



**PASSING THROUGH** – Remembrances of Ernie Schnok (left) and Earl Lepp (below), both at 2005 labor council events. **Stories Pages 2, 4 and 5.**



**MIDWEST LEADERS OF THE AFL-CIO** were welcomed to a three day session in Milwaukee by Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer of the Milwaukee council, and David Newby, state AFL-CIO president. **More photos on Page 8.**

**AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE**

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MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 69, No. 1



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Thursday, January 29, 2009



(USPS 350-360)

## ACLU taps Maddow to salute Cochran

Rachel Maddow is funny, acerbic, smart, and will briefly interrupt her fast-paced emergence as America's most respected liberal news commentator to honor the secretary-treasurer and chief operating officer of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, Sheila D. Cochran, on February 21 in Downtown Milwaukee at the ACLU Wisconsin Foundation's annual celebration of the Bill of Rights.

Maddow, a former Rhodes Scholar with a doctorate in political science, leaped to nationwide recognition as part of radio's Air America and now hosts MSNBC-TV's "The Rachel Maddow Show" weeknights. Latest research confirms her show is a news ratings leader.

An "avowed leftie," she has pointed out that what really motivates her is the Bill of Rights, which is why she is serving as keynote speaker and awards presenter at the Bill of Rights Dinner sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation.

The event at the Hotel InterContinental, 139 E. Kilbourn Ave. (now owned by the Marcus Corp. and attached to structures of the Pabst and Powerhouse theaters), begins with a 5 p.m. private reception, a welcome and dinner at 7 p.m. and awards at 8 p.m.

Tickets (including special pricing for tables of 10) and sponsorships are available through the Wisconsin ACLU, [www.aclu-wi.org](http://www.aclu-wi.org).

The hotel also has some rooms at a discount rate.

Maddow will present Cochran with the Civil Libertarian of the Year Award (named for William Gorham



Rachel Maddow

Rice) for her work on election protection. She will be acknowledged as one of the leaders in assuring reliable easy voting and monitoring as a leader of a non-partisan Milwaukee effort.

Also being presented are the Eunice Z. Edgar Lifetime Achievement Award to Dianne Greeley, the supervising attorney for Disability Rights Wisconsin, and the Youth Civil Libertarian of the Year Award to independent video producer Salvador Gomez.

Arrangements for Maddow's participation were made when she was still best known for her radio show on Air America. (Today it would have to be the high-rated hour on MSNBC-TV). She also recalls spending a couple of years working in the trenches on the ACLU National Prison Project.

The dinner has drawn several major sponsors as underwriters, noted Laura Emir, Development Director of the ACLU of Wisconsin, 207 E. Buffalo St. Suite 325, Milwaukee, WI 53209.

For more information, contact the ACLU at (414) 272-4032, extension 18.

## Fight also in City Hall for more, better jobs

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

As a new administration in Washington struggles to create more family-sustaining jobs to combat the biggest economic crisis of our times, a similar effort is underway by community and religious leaders in Milwaukee.

But they are not seeking billions. All they want is vocal and political support from the public to stand with them starting at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, February 2, at City Hall and then throughout the morning as they present their efforts to the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting and then to the full Common Council itself.

Two major sponsorship groups -- the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition (GJLN) and Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAHA) - have worked for over a year with aldermen and city experts to develop a new ordinance.

It is known as Milwaukee Opportunities for Restoring Employment.

Essentially the MORE Ordinance as it is abbreviated extends the Resident Preference Program (RPP) and Emerging Business Enterprise Program (EBE) to private development projects seeking financial assistance from Milwaukee's taxpayers.

The ordinance includes a prevailing wage requirement as well as increased apprenticeship training and job opportunities for residents of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods. The ordinance has been endorsed by the

Milwaukee Area Labor Council, the Milwaukee Building Trades Council and member unions of both groups and other affiliations.

There has been a lot of advance work adjusting the regulations for maximum support. There have been precludes to detailing the new ordinance, including appearances at City Hall meetings, marches, church rallies, debates and pulpit explanations. But February 2 marks the unveiling and introduction of

the ordinance and its final text, which already has six aldermen signed up as sponsors. They represent both the newest and most progressive members of the council - Ashanti Hamilton, Willie Wade, Nik Kovac, Milele Cogg, Tony Zielinski, and Joe Davis.

Enough aldermen to pass the ordinance are within reach, despite the opposition from some in the development community.

A few aldermen are openly **MORE** continued Page 3

### Lend your family's heart to campaign for Free Choice Act

Bring your children and grandchildren to a special party featuring pizza, snacks and beverages 1-3 p.m. Saturday, February 7, at Yatchak Hall, just outside the Milwaukee Area Labor Council headquarters at 633 S. Hawley Rd.

It's an afternoon of making Valentine's Day cards, not just to show labor's creative side. As Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran pointed out in announcing the party, children will be the true beneficiaries of the Employee Free Choice Act that will make organizing easier at the nation's workplaces and help the 64 million workers who don't have a union but would support one if the process was easier and fair.

The completed Valentines will be sent as a way of saying thank-you to Wisconsin's senators, Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, and Milwaukee's congresswoman, Gwen Moore, for supporting the Free Choice Act, and as a "loving prod" to work as hard for its passage as the MALC will.

So bring your family and bring you Valentine spirit. For more information, call the MALC at (414) 771-9828 or email [mclc@milwaukeeelabor.org](mailto:mclc@milwaukeeelabor.org).



# What media neglected in Miracle on Hudson

"Miracle on the Hudson" - as New York Gov. David Patterson described the Jan. 15 rescue - produced wall to wall coverage on TV and in newspapers around the country, an astounding story . . . except that several important aspects went unreported or perhaps deliberately ignored by outlets such as Milwaukee's main newspaper and TV stations.

The main heroics were well known after a flock of geese hit the engines of US Airways Flight 1549 shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia and robbed the plane of power. As it flew 900 feet over the George Washington Bridge, a remarkable pilot and crew banked the flight over the Hudson River and executed a perfect touchdown in the icy river. Ferries and other ships rushed to the rescue, employing impromptu group action as well as the training from countless ditching drills.

The 155 passengers and

crew were off the plane in 90 seconds. One woman had two broken legs but everyone was saved -- as Capt. Chesley B. Sullenberger III confirmed while walking the length of the downed plane twice before being the last to leave.

So what essential elements did so many regional newspapers decide not to mention? The quick thinking, calm and extensive ability of Sullenberger stemmed not just from being a former Air Force pilot and safety expert with 40 years of flight experience. He also served as instructor and safety committee chairman for the Air Line Pilots Association, ALPA.

The three flight attendants who shepherded the passengers safely out the emergency exits are members of the Flight Attendants-CWA (the same unions represent the pilots and flight crews at Midwest Airlines and regularly conduct intense safety drills to back their reputation as the most experienced

crews in the skies).

The air traffic controllers who helped guide the flight and kept other aircraft alert to the danger area are members of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) They maintained an "eerie calm" and perfect control in this rescue, though they are shorthanded because the Bush Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has refused over three years to bargain a new contract.

The ferry crews that immediately responded when they saw the plane in the river are Seafarers (SIU) members, a union that provides extensive ongoing safety training. The police and fireboats that arrived to pull passengers to safety are crewed by members of the Fire Fighters (IAFF) and Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA), the same unions that on 9/11 rushed toward danger to rescue fellow workers and citizens.

Every stage in this amazing controlled landing and rescue

with no loss of life was handled by union members trained to react.

The decision not to recognize that seemed perversely grounded in the attitudes of far too much of the media. Only the New York Times recognized the union role in this event.

"What they are not telling you," noted one journalist "was

that every single one of these heroes is a union member. They are union members who got that extensive safety and job training thanks to their union contracts."

Makes you wonder why the largely non-union media outlets failed to mention this basic reality.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

## In Memoriam

Some younger members of the Milwaukee union family died unexpectedly over the holidays and will be deeply missed by their families and colleagues.

A member of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council executive board, Brandon W. Jensen, died tragically Dec. 9 in Wauwatosa, where he made his home with his wife and two young children. Jensen, 37, had served the community and his Local 998, Amalgamated Transit Union (Milwaukee County bus drivers), in many capacities, most recently as legislative director for the local.

Memorial services were held Dec. 12 for Jensen, but the union has established a special fund to help with the education of his children. Contributions can be made at any M&I Bank branch. Just cite the Lilliana and Philipp Jensen Memorial Fund.

Also, a member of Local 215, Milwaukee Professional Firefighters, AFL-CIO, died on New Year's Day. Thomas Leong was 27 and had been promoted a half year earlier by the city of Milwaukee from paramedic/firefighter to lieutenant.

More obituaries on Pages 4 and 5.



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## AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

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

Published Monthly by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO  
[www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org)

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the AFL-CIO 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 Area Labor Council or any of its affiliates. COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).



## Letter to the Editor

### Fight for sick leave law!

**O**n Election Day, November 4th, 2008, 69% of all City of Milwaukee voters said yes to the Paid Sick Days Referendum. The referendum sets a reasonable standard that if you work you should be able to earn paid sick days. All too often in our community, single mothers struggling to make ends meet are forced to choose between taking care of a sick child and their job. This is wrong.

However, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) is planning a legal challenge to the overwhelming will of the citizens of Milwaukee. The MMAC has blustered that Milwaukee faces dire economic consequences because of the ordinance.

The MMAC's hysterical PR campaign is a fabrication. No such dire consequences have been found in San Francisco where a Paid Sick Days Ordinance passed in 2006. Research demonstrates that San Francisco has maintained a competitive job growth rate that has exceeded the average growth rate of surrounding counties. The San Francisco restaurant industry experienced a higher growth rate during the first year of the law than the year before. Research also demonstrates that paid sick day standards will result in reduced turnover of employees and save businesses money.

Unfortunately, the MMAC has shamelessly chosen to scare local businesses with their sleazy PR campaign. Don't believe their scare tactics.

*Editor's Note: The law requires Milwaukee businesses to provide minimal sick leave starting Feb. 10. The MMAC's efforts for a delaying injunction before Milwaukee County Circuit Judge John DiMotto have been postponed by the court until Feb. 6.*

City residents need to take action now! Nine to Five, the organization devoted to increasing opportunities for low-paid working women and helped generate such enormous support for the ordinance, has now been allowed to have its lawyers assist the city in defending the ordinance. To support the group's efforts, visit 9to5.org or call (414) 274-0925.

You can also contact Mayor Barrett (who has curiously announced his personal opposition to the ordinance though he embraces its goals). Or confront your aldermen and urge them to make sure the ordinance is actively defended by the city attorney, Grant Langley.

Or get in touch with any business you know that is part of the MMAC and urge them to stop this silliness.

If you need more information please contact me at Citizen Action of Wisconsin (414) 476-4564.

Anita Johnson  
Election Administration Advocate  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin

## MORE

From Page 1

opposed, others are on the fence but some may join sponsorship, according to City Hall sources. And it is the right thing to do, note leaders of both GJLN and MICAH.

They believe that what will convince the city to act responsibly are the needs of the community -- and turnout now will reflect the belief within that community.

For more information or how to help MORE, contact Todd Sprewer at (414) 443-0682

**S**ome details provided by the sponsors and supporting aldermen.

This ordinance creates standards intended to increase the economic benefits, particularly job opportunities, accruing to Milwaukee residents as a result of development projects that receive financial support from the city. This ordinance requires the developer/construction contractor of any project that receives \$1 million or more in direct financial assistance from the city to:

Comply with the same resident preference requirements for all construction contracts that the city uses for its public works contracts (30% of worker hours).

Comply with the same requirements for use of emerging business enterprises in hiring



The MORE ordinance was linked to the philosophy of Dr. King and to Obama's fight to put people back to work. Making the link at the January 17 celebration was Paul Blackman, retired head of the departed but still influential Smith Steelworkers. **Related photos on Page 8.**

contractors and sub-contractors that the city applies to its own contracting (25% of total construction project costs and 18% of other services).

Comply with the same requirements for use of apprentices in accordance with the


maximum ratio of apprentices-- established by the state's Department of Workforce Development -- to journeymen that the city applies to its own contracting.

Comply with the same prevailing wage standard as required in city construction contracts and current RPP.

Ensure that at least 75% of persons employed on the development site after construction is completed receive a living wage of not less than \$8.46 per hour. The living wage shall be annually adjusted for inflation.

The ordinance also provides a bidding advantage to Milwaukee-based businesses.

It requires the mayor's workforce investment board (WIB) to administer a first-source local hiring recruitment program that will require that tenants in developments built with city financial assistance consider Milwaukee applicants referred by the program prior to hiring from the general public.



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## Laborers remember Ervin

He was a "real tough Irishman," co-workers recalled, who served Laborers Local 113 as business manager throughout the 1980s, mentoring many co-workers and risking the wrath of bosses in his willingness to broaden the diversity of the union.

Raymond B. Ervin, who retired 17 years ago to enjoy children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, died quietly December 27. He was 80.

He actually started as a laborer in the 1950s, but not con-

sistently in the union until becoming a dues-paying activist from 1961 on. He climbed within the local from representative (business agent) in the 1970s to being re-elected several times (1980-1991) as business manager.

"Ray was about as fair a person as you would ever meet," recalled his successor, William Johnson. "He didn't see legal or illegal, he just saw right and wrong"

Others in the local recall his going to the mat for good workers without regard to their background or color - and fighting the international union when it didn't move fast enough to embrace diversity.

He had something of a fighting Irish reputation with contractors and even with other building trades unions when he believed in something. He didn't hesitate to make waves if it advanced his ideas and respect for the local, co-workers recalled.

They joined the family in a memorial for him January 2 and are recommending donations in his name to the American Cancer Society.



Earl Lepp in 2001

## A popular leader

In April of 1991, flush with insider stories about the labor movement, appreciation for the honoree and dancing until midnight, leaders of the Milwaukee labor council (several still active) gathered at Serb Hall. They were part of a laudatory recognition dinner for a native Milwaukeean who, speakers recalled, was green behind the ears and fresh out of the Navy back in 1948 when he joined the mailers union at the old Hearst Milwaukee Sentinel.

That was the start of 44 years of constantly elevating positions within organized labor for Earl James Lepp, who was retiring at that recognition dinner.

A devoted family man and churchgoer, Lepp enjoyed a 12-year run as secretary-treasurer of the council. He was re-elected regularly and noted for his skill with people, his genial and genuine personality, his stubbornness in pushing good ideas and his belief that union leaders must also serve the citizens at large through community and religious organizations.

Even in retirement Lepp was a much appreciated visitor to labor events such as the annual holiday open house. The Mequon resident stayed in the Milwaukee area until the death in 2005 of his wife, Ruth, and then moved to Iowa to be close to a growing family, which by 2008 included great-grandchildren.

Lepp, 81, died from complications of pancreatic cancer Dec. 9 at Mercy Hospice in Johnston, Iowa.

He was 21 when he joined Milwaukee Mailers Local 23, then in the international typographical union that became part of CWA, and within four years his organizational ability and people skills found him as the local's vice-president, then president, while he continued work at the Sentinel and later the Catholic Herald Citizen.

The international typographical union tapped his skills for two special assignments and then the national AFL-CIO in 1974 asked him to join its human resource staff. The Milwaukee labor council elected him secretary-treasurer in 1979 and he served continuously in that role until his 1991 retirement.

The community benefited as did labor from the talents of this avid Packers fan and card player,

who also loved cutting the rug on the dance floor.

He sat on the board of United Way, and was honored with the Werner Schaefer community service award. He was one of United Way's most enthusiastic public speakers and he pushed its justice and employment panel.

He worked on health cost containment for the state AFL-CIO, was active in what was

then the Wisconsin Action Coalition, one of the groups that morphed into Wisconsin Citizen



Lepp in the 1980s

He was a leader of both the Social Development Commission and the Milwaukee County Youth Commission. He forged crucial links between labor and the religious community through the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

His family has urged memorial contributions to Mercy Hospice of Johnston, Iowa, the American Cancer Society, or the Lumen Christi Catholic Church in Mequon, where he was long a regular.

He was also active as a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Cremation rites and a memorial mass were held in Iowa in December but there will be a private entombment at the Resurrection Mausoleum, (262) 242-3850, in Mequon in the spring, details forthcoming.

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# A final moment with Ernie

In December of 2005, a large packed hall of council members and families heard from local workers and national AFL-CIO leaders about the deck stacked against organizers. The Free Choice Symposium was pushing for reform in the labor law - yes, the bill now supported by a new president and new secretary of labor - but the applause at the end of the symposium was generated partly because of an inspirational choice of closing speaker.

He was decked out in his typical garb, like a photo from a Wobblies documentary: workman clothing, baseball cap, jacket, much of it pasted with illustrations and slogans proclaiming union power.

Many in the hall did not quite know what to make of this bearded, intense, gruff retiree chosen by Sheila Cochran (then the relatively new sole full-time operations officer of the council). But the teachers and students from MATC certainly knew who he was and what to expect.

He told the stories of Milwaukee's disintegrating manufacturing base and how loss of voice at work was as much part of the job exodus as outsourcing. As he built example upon example of triumph and loss from the 1930s on, many in the crowd started to realize they were in the presence of a dedicated teacher, a dynamic intellectual and a fount of labor lore. They were learning one of his lessons -- don't judge brains by clothing.

In his comments about Iraq and Latin America, they were also learning why the speaker



was a lifelong internationalist who had been pushing labor to understand the global issues holding everyone down.

He made alive the struggles and blood in the street of those who won Americans the middle class, unemployment benefits, health care and the end of child labor.

The speaker carried the crowd to a standing ovation over his essential conclusions:

- Those who control wages and safety conditions will never relinquish power willingly -- workers will always have to fight.

- Never forget that skill, guts and willingness to show up every day for work are the true strength of any society - and never forget his familiar final rallying cry: "Nothing is too good for the working class."

The name of the speaker was, of course, Ernie Schnook. Those who heard him three years ago at the symposium knew the lessons would resonate for a long time. But it was only one of many resonant moments created by Ernie, who died on the last day of 2008



Ernie in 1992 (left) as an MATC union leader and (above) working with the Obama team last summer.

surrounded at home by family, pets, colleagues and supporters. He was 68.

Ernie had hidden from most of his friends the depth and inevitability of his illness from cancer, yet he also spent 2008 setting aside his lifelong suspicion of any political party to work tirelessly to elect Barack Obama as president, not only campaigning but using his craft skills to create buttons.

As long as his health permitted, he walked every Sunday in opposition to the war in Iraq. There was no differentiation in his mind between the social causes he supported, his defense of workers and his insistence on knowledge to improve the world. He believed in fighting to make things better.

Friends can recount many moments such as that Free Choice Symposium, moments

## In Memoriam

that served as the basis for a celebration of his life and work January 14 as the Milwaukee Area Technical College where he had led so many contract negotiations as president of Local 212 of the American Federation of Teachers, where he conducted so many of his determined struggles to provide basic and advanced skills training for the community.

Yet he always loved the crafts he had learned at the foundry to the high-blown knowledge and statistics he was effortlessly capable of.

Among those participating in his remembrance were his four children and seven grandchildren, all perhaps a product of his internationalism. As an Army veteran in France he became committed to social activism -- and also met his lifelong companion, Josiane, who became an MATC early childhood educator.

Current AFT leaders have written warmly about his lasting influence. Michael Rosen, current Local 212 president, joined by Charles Dee and Frank Shansky, recalled Schnook's 25 years at MATC, where few could deflect him from a cause and generations of administrators learned to fear his presence.

Never did he give up on either tech education or what teachers needed to do it well, recalled these colleagues, who remember the description by former MATC President John

Birkholz that when Ernie "gets on an issue, he's like a bulldog with his teeth in your calf - he just doesn't let go."

That ferocity explained how teachers couldn't turn down his request to join a march, lead a protest or serve the union. He provided hundreds of wooden plaque with labor mottoes for Local 212's offices and he lampooned "MATC administrators who used the college for their own promotion rather than the students' . . . He hated the class system that condemns working people to a life of labor while reserving the life of the mind for the elites, and his life was the embodiment of rebellion against that system."

He would cajole students out of bed into class when necessary, devoting most of his time to the poorest and neediest. When outsourcing brought him fewer students that he wanted in foundry sciences, he turned comfortably to teaching social sciences at MATC. Whatever he taught he believed that "intellectual curiosity was the first step towards emancipation and that education was the silver bullet in improving the lives of working people,"

His family and union friends have suggested that, instead of flowers, memorial contributions should be made to the Ernst Schnook Scholarship Fund at the MATC Foundation.

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## Overlooked Cause Of Carpal Tunnel Symptoms?

Wrist and hand pain patients desire to keep working during this bad economy.

Have you been told you have Carpal tunnel syndrome? If you have, you'd probably love a quick and easy solution... A solution that finally makes all the pain, numbness and tingling not only go away, but go away for good.

While there is no 100% solution or "quick fix" that works for every case of carpal tunnel syndrome, this information may help you, even if you've been to several doctors and think you've tried everything. Here is why:

As you know, carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) is a painful, depressing and often misunderstood condition caused when the median nerve gets pinched as it passes through a "tunnel" in your wrist. Typically symptoms include numbness, tingling and/or pain in your thumb, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers and the inside half of your 4<sup>th</sup> finger.

After seeking help unsuccessfully, many CTS sufferers resort to Carpal Tunnel Release surgery; one of the most costly work-related injuries.

One study has shown that 53% of CTS sufferers had unsuccessful

results after this surgery.\*

One possible reason for such a high surgical failure rate is that some carpal tunnel symptoms can be caused by a problem not originating in the wrist.

For example, Double Crush Syndrome is an overlooked condition that can cause the exact same symptoms. This condition, if not diagnosed, may lead to unnecessary suffering and failed treatments.

This condition can often be treated without surgery, resulting in possible relief of carpal tunnel like symptoms.

Like all doctors' offices, care may vary from office to office. So if you are looking for a Chiropractor who offers short term, affordable hand and wrist care, or if you have questions, call Menomonee Falls Chiropractor Dr. Paul Kramer at 262-735-0287. You can be seen immediately with no obligation to extensive treatment plans.

Reference

\*<http://jhs.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/10/2/202>

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# Calendar

For updated master list of events, visit [www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org)

## Thursday, January 29

COPE Educational Session for Political Candidates

4-6 p.m., Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

## Wednesday, February 4

Monthly Delegate Meeting Nominations for All Officers

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

## Saturday, February 7

Free Choice Valentine's Day Party Bring Your Families to Create Cards Enjoy Snacks and Pizza, 1-3 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 17

Local Primary Election Find Your Precinct and Vote!

## Wednesday, February 25

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

# Assessing the candidates

Milwaukee candidates for public office are evaluated through the Committee on Political Education, which will start its process from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, January 29, with a mandatory educational session.

As COPE did in the last election cycles, the committee will make it a requirement for any endorsement for candidates to attend this special session, held at Yatchak Hall, just outside the Milwaukee Area Labor Council headquarters at 633 S. Hawley Rd.

The session will require understanding and support of the Employee Free Choice Act and offer education on such issues of concern as prevailing wage, privatization, public schools and voucher schools and other topics of direct import for the judicial and school board candidates being invited to participate.

Two Milwaukee circuit court branches are up for election April 7, one of which requires a primary Feb. 17. Four seats on the Milwaukee school board are also open, though only two will require a primary and one will be no contest, since Larry Miller is in effect elected for the seat of the departing Jennifer Morales. Miller, a retired MPS teacher and administrator, was the only candidate to successfully file papers.

Candidates who complete the January 29 education session will be invited to complete questionnaires and receive in-person interviews February 2 and 3rd. Delegates to the MALC will be invited to support COPE endorsements at the monthly meeting in February.

The Feb. 17 judicial primary race involves Branch 15 (a seat being vacated by Judge Michael Brennan): Candidates are Ronald Dague, Milwaukee, Daniel Gabler, Bayside (both assistant district attorneys) and J.D. Watts, a Fox Point municipal judge.

Facing off April 7 are Ellen Brostrom, Shorewood, and Christopher R. Lipscomb, Glendale. for Branch 6, vacated by the elevation of Judge Kitty Brennan to the appeals court.

At the school board, having failed to file enough eligible nomination signatures. 12-year incumbent Charlene Hardin has announced she will run instead as a write-in. She has three opponents whose names will be on

the ballot in the Feb. 17 primary: Gloria Gaston, Michael Mathias and Annie Woodward.

The departure of Danny Goldberg from the board also has forced a primary among three candidates for his seat: Donna Beck, UW-Milwaukee student Felicia Owen and firefighter David Voeltner.

The race that will draw the most attention will be between the current school board chairman, Peter Blewett, an outspoken voice for changes in how the public schools are funded and a recipient in the past of strong labor support, and the founder of the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship, ReDonna Rodgers, who is expected to draw outside voucher money into the contest.

Labor has already made one choice in a Wisconsin-wide race. The state AFL-CIO has announced full-throated support and urged contributions to the re-election to the Supreme Court of Shirley Abrahamson, a 32-year veteran of the court.

## Green on center stage

As discussed extensively in the December Labor Press, union participants are heading toward D.C. for the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference February 4-6. The conference brings together labor, environmentalists, policy makers and clean energy businesses to explore strategies to help us rebuild our economy, address the climate crises and create jobs.

In Wisconsin, a coalition including Citizen Action of Wisconsin unveiled plans January 13 that would quickly add 30,000 jobs through identified methods, making older building more energy efficient and developing alternative fuel. Sponsors note that it's more important than ever that state and local leaders have a voice and help lead in this process, which is central to the Obama administration plan for economic renewal.

It made even more perplexing County Executive Scott Walker's refusal to seek economic stimulus money to add jobs to the county economy and to restore s failed infrastructure. The County Board went ahead anyway -- even as labor and community leaders met at the Courthouse January 13 for a rally blasting Walker's attitude. Newspaper columnists speculated that Walker's desire to run for governor meant that he was willing to let the county suffer rather than make Gov. Doyle's administration look good in any way.

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# Golf News

The Labor Council Senior Golf League started in 1978 with 14 participants. In 2008 it had 135 members.

At the annual awards banquet -- held on Sunday October 26 -- 136 members and guests attended.

The league members are divided into four flights according to their handicaps. The gross and net averages for each golfer were calculated on each member's best scores.

MALC Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran presented trophies to the winners in each of the four flights.

The league has been one of the largest labor leagues in the four counties of Milwaukee for years and has the largest union membership of any labor council league in the State of Wisconsin.

The following unions donated prizes for the banquet: Plumbers Local 75, Laborers Local 113, Brewery Workers Local 9 (UAW) and Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 494. A special thanks to Richard Goldberg for the donation of Cleveland Hybrids.

The officers of the league deserve gratitude for their dedication and help. They are Bruce Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer, and Lee Bailey, Vice President. Additionally thank yous go to Frank Kuehler, Ron Zych, Russ Baunder and Jan Cobren for all the help with taking scores, running the blind - and providing the photos.

A special thanks to the Storm family for their donation of a weekly free 18 holes of golf, the donation of the flight trophies, the free coffee and donuts each week and the very affordable 18 holes of golf.

Look for the announcement of this year's registration meeting in March in the Milwaukee Labor Press.

Richard Lansing, League President



League members struck a humorous pose during the September 2008 outing.

## MALC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING

### DECEMBER 2008 RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
CRAZY 8's	77	42
GUTTER RATS	66	53
SLAMMERS	61	58
PIN PALS	57	62
1 BOARD OVER	56	63
8 BALLS	38	81

## Trapshoot

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council's summer Trapshooting League has set its organizational and information meeting for Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 7 p.m. at Lakeview Trap and Sport Club, located at S80 W14401 Schultz Lane, Muskego, WI, 53150, north end of Big Muskego Lake.

This is a Handicap League and you need 6 shooters for a team. Any team can win, so encourage your union locals to get represented with a team.

There will be free beer and snacks provided for your enjoyment at the meeting.

If you have any questions contact: Ed Geb at (414) 327-1281, or for further directions call Lakeview Trap and Sport Club at (414) 422-1760 or (414) 422-9025.

# Bowling

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 500	SCORE	IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 435	SCORE
DEL GROSS	622	BOB WAGNER	180
DAN LAACK	597	EILEEN WESTERFIELD	543
EUGENE HERRICK	568	PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	487
DON WIEDMANN	527	RAE MATOWSKI	448
BOB WAGNER	524	JOYCE KNIPPEL	437
IND. HIGH GAME OVER 180		IND. HIGH GAME OVER 165	
EUGENE HERRICK	257	EILEEN WESTERFIELD	197
DAN LAACK	254	JOYCE KNIPPEL	190
DEL GROSS	225	PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	170
RAY ZETTEL	193	RAE MATOWSKI	169
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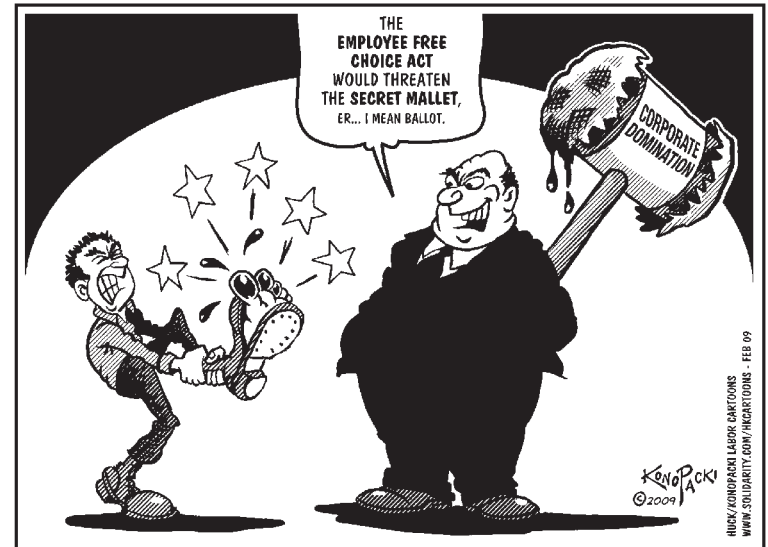




**LEFT:** More than a foot of snow forced the MALC to cancel its holiday open house Dec. 19 but other union festivities certainly picked up the slack. Among them a few days earlier at Plumbers Local 75 Hall, the building trades council threw a big lunch for unions, public officials and candidates. It went off without a weather hitch, with a buffet and raffle gifts (top photos) and heavy turnout. Members of Operating Engineers Local 139 at left enjoying the festivities were (left to right) Steve Buffalo, Tim Goetz, Dan Schultz, Dave Parkinson and MALC President Willie D. Ellis.



**RIGHT:** A couple of hundred guests and exhibitors dropped by the Wyndham Hotel January 12-14 as the national AFL-CIO chose Milwaukee for its annual conference of Midwest labor federations. Getting directions (far right) was one arriving presenter, noted labor cartoonist Mike Konopacki, who had just created the cartoon at right on the main topic of the "Turn Around America" gathering – the Employee Free Choice Act. Konopacki also created a commemorative cartoon featuring all the participants at the regional conference.



**BELOW:** A union celebration of Martin Luther King Day returned to the Washington Park Senior Center as a "Testament of Hope" with inspiring speeches, poems and music on January 17. Wes Renfro (bottom left) of the UAW Local 469 Civil Rights Committee served as emcee. Two of the speakers were CWA retiree MaryJo Avery of APRI and Rep. Barbara Toles, standing at right, who gave the keynote address. Other sponsors along with the UAW and APRI were the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and the CBTU.

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