
from
SPRINKLER FITTERS LOCAL 183
and
NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION, INC.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR!
From
USW Local 2006
Formerly PACE 7-18,
PACE 7-111 and USWA 12005
UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS
7435 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154 (414) 570-3057

SEASON'S GREETINGS
AND BEST WISHES FOR A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

DISTRICT COUNCIL 7 WISCONSIN
PROUDLY REPRESENTING LOCALS 108, 579, 770, 781, 802, 934, 941 AND 1204
Painters • Drywall Finishers • Paint Makers • Glaziers
Glass Workers • Sign & Display • Screen Process • Sign Painters

JOHN T. JORGENSEN
BUSINESS MANAGER/SECRETARY-TREASURER
JOEL ALLEN, ADAM HOLMES,
RICK SCHRIENER & DEAN WANTY
MILWAUKEE AREA REPRESENTATIVES & ORGANIZER

From The Membership Of
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 7, AFL-CIO
2850 S. 166th St., New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151
Telephone: (262) 797-7800

Seasons Greetings | **JOY**
| **PEACE** *Noel*
Merry Christmas

FROM THE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF
PLUMBERS UNION LOCAL 75



A United community can go Way over the top

Good habits are hard to keep but United Way has actually been improving on a good one - setting the goals of its Community Campaign ever higher in response to social needs and then going comfortably over the goal.

Those results were announced Dec. 5 at a celebratory party in the WE Energies auditorium -- a \$40 million goal and total commitments of \$41,035,786. Community members were a large part of this.

Of the seven Milwaukee companies whose combination of employee giving and corporate gifts ranged from \$1 million to \$3 million, the majority boast large union workforces. Other such groups, such as Bucyrus-Erie, Midwest Airlines and the workers at the Milwaukee Public Schools, increased their giving ranges anywhere from 30% to 49%.

The appeal of Harley Davidson motorcycles (well known to Laborfest, which raffles one off every year) helped create a surge in larger donors. The company donated a 2007 Road King and every new donor, or donor who increased a contribution by \$25 or more, was automatically entered. The bike winner -- Thomas Bernacchi of Waukesha -- was announced at the finale's Grammy style rock-out party.

Incidentally, since the concept of long-term goals and increased involvement was established by United Way of Greater Milwaukee in 1999, the growth in giving (\$28 million back then) has eclipsed such comparable Midwest cities as Cincinnati, Indianapolis and St. Louis. Milwaukee has improved by 30% over that time frame.

While everyone deserves applause for the response to the 13-week campaign, it's worth noting how many of those giving were strapped for cash themselves (half of the 72,000 donors contributed \$100 or less). This was a campaign combining the generosity of corporate high rollers and struggling working families.

Planning workplace strategies and urging donations in person throughout the campaign were the three AFL-CIO field mobilizers administered by the MCLC -- Mike Balistriere, Jay Reinke and Annie Wacker. Unions also met monthly as a Labor Cabinet to drive the giving to a greater awareness and effort for United Way.

Signaled out by United Way as one of its most attractive and motivating events was last September's Labor Kick-Off Rally, which blended decorations and food with a sneak peek at the new Center of Excellence, a United Way training agency supported by business, government and labor. The rally packed the new center at 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave. with a large crowd for the speeches, nibbling and mixing. Visible in this row were (second from back) United Way executive director Sue Dragisic; (second from front) city development chief Rocky Marcoux and (front) Annie Wacker, MCLC vice president and one of the three AFL-CIO field mobilizers crucial to the campaign.

Health Care That Fits Your Busy Life "One Stop Shop"

Call for an Appointment Today - Major Insurances Accepted

Dental Cleanings
Routine Exams
Oral Surgery
Crowns
Bridges
Dentures
Extractions
Root Canals
Emergency Dental Care
Cosmetic Dentistry



Internal Medicine
Family Practice
OB/GYN
Orthopedic Surgery
Neurology
Endocrinology
ENT
Cardiology
General Surgery
Podiatry
Gastroenterology
Urology
Dermatology
Laboratory
Radiology
Physical Therapy
Dietician
Diabetic Educator
Chiropractic
Massage Therapy



Dental Hours
Mon., Wed., Fri.
7:00am to 5:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
7:00am to 7:00pm



Pharmacy Hours
Mon., Wed., Fri.
8:00am to 6:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
8:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday
8:30am to 12:00pm




Wisconsin Health Fund
6200 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee WI 53213
(414)771-5600
www.whfund.org



Clinic Hours
Mon., Wed., Fri.
7:30am to 5:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
7:30am to 7:00pm




Serving Organized Labor for 50 years!




Dedicated to putting the patient first.

- Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, Ltd.
- Layton Ear, Nose and Throat Associates, S.C.
- Anesthesiology Associates of Wisconsin, S.C.
- Greater Milwaukee Surgical Associates, S.C.
- Gastroenterology Consultants, Ltd.
- Orthopedic Surgeons of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Radiologists, Ltd., S.C.
- Innovative Pain Management
- Southeast Surgical, S.C.
- Clinic of Urology, S.C.
- The Surgery Center
- The Imaging Center



Associated Surgical and Medical Specialists
3111 W. Rawson Avenue
Franklin, WI 53132
414-761-2600
www.asmsdocs.com



*Wishing you the blessings
of warmth and good cheer
this Holiday Season.*



Peabody miners seek glimmer of daylight from new legislators

The AFL-CIO director of organizing, Stewart Acuff, calls the Peabody Mines campaign one of the most important in the nation.

The United Mine Workers of America call it the biggest battle for justice in the coal mines since the days of its legendary leader John Lewis.

The effort to bring - or actually restore - union representation has stirred affiliated unions to contribute \$150 million to the effort this summer - and this month they sent squads of their organizers to D.C. to develop strategies and awareness.

Peabody coal generates 10% of the world's electricity. The company has mines in China, but also in Australia, where the workers are unionized and safer - and are lending support to the

AFL-CIO organizing effort in the US.

The "Justice for Peabody" campaign started in 2005 after years of company intimidation and elimination of union workforces.

In the US, Peabody has 8,300 workers at 31 mines, some right next door in Illinois, others ranging throughout the Midwest, more in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

In the last 15 years, it deliberately worked to reduce its unionized mine force to 30% -- and those union contracts expire on Dec. 31.

Peabody has dodged neutrality and sought to instill fear at their nonunion mines, and the evidence comes direct from Peabody workers, including Donna Green of the non-union

Black Beauty mine near Evansville, Ind. She reported how workers were told the company would close the mine rather than letting a union in. "They're intimidated by the company," said Green.

It's a typical story, but it comes as the Republican controlled National Labor Relations Board has concocted even more hoops for workers to jump through if they want an election.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration has promoted big business insiders to run the regulatory and safety show in mining and other industries. Attitudes at the very top of federal agencies have frustrated not just workers and their families but even the experts and established procedures within these agencies.

But the inattention and resistance at the top caught up with the coal mining industry this year.

Any sense of progress or competence literally exploded as 46 underground workers died in 2006 -- the deadliest year for miners on the job since 1995.

In the close-knit communities of coal miners, and in TV footage across the nation, it became another example of indifference to the needs of working people -- and that sense of misplaced priorities certainly played a role in the midterm elections.

The effort of workers to form unions in 19 Peabody mines has now generated new grassroots allies and attention - including the Religious Leaders for Coalfield Justice. 700 of their clergy members urged Peabody

Congress

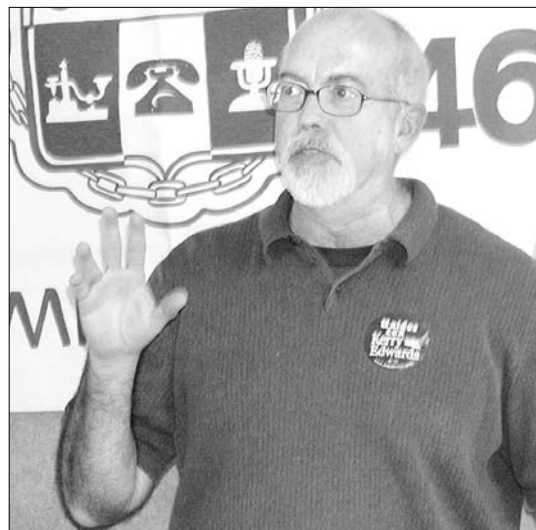
From Page 1

rather than simply let a majority of a workforce say yes or no to collective bargaining.

The case all unions are making to Congress - and there is no separation on this issue between the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win and other labor federations (UFCW is part of Change to Win nationally) - is not only economically but human. Both campaigns

seek union representation to protect worker health and safety as well as provide fairer wages and benefits. Organizing, social justice and politics have joined in these campaigns: The labor view is simple - the more Congress and the average citizen understand the basic fairness, the more big business will have to own up to demonstrating its worst instincts in opposing the EFCA.

Related stories (see opposite page) by Dominique Paul Noth.



Stewart Acuff, the AFL-CIO director of organizing who has frequently visited Milwaukee, is impassioned about the need for change. Now Acuff has helped make the struggles of the Peabody miners a central campaign in the recent AFL-CIO Organizing Summit and a clarion call to Congress for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

executives to remain neutral in workers' efforts to form a union. In West Virginia before and after Thanksgiving, county and city councils have unanimously passed resolutions supporting the right of Peabody miners to organize a union free from management interference.

The AFL-CIO Organizing Summit in D.C. this month made

the Peabody campaign its main priority, developing advice and strategies from all unions. Summit participants shared the best grassroots organizing techniques and innovative campaigns that enable workers to join unions despite the current climate - while also pushing the new Congress to pay attention and pass worker-friendly legislation.

WE'LL GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANYBODY



Milwaukee's only exclusive Red Wing Shoe Stores

Red Wing Work Boots come with something extra - peace of mind. That's because they're built for your safety and comfort - from the soft padded collar to the tough steel toe. Not Valid With Any Other Offer. Sizes 5-16, AA-EEEE

10% Discount with Ad

Expires 1/20/07

3821 S. 108th St.
Hwy. 100 & Beloit Rd.
414-321-4742



13680 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield Place Center
262-790-1927

Red Wing Shoe Store

Workers Compensation

Lawyers Representing Injured Workers for over 50 years.

Michael H. Gillick - Dennis H. Wicht

Patrick J. Gillick - Charles J. Graf

Claim denied? Job Lost? Back Injured?

Hearing Loss? Other Questions? FOR ANSWERS:

Call 414-257-COMP (2667)

No fees unless we get you money.

AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

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

Published Monthly by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO
www.milwaukeeelabor.org

Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran
President Willie D. Ellis
Vice-President Annie Wacker
Communications Director and Editor Dominique Paul Noth
Advertising & Editorial Assistant Lynnda Guyton

EXECUTIVE BOARD - Mary Jo Avery, Communications Workers of America Local 4603; Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council; Carolyn P. Castore, Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 9; William F. Christianson, International Association of Machinists Lodge 1845; Paula Dorsey, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 426; Douglas Drake, (USW, formerly United Steelworkers of America Local 1527); Nacarci Feaster, Laborers Local 113; James K. Fields, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 33; Stanthia Grier, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2150; Brandon W. Jensen, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998; Candice Owley, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals; Sam Purdy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494; Scott J. Redman, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 75; Patrick R. Weyer, Brewery Workers 9, United Auto Workers; Ross M. Winklbauer Sr., Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers (USW, formerly PACE) Local 7-0232.



AFL-CIO Milwaukee Labor Press
Editorial and Business Office
633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee, WI 53214
Telephone (414) 771-7070 FAX (414) 771-0509
E-mail: laborprs@execpc.com



THE MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS (USPS 350-360) is published once a month by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214, and is also available by subscription for \$12 a year. Non-profit periodical postage paid at Milwaukee, WI.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 110, Milwaukee, WI 53214. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse or discontinue any advertisement which is deemed objectionable. Publication of advertisements is not to be construed as a personal endorsement nor are all ads necessarily from unionized companies or services of the Milwaukee County Labor Council or any of its affiliates. COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).

Not only labor rights are butchered at Smithfield

At the height of the debate about undocumented workers this summer, Linda Chavez-Thompson shared an interesting story from North Carolina with Milwaukee delegates and with the Labor Press.

The executive vice president of the national AFL-CIO laid out the hypocrisy of Smithfield Foods, which had long encouraged immigrant workers (some say even bussed them in) to the rural hog slaughterhouse that is the largest in the world, located in the tiny rural town (population 70) of Tar Heel..

Were the immigrants a bludgeon to make existing workers at the plant, many African American, accept the poor pay levels and sanitary and safety deficits? Were the instructions to these workers not to talk to union organizers another way to halt the United Food and Commercial Workers' latest drive to organize the plant?

If that was the strategy, it backfired big-time in November. Perhaps reacting to the anti-immigrant sentiment in the South, Smithfield sent dismissal warnings to 600 workers whose papers the company had before decreed legal (some going back a decade).

The response from workers was immediate and spontaneous. More than 1,000 workers erupted in a protest walkout. (And here might be a good time to offer a reminder: the most recent statistics in the meat-packing industry report 42% of workers are Latino - and 75% of those are US citizens).

Faced with sagging production and conceding it was guilty

of improper legal overreach, Smithfield capitulated after two days -- and in writing. It promised it would not dismiss anyone who had received a letter, not retaliate against those who walked out and it would not only give workers time to clear up any disputes about documentation but also would meet with a committee of workers on the issues.

The UFCW sure was cheering from the balconies. The "speaking up" it had long defended was paying off. Its outreach to the Latino workers -- in fact, its bilingual organizers urging unity of all workers on common causes -- was bearing fruit. The UFCW was also engaged in a major campaign inside and out of North Carolina to bring consumer attention to this Smithfield facility.

The treatment of the immigrant workers was not surprising, said UFCW lead organizer Gene Bruskin in an interview with the Labor Press.

"Smithfield has a long history of threatening immigrant workers every time they stood up for their rights," he said. "Some of these workers had been there for a decade, and they were good enough to produce profit for the company, but the minute it's convenient this company fires them."

Other unions are actively joining UFCW is driving nationwide consumer awareness of the problems at the Tar Heel plant, long singled out not just for human rights abuse but also environmental issues.

"If shame doesn't drive Smithfield to agree to a union at this plant," said one national labor

federation leader, "then a hit in the pocketbook will, because no one can defend this operation."

But never again, said Bruskin, will the UFCW go through the typical National Labor Relations Board election process, even though many think it has its best shot ever at a clear majority.

The union thought the same -- twice -- in the 1990s, but it got burned by company intimidation, threats, lock-down meetings, firings and related action against the workers trying to unionize. The NLRB, while agreeing, said it had taken so long to agree that the decisions were too late for a remedy -- "and how nuts is that?" said Bruskin.

The UFCW has plenty of pressure to apply, including its own 15,000 unionized workers at other Smithfield-owned plants (including Milwaukee's Patrick Cudahy and Green Bay's Packardland Packing, both UFCW).

"Smithfield knows it can make money with a union workforce, and it knows it can work with us," said Bruskin.

Did Smithfield think an operation in a rural area of an anti-union state would keep it immune from the labor law?

Bruskin finds that view plausible but says one problem for the union "is the sheer size of this facility (some 5,500 workers) and the 50% yearly turnover in the workforce."

The turnover by itself tells you something. Slaughterhouses are at best intensive places requiring extensive safety measures. At this plant Smithfield processes 32,000 hogs a day. Other workers stun the animals, then other workers cut their throats. Then a cheek to jowl assembly line of some 25 workers wielding electric and regular knives hook, dehair, strip, slice and package the meat.

With blood and wet meat on the floor and workers packed next to each other in line after line, one slip and you're in trouble.

"This is land of the walking

wounded," Bruskin said. It's not just that hundreds of workers quit or are let go or fired. These are "thousands of workers and it adds up, maybe 10,000 now injured, denied workmen's comp, can't afford medical operations, 27 years old, maimed for life," he said.

"That's the story. That's why I think the human cost is driving us even more than the wage issue. That's why we won't go through the NLRB situation again."

The UFCW is demanding that Smithfield pledge neutrality in this organizing effort and agree to the card-check procedure -- in other words EFCA. It is listing its issues and action measures at www.smithfieldjustice.com.

Smithfield and other companies are providing unintended help -- the ample ammunition of their own behavior.

Back Pain?

Menomonee Falls, WI – According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-302-1889. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)



Workers Comp Advice from Previant Goldberg

Unfortunately, work injuries happen. Protect yourself if you are injured by following these steps.

1. Report the injury immediately to a supervisor.
2. Get the names of any witnesses.
3. Seek medical attention if needed and be sure to tell the doctor what happened as accurately as possible. If it's not in the doctor's notes, the worker's compensation carrier may take the position that nothing happened.

If you have questions, call Previant Goldberg for a free consultation at 414-271-4500. We have represented injured workers for nearly 100 years.



Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen,
Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, p.c.

1555 N. RiverCenter Dr., Suite 202 Milwaukee, WI 53212 Phone: 414-271-4500 (Toll-free 800-841-5232)
17800 W. Bluemound Rd., Brookfield, WI 53045 Phone 262-789-5000

www.previant.com

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

From

**UNITE HERE
LOCAL 122**

AFL-CIO

414-271-0290

King celebration offers path out of chaos

What will wake Milwaukee from its nightmare of crime, drugs, poverty and despair? Speakers will examine "Where Do We Go From Here -- Chaos or Community?" and urge an embrace of the commitment, philosophy and tactics of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the annual celebration sponsored by the Civil Rights Council for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area of the UAW (see calendar at right).



Season's Greetings

From the Executive Board and Membership of
GCC/IBT LOCAL 7C

Carpal Tunnel ?

Menomonee Falls, WI – A free report has just been released which reveals the hidden dangers of using prescription drugs, wrist splints, and even surgery to treat carpal tunnel symptoms. Did you know that splints may scar tissue to form in your wrist? For a free report that unleashes the shocking truth about carpal tunnel symptom treatment, call toll-free 1-888-251-9342. (24 hr. recorded message)

Calendar

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MCLC offices closed through Jan. 2, 2007

Saturday, Jan. 6

Martin Luther King Annual Event
5-7 p.m., speakers, music, refreshments
Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.
Sponsored by UAW Civil Rights Council for Milwaukee Metro Area

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

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

Wednesday, January 31

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



Prof. Harvey Kaye

How students can cash in on union history

As it has for more than 20 years, the Wisconsin Labor History Society is offering major cash prizes to Wisconsin high school students for essays on labor history.

Students will be awarded prizes ranging from \$100 to \$500 for essays of about 750 words on the topic of "Unions are important to my family and community . . ." Teachers are being encouraged to announce this contest and the prizes.

The contest is open to Wisconsin high school students in grades 9 through 12. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 14, 2007. The essays should be sent to: Prof. Harvey Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, Green Bay WI 54311.

Many past winning essays have involved interviewing family and friends about their experiences in the workplace and with their unions.

The prizes are awarded at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Labor History Society in May. The prize money is made possible through contributions of Wisconsin local labor unions and councils. The contest has been conducted by the society for more than 20 years.

For information, contact Kaye at 920-465-2355 or kayeh@uwgb.edu. Complete essay contest rules are at www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.



Safety and Security in Times of Need.

ULLICO is Labor's Company, founded by unions for union workers more than 80 years ago to serve your unique needs. We offer an array of affordable products from life and disability coverage to investment services and portfolio management.

Each of our products is designed with one goal in mind, to preserve your family's financial security in times of need. Quality, value and unparalleled understanding of our customers' needs, that's our promise to you.

Labor's Own Insurance and Investment Services Company offering:

- Group Life, Disability and Medical Stop-loss Insurance
- Fiduciary Liability, Union Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Investment Services and Portfolio Management
- Directly Marketed Supplemental Insurance



Mark E. Singleton

Mark E. Singleton
President, CEO



1625 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202.682.0900 tel
800.431.5425 toll free

The ULLICO Family of Companies

- The Union Labor Life Insurance Company
- Ullico Casualty Company
- Trust Fund Advisors, Inc. and the J for Jobs Program

"BUY AMERICAN"
BROOKFIELD HILLS GOLF COURSE, INC.
16075 Pinehurst Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005
— For Reservations —
Call: (262) 782-0885

Robert C.
Angermeier
Attorney



Social Security Disability

- 20 years experience
- no attorney fees unless the case is successful
- call now for a no obligation consultation

Law Offices of
Angermeier & Rogers
414-289-9200

AIDS encircles globe – but so does Solidarity Center

A quarter century into the epidemic that has already killed more than 25 million persons, roughly 40 million people globally are infected with HIV/AIDS, and almost 3 million of those will surely die, reports the United Nations.

These are not the only statistics that make us heartsick.

If every man, woman and child in Ohio and Pennsylvania were infected with HIV/AIDS, that would match the 24.7 million cases just in sub-Saharan Africa.

The most at-risk group in the US, a dozen times more than any demographic counterpart, are African American women between 25 and 44.

Twenty-five million of those infected worldwide with HIV/AIDS are workers in their prime productivity years, whose unchecked illness will doom their families to poverty and want.

Because of failures in early recognition and limited availability of sophisticated treatments, almost 400,000 of the human beings who will die of AIDS this year are children.

New chief for global center

The AFL-CIO has plucked an internationalist and chief of staff from a major union to serve as the new executive director of the Solidarity Center.

Two days before World AIDS Day, Ellie Larson was announced as the new chief. Larson has managed a 55,000 member union as chief of staff and former International Affairs Director for the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) of the CWA.

She is also an associate professor at the Graduate School of Business at St. Mary's University developing and teaching in intercultural communications, business ethics, and organizational development.

For a decade she served as elected local council president for a United Airlines union based in Taipei, Taiwan. At the AFA she represented flight attendants at 26 airlines from 42 countries. The combination of practical management experience and academic credentials was regarded as a natural fit for

Union members in the US may not be able to rattle off these numbers, but unions have long worked to build health coverage and understanding even into the contracts they negotiate. Across the board, through steward training and informational meeting, through education programs, unions have pushed their employers and members to fight the stigma, ignorance and discrimination still associated with HIV/AIDS.

The AFL-CIO's arm for global union cooperation, the Solidarity Center, has been involved on many fronts, with their own initiatives and with a range of nonprofit partners.

In South Africa, the Solidarity Center partners with the American Federation of Teachers and that nation's teacher unions to provide prevention education, care and access to treatment for teachers.

It has created model pilot projects in such African countries as Lesotho and Swaziland (a country that has the highest rate

of the Solidarity Center.

Aside from the work on HIV/AIDS, the center is deeply involved in child labor, corporate accountability, conflict resolution, safety, health, migration and trafficking issues.

of adult HIV in the world) to fight AIDS among the mostly women workers in the garment industry. The Solidarity Center has become a key part of programs that encourage thousands of workers to take responsibility for their behavior, find the courage to seek testing, and connect to care and treatment.

Around the globe it has created or is involved in programs that:

- Assist unions in negotiating collective bargaining agreements that provide joint labor-management workplace policies on HIV and AIDS, as well as education and prevention programs.

- Promote voluntary counseling and testing for employers, workers and families.

- Develop innovative care, support and treatment strategies in resource-strapped settings.

- Tailor programs to high-risk job sectors such as transport, mining, education and health care.

All of which takes money. In fact, despite measurable success, the project in Swaziland is about to be suspended for lack of funds.

On Dec. 1, the AFL-CIO used the opportunity of World Aids Day to encourage American families to get behind the efforts of the nonprofit Solidarity Center, whose programs are supported not just by the labor federation but also by USAID, the CDC

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the US State Department, and other agencies and foundations.

AFL-CIO National President John Sweeney used Dec. 1 to emphasize that the battle against AIDS/HIV must be a year-round effort, not just a single day reminder. The epidemic affects every country in the world.

The growing shame is that there are millions of HIV positive people who still have no access to retroviral drugs or decent health-care. The US has 1.2 million people living with HIV, and new infections are highest among African Americans, Latinos and women in general.

Yet today, even without a complete vaccine, HIV/AIDS is a disease both preventable and treatable. Lack of money, lack of

education, lack of focus and, perhaps most important, lack of understanding stand in the way.

"We must make HIV/AIDS a union priority, holding ourselves accountable for ending the epidemic," Sweeney said. "Together we will stop AIDS, keep the promise, and continue to reverse this devastating threat to human rights and social justice."

Checks can be sent to Solidarity Center Education Fund, 1925 K St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006, made payable to Solidarity Center Education Fund-AIDS. The contribution is tax deductible.

A brochure on Solidarity Center's programs and results in the fight is available on the Take Action page of the MCLC website, www.milwaukeeelabor.org.

Moving Up or Down the Ladder?



With 16 years of experience as a Realtor®, I have what it takes to put your dream home within reach!

Ask me to e-mail you about home values in your neighborhood!

Ask me to find the value of your home!

Call me. Why? Because I am ready to help you!

LAURA CURZON
262-366-3835
414-543-7800
lcurzon@firstweber.com
www.firstweber.com



Headaches ?

Menomonee Falls, WI – I used to have the worst headaches in the world. My doctors gave me pill after pill but nothing seemed to control my headaches. And then I stumbled upon a free report about headaches advertised in my local paper. That was 6 months ago and I haven't had one headache since! To discover my secret headache weapon, call the toll-free, 24 hour recorded message at 1-888-234-1939.

New Years Address, 2007

In the midst of a cold and bitter winter we welcome a new chapter of life. We look back on 2006 and wonder what we might have done differently. We look forward to 2007 and pledge to do better.

2006 has been very difficult for our leaders, our military, and everyone else who cares about the future of war and peace. While lives are lost thousands of miles away, the minds and the hearts of Americans have long been at war here at home. This war has pitted American against American. The hawks want war and the doves want peace. Republicans and Democrats dispute strategy, withdrawal plans, and whether all our troops should come home immediately. Because people who love our country can disagree on what the problems are and how to solve them, patriots have turned against patriots. It is a sad time for America. But, there is hope. There is always hope.

2007 will be the year that we take powerful strides towards peace. Americans are far stronger when they stand united, and we *must* unite for peace. Fighting for peace is brave and noble. Bringing peace without war, however, is genius inspired by compassion. In 2007, we will use our collective genius to find a way to bring peace without first taking more lives. We will find peace in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will deliver peace to the welcoming arms of a grateful America.

As we work towards peace, we can raise our spirits by being thankful that we are among the world's most fortunate people. In spite of war, grandparents will hold grandchildren and tell them old stories made new. Sweethearts will sit beneath the moon and the stars and fall in love for time eternal. Children will find wonder in things that adults can't even see. People will gather at places of worship or halls of justice to witness one man and one woman become one couple. Babies will say their first words and learn to walk. Americans will learn that even war cannot stop the love that is a part of every day life here in the Land of Freedom

Happy New Year!

© 2006, Attorney D. Byron Goltz. All Rights Reserved

Your One-Stop Union Printer

Wells Print & Digital Service is constantly updating to give our customers the latest in technology for quality and convenience. We strive to give our customers the best **ONE-STOP** union print shop in Madison. Technology, union craftsmanship and pride in what we do has made us a leader in the printing field. **Wells Print & Digital Service** has been carrying on the union tradition in Madison since 1923 and proud of it.

So for all your printing and mailing needs Wells Print & Digital Service would like to be your **ONE-STOP Union Printer.**

WELLS
PRINT AND DIGITAL
SERVICES

3121 Watford Way
Madison, WI 53713
608-274-7474
www.printanddigital.com

Brewery
CREDIT UNION

loans@brewerycu.com
memberservices@brewerycu.com

WE LOVE MAKING LOANS!

VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION
2826 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue
Inside Outpost Natural Foods

1351 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
NCUA (414) 273-3170

Bowling

MCLC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING

NOVEMBER 2006 RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
GUTTER RATS	57	27
LABORER'S 113	41	43
CRAZY 8's	40.5	43.5
SLAMMERS	39	45
8 BALLS	39	45
1 BOARD OVER	35.5	48.5

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 490

DAN LAACK	684
WAYNE FRANZEN	602
BOB WAGNER	585
SAM SAMUELSON	585
DEL GROSS	534
JOHN PADRON	492
DON WIEDMANN	491

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175

DAN LAACK	256
SAM SAMUELSON	248
BOB WAGNER	228
WAYNE FRANZEN	226
GEORGE BARAK	202
DEL GROSS	191
JOHN PADRON	190
STEVE KUKLINSKI	180
DON WIEDMANN	179

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400

LAVERNE WERNER	453
RAE MATOWSKI	449
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	444
ELAINE KARIER	436

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 140

ELAINE KARIER	177
LAVERNE WERNER	166
RAE MATOWSKI	162
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	151
MARLENE CRUZ	146

Delegates get proof the election changed things

A month after winning a place in the Wisconsin Senate with the help of a Milwaukee and Waukesha labor coalition, Sen. Jim Sullivan stopped by the MCLC monthly delegate meeting to applaud the assembled - not only for their Labor 2006 help in his election but for giving the Democrats a majority in the state senate by adding three other worker champions throughout the state.

For those cynics who don't think elections make a difference, Sullivan pointed out one single fact. The man he beat, Tom Reynolds, had been an obstructionist to minimum wage, balanced labor regulations, and



New State Sen. Jim Sullivan chats with delegate Carolyn Castore, voter rights, as chair of a crucial senate committee.

The new chair, Sen. Spencer Coggs, is a former chief steward in AFSCME and a longtime designer of better labor laws. "That's a sea-change," said

Sullivan. The lawyer and former Wauwatosa alderman himself will chair a new senate committee focusing on a diverse range of legislation: Veterans & Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions.



Best Wishes To You and Yours
For a Happy Holiday and a
Prosperous New Year

*Electrical Workers
Local 494*

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers

3303 S. 103rd St.
327-5202



THE BEST IN 2007
Elevator Constructors
LOCAL 15
Kelvin Nord, Business Representative

Our Membership Wishes All A
Safe & Happy Holiday Season

**MILWAUKEE
POLICE
ASSOCIATION
IUPA Local 21
AFL-CIO**



6310 W. Bluemound Road 414-778-0740

Happy Holidays



**SHEET METAL WORKERS
LOCAL 18**

5425 W. Vliet St. 414-778-1100

This ad paid for by members of Sheet Metal Workers, Local 18.

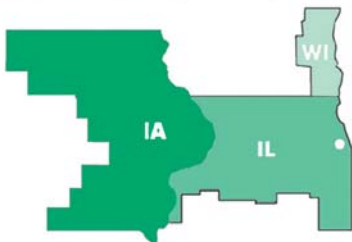
Represented by:

Marc Norberg - President/Business Manager
Michael Mooney and William Hoepner
Milwaukee Area Business Representatives
Randy Krocka - Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Insist On Union Carpenters

**CHICAGO REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS**

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

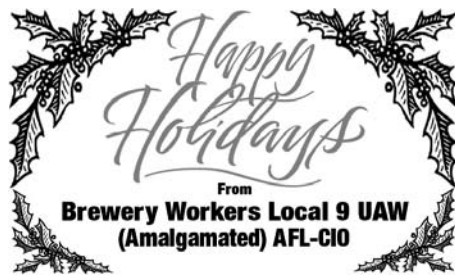


Martin Umlauf, President/Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Jeffrey Isaacson, 1st Vice President
Frank Libby, 2nd Vice President

Peter DiRaffaele - Mark Maher - William Rabinak
Business Representatives



12 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL (312) 787-3076



Holiday Greetings

From

**Allied Printing
Trades Council**

ASK FOR THE LABEL!



Officers

Lou Pezzi, President
Jim Hollyn, Vice President
Perry Kettner, Secretary-Treasurer

414-476-1577

Labor's new clout at the fiscal roundtable



Richard Trumka

By Dominique Paul Noth
Labor Press Editor

Washington, D.C. -- Since both sides agree on many issues, it is not an all-out battle for the economic soul of the Democratic Party. But in key areas such as policing the world market, it well could be.

On one side are the Rubinites, the Clinton-era centrists whose economic model still dominates the Democratic Party.

On the other side are what the New York Times has dubbed the "economic populists," led by the AFL-CIO's national president and secretary-treasurer, John Sweeney and Richard Trumka.

Rubinites is named for the much admired Robert Rubin, now chairman of a top Citigroup committee. As Clinton's Treasury Secretary his policies helped bring more jobs, a balanced budget and targeted family tax cuts. It also interpreted free trade agreements as vital and relied on a "close the

barn door" approach to mitigate any damage to US workers, not offering advance protection but "after the harm" corrections through retraining and some pay compensation.

Even back then, union leaders hated that side of the approach. They warned that Rubinites was out of kilter in NAFTA, arguing it would cost the US more jobs than envisioned, unbalance the playing field for trade and fail to elevate the Latin American countries it was designed to help.

The unions were right on virtually every prophecy. Rubin was right that controlling the federal deficit and pushing working class and middle class job growth would elevate the economy. And Rubin was among the clearly dismayed when Bush came along, kept some features and departed from essential core elements.

Bush blew away the balanced budget, shifted tax relief from the middle class to the sliver of high income people at the top, pushed even more toothless "free trade" compacts and generally created an economy that filled already rich pockets while squeezing the working and middle class, creating the largest income gap in modern American history between the very top and every-

one else.

Through all this, the economic populists were shut out in a one-party system while Democrats veered to a center that had actually moved to the right.

The midterm elections leapt unions out of their protective fetal position. It gave them a large important voice in Democratic Party policies, signaled by the embrace before the election by party centrists of the Employee Free Choice Act.

The election results also signaled a deep public unhappiness with both the war in Iraq and the domestic agenda. Election success was not the only reason labor's economic status was elevated. Unions had been demonstrably so right so early on many warnings, and were now receiving belated recognition.

So quietly in late November, Sweeney and Trumka met with the chief proponents of Rubinites, including Rubin, to explore the common ground, which is actually considerable.

Both camps agree that the current globalization has hurt the US worker and must be corrected. Both insist that the government should directly negotiate lower

drug costs for Medicare. There is agreement on tax credits for the working poor, raising the federal minimum wage and easing the burden of college tuition.

There is cooperation in working toward universal health care yet an understanding that Democrats alone can't override probable Bush vetoes.

Yet some essential disagreements remain. Last February when Rubin offered correctives for the Bush agenda, his new economic direction emphasized spending cuts and intelligent tax increases but also more free-trade agreements, restraining liability lawsuits and emphasizing wage insurance for workers dislocated by globalization.

That brought a written retort from Trumka, who said the strategy would do little for stagnating wages and living standards and added sharply, "I am simply astonished you would suggest such a politically toxic agenda for the Democratic Party."

The economic populists want a moratorium on global trade pacts until there is a full review of US trade policy, even as the Rubinites insist on pursuing such agreements and oppose what they

regard as market intervention.

The populists have gained support, not only among those they helped elect with their ground troops but also among chafing veterans of Congress.

Said Sherrod Brown, a House member who is Ohio's newest Democratic contribution to the Senate, "I don't see Congress passing any bilateral trade agreement that does not have strong labor and environmental standards written into it,"

Rubinites call this intervention and still question it.

Noted USW President Leo Gerard, the trade agreements have been "very good for Citigroup and the financial community because they've been able to finance the relocation of jobs and refinance the trade deficits," but "we need to review the Rubin agenda that's led to millions of lost jobs and declining standard of living for the middle class."

The longstanding argument between the unions and the Rubinites is now playing out in a more positive atmosphere. It is finally an argument between equals who know how to negotiate - something the camps in the Republican Party have proven unable to do over six years.

Educators membership is open to anyone who has attended school in Southeastern Wisconsin in addition to education, healthcare and government related employees and their families.

(414) 325-2500 ■ Milwaukee

www.ecu.com

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Carhartt

UNION MADE CARHARTT

BLANK OR EMBROIDERED

CARHARTT FR WORKWEAR

FLAME RESISTANT

SINCE UMA IS ON THE HILL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CAPITOL YOU MUST EXIT CAPITOL ON GUMINA ROAD WHICH RUNS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CAPITOL FROM SPRINGDALE NEXT TO (SPRING CREEK CHURCH) TO BARKER RD

EMBROIDERY AVAILABLE ON EVERY GARMENT

UNION MADE IN AMERICA SPECIALTIES
N35W21100 CAPITOL DRIVE
PEWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53072
262-373-0777

Orthopedic Surgeons of Wisconsin, SC

Thomas J. Perlewitz, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon Fellowship
Trained Spine Specialist

2901 Kinnickinnic River Parkway
Suite 102
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-384-6700

"I offer comprehensive evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of all spinal conditions by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques, procedures and instrumentation. My ultimate goal is improved quality of life for the patient through both operative and nonoperative measures."

Specialty Procedures and Professional Achievements

- ◆ Fellowship trained in spinal surgery at Harvard with emphasis on treatment of conditions of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine
- ◆ Compassionate care focused on the whole individual
- ◆ Selected as Chief Resident in Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin
- ◆ Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society

Medical Education

Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Fellowship - Orthopedic Spine Surgery

Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

Residency

Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Board Eligible

For more information or scheduling, please call 414-384-6700.

What US manufacturing needs and how to get it

Excerpts from a speech given to business leaders by David Newby, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, as part of a forum sponsored by the MATC.

You know, it is very appropriate for Wisconsin to be one of the first states to have the manufacturing skills program. Wisconsin has been recognized as a national leader in worker training especially through the Wisconsin employment partnerships and also through our employment and training programs.

The problem (with our apprenticeship program in the manufacturing sector) is that not enough manufacturers are willing to participate nor are they willing to invest in skill training for their workforce.

We're hoping the Manufacturing Skills Training program will not only train certified workers but will also stimulate our industrial manufacturing programs that are so key to the future of manufacturing in Wisconsin.

There are two recurring popular perceptions about jobs in the industrial center not only in Wisconsin but throughout the country.

First, that there are no really good jobs left in manufacturing and that there's really no job security.

Now it's true that many of the good manufacturing jobs left have been destroyed by disastrous and flawed international trade agreements, starting with NAFTA and with trade association capital agreements and so forth.

And, that this trade policy model has destroyed most of our low skilled manufacturing jobs in the United States, and that millions of jobs have been destroyed as a result of those misguided policies that take into account only the concerns of corporate profits from multinational corporations and not the interests of workers and their families either in the United States or in our trading partner countries.

Nevertheless, as (national business expert) Leo Reedy has pointed out, Wisconsin is one of the few states that have actually increased the number of manufacturing jobs in the United States. Why is that?

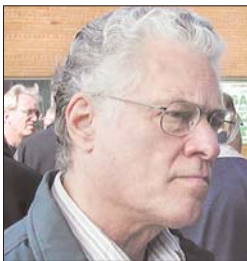
I think that fundamentally it's because so much of Wisconsin's high end manufacturing is in the advanced production area. This advantage is very fragile because countries like Mexico and China are catching up to our level of sophistication and skill level in manufacturing. That illustrates all the more reason why we need to raise the skill levels in all areas of Wisconsin and American manufacturing.

This reality also illustrates the need for Wisconsin to have an industrial policy that stresses high-end industrial manufacturing. I too am very pleased the Governor Doyle has stepped up to the plate and endorsed essentially that kind of strategy.

Secondly, I think there is a misguided perception about manufacturing not just in Wisconsin but nationally. And, that perception is: All that you really need to do to have a job in manufacturing is to just show up.

This never was true and it is less and less true today especially since advanced manufacturing requires very high skill levels coupled with good training. Increasingly the necessary skills required for manufacturing are essentially the same skills required for colleges and universities.

But our American cultural bias says that if you have



David Newby

those skills you should go to college even though manufacturing or the building trades may very well give you a higher standard of living and more job security than if you go to a four-year college program.


This is just one more reason that the Manufacturing Skills Certification may help, not only with the skill levels of our workforce but also with the transformation of public perception that'll help increase the desirability of manufacturing jobs.

I'm very impressed that the skill training modules not only stress technical skills but also safety and quality. There are too many workers killed in Wisconsin on-the-job and throughout the country as a whole, and I think this program will help reduce those numbers. Not enough employers stress safety or quality and teach their workers what is necessary in order to avoid injury or death at work. This program can help bring forward the issues of safety and safety training toward the top of the list and make sure that employers are paying attention to those needs.

Quality training I think is the key to maintaining our manufacturing sector because unless we produce the highest quality goods in the world, especially high-end high-tech products, we're going to lose our industrial sector -- and if we lose our industrial sector we will lose our high-end standard of living in this country.

Wisconsin has the best technical college system in the entire country and it is terrific that its capabilities and dedication will be used to promote this program. The AFL-CIO and its employment in training arm, the Working For America Institute, have formally endorsed the Manufacturing Skill Standard Council credentialing program. And, I can promise you that the Wisconsin's AFL-CIO will do all that we can to promote this program -- and at the same time do everything in our power to change our trade policies so that our manufacturing sector and its workers can thrive and be the core of national prosperity.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year




From the membership of
Teamsters Local 23 (IBT)

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA, UAW

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
REGION 4 UAW

Illinois - Iowa - Minnesota - Montana
Nebraska - North & South Dakota
Wisconsin - Wyoming

DENNIS WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR
DENNIS KINARD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
AND STAFF




MILWAUKEE
DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION
821 West State Street, Room 408
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414-276-5222

Roy Felber, President
Joe Kuntner, Vice President
Norb Gedemer, Treasurer

"BUY AMERICAN!"
BELL-WELL SALES CO.

•Tool & Die Maker Supplies


N54 W13864 Woodale Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

For Sales or Service or
More Information

Call:
(262) 781-3670

Happy Holidays

FROM




AFSCME Council 48
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



From Amalgamated
Transit Union 998

CREATING WISCONSIN'S SKILLED WORKFORCE



Holiday Joy and Glad Tidings

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,
LOCAL 212-MATC

Butters-Fetting Co., Inc.

*Mechanical Contractors

"Our 83rd Year!"

•Heating •Plumbing
•Air Conditioning

24-HOUR SERVICE

1669 S. First Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

For Sales or Service
CALL:
(414) 645-1535

Wishing You A Healthy Holiday Season!



From
Officers & Staff

Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Candice Owley, President

The 'Job Pass' for skilled workers

There are high needs, good pay and satisfying careers in the skilled trades of US manufacturing. But with so many middle and high schools focused elsewhere, students aren't hearing about this.

Nor are veteran workers, battered by US job losses and unaware how the knowledge they accumulated gives them a fresh edge.

Enter Manufacturing Skills Certification -- a national driver's license, as it were, where educators can guide the young or polish the experienced worker into a set of similar language and skills that give them entry into plants across the nation.

The main problem is not just making the workers aware of the program. It's getting manufacturing businesses to buy into the concept.

To that end, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, has been holding forums for businesses. At one breakfast gathering featuring national manufacturing skills expert Leo Reddy, the president of the state AFL-CIO was also invited to address the largely business community. On the facing page are excerpts from David Newby's candid remarks at MATC'S West Campus.

For information on getting into or helping the program, visit www.matc.edu/WisPass or call (414) 297-7296. Hurry! New classes start in January.

The 'mission possible' team

It's a lot easier to say WisPASS than the mouthful it stands for -- Wisconsin Performance and Assessment of Skill Standards. But it's a vital means of fulfilling Wisconsin's needs for skilled workers by measuring experience, developing training and establishing relationships and cooperation among workers, students, corporations and educators. Unions are deeply involved, as are businesses, in the leadership teams and programs operated here by Milwaukee Area Technical College.

The manufacturing skills certification is just one part of a demonstration project that was hardly slowed by the retirement this year of Joseph Hurst, director of WisPASS. An experienced and familiar team quickly moved in to provide both continuity and a new phase of WisPASS. The team includes:



Dale Dulberger

Dale Dulberger - Now project director for WisPASS, Dulberger is broadly known as director of the 21st Century Urban Technical Education Project at MATC. In the 1990s he led other education projects in the Technology and Applied Science Division at MATC. Before that he was a machinist technician at



Mona Schroeder-Beers



Herb Centeno

Allis Chalmers and also a UAW official. A certified economics instructor at MATC, he holds a master's degree in urban affairs from UWM.

Mona Schroeder-Beers - Formerly known as "Career Coach" for the 21st Century Urban Technical project, Schroeder-Beers has long worked at MATC assisting technology students from both targeted high schools and MATC programs. She has 20 years of experience in employment, training and career development

Herb Centeno - A Marquette University graduate who has spent more than 20 years in adult education, training and workforce development, Centeno is already well known to WisPASS participants as a leader in planning, development, strategies and management of education programs for multi-cultural workforces, unions and corporations.

Merry Christmas
From The Makers of Harley-Davidson
UNITED STEELWORKERS Local 2-209
12034 W. Adler Lane 414-476-1069

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board
UNITE HERE!
Managers
Noel Beasley & Lynn Talbott

Greetings
Fire Fighters Association LOCAL 215

SEASONS GREETINGS
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 317
From our members working in skilled equipment operation, maintenance and mechanical occupations throughout Wisconsin. Happy Holidays!!
Visit our Website at: www.317.org

Happy Holidays
Waukesha County
Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Local #815
ACD-GLDC
AFL-CIO
International Longshoremens Association
Best Wishes For The Holidays & A Successful Labor New Year!
President: Thomas Reitzner
Vice Pres.: Dan Dziedzic
Rec. Sec.: Lee Schlund
Trustee: Joe Smith & Tom Schwarz
Business Agent, Financial Sec., Treas.: Doug Kubic
I.L.A. also means "I Love America"

Happy Holidays
Laborer's Local 113
AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO
MILWAUKEE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL
6310 W. Appleton Ave. 414-873-4520

SEASON'S GREETINGS
from **APWU**
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Wishing Everyone a Safe & Joyous Holiday!
From Area Local #003
417 N. 3rd St., Milwaukee
Representing Milwaukee and our Associate Offices
We're looking forward to continuing to serve our customers in 2007

Season's Greetings
from **IBEW Local 2150**
CHARTERED February 1, 1964
www.ibewlocal2150.org

Agnew

From Page 1

fabric for the 9 foot high by 8 foot wide work with her left arm. Her right hand painstakingly fed the new sections of matched colors and concepts into the machine for stitching. So absorbed was she that "it never crossed my

mind" that there would be tendon damage from her elbows on down. As she neared the January 2005 unveiling at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center in Brookfield, it became apparent that the injuries were serious enough to cripple any future projects.

The showing included a photographic retrospective of her

other work (from outdoor sculptures to her participation in the Workers Memorial at Zeidler Union Square Park to her early work as a student when she flew dragons off a water tower on Milwaukee's East Side). Members of the Milwaukee County Labor Council who had in most cases provided the early labels flocked to the opening.

But with the success came a dilemma — not just an awareness that in terms of actual physical work Agnew would be sidelined for quite a while. Top critics and museum insiders were assuring her that this was "an international piece that deserved to be seen by an international audience," and in her vision it was "public art," a philosophy she is emotionally committed to.

Her baby couldn't be parked in some wayside day care. It was a fragile creature that demanded professional shippers, proper lighting, temperature control and even security babysitters.

Moreover there was the financial anxiety. "I'm used to going four years between paychecks," Agnew laughed, "but this one had really consumed me."

Early offers were tempting. David Gordon, director of the Milwaukee Art Museum, was an



Terese Agnew, introducing her work in 2005

enthusiast for the work, and one of the museum's patrons was willing to pay \$125,000. But the Milwaukee museum, which has other Agnew works but limited space, would have to archive it most of the time, out of view.

"The public would not have access," Agnew said, "and if this is my best work so far, it would be career suicide to lock it up, and disrespectful to the concept," which is poignantly timely and evokes a nearly hypnotic effect as viewers move closer and realize the image shimmers with labels literally off their own backs.

Still, this "was not an amount of money I could sneeze at and I have a responsibility to my family" — a growing son (Ray) and an understanding husband (Rob Danielson, the UWM film-maker and teacher).

"They've put up with my work taking over the whole house." Then Agnew's reputation and the impact of the "Portrait" produced the best offer a textile artist could ever have — with a major catch.

The premier American showplace for contemporary design, art and craft, the Museum of Art & Design (known in the trade as MAD), wanted "Portrait of a Textile Worker" invested in its massive new home in one of the most prestigious Manhattan art locations (off Central Park in Columbus Circle).

But the building was running \$15 million behind construction cost as it aimed for a spring 2008 opening, and MAD had no money to pay the artist or shipping and installation costs.

Agnew had developed a network of enthusiasts, including patrons from the Wilson Center for the Arts.. She also had promises of a matching grant but she still was \$50,000 plus short on a \$100,000 plus mountain — and she had to raise it all by Oct. 31.

What buoyed her spirits was the understanding of the labor community. Workers flooded to help her out with small checks for hand-signed posters at Laborfest. David Newby, president of the state AFL-CIO, introduced her at the LaCrosse convention, and union members lined up to buy posters of the work in support of her efforts, two boxes of posters gone in minutes.

Major unions stepped in,

Continued Next Page

PORT PUBLICATIONS
 125 E. Main Street
 Port Washington, WI 53074
 262.284.3494 f262.284.0067

Design • Newsletters • Books • Catalogs • Annual Reports • Newspapers
 Parts Manuals • Product Brochures • Directories • Inserts • Presentation Folders

Proud Printers of the Award-Winning AFL-CIO Milwaukee Labor Press

www.portpublicationsinc.com

MASTERS AT THE ART OF FINE OFFSET PRINTING

Three wishes for your New Year . . .

Hope

Health

Harmony

HUMANA
Guidance when you need it most

- Group health
- Medicare
- Individual health
- Dental and Life

WI-Holiday Ad

From Page 12

notably Noel Beasley, UNITE HERE international vice president and co-manager of the Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board (which now has Wisconsin under its jurisdiction). Tapping locals from six states, Beasley came up with \$8,000.

"UNITE HERE is pleased to be a part of securing a permanent and appropriate home," he said.

There were some other big donations — \$25,000 from Pleasant T. Rowland, founder of American Girl, and \$20,000 from William Lerach, the attorney who frequently represents workers and shareholders against corporate powerhouses such as Enron — and while Agnew is deeply grateful for those, she also cherishes the \$10 ones.

"I came to think of this as the people's campaign, which it was from the start," she said and by

deadline she only had to use 10% (\$6,000) of the matching grant to reach the needed plateau.

On her New York trip to meet the acquisition committee and key board members of MAD, she said, "I can't tell you how great it was to see the signs around the construction of the new building: 'Union Made Safer and Better!!'"

Two of the most dynamic philanthropic leaders she met were Jerome and Simona Chazen, the UW-Madison alumni behind that campus' Chazen Museum of Art. Jerome was a founder of Liz Claiborne, "one of the fairest clothing companies around," she said.

MAD's curator, Ursula Ilse-Neuman, called "Portrait" "one of the finest pieces of contemporary textile art that I have seen in my curatorial career and we are terribly proud to own it."

She confirmed that the museum would honor the request

from London's Victoria and Albert Museum (Britain's national center for decorative and applied arts) to display the work in 2010. The Milwaukee Art Museum is also interested in a home visit.

Agnew will probably head to New York next summer for the one-night public preview. But she is also happy to let the baby go to a public environment where it will be nurtured in perpetuity. "I believe you should export the art not the artist," she said.

"What this sort of home means is that the piece will never be co-opted," she added. "The message can't be undermined or used as some sort of happy commercial gimmick"

Agnew can now devote her enforced downtime to let her hands heal — "they will," she said — and to move on new ideas.

One MAD desire down and more to go.



After the crowd cleared, a lone visitor contemplated the Portrait.

Greetings!
COMMUNICATION WORKERS
Local 4603

George Walls - President

Jim Courchane	Rich Pearson
Greg Burns	Holly Sherard
Chris Stapelfeldt	Al Stein
Chris Wunder	Cindy Wade
Carrie Murphy	Dave Hilleshiem

Peggy Brown

This Holiday Season
Treat The Ones You
Love To Gifts That Are

Genuine American

Local 469
Bradley Schwanda
PRESIDENT
and
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Representing The Workers at MASTER LOCK

Season's Greetings

From Our Members At
**WTMJ, WITI,
WMVS/WMVV,
WISN and
Norlight**
Telecommunications

IBEW LOCAL 715

Best
HOLIDAY WISHES

From
Teamsters Local 200

Tim Buban
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Darryl Connell
PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Mike Henien
Don Janz
Dave Kumm
Johnnie Moorer
Carol Simon

6200 W. Bluemound Rd.
414-771-6363

MILWAUKEE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
5941 W. Bluemound Rd. • 475-5880

LYLE A. BALISTRERI
PRESIDENT

More Experience

More Accurate

More Skill

More Efficient

JOY TO ALL

Union Builders Are A Better Value.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL 8

Chuck Hutchins - President
Ben Gutkowski - Vice President
Jim Jerome - Financial Secretary
Phil Dupor - Recording Secretary
Denise Dostalek - Trustee
Dustin Hines - Trustee
Al Brazzoni - Sergeant at Arms

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL 8
Fred Hultquist and Ray Wersel

Visit our website at www.bacwi.org

Delphi veteran hands help new blood, but plant

By Dominique Paul Noth
Labor Press Editor

It is a familiar sad story for Milwaukee manufacturing — the drawn-out death spiral of a major source of good wages and family-supporting jobs. The community saw it happen to thousands of its neighbors at Tower Automotive, another auto parts company, and now it is playing out at the vast Delphi facility in Oak Creek.

It is a death spiral with hints of resurrection (which most employees doubt). Delphi, which entered federal bankruptcy in 2005, has not included Oak Creek on its list of plant closings. It's playing out a game of doomsday silence, shrinking workforce and outsourced contracts, while its internal plans see Oak Creek production well into 2008.

From that point forward, though, things look bleak. Delphi has already sold unused manufacturing and office acres to a private developer. Buildings have been knocked down and a new 237,000-square-foot warehouse-style Woodsman's Food Market is scheduled for completion within a year, joining a string of announced retail developments along Howell Ave.

Meanwhile, Oak Creek and surrounding communities are losing hundreds of customers forced

to move away, or radically curb spending, because of job losses at Delphi and buyouts that offer as little as \$35,000.

"No way Delphi is going to keep one-quarter of its factory land operating while selling off the other 75%," predicted one of the plant's union leaders.

"No way is the company not making money hand over foot with all these changes, and from its always profitable Oak Creek units," said another.

Call it uncertainty or facing reality. Either way, the situation has spurred distrustful veteran workers to depart rather than be kicked out or see their wages cut in half with no security guarantees. And it keeps new workers — being hired by the hundreds to pick up for fleeing veterans — in a funk about how long they are staying.

The United Auto Workers is the main union for side by side production units at Delphi Oak Creek. On the catalytic converter side, says Stanley (Skip) Dziejdzic, president of Local 1866, the total workforce has shrunk by easily 100 members pre-bankruptcy to 380 today, the majority replacement workers.

Most of the veterans have left jobs that paid at least \$27 an hour in wages while the newcom-



David York, president of UAW Local 438 at Delphi.

ers get \$14 an hour.

The "work is definitely moving to Mexico, South America, China," Dziejdzic said. Delphi has already posted outsourcing notices.

In the other production unit (electronics using expensive manufacturing machinery) Local 438 started out before bankruptcy with nearly 600 members and has seen its veterans replaced — almost "one-to-one" says Local 438 President David York — by "temporary workers" moving in over the last eight months.

Local 438 has seen no outsourcing notices but knows the work could move to plants on Delphi's keep list in nearby states. Those new \$14-an-hour workers are UAW members under a two-tier deal worked out

earlier by the union, which continues to press protection for new hires and retirees, using rules and tools unavailable to thousands of non-union workers laid off in US plants over the last six years.

One reward for union pressure came two days before Thanksgiving, when UAW completed a national deal with Delphi that moved "temporaries" hired before Nov. 22 to a more protected "permanent" status. Nationally, it means more than 13,000 of the departed UAW workers are being replaced by 8,500 newly permanent workers (those with 90 days of service before Nov. 22).

Both York and Dziejdzic noted that UAW's internal communications were so good that the workers were applauding the

deal before local Delphi management even knew about it.

The move out of the limbo of temporary status raised worker morale and offered them better UAW protection. Now they are eligible to move up the pay scale (to \$18.50 an hour depending on the job) under a contract running nationally well into 2011, with considerable preference should Delphi emerge from bankruptcy in a more positive hiring mode. The new workers are eligible for health coverage but no pension plan, simply a 401(k).


These workers could only be hired by referrals from existing Delphi workers, except for a few posted high skill and higher pay positions.

A handful of bought-out workers at Local 438 and as many as 25 at Local 1866 have returned to Delphi as contracted experts, either as supervisors or trainers. The local leadership is also involved in orientation and guidance for new workers.

In Oak Creek, some veteran workers who were already near retirement credit the UAW with providing "a soft landing," as one put it. After 29 years on the job, she left two years shy of retirement with 60% of her remaining wages and a guaranteed full pension. "My kids are grown and our

Continued Next Page

Happy Holidays
from
ADMINISTRATORS SUPERVISORS COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION
through
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY EXCELLENCE



Season's Greetings
from
USW
Local 2-232
Formerly PACE 7-0232
representing workers at
Briggs & Stratton Corp.
and
Strattec Security Corp.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 139
TERRANCE MCGOWAN
Business Manager
N27 W23233 Roundy Drive
P.O. Box 130 Pewaukee, WI

Merry Christmas



BOILERMAKERS & HELPERS CONSTRUCTION LOCAL 107
Blane Tom, Business Manager

Holiday Greetings



From the members of
Local DALU 24111

SEASON'S GREETINGS



OPEIU Local 9

Seasons Peace Holiday Joy



Best Wishes



From the Officers & Members of
IRON WORKERS LOCAL 8
12034 W. Adler Ln. 476-9370

Seasons Greetings
from the
Members of
Pioneer Branch 2
of the National
Association of
Letter Carriers



seems on a death march

From Page 14

house is too big, so my family will make do," she said. "But I'm heartsick for the workers who face more difficult circumstance."

It was an older veteran workforce in Oak Creek, York pointed out, but "the buyouts still leave many with an empty decade or two ahead of them" trying to keep family together in a difficult marketplace where they have to undergo retraining and considerable reduction in living standards.

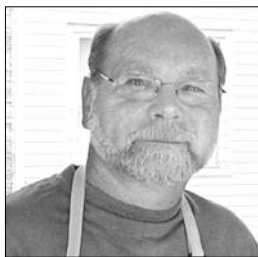
"I was a 32-year veteran," said Dziedzic, who has taken the buyout, "but I intended to work seven more years. I have one daughter in college and another in high school, so yes, I'm better off than some, but I'm going to have to scramble to find work for the next seven years. And there are many co-workers with far less years and far younger kids."

"And now we have the new hires, who can't be sure how long they can count on even \$14 an hour. The work here will not last as long as their car payments."

Delphi was the parts-making division of General Motors spun off in 1999 as a separate company, but GM retains pension and job bank commitments to the UAW workforce and has bailed out Delphi in bankruptcy negotiations.

It also has had massive response by workers to its own buyout programs. Auto workers are sour about corporate maneuvers and fear that there is little chance that the jobs would come back — and if they did come back, the wages would be halved and the benefits decimated.

The bankruptcy court seems to recognize how hard the UAW has fought to cut deals. The judge has delayed again and again responding to Delphi's demand to



Stanley (Skip) Dziedzic, president of UAW Local 1866

void its labor agreements.

GM management now says the \$9 billion in cost savings from its own plant closings and buyouts in 2006 puts them "a little more than halfway" toward their goals for the end of 2007.

Meanwhile, Ford saw almost half its hourly UAW workforce accept its buyouts as it also announced plant closings and cutbacks — some 8,000 workers already departed and some 30,000 more accepting buyouts

All of which makes for complex negotiations, with all sides holding their cards mighty close.

But no question, for US workers and for hundreds of communities and thousands of affected businesses, all these numbers are devastating. Working families are suddenly nonworking families, bearing the brunt of corporate behavior that even business analysts concede came in large part from poor management.

Auto business leaders say the workers were getting too much, an attitude that was key to Delphi's move into bankruptcy. But even fiscal analysts dismiss that attitude as simplistic nonsense.

Earlier this year, economist Paul Krugman looked at Delphi and nailed the overlooked issues: "Job losses are part of the broader weakness of US manufacturing, especially the part of US manufacturing that offers work-

ers decent wages and benefits. And some of that weakness reflects two big distortions in our economy: a dysfunctional health care system and an unsustainable trade deficit."

Add to this a failure to move with the times and create better cars and trucks for an energy-conscious future. GM is only now looking at alternative fuels. Ford could only react with closing 16 plants to its self-inflicted \$7 billion loss in nine months of 2006.

It was too easy a solution for well-paid executives to reverse their losses and soothe Wall Street by lowering American expectations about living standards and retirement security.

They may be eating their young, because Wall Street depends more and more on middle class money and low unemployment.

"I hope somewhere in this bankruptcy process, the judge will stop and look at the money Delphi is raking in from all these changes," said one UAW leader. "The workers are suffering for problems far beyond the labor contracts."

Dziedzic's view is blunter — "This is another example of a huge company trying to bust the union. And blame the union as it does so."

LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE?
AMERICAN INCOME LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 N88 W17015 Main Street
 Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

We look forward to continuing our tradition of union serving unions.
 Ask about our food bank.

For more information call:
Bill Verbeten or Laurie Onasch at 502-9777

AIL The 100% Union Label Company AIL

OPERU LOCAL #277

TRI CITY NATIONAL BANK

Mike Koenen Dan Schifano
 Senior Vice President Senior Vice President

6400 South 27th Street
 Oak Creek, WI (414) 761-1610

Paying tribute to American workers year-round!

visit our website at www.tcnb.com

FDIC

HAWKS QUINDEL EHLKE & PERRY, S.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Proudly Representing Labor Unions and Members for Over 30 Years.

Labor and Employment Law
 Workers Compensation
 Family Law - Divorce, Custody, Support
 Social Security Disability Law
 and Criminal Cases

414-271-8650
 or
800-236-3348

WISCONSIN VISION
 "Eye Care Done Right"

Remember to use your FLEX Dollars by December 31, 2006

Optical goods are the number one use for Flex Dollars.

MILWAUKEE 1920 W. Loyalton Ave.....	414-325-8600	WAUKESHA 203A E. Sunset Dr.	262-524-1130
MILWAUKEE 7528 W. Burleigh St	414-873-9090	FRANKLIN 8225 S. 27th St.	414-761-2269
ELM GROVE 12876 W. Bluemound Rd.....	262-432-0052	RACINE 3905 Douglas Ave	262-639-5360
GREENFIELD 4818 S. 76th St.....	414-431-0385	GRAFTON 1260 N. Port Washington Rd..	262-546-0234
WEST ALLIS 1401 S. 108th St.....	414-476-0200	MENOMONEE FALLS	
KENOSHA 5725 75th St.....	262-694-5553	N85 W16033 Appleton Ave...262-251-1900	

www.wisconsinvision.com

<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>25% to 50% OFF</p> <p>Designer Frames</p> <p>25% OFF First Designer Frame 50% OFF Second Designer Frame*</p> <p>When you purchase both frame and lenses. Choose from 1000's of styles.</p> <p><small>*Same day, same prescription of equal or lesser value. Get a back-up pair or pair of prescription sunglasses. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 12/31/06.</small></p>	<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>\$99 Disposable Contact Lens Package</p> <p>Price includes: 1. Comprehensive Eye Exam 2. Three Month Supply (6 pr.) of Soft, Visittin, Spherical Disposable Contacts 3. Instruction Class 4. Starter Kit of Solutions 5. Follow-up Care with the Doctors</p> <p><small>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 12/31/06.</small></p>	<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>\$37 Comprehensive Eye Exam</p> <p>Performed By A Licensed Doctor of Optometry. Call Today to Schedule Your Appointment.</p> <p><small>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Excludes Contact Lens Examination. Offer Expires 12/31/06.</small></p>
--	---	---

More fights, more wins are history's path to fix NLRB

By Andrew Kersten

Special to Labor Press

When was the last time you saw a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision as the topic of a comedian's shtick? As a labor historian, I was amazed to watch Steven Colbert's recent gallows humor interpretation of the NLRB ruling denying the right of Kentucky nurses to organize on the fallacious grounds they are supervisors. It was funny, erudite, and pessimistic.

While wiping the tears of laughter and sorrow away, I thought of my historical research on the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and wondered if we had not returned to 1933 when a famous labor economist boldly proclaimed that the AFL -- and in fact the entire labor movement --

was on its deathbed.

But this new NLRB decision was not a fatal blow as some have commented. Rather, it was yet another bushwhacking. President Bush's NLRB has taken a further step along what amounts to the long march of the open shop movement in the US.

Since the turn of the 20th century, every generation of workers has fought in a class war from above. Employers have methodically worked to make the US an "open shop nation" -- a nice-sounding concept that in reality undermines workers' ability to get a voice at work through union membership. Their efforts are far from complete.

Still, the NLRB's recent action is cause for great concern, leaving us to question whether the NLRB can be trusted and what

we can do to regain momentum in our decades-old struggle for an equitable society. But given the elections, the labor movement is now in a much better position than it has been for a long time. It's time to recapture the passions of the past and retake the NLRB.

In some respects, the NLRB's decision was not surprising. It is the end result of years of political maneuverings by extreme conservatives. In fact, the history of the assault extends back to the 19th century when the relationship between labor and management was horrifically brutal.

The American Federation of Labor arose in that period. Samuel Gompers and his colleagues built a labor movement whose goals were to stop the violence and repression, to improve work environments and to increase wages and benefits.

And, yet, he wanted to do so without the aid of the federal government. He had little faith that would do anything but serve employers as an army defending the strikebreakers or as a corrupt, duplicitous bureaucratic go-between.

Generally speaking, Gompers thought that strong, independent union action for modest economic gains would solve all working-class problems and win the war for the union shop. Time proved Gompers partly wrong.

The union movement's



An associate professor of American History and chair of the Department of Social Change and Development at UW-Green Bay, Andrew Kersten is the author of "Labor's Home Front: The AFL During World War II." This article is published with permission of the author and www.aflcio.org.

pushed for open shop amendments to state constitutions. In several states, including Arkansas and Florida, conservatives won, but in other states such as California, labor won.

There's no denying the history. While workers fought abroad to save democracy, conservatives tried to eliminate it at home. Perhaps we are seeing much of the same today.

But all is not lost. In this season when we are remembering those brave soldiers who planted a flag for democracy thousands of miles away, let's also remember those "soldiers" in the arsenal of democracy who built the tanks, planes and guns so their battle-front counterparts could win. These workers also fought to protect democracy at home by opposing the open shop movement.

Flags of our fathers? How about union flags of our fathers and mothers? Now we must recapture the AFL's past and save the NLRB from irrelevancy.

The NLRB's decision -- and the media reaction to it -- has sent shock waves through the nation, not just the labor movement and political progressives. It remains up to us to decide what to do with this new political landscape.

As the Democrats set the hearings for Congress, we must urge them to broaden their scope and investigate the operation of Bush's NLRB. That's the first step. Then we need to win more elections.

I say: Let's plant the flags of our union fathers and mothers at city hall, at the statehouse, on Capitol Hill and eventually at the White House. To stop the NLRB from making any more bad decisions, we will have to take back the bureaucracy -- and not just the Congress -- from the conservatives.

greatest gains came during the New Deal when FDR urged workers to join unions -- and to his surprise, millions immediately took up the call. FDR's NLRB established the tradition of fair, open and democratic union elections and equitable collective bargaining processes.

Since the 1930s, conservatives have rallied to attack the New Deal and the NLRB by using the federal courts, by passing restrictive laws such as the Taft-Hartley Act and, finally, by taking over the labor relations bureaucracy itself.

Today's NLRB is not your grandfather's and grandmother's. But that generation of the 1930s and 1940s also had to fight to protect the federal government's new relationship with unions.

During World War II, when many local union leaders were either away in the service or pre-occupied with other wartime activities, employers operating under the guise of patriotism

Where are your healthcare dollars?

No Consultants
No Brokers
No Stockholders
No Commissions

AFFORDABILITY

WHF
WISCONSIN HEALTH FUND™

www.whfund.org • 414-479-3634

H Habush Habush & Rottier s.c.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WHY CHOOSE ANYONE ELSE?®
1-800-2-HABUSH

OUR REPUTATION, EXPERIENCE & HONESTY RESULT
IN MOST OF OUR CASES SETTLING WITHOUT A LAWSUIT OR TRIAL.

**More Nationally Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyers
Than Any Other Law Firm In Wisconsin**

See the statuary Teamwork at Miller Park--
donated by the Habush, Habush & Rottier Foundation

INJURIES FROM ACCIDENTS

Automobile & Truck Accidents	Boat & Air Accidents
Motorcycle Accidents	Medical Malpractice
Product Defects	Workplace Injury
Fires & Explosions	Construction Accidents
Farm Accidents	Machinery Accidents

CONTINGENT FEE AVAILABLE

No Fees Or Costs Unless We Are Successful

MILWAUKEE OFFICE - US BANK CENTER 777 E. WISCONSIN AVE., SUITE 2300, MILWAUKEE, WI 53202	WAUKESHA OFFICE HWY J & I-94 WAUKESHA, WI 53188
1-800-242-7205	1-800-559-5599
RACINE OFFICE 5439 DURAND AVE., SUITE 220, RACINE, WI 53406	KENOSHA OFFICE 6905 S. GREEN BAY RD., SUITE 103, GREEN BAY, WI 53142
1-800-682-3434	1-800-388-8222
SHEBOYGAN OFFICE 2108 KOHLER MEMORIAL DRIVE SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081	
1-866-888-3620	
www.habush.com	

**THE ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE
OF WISCONSIN**

General Orthopedics/Joint Replacement
Joint Reconstruction/Arthroscopic Surgery
Spinal Surgery/Fractures
Sports Medicine/Work Related Injuries

Jeffrey Butler, MD	William Pennington, MD
James Stone, MD	Joel Wallskog, MD
Daniel Guehlstorf, MD	Jamie Edwards, MD
Steven Trinkl, MD	Thomas Perlewitz, MD
Eric Pifel, MD	

Immediate Appointments Available

Suite 102 2901 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy Milwaukee, WI 53215 414-384-6700	Suite 200 3111 W. Rawson Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 414-325-4320
---	--

Sick... who has time?



Aurora Quick Care

Get results today

Aurora Quick Care's advanced practice nurses, for a fee of \$30, will assess your symptoms, conduct a simple test and, within 15 minutes, provide you with either a prescription for your illness or information about how to manage your symptoms and/or receive additional care.

Tests Offered:

Severe Sore Throat	Insect Sting
Pregnancy	Mononucleosis
Ear Infection	Minor Rashes
Seasonal Allergies	Ringworm
Sinus Infection	Poison Ivy
Swimmer's Ear	Bladder Infection
Pink Eye	Bronchitis

We also offer:

Vaccines:

Well Tetanus, Meningitis, Pneumonia (seasonal), Flu (seasonal)

Screenings:

TB Testing, Diabetes, Lipid Profile (cholesterol)

Prices of vaccines and screenings may vary. Patients must be 6 months or older, and 9 years or older to receive vaccines.

Open days, evenings and weekends.

Appleton

*INSIDE Fox River Mall
above Northwoods Café*
4301 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(920) 739-0289

Brookfield

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
17280 W. North Ave.
(262) 784-4902

INSIDE Brookfield Square

near JC Penny
95 N. Moorland Rd.
(262) 786-9037

Butler

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
12601 W. Hampton Ave.
(262) 373-1869

Greendale

*INSIDE Southridge Mall
near Old Navy*
5300 S. 76th St.
(414) 423-5538

Kenosha

INSIDE Piggly Wiggly
2801 14th Pl.
(262) 553-9325

Menasha

INSIDE Piggly Wiggly
1151 Midway Rd.
(920) 722-7275

Mequon

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
10928 N. Port
Washington Rd.
(262) 240-0169

Milwaukee

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
5928 W. Vliet St.
(414) 771-0212

Sheboygan

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
2927 N. 15th St.
(920) 458-2373

Sturtevant

INSIDE PETRO Travel Plaza
I-94 and Hwy 20
(262) 884-6868

Sussex

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
N65 W24838 Main St.
(262) 820-1210

Waukesha

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
304 Delafield St.
(262) 446-0891

Opening Soon

Racine

INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
3900 Erie St.
Racine, WI 53402
(262) 639-6409



Aurora Health Care®

Finding Better Ways

www.aurora.org/quickcare

Newsflash! US eliminates hunger! Or at least the word

By Donald Kaul, Special to Labor Press

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on the eve of his nomination for president in 1932, said: "I see one-third of a nation ill-fed, ill-housed and ill-clad." Ever since, American presidents have promised to end hunger. None of them has.

Not John Kennedy with his plans cut short, not Lyndon Johnson who used them to build his own Great Society, not Ronald Reagan with his "a rising tide raises all boats" philosophy, not Bill Clinton, who felt everybody's pain.

Until now.

George W. Bush, who didn't even promise to end hunger, has done it anyway.

And just in time for the holidays.

Mr. Bush's Department of Agriculture has issued its annual report on food availability and, lo and behold, no one was listed as "hungry." Take that, FDR!

It seems that the USDA had done away with the "hun-

gry" category in its 2006 report because the word is an imprecise, non-scientific term.

Instead, those who can't afford to put food on the table are now said to have "very low food security."

This year, that group was even bigger than last year--- 35 million, or 12% of the population. But . . . no hunger.

Good for our side. Now if Bush would only get to work on the ill-housed and ill-clad issues, we could get on about the business of carving a place for him on Mt. Rushmore.

But if you're surprised that 35 million Americans have "very low food security" and that 11 million reported going (you should pardon the expression) hungry at times, you shouldn't be.

I know that we're the greatest country in the world--- just ask us---but there are certain minor areas in which we lag behind much of the industrialized world. I'm talking matters almost too trivial to mention: life expectancy, nutrition, housing, health services, education, employment.

The United Nations each year publishes a "human development" index, ranking countries according to the ability to provide their citizens a chance at a long and prosperous life.

It turns out that Norway, land of the steeply progressive income tax, is the place most likely to help you live long and well. Capitalistic America is no better than eighth, coming in behind Iceland, Australia, Ireland, Sweden, Canada and Japan.

To which I can only say in rebuttal: "Our rich people are richer than your rich people and we don't make them pay taxes either. Ha, ha."

If that doesn't make the Norwegians and the rest of those socialists emerald green with envy, nothing will.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong.

Distributed by MinutemanMedia.org

**The Season's Best To
All of Our Union Friends**

National Investment Services, Inc.

We are proud to provide investment management services for Jointly Truusted Union Funds.

**777 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-765-1980**

ADVERTISING WORKS Contact Lynnda Guyton
At Milwaukee Labor Press
414-771-7070




GCC Local 577M
414-476-1577

AMERICA'S UNION PRINTERS

Wishes You and Yours
a Joyous Holiday Season!

Graphic Communications Conference
International Brotherhood of Teamsters



Season's Greetings

UFCW
a VOICE for working America

Local 1473

JOHN R. EIDEN
President

GRANT WITHERS
Secretary-Treasurer

DANIEL R. WELCH
Executive Director/Int'l Vice President


www.ufcw1473.org

Oshkosh Area Office
2211 Oregon Street, Suite A-4
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902
(920) 233-0449
800-282-0214
Fax: (920) 233-4132

Milwaukee Area Office
2001 North Mayfair Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
(414) 478-1444
800-472-1660
Fax: (414) 476-1039

Madison Area Office
6414 Capps Avenue 213-B
Madison, Wisconsin 53716
(608) 221-1401
800-645-1401
Fax: (608) 221-1189

Racine • Kenosha Area Office
3030 - 39th Avenue
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144
(262) 652-7037
Fax: (262) 652-3136



UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS


**Happy Holidays from the
United Steelworkers !**

Jon Geenen
District Director
District Two

Ernie Dex
Sub-District Director

**Dennis Latus, Doug Drake, Don Collins, Bill Breihan,
Tonya DeVore, Elaine Pankow**


Best Wishes for the New Year !



Southern WI Sub District Office
1126 S. 70th Street, STE N509A
West Allis WI 53214
Telephone: 414-475-4560

**Best Wishes for Peace and Joy this Christmas Season
and a New Year of
Health, Happiness and Prosperity**

STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 601



Kevin La Mere, Business Manager • Joel Zielke, Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Jim Cox, Business Agent • Fran Faber, Business Agent
Doug Edwards, President • Martin VanBeek, Vice-President • John McGrath, Recording Secretary
Steven Bonaparte, Executive Board • Ed Fitsimmons, Executive Board
Robert Rohleder, Executive Board • Peter Steckl, Executive Board

Holiday electioneering

Backing into each other at the buffet were union members, officials and candidates with nomination clipboards – quite a crowd Dec. 7 at AFSCME 48's open house. RIGHT: New Circuit Court Judge Bill Pocan (appointed by Gov. Doyle but eager to run April 3) greeted MCLC VP Annie Wacker and a tableful of union voters while AFSCME Local 170 President Rich Despears (back to camera) chatted with Supervisor Willie Johnson. BELOW: Most relaxed were officials who don't have to run in the 2007 election cycle, including (from left) the Milwaukee school board's Peter Blewett and County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, (middle photo) the Kesslers (Rep. Fred and Judge Joan) and (bottom) Rep. Barbara Toles (right), with old friend Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer of the MCLC.



MILWAUKEE TEACHERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

We Are the Voices for Quality Public Education in Milwaukee



The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association is a union of professional educators. As advocates for educators working in Milwaukee Public Schools, we're advocates for all children. Through these community outreach efforts, we work for a better future for our members and the students and families we serve. Learn more at www.mtea.org.

- ◆ Milwaukee Conference on School/Family/Community Partnerships
- ◆ Food for Our Future Campaign with Hunger Task Force
- ◆ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest
- ◆ "Family Connection" Newsletter
- ◆ Parent Dialog Group
- ◆ Read Across America
- ◆ Celebration of Art featuring MPS student artwork
- ◆ Harold S. Vincent Scholarship Contest
- ◆ Community Volunteer Network
- ◆ Paulette Y. Copeland Crossroads Tutoring Center



Putting Children at the Center of Education

5130 W. Vliet St. • Milwaukee • 414-259-1990 • www.mtea.org



Happy Holidays!

from the **School for Workers**

Steward Training

MATC West Allis, Tuesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., March 6-April 3

Sponsored by: Milwaukee County Labor Council, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and School for Workers, UW-Extension, Continuing Education, Outreach & E-Learning

Commuter & Residential Programs in Madison!

Sponsored by the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

- Filing the LM-2 Form, February 1
- Financial Officer Training, February 12-13
- Bargaining in Tough Times, February 26-March 1
- Union Leadership, March 19-21
- Bargaining Health Care, April 30-May 2
- Pensions in Crisis, May 2-4
- Grievance Arbitration, May 7-10

Information: 608/262-4496
 Email: schoolforworkers@uwex.edu
 Web: schoolforworkers.uwex.edu



UNION COPY CENTERS, INC.

3060 S. 43rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219

(414) 329-2054 • Fax (414) 604-8221

Website: www.unioncopycenters.com

E-mail: unioncopies@aol.com

The Only Full Service UNION COPY CENTER in the USA

Have a Happy Holiday Season

Price Guarantee

We will beat any written price quote by a minimum of 10% on any in-house printing.

FREE Pick-up & Delivery



100% Union Made

We Accept VISA & MC



Masonic Lodge offers cash, honors to top union apprentices

Since the early 18th century, the Masons have been a fraternal organization known for their lodges, rituals, fellowship and charitable works. But Milwaukee's 130-year-old Excelsior Masonic Lodge hasn't forgotten its roots in the stone masons and other craftsmen who built the medieval cathedrals.

On Dec. 4, the Masons honored the top 25 modern apprentices from 22 intense union training centers, conducting a ceremony in its arena-style meeting hall at the Lake Masonic Lodge, 1235 E. Howard Ave., and then adjourning to a dinner

courtesy of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

The Masons have held this honor seven years running. They present a "best of the year" certificate to each of the winning apprentices plus \$100 to help defray the costs of the workers' ever-important specialist tools.

Hence the name of the program, the Tool Grant Awards. But the Mason serving as emcee, Art McGlothlin, himself a long-retired union electrician, pointed out that the Masons just supply logistics and the checks. The top apprentices are picked by a union

committee of their teachers and apprentice coordinators.

All first year apprentices are considered, and the "best" are selected on the basis of job performance, scholastic achievement and attendance.

About 100 persons were asked to stand up and introduce themselves, which they did. It was quite a proud collection. Not just family members and sweethearts, but co-workers, teachers, union leaders and employers from Milwaukee businesses large and small were there to applaud the apprentices.

The honorees reminded spectators of the diversity and individual personalities of the union training programs: bricklayers, carpenters, operating engineers, roofers, wiremen, environmental service technicians, painters, laborers, iron workers, glaziers and on and on.

A third of this year's winners were minorities and women. In some cases the winners were brand new to the trade they selected. In other cases they were the third generation in the same union. And they discovered that many of the Masons in attendance were retired union members themselves. One, Norbert Boles, informed the assembly that he had begun as an apprentice at Allis-Chalmers in 1952.

"Now you know what old apprentices look like," joked McGlothlin, who is himself 80. He relished detailing to the young

(by comparison) apprentices how long and deep is the affinity between the Masons and the union trades.



As he took his seat for the Masonic ceremony, Mamadou Sow (second from right) was quickly joined by mentors, friends, co-workers and even bosses as he was honored as the year's best apprentice from Operating Engineers Local 139. Labor Press readers previously met the African native in a story about the Coloma training center run by the statewide local.

Make 15K by January 30th Investing in Real Estate!!!



Real Estate Company is now seeking investors for foreclosed properties.

No upfront money or experience needed! Great opportunity for individuals looking for extra income, while currently working full time.

CALL 414-433-4911

Happy Holidays

DENTAL ASSOCIATES, LTD.



from Dental Associates, Ltd.
and Care-Plus Dental Plans, Inc.

Please visit us in 2006 at one of our conveniently located, full service dental centers

Milwaukee Northwest
11711 W. Burleigh St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Appointments
(414) 771-6877

Milwaukee South Central
1135 S. Cesar E. Chavez Dr.
Milwaukee WI 53204

Appointments
(414) 771-6877

Kenosha
7117 Green Bay Rd.
Kenosha, WI 53142

Appointments
(262) 942-7171

Appleton
4660 W. College Ave.
Appleton, WI 54913

Appointments
(920) 730-0352

Green Bay
430 Main St.
Green Bay, WI 54301

Appointments
(920) 431-0565

Fond du Lac
545 E. Johnson St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Appointments
(920) 924-9090

An employer under contract with AFSCME local 3382 and USWA local 9184