



Organized labor and its supporters dressed in their finest on June 5 to attend the first annual Milwaukee Area Labor Council fund-raiser which included a special reception, dinner, awards, and dancing at the Hilton City Center. Council Vice-President Annie Wacker and Chief Financial Officer Sheila D. Cochran greeted over 200 guests while the speeches sounded the job theme. At right keynote speaker Rep. Gwen Moore was escorted to head table by emcee Eric Von.

More Photos Page 2



Derision on the right. Insistence on the left for more help. Yet the successful optimism in the middle still leaves US wondering:

Why aren't there more JOBS?

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

"WOMEN IN TRADES" Support, Energize and Empower

The need for a revitalized organization for women seeking careers in the trade became evidence years ago after studies by the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards and others confirmed that women were not going into or staying in the construction and skilled trades. So in the fall of 2006, a group of women reestablished an organization for tradeswomen, and women in Wisconsin organizations, now called "Women in Trades" and carrying the mission to "support, energize and empower trades women to successfully contribute to the quality of the skilled workforce."

The group has focused on recruitment, training, and retention. A website www.womenintradewi.org was established to promote activities, sponsors, resources, and meetings. Recruitment has expanded from notifying unions and inviting women to join by creating career days, open houses, resource fairs, and circulating job opportunities to anyone who goes to the website.

Over the past four years, this recruitment effort has brought mem-

bership to 190 women. Several are career journey level tradeswomen, some are apprentices, a number have taken preparatory construction training classes, and many have an interest in the trades due to loss of a job or lack of employment opportunities in their areas.

Training is a valued practice in the overall focus of the group. At almost every meeting -- held on the third Tuesday in the odd months -- speakers have presented topics important to empowering women in their quest to be recognized as prepared and informed tradeswomen. A successful motivated applicant demonstrates commitment to the job rather than just to collecting a pay check, safety awareness and its importance to everyone on the job, problem solving when on a job and being a team member and not an observer on-site.

Our ultimate goal is to assist in the retention of women in the trades. Mentoring will be a large part of that effort. Please encourage all interested to visit our website and help the Women in Trades grow.

The main story of the last few months has been about something that is barely there -- new jobs.

We are moving forward. But it's an inchworm pace that seesaws working families emotionally among optimism, cynicism, confusion and frustration.

You'll hear the frustration from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who honors President Barack Obama's recovery plan for creating "a lot of good," but feels "it was underpowered compared with the strength of President Bush's economic catastrophe -- in large part because it got pared back in a vain effort to satisfy hypocritical congressional Republicans and weak-kneed Democrats."

You'll hear confusion on the right -- a Wall Street investor told me that his company told him everything was looking up so why were the unions still angry? You'll hear more confusion on the streets of Milwaukee where that Obama-engineered federal stimulus has created or saved thousands of jobs, but that still leaves some 65,000 people hereabouts battered by one job available for every seven seekers, according to recent figures.

You have to react to the political cynicism when all sides seem to blister the state of affairs while also taking credit for new jobs, even when few new jobs exist. This excess ideological simplicity stems from left and right. Some exaggerate their role, a crit-

icism you can apply not just to the Democratic Party press releases but claims by business groups, the ones that may actually support sensible job measures and mass transit funding but can't resist inflating their own worth.

Others attack the federal largesse while ignoring how it saved their hides and budgets from economic meltdown (Scott Walker) or provided their private charter schools with big profits (Mark Neumann). Others such as the local NAACP pile scorn even on construction unions and labor allies for not creating even more jobs for minorities, ignoring that these groups are the ones working for such jobs despite more of their own members out of work than at any time in decades. Job creation agencies, even the good ones, pursue credit or control -- it feels at times like everyone knows jobs are important and wants to find a political advantage, even as they play footsie behind the scenes with those who are just seeking to make money.

That sure touches on the frustration, cynicism and confusions.

But what about optimism? For that you must first understand how deep and extensive was the permanent muck we just escaped.

Pragmatic optimism required listening to two talks in June.

One was at the Tower Automotive site where a number of neighborhood coalitions lined up behind the main attraction to plead for more government help while putting a human face on

small business loans and job creation already created by the federal stimulus.

The other talk outlined what had been done and what needed to be pushed on the job front. Like the first talk that came from Rep. Gwen Moore in her role as keynote speaker before more than 200 dinner guests at the Milwaukee Area Labor Council's first lavish fund raiser June 5.

Moore didn't duck how much more progress in jobs is desperately needed but she reminded listeners we still wreck faster than we build. Humanity is slow to improve but speedy as all get-out to destroy both economy and environment. Moore's listeners didn't have to look far to find other man-made disasters of greed swallowing our optimism. There's that oil slick coating the Gulf and its shorelines caused by more profit-driven, regulation-ducking, safety-ignoring corporate technological hubris -- in sum, the self-inflicted human avoidance of larger responsibility to our fellows. Mockingly Moore echoed the BP CEO's wish that he could "get his life back" by comparing his \$6 million a year salary to what has happened to her own community, where nearly 50% of black American males in the inner city go jobless.

But at least she made the listeners weigh the analogy -- the sort of avaricious over-reaching brinksmanship that President Obama had inherited a mere 18 months ago: two foreign wars, an

Jobs continued Page 7

SPECIAL THANKS

First Awards Banquet Huge Success

With 22 tables each capable of seating 10 guests, the first annual Awards Banquet of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO, crowded the reception hall and Crystal Ballroom of the Hilton Milwaukee City Center June 5. More than 200 guests enjoyed the reception, lavish chicken dinner, special awards, jokes from emcee Eric Von, keynote speech by Rep. Gwen Moore, special presentations to

the first minister to volunteer to help MALC Rev. David Blathers, the always-first delegate to help with everything, Ken Greening, and David Newby, the longtime labor activist and president of the state AFL-CIO who is not running for re-election.

The event was a major success on all levels and would not have been possible without the advance work of the MALC staff, officers and executive board – and most notable some

special event sponsors who deserve appreciation.

They include The Associate Bank, the Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United (whose Local 122 served the guests), the Communications Workers of America District 4 in Ohio, Dental Associates, Labor Community @ Work (the charitable arm of MALC).

Martha Love, the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council,

Milwaukee District Council 48 of AFSCME, AFL-CIO, the Service Employee International Union's Wisconsin State Council, and the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO.

The special program committee was chaired by Lynnda Guyton and included Sheila D. Cochran, Jay Reinke, Stephanie Bloomingdale, Nacarci Feaster, Stephanie Findley and Jenisse Volpintesta.



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At right lawyer Matt Robbins and WRTP's Rhandi Berth



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Toles praises outgoing State Representative Colon at her fund-raiser

When legislature colleagues and local supporters gathered in early June at Gene's Supper Club for a fund raiser promoting the reelection of State Rep Barbara Toles, the guest of honor turned



State Representative Barbara Toles

the tables to make the event a tribute to one of her departing colleagues, her frequent driving buddy on trips between Milwaukee and Madison, Rep. Pedro Colon.

Colon has announced that he is leaving the Assembly to pursue other interests. In many ways, as Toles told the crowd, the two have been ideologically supportive, with Toles backing Colon on immigration reform and Colon supporting her efforts for more jobs and better apprenticeship programs. It is cooperation, she admitted, that would be missed.

Several of the speakers at the event — including Assembly leader Mike Sheridan — praised Toles for her single-minded focus on job bills, and every speaker wondered aloud at how newspapers could criticize a legislator for such dedication and success. Of course, Toles has never played the Madison headline game of introducing bills right and left to gain press coverage. Her former union leader, Michael Rosen, president of Local 212 AFT (the MATC teachers), added another point of interest in his praise, that Toles had in effect taken a pay cut to serve in the legislature.

Also attending the Toles event as an early salvo in a range of appearances introducing himself to Milwaukee area voters, was the lone Democrat running against well-heeled GOP today JB Van Hollen for state attorney general.

Only this Democrat has better credentials and probably a better case. He represents a squad of community leaders, lawyers and organizations angered at the politicalization of the Wisconsin Attorney General's office by its current incumbent. Beyond that, Scott Hassett, is a more experienced government administrator — a veteran lawyer, Wisconsin native, avid fisherman and lifelong bowhunter who headed the Department of Natural Resources and administered its 2,700 employees from 2003-2007.



Scott Hassett running for Wisconsin Attorney General

The Democratic Party and others said they encouraged Hassett to enter the race after JB Van Hollen conceded he has made a series of right-leaning decisions, which many believe undercut Wisconsin citizen rights, but he described them as simply a "coincidence," not related to the millions in money raised to win his seat by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, an immediate beneficiary of several decisions.

Opponents have vehemently criticized the AG for the clearly

partisan tone of his press releases and public pronouncements, including the attempt against legislative opposition to join the lawsuit opposing the health care

reform bill, his attack on the state's voting rights watchdogs and his resistance to equal rights and environmental action by groups not in favor with the

extreme GOP establishment that funded his 2006 win.

Supporters point to hassettforag.com for complete listings of future Hassett events.

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Smoke Free Law in Effect July 5

While most news stories have focused on how the new Wisconsin smoke-free law affects bars and taverns, all workplaces in the state should know that July 5 smoke-free is the law -- that means even

in separate ventilated indoor rooms, in washrooms and so forth.

The law has flexibility in what is a "reasonable distance" -- involving business entrances -- that let smokers continue out

of doors, but that is subject to determination as a special detailed brochure for businesses explains.

The brochure has been posted on the Milwaukee Area Labor Council's website in the Take Action section and full rules are also available online

at www.wibetterSmokefree.com and www.tobwis.org.

Community Advocates of the Public Policy Institute has been chosen to help explain the new law and provide resources for those who want to quit. At WIBetterSmokeFree.com, businesses can download more free

resources including window signs and bathroom posters, handouts for employees, information about the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line, and tips for making the transition to smoke-free workplaces as easy as possible.

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Picketing at Cargill
IBEW organizer Ricardo Gutierrez



Susan Edwards of UFCW hands out informational leaflets as the union seeks to increase union membership among the 1,000 or so food workers at the huge Empack/Cargill meat-packing plant in Menomonee Valley.



Union veterans for the first time marched as a proud unit in Milwaukee's Memorial Day veterans parade.



AirTran pilots, members of ALPA, protest the stalled contract negotiations at Air Tran's national board meeting in Downtown Milwaukee in May.

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Neuenfeldt talks "JOBLESS RECOVERY"

Two months ago, Labor Press explored the harsh "jobless" game—plenty of room to lay people off when the economy collapsed and to simply turn to the existing more limited and desperate — and more non-unionized, non-contractually protected -- workforce when the economy recovered. That means many companies will try to make money without risking their own profits on building their businesses, communities and public tax bases through new hires.

A blunter and accurate assessment of the consequences of this "jobless recovery" was offered June 2 at the MALC delegate meeting by the tag team that is likely to take over the state AFL-CIO after elections this summer. The current secretary treasurer who will run for state AFL-CIO president and the MALC board member who will run for state secretary treasurer, Phil Neuenfeldt, shared the podium with Stephanie Bloomingdale, a current MALC board member running to replace Phil as state secretary treasurer.

"A jobless recovery is an oxymoron for morons," Neuenfeldt noted "It's nonsense" for any rational recovery of a country that has lost so many jobs and so many possibilities in the pursuit of profits (causing the largest gap in history between the incomes at the top of the corporation and the incomes from the middle to the bottom).

His speech echoed the understandable frustration at the slow pace of change and the resistance to adding more taxpayer stimulus into the economy, a temporary boost in the deficit that is less than a tenth of what the Bush years left us with its \$9

billion hole. Simple arithmetic says you have to invest to climb out of that hole.

That's why despite frustration, union leaders, progressives groups and similarly discontented forces from the left and middle of the Democratic Party have not abandoned working with the White House, actually pledging to work harder on their goals while, frankly, more than ready to dump Democrats who oppose these most basic and sensible of rescue operations.

In other words, the GOP may want to shoot the country in the foot to preserve its ideological banalities, but unions prefer progress to posture. Frankly, they are not just more practical but more fearful of being bamboozled again by smooth-talking proponents of delay and going slow.

It was those sorts of neat sounding excuses that wrought havoc on the America workforce over two decades — and shame on the Democrats who went along. The last thing unions want now is to codify the existing situation rather than balancing the ship. They want to open the public's eyes why we can have the world's best workers and highest productivity and the lowest gains in income of any industrial country.

Just ask yourself how many of your neighbors have been bamboozled into thinking unions don't work for the general good and that there is nothing wrong with a "jobless recovery" as long as the economy gets better.

While unions sometimes do sound boastful and certainly protect their own members first, most of the criticism is atmospheric nonsense relegated to anonymous bloggers and phone-in ignoramuses.

But while unions do believe that solidarity of goals is vital to improving society, unions were slow to respond to social changes that business lobbyists capitalized on. Those lobbyists saw a younger, more diverse, more mobile workforce as a way to weaken labor rules in the pretense of flexibility and convince politicians to loosen controls on regulations and CEOs. Two-income households and other lifestyle changes became an avenue to move workers who wanted full time to part time, to switch guaranteed benefits to profit-based benefits, to dump retiree contracts as too rich rather than a reward for 40 years on the line.

And still, Neuenfeldt like Moore in her speeches didn't ignore the positive -- though, like Trumka, he challenged labor to only support those candidates that support them, precisely because of imbalances like this. Turn hard against those who gave lip service and then voted the other way, he suggested, but please note that organized labor gained a lot with Democratic majorities in the state Senate, Assembly and governor's office.

He outlined the hundreds of labor-friendly and job-creating bills that did pass and warned that without such majority num-

bers it may be decades "before we do as well, so we have to elect the right people and win."

He also pulled no punches about what the forces in opposition to workers were ready to do to win — and fear of their organization might explain why even the Democratic majorities failed to pass several things labor wanted in such areas as job creation and dedicated mass transit funding.

Neuenfeldt's big anger was directed at skittishness among politicians in fighting for more jobs. "A society that doesn't build work to sustain families is not worth being called a society," he said. "If they want to accuse me of class warfare, well, hell yes, ignoring the needs of the workers IS class warfare."

Bloomingdale, touching on her own family's history, in the labor movement also made that point that owners would give nothing away without a fight.

In a conversation afterwards, Neuenfeldt discussed a lingering fear about the imbalance in political power unless labor, both union and non-union, works together on better jobs and family supporting jobs.

"This jobless recovery thing is just a device to make 10% unemployment permanent," he said. "If we allow them to think

that way, we'll be lucky if we only have 10% unemployment. Businesses and labor need to rise together."

Official Notice

United Steelworkers Local 2-232 is notifying its members that an election will be held at the Sunday July 25 membership meeting to fill the position of trustee at large. This meeting will be held starting at 9:30 a.m. at USW Local 2-232 union offices, 8500 W. Capitol Drive, LL #101, change in normal meeting location.

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State Fair Union Booth Seeking Volunteers

The State Fair is where Milwaukee's unions can show the politeness and power of its public face Aug. 5-15 while also encouraging the public to think and buy American union labels.

Once again as it has for decades the Milwaukee Area Labor Council will sponsor, organize and operate the Union Label Booth and its free giveaways inside the exhibition hall where hundreds of thousands of visitors stop by during the fair at the enormous Wisconsin Exposition Center in West Allis.

And once again, unions can support the booth in many different ways, the most public being the members and retirees who volunteer to staff the booth in exchange for admission tickets to the fair. Robin at the MALC (414-771-7070 or

robin@milwaukeeelabor.org) is signing people up for the various shifts (9 a.m. to noon, noon to 3:30 p.m., 3:30 to 7 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.), so contact her if you want to work the fair or help set up the displays.

It costs the labor council more to put on the Union Label Booth, about \$5,500 in setup and rental costs as well as covering insurance, the tickets and a small amount of the giveaways. Willie D. Ellis of Operating Engineers Local 139 and also president of the MALC serves in addition as chair of the Union Label Committee and points out that contributions in support of the booth are tax deductible if made through the 501(c)3 Labor Community @ Work, operated through the MALC office at 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53214,

where volunteers also sign up and pick up their materials during the fair.

The fair is also the first opportunity to see and buy tickets for the new advanced model Harley Davidson motorcycle that will be raffled off on Labor Day at Laborfest. But the fair is the early-bird opportunity to see the bike and enter the raffle.

Ellis, who can be reached through the MALC office, is also encouraging unions to provide the giveaway items that are a major (and free) popular attraction at the booth. No stickers of any sort are allowed, but key rings, pencils, pens, rulers — use your imagination and your union's talents! — are welcome and strongly needed. You can deliver the items to the MALC office or call for pickup at 771-7070.

Former union leader Heidenreich, dies at 71



For decades a leader in union and public service, James L. Heidenreich died June 4 at the age of 71 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by five

children and 14 grandchildren.

Born in Chicago in 1939, Heidenreich served in the marines for three years before going to work for what became the Milwaukee Transit System. He became president of the ATU Local 998, a vice president of the Milwaukee labor council and twice a Democratic candidate for State Assembly and also served Milwaukee county commissions. He retired in 2009 as a manager at Downtown's Johnson Bank, according to his family and friends, who held a traditional Irish party (hooley) in his memory June 12 at Derry's Pub at 54th and Bluemound. Contributions are encouraged to Jim Heidenreich Learning Center at the Repairers of the Breach.

Grant Money Awarded to IAM Workers

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) has been awarded nearly \$400,000 in grant money to develop training and education

modules for Wisconsin workers adversely affected by foreign trade.

The grant is part of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program

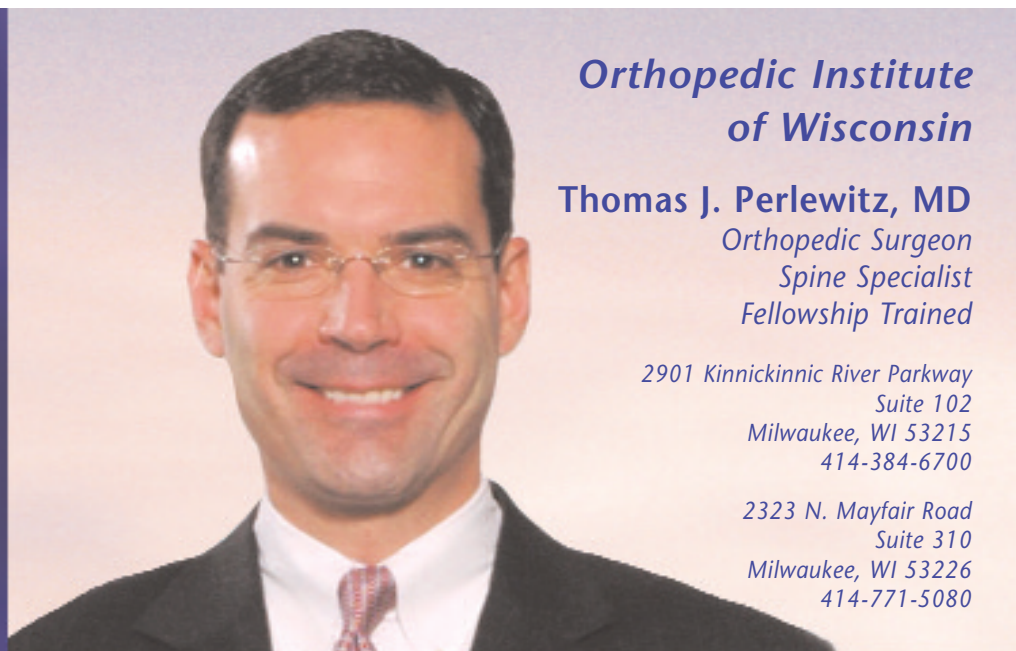
and will focus on new training modules developed for Wisconsin workers that will then be shared with other states," said Phil Neuenfeldt, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Secretary Treasurer. "We are very excited to be in on the ground floor of this effort. Our members in manufacturing and other hard hit sectors want a helping hand, not a handout."

TAA helps workers who have lost their jobs as a result of international trade. The program offers a variety of benefits and services to eligible workers, including job training, income support, job search and relocation allowances, a tax credit to help pay the costs of health insurance,

and a wage supplement to certain re-employed trade-affected workers 50 years of age and older.

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.) was cited as a big supporter for the unions' efforts to innovate training and retraining modules for a 21st century workforce. IAMAW affiliates will work with Wisconsin Workforce Investment Boards, the state AFL-CIO, the AFL-CIO Labor Education & Training Center and the state technical college system.



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JOBS

From Page 1

economic system entering the dark hole reserved for decaying galaxies, eight million unemployed, a housing, banking and manufacturing meltdown, legal regulations knowingly bent or broken to pursue profit ahead of ecological and worker protection, a runaway reliance on credit and deficit spending that had buried the positive numbers of the Clinton years in job creation and deficit elimination.

Trumka would add the failed trade policies and Wall Street games of even the Clinton era, and Labor Press analysis would add the weakness of rights laws and the desire to play nice with an unbending transglobal financial complex that allows us to blather about a "jobless recovery" because we have created holes that allow businesses to still make money without adding workers to the production line.

But by anyone's measure, as Moore recalled, she didn't know "whether to offer congratulations or condolences" to the new president after his inauguration as he confronted an almost democracy-destroying crisis. Only a fool, or cattle stampeded by impatience, would predict a turnaround in a few years from decades of such disaster.

Quickly Obama responded -- pulling auto jobs back from the brink, saving and regulating the banking system, slicing off the middleman profits in such areas as patient care and student debt, and reforming health care (too cautiously for some but in the face of virulent continuous lies and misstatement by opponents, which continue to this day if you

waste your time listening to talk radio).

He stuck with scary but bold steps (even Trumka would concede that some required audacity of hope even though the unions wish the president would move more aggressively) that are now instrumental in month after month restoring stability to Wall Street, reversing the housing crisis, setting regulations on consumer credit, virtually ending one of those two wars and producing business industry predictions of more growth, better health care and more profits. (I'm not kidding, look at the industry's own surveys).

Whether the improvements will be clear to voters by November is still indeterminable, since we are not known as a patient society. But even nonpartisan history suggests that none of Obama's moves were intended to make the federal government the permanent spear-point of economic improvement. A failed government left it up to a positive government to point the way forward, largely because the private sector, refusing to believe that its profit binge was over, wouldn't step up to the main role it should have. In a fit of pique, self-doubt or maybe just cynical political calculation it refuses to believe in American education, values and workforce.

It's mystifying to many that the private sector hasn't taken full advantage of the new opportunities since they could actually return faster to profitability and stability as America modernizes and grows. Once upon a time, even Republicans who praised higher production, healthier workforce, good stewardship of the land and more cooperation as the way up and out. No more, apparently.

They've left the honors field

to the federal recovery plan (ARRA) that in the first three months of 2010 alone saved or created more than 680,000 jobs. Yet ironically, you still hear regional business cooperatives -- efforts everyone hopes will work, such as the M-7 county alliance -- inflating to the point of insanity the number of jobs they've created. Their charts forced even the Journal Sentinel to expose the phantom jobs listed.

The M-7 proclamation that it was the only successful jobs game in town failed to include businesses that have actually created more jobs, partnerships such as WRTP/Big Step that have created more jobs and even the Big Daddy of regional job creation, that federal stimulus.

No wonder the community need Moore's joy in progress and the hard numbers from researchers and government data. The US has been saving or creating 290,000 a month this year under the stimulus -- but in April added 16,400 Wisconsin jobs, more than 4,000 of those in the Milwaukee area.

Yet, Moore noted, Obama's reward has been "nonstop crap for pulling the economy back from the brink."

Now both Moore and the unions are pushing the White House to do more -- and ignore the invective from conservatives whose policies brought us to the deep deficits that Obama must handle to preserve the country. Political observers of both sides suggest that the right's self-absorption in pursuing what never

worked has literally forced the federal government to do more, such as pass FMAP (the Medicaid match money that will bail states out of a horrible \$27 billion deficit dilemma) and particularly the two-year Local Job for America Act. focusing on creating or saving one million more full-time US jobs. The local jobs act would specifically add \$90 million for 1,630 jobs in the city of Milwaukee and about \$30 million for 530 more jobs in greater Milwaukee.

Such help remains stalled by blue dog and right wing shrunken heads who worry about the size of the deficit they created out of a surplus. America can't afford to rescue itself from our mistakes, they seem to be saying.

Yet both Moore in her optimism and Trumka in his frustration raise the same simply questions. Why, other than greed and political gamesmanship should the business community hold back on solving problems its needs to see solved?

And if not now, when?

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Nikiya Harris Swamps Opponent!

Union support in door-to-door Labor 2010 campaigns, mailers and profiles played a big part. But most observers credit newcomer Nikiya Harris' energy, clarity and quickness at community forums and in public appearances as the main reason she swamped a better known and longtime community presence Wallace White in the special election for District 2 Milwaukee County Board Supervisor.

Harris, who more than doubled the votes of her opponent in the May 25 election and took office at the county in early June, stopped by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council's June 2 delegate meeting to thank the volunteers who had so actively supported her campaign and the residents of

the district who voted for her. She pledged to work tirelessly on such pet concerns as parks and transit and oppose the budget shenanigans toward privatization

of County Executive Scott Walker (whose mere name brought boos from the large crowd, boos that did bring an un planned grin to her face).



MALC President Willie D. Ellis greets newly elected Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Nikiya Harris at June's delegate meeting.

Calendar

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

Wednesday, July 7

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

Monday, July 12

Laborfest Planning Meeting
5 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, July 28

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

Wednesday, August 4

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

Thursday, Aug. 5 to Sunday, Aug. 15

Union Label Booth at State Fair
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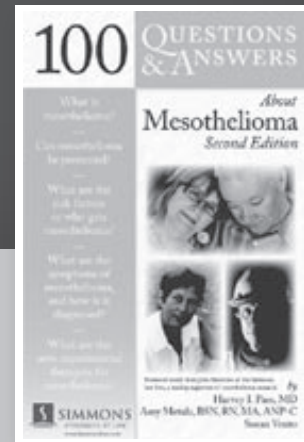
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