



The Badger Bulletin

The American Postal Workers Union of Wisconsin

Volume 45 No. 4

2011 PPA Award Winner

September-October, 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . . BY STEVE LORD

2012 APWU National Convention

First of all let me thank all of you for allowing me to represent you at the 2012 APWU National Convention in Los Angeles. Going into the convention I thought it looked like this would be an uneventful gathering. After all, the contract is not due to expire until 2015, there are no national offices up for election this year, and no one ever expects any constitutional changes to pass by a two thirds margin. I was partially right. There weren't many contractual resolutions or other resolutions for that matter. Most of the resolutions were of the pie in the sky variety seeking changes in the contract when it expires.

The only resolution I thought would be hotly debated was Resolution 1 (formerly resolution 216) from the National Executive Board. It seems that every convention the restructuring of the National APWU becomes a controversial subject. The body then votes to have the National Executive Board do a study and make recommendations to the next convention. This usually results in the convention shooting down the NEB's suggestions and nothing gets accomplished.

This convention seemed to be heading for the same result. The NEB's resolution called for the absorbing of the contingency fund (19 million) and the absorbing of the Private Sector organizing fund (12 million). The funding of both of these funds comes from our dues. These funds continue to grow and were not doing anything but accumulate more dollars. The NEB resolution also called for the dollars going into these funds to start going back to locals. The other part of the resolution called for allowing the NEB to not have to fill vacant officer's positions and get rid of the positions as they saw fit.

Prior to the convention at state conventions and at National Presidents Conferences this resolution was hotly debated. It looked like this resolution would go the way of past attempts at restructuring and not be able to garner enough support. Some members believed we should not get rid of the Private Sector Organizing Fund. Others did not believe that the NEB should have

the right to get rid of positions at the national level. It seemed unlikely a consensus could be reached. But, sometimes unlikely things happen.

The NPC through much deliberating and special committee research came up with a substitute resolution. The substitute resolution called for two major changes to the NEB resolution. The first was the

port from delegates from around the country. When the resolution was brought to the floor on Wednesday the hard work of these delegates was evident when the resolution passed without a hitch.

An immediate result of this resolution will be increased dollars coming back to locals. The long term result will be a restructuring of the National APWU.

your job and the security it brings to your family. This is not like any other election in the past. The extreme right wing that has taken over the Republican Party only serves the wealthy and corporations of this country. They are all in this election. In the past couple of years they were able to appoint a right wing Supreme Court that has ruled that corporations can give unlimited funds

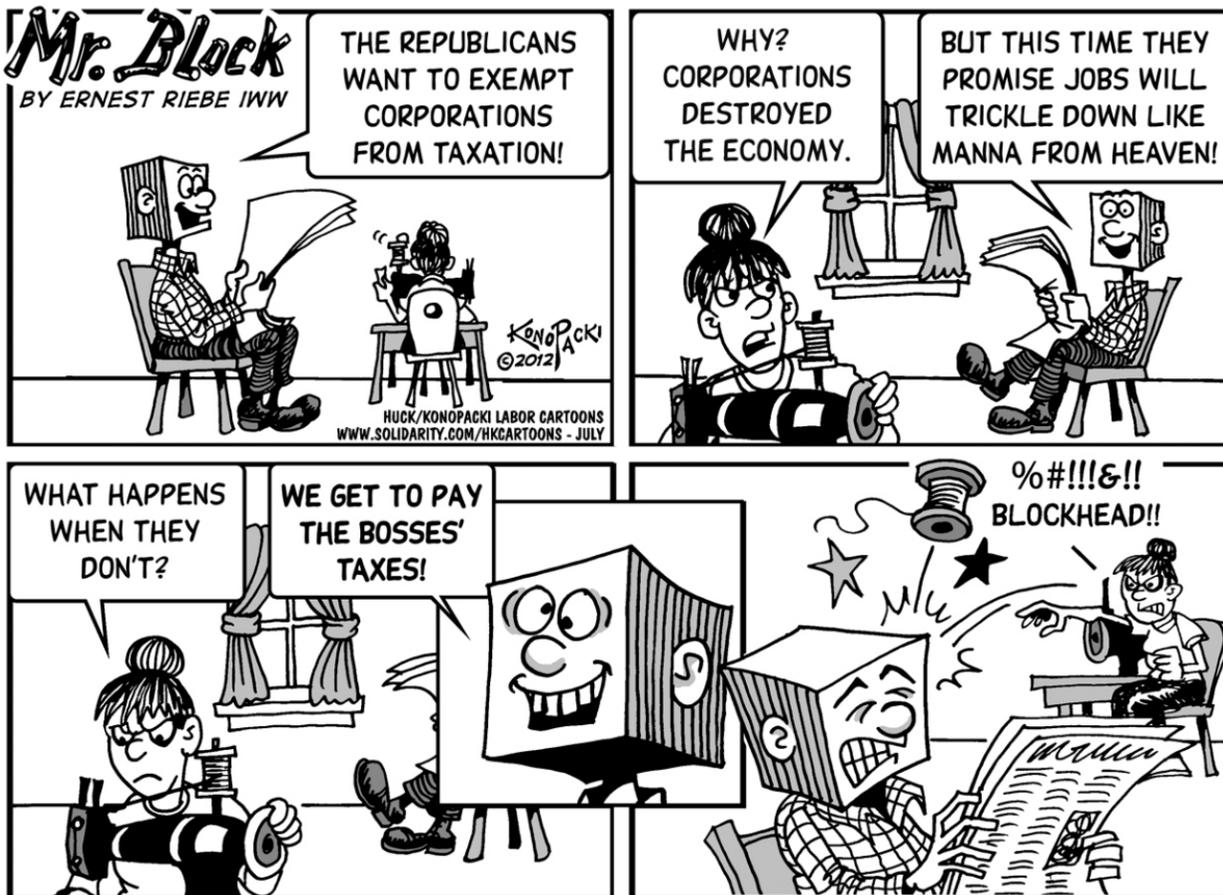
to elections with no disclosure. They have thwarted at every turn attempts by the Obama administration to turn our economy around. They are willing to do this at the expense of the American working class because all they care about is huge profits and low wages for working people.

This is why they hate unions and do everything they can to bring them down. Unions are the last groups fighting their middle class killing agenda. That's why when you hear them talk about union workers they always say "Look how much they are making" or "Look at their benefits". They want everyone brought down to the lowest level. You never hear them say they want to bring people's wages and benefits up because that would cut into their huge profits. I am proud to say that I belong to a union. I

know that the union has bargained for the wages and benefits that I have. If we want to keep what we have we need to vote for our own interests this November. Trust me when I say that the future of working class Americans depends on keeping Barack Obama as President and keeping the Senate in the hands of Democrats.

EAP

Did you know that two members of the APWU of Wisconsin Executive Board are on the EAP District Advisory Council? Lucy Hauser and I are proud to serve on this important committee. What is EAP? It is the Employee Assistance Program. The EAP is a **confidential** counseling and referral service available 24 hours a day to you and your family. **At no cost** to you the EAP helps you deal with life's challenges. **The EAP number is 1-800-327-4968. Make the call.**



retention of the Private Sector Organizing Fund although the funding of it would stop. The second allowed the NEB not to have to fill vacant positions but the final say on whether the position could be eliminated would be left up to the next national convention body. At first it seemed like this substitute resolution would not garner enough support from delegates but, people were ultimately convinced that something needed to be passed and that this resolution had the best chance.

The NEB initially balked also but was eventually convinced of the same thing. A lot of cajoling and good old fashioned arm twisting was needed to get enough support for the resolution prior to the convention starting. Some of it last minute. This doesn't happen often at conventions but, it is an amazing thing to witness. In particular some of our brother and sisters from Minnesota were quite effective at garnering sup-

A couple of other things to note about the convention were that due to a passed resolution retirees will not have to be full dues paying members to vote for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, Political and Legislative Director and Assistant Director, Health Plan Director, and Human Relations Director. Now a retiree will only have to pay \$36 per annum to be able to vote for these offices. **Also President Cliff Guffey stated that contrary to popular belief the USPS has not made an incentive offer for retirement.** The convention was very well run and historic for the things accomplished there.

WHY REPUBLICANS HATE UNIONS

Just in case there is not another issue of the Badger Bulletin before the November elections I want to for the millionth time tell you that if you vote Republican in this upcoming election you are voting to eliminate

THE UNION NEWSPAPER IS THE MOST VISIBLE SIGN OF LIFE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT



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The APWU of Wisconsin publishes this newsletter as a means of communicating with our members. The union encourages letters to the editor; letters must be signed but name will be withheld upon request. All opinions expressed are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the state organization or its officers.

The *Badger Bulletin* is a proud member of the APWU Postal Press Association. The *Badger Bulletin* is printed five (5) times per year. Articles not credited are those of the editor.

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING . . . BY JEFF WORDEN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

So Much Has Happened This Past Summer

The labor movement sure has been busy this past summer. For example, the historic "RECALL" didn't actually go the exact way that labor had liked! Governor Scott Walker had outspent Tom Barrett by some 15 to 25 times which of course can make quite a bit of difference.

During this recall event I worked at the AFL-CIO and the Milwaukee County Labor Council. I telephoned our union members to let them know that the union supported Tom Barrett for Governor. Fact is you would be amazed at how many union members told me that they would *never vote for Tom Barrett or that they were not crazy at all about Scott Walker but thought the recall was a waste of money and thought it would be better to wait until the November elections and vote Walker Out Of Office!*

On the positive side of the recall Tom Lehman D-Racine beat R-Van Wanggaard for the 6th State Senate District seat. This now gives the democrats a 1-seat majority (Democrats-15 Republicans-14) in the Wisconsin State Senate. I don't know how much work the State Senate will actually do between now and the November elections but it's sure good to know that we have labor friendly people in the majority (at present) in the state senate.

According to the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO the unions and their volunteers; **Knocked on 250,000 doors** and contacted over **500,000 union members by phone**. Also, **one third of all votes cast were by union members** and that **3 out of 4 union members voted for Tom Barrett**.

The Postal Commission is still on its belief that closing post offices will help save money. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Closing post offices just makes it harder for the public to mail letters, flats, books, etc... As a matter of fact the customers will probably use other businesses/methods to get their mail where it needs to go, of course it will most likely cost a WHOLE LOT MORE, therefore those on a limited income such as Social Security/Disability would find it harder to afford and would most likely become frustrated with the ordeal they would probably stop the mailing of everything! It also eliminates good paying, **family sustaining/community sustaining jobs**.

H.R.-1351 is not gone or a forgotten issue, but with the national elections right around the corner we most likely won't see any movement on that issue until sometime after the elections.

Just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, on Aug 12, 2012 Republican Presidential candidate **Mitt Romney** choose **Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI)** as his Vice Presidential running mate. Mitt Romney's tax plan would **cut taxes** for the

how (we) as organized labor must stand together and keep a labor/union friend in the White House!

During the convention AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka spoke to the delegation on the important role the Postal Service and it's workers especially in their respective communities have on our economy. Brother Trumka said **"If Mitt Romney, Paul Ryan, and the right-wing say we can't pay for better schools and safe highways... if we can't afford teachers and postal workers... if we can't keep our promises to public worker... if we can't afford six-day mail service- we sure as hell can't afford more tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires"**. How more true a statement.

The delegates voted **unanimously** to endorse **President Barack Obama** for a second term!

Wisconsin Congressman and now the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate Paul Ryan is **NOT** labor/union friendly. One of his biggest beliefs is to **gut** Social Security and cut Medicaid-Medicare.

Ryan has no problem privatizing the postal service. Remember the GM plant in Janesville, WI. Well, guess what Paul Ryan did to help keep the plant open, (you know, keep jobs in his own congressional district) **Nothing!** Have any idea of what he would

do to help keep our jobs, our post offices from closing, let's face it NOTHING!

The race for the US Senate seat now held by H. Kohl-(D) will be between Tommy Thompson-(R) and Labor/Union friendly Tammy Baldwin-(D). Tammy Baldwin does have and has always had an excellent voting record for organized labor.

Since **Wisconsin is one of the Battleground states** the APWU National Union is looking for 4 or 5 members who are interested in working as **Release Staff for LABOR 2012** with the **AFL-CIO**. The people who go on release staff will be paid lost wages from the APWU National Union while they are working with the AFL-CIO.

Retirees are also welcome and those selected will be paid a stipend for their work with the AFL-CIO. If interested, please contact APWU of Wisconsin State President Steve Lord or myself at (414) 530-7186.

The facts are there, so let's get the word out to our families and friends to vote for Labor/Union friendly people. Take Care.



wealthiest 5% of Americans while raising taxes on the middle class by eliminating tax deductions such as; Mortgage interest and Child Care.

Of course both Romney and Ryan are anti-union/anti-labor and for some odd reason think that those on Medicare/Medicaid have it too good (**so let us all guess who they would most likely NOT help if they were elected to office!**) and want to cut benefits to both entitlements, or as Paul Ryan put it **"They want to restructure/overhaul it"**.

It's funny because the "same system" didn't seem to need any **"Restructuring"** or **"Overhauling"** when Paul Ryan USED it to get HIS OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGE TUITION paid for by SOCIAL SECURITY!?

From Aug 20-24, 2012 I attended the 21st Biennial APWU National Convention. The one theme that was loud and clear was: **"WE MUST WIN IN NOVEMBER"**.

APWU National President Cliff Guffey addressed the delegation and spoke on the importance of the upcoming elections and

BY LUCY HAUSER, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RELATIONS, ORGANIZATION & EDUCATION

~ FMLA Changes ~

The Postal Service has revised PS Form 3971 (Request for or Notification of Absence). Please use the newly revised form, especially if you are requesting leave for FMLA purposes. Local management is no longer a part of the FMLA approval process as the USPS has designated Shared Services the sole authority regarding FMLA absences.

The revised form has a new block on page 2 with regard to your FMLA claim. If

you are requesting leave and already have an approved claim number or a pending approval case number you should write that number on the 3971. Doing so will help eliminate any confusion over leave entitlements for those people who have more than one approved claim. If you are requesting leave for a new FMLA condition then check the appropriate box. Shared Services will mail you a packet with forms and instruc-

tions for you to complete so that your claim gets approved.

There are also additional categories to check for provisions relating to military issues.

I am hoping that the new form will eliminate much of the confusion regarding your FMLA leave, especially the Local level. If you think that your supervisor did not complete his/her portion of the 3971 correctly contact your steward immediately.

BADGER BULLETIN BOARD

There's A Crossroad Coming Our Way

by John E. Durben, Editor

For those of us who will be voting in this November's Election, the fork in the road that will determine our future is fast approaching. Ever since our current President was inaugurated, his opponents on the other side of the aisle opposed him on nearly every issue by throwing road-blocks in his way.

We will need to decide whether we are going to support our current President that was unable to implement his plans for the future because of a Congress that failed to work for the American people they represent or support a candidate that doesn't reveal his plans for the future.

If you remember, shortly after President Obama took office, the Majority Speaker of the Senate said that: "Their main objective was to make sure that this was a one-term President." They were going to make sure that he failed, and so be it if middle class Americans would suffer as long as they could do this without the Koch Brothers and the rest of the 1% feeling any discomfort. (If you ask me, this could be classified as treason when you deliberately sabotage the economy, working Americans, and the World.)

One of the first things they did is stall until it was almost too late on raising the debt ceiling; we paid the price for that. To add to that: they voted against equal pay for equal work for women:

- blocked a Jobs Bill in the Senate

- blocked a Bank-Reform Bill
- blocked a Bill to help Small Businesses
- blocked a Wall Street Reform Bill
- blocked a Bill ending tax breaks for US companies sending jobs overseas



- blocked Energy Legislation
 - blocked a Bill to extend Unemployment Benefits
 - blocked a Bill for Campaign Disclosure
 - blocked a Debate on Financial Oversight Bill
 - blocked a Small Business Lending Bill
 - blocked a Bill to raise the oil spill liability cap
 - blocked a Bill for Transparency in Campaign Contributions
 - blocked a vote on the Bush Tax Cuts
- As long as Obama was for it – the Republicans were against it. How about the

auto industry, they were against the loan to the auto companies which saved hundreds of thousands of jobs to say the least.

Delegates at the recent APWU Convention in Los Angeles voted unanimously to endorse President Barack Obama for a second term. The AFL-CIO has also endorsed the current President. By virtue of these two Organizations endorsing a candidate, one would think that the membership would all take the advice and follow through by voting in the expected manner. Wrong.

I saw an illustration recently indicating that any middle class worker that votes Republican is like "shooting themselves in the foot". They show a worker with a gun pointed directly at their foot ready to pull the trigger. It's true. Our members are our own worst enemies sometimes.

How many of you remember what Walker did to the public sector employees here in Wisconsin? He did away with their bargaining rights and basically reduced their pay by as much as \$5,000.00 a year if not more. The plans are in motion to do the same thing on the National level. The Tea Party is hell bent on smaller government. If Romney wins the stage is already set to reduce the postal workforce through lay-offs or just plain firing. A swipe of a pen will take away your bargaining rights, which are most of your rights as employees of the postal service. They'll go back to collective "begging" the way it was before the great

strike in 1970. Privatization will not be far behind. Think about your leave, retirement, and other benefits that were hard earned through collective "bargaining". (Not to mention your salary.)

The Republicans are good at selling the fear factor and the hot-button items, but middle class voters have to learn that this is all a smoke screen while they have their rights and their jobs taken away from them. You don't have to believe me, just check on some of the Bills that have been introduced by the Republicans for the last couple of years. You won't see any Bills impacting the 1% negatively.

Make sure that you and your relatives are all registered to vote in November and don't "Shoot yourself in the Foot!"

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK

Recently I had the opportunity to go through boxes and boxes of photos I've taken over the last 30-35 years or so looking for photos to set up a slide show for a family event. While doing so I came across a number of photos I've collected over the years of different APWU members and APWU events. As time permits and hopefully before you are reading this, I will post some photos to a Classic APWU photo album on Facebook. If anyone has some classic photos they would like to include in the collection, please email them to me or mail them to me so that I can scan them and return them to you. (Search for APWU of Wisconsin on Facebook.)

APWU Of Wisconsin Auxiliary News

by Jacque Childs, Secretary

Is it time to renew your membership? State Membership dues will increase in 2014 to \$5.00 for the State portion. 2012 and 2013 are \$7.00, \$5.00 to the National Auxiliary and \$2.00 to the State and should be sent to Treasurer Patti Pasell, 1367 Pinnacle, Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Congratulations to the Madison WI Area Local Auxiliary for being the third biggest membership Auxiliary in the USA.

Speaking of the National level our very own Barb Maciejewski became the National Auxiliary Legislative Director and Editor. And Kathy Danek became the new National President.

On the State news - One of the goals of the Auxiliary to the State of Wisconsin American Postal Workers Union is to provide assistance to Local, State, and National Postal Workers Union. As part of this goal we passed a motion at the last State Convention to sponsor a donation "wish list" of some charity in the host local's community at any of our educational seminars or State Conventions. We will be sending out information and items on that "wish list" before the Educational Seminar in October. We know times are tough but please consider having your members donate generously.

"Under the Harvest Moon" is the theme for the fall seminar in October. Anyone wanting to bring donations for COPA with a

fall theme would be appreciated. Otherwise as always, everything donated will gladly be accepted.

Another goal of the Auxiliary is to encourage each of you to participate in the upcoming election and to become active in helping the APWU get worker friendly representatives. Your vote counts and the jobs of every postal worker depend on it. We cannot sit on sidelines for this one. Please educate your friends and family members about the truth about the Postal Service. We do not use tax payer money. We are the only agency required to pay for retiree's health care for those who are not even born yet. Just to name a few facts. Learn the facts and spread the word!

JOYCE RICHARDS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

With special delight we announce the winners of the Joyce Richards Scholarship for 2012. They are both from the Madison Wisconsin Area Local Auxiliary. The first winner is Adam Flynn, son of Jamie Flynn of Stoughton WI and the second winner is Weston Wedeward, son of William Wedeward of Madison WI. Adam Flynn will be attending the UW Oshkosh and Weston Wedeward will be attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Congratulations and good luck in your studies.

Joyce Richards Scholarship Fund,

Thank you for selecting me to receive the Joyce Richards Scholarship. This \$250.00 scholarship is very much appreciated and will be helpful in getting me off on the right foot as I start school at UW Oshkosh this fall.

Sincerely, Adam Flynn

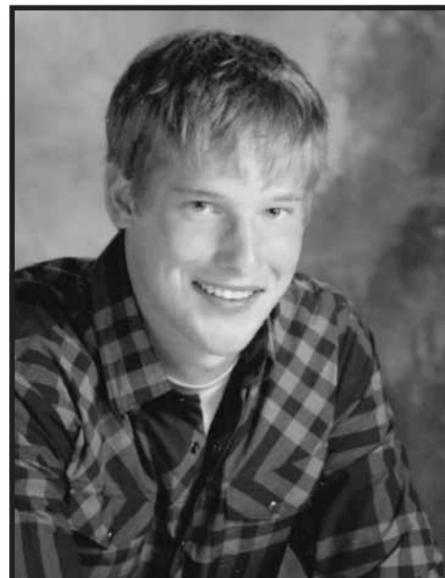
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Dear Diane J. Green and other Committee Members,

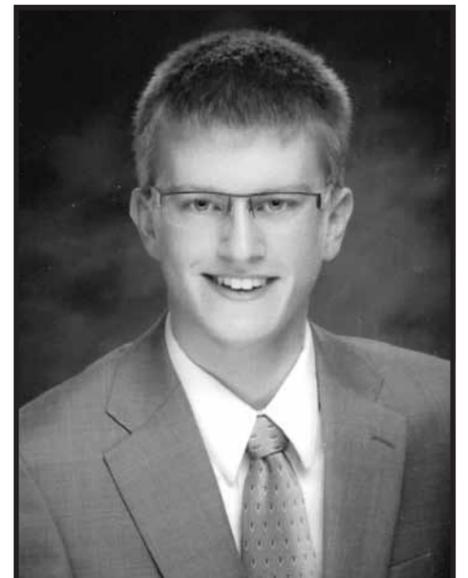
I have received your wonderful letter in

the mail stating that I have been awarded \$250.00 from the Joyce Richards Scholarship. Words cannot describe how grateful I am for the award, and the time the committee took in selecting me as a candidate for it. The money I am receiving will help me immensely in college at MSOE. Thank you so much for the scholarship and for helping my parents over at the Post Office for so many years.

Sincerely, Weston Wedeward



Adam Flynn



Weston Wedeward

Wisconsin AFL-CIO Endorses Candidates For November 2012 Elections

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, comprised of 1,000 affiliated local unions and 250,000 workers, has voted to endorse the following candidates for the November 2012 elections. These candidates were selected for their commitment to working people and the communities they live in.

U.S. SENATE

Tammy Baldwin

U.S. CONGRESS

1st - Rob Zerban
 2nd - Mark Pocan
 4th - Gwen Moore
 7th - Pat Kreitlow
 8th - Jamie Wall

WISCONSIN SENATE

4th - Lena Taylor
 6th - Nikiya Harris
 10th - Daniel Olson
 12th - Lisa Theo
 14th - Margarete Worthington
 16th - Mark Miller
 18th - Jessica King
 20th - Tanya Lohr
 22nd - Bob Wirch
 24th - Julie Lassa
 26th - Fred Risser
 30th - Dave Hansen
 32nd - Jennifer Shilling

WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY

1st - Pat Veaser

2nd - Larry Pruess
 3rd - Kole Oswald
 4th - Mike Malcheski
 6th - John Powers
 7th - Daniel Riemer
 8th - JoCasta Zamarripa
 9th - Josh Zepnick
 10th - Sandy Pasch
 11th - Mandela Barnes
 12th - Fred Kessler
 13th - John Pokrandt
 14th - Chris Rockwood
 16th - Leon Young
 17th - Dual Endorsement: Fred Royal & LaTonya Johnson
 18th - Dual Endorsement: Evan Goyke & Lashawndra Vernon
 19th - Jon Richards
 20th - Christine Sinicki
 21st - William Kurtz
 23rd - Cris Rogers
 26th - Mike Helmke
 27th - Steven Bauer
 28th - Adam Bever
 29th - Jim Swanson
 30th - Diane Odeen
 31st - Ryan Schroeder
 32nd - Kim Peterson
 35th - Kevin Koth
 36th - Dorothy Kegley
 38th - Scott Michalak
 39th - Jim Grigg

40th - Kevin Kuehl
 41st - Melissa Sorenson
 42nd - Paula Cooper
 43rd - Andy Jorgensen
 45th - Janis Ringhand
 46th - Gary Hebl
 47th - Robb Kahl
 48th - Melissa Sargent
 49th - Carol Beals
 51st - Maureen May-Grimm
 52nd - Paul Czisny
 53rd - Ryan Fletjer
 54th - Gordon Hintz
 57th - Penny Bernard Schaber
 61st - John Steinbrink
 62nd - Randy Bryce
 63rd - Kelley Albrecht
 64th - Peter Barca
 65th - Tod Ohnstad
 66th - Cory Mason
 67th - Deb Biegig
 68th - Judy Smriga
 69th - Paul Knoff
 70th - Amy Sue Vruwink
 72nd - Justin Pluess
 73rd - Nick Milroy
 74th - Janet Bewley
 75th - Stephen Smith

76th - Chris Taylor
 77th - Terese Berceau
 78th - Brett Hulsey
 79th - Diane Hesselbein
 81st - Fred Clark
 82nd - Kathleen Wied-Vincent
 83rd - James Brownlow
 86th - Dennis Halkoski
 87th - Elizabeth Riley
 88th - Ward Bacon
 89th - Joe Reinhard
 90th - Eric Genrich
 91st - Dana Wachs
 92nd - Chris Danou
 93rd - Jeff Smith
 94th - Steve Doyle
 95th - Jill Billings
 96th - Tom Johnson
 97th - Marga Krumins

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO represents and fights for labor and working people, provides core services to local unions and members, and pushes for policies that help and support working families across Wisconsin. The State AFL-CIO coordinates advocacy with its 1,000 affiliated unions which represent 250,000 members in the state.



The Lighter Side

Ole lived across the Minnesota River from Clarence, whom he didn't like at all.

They were yelling across the river at each other all the time.

Ole would yell at Clarence, "If I had a way to cross dis river, I'd come ofer dere an beat you up good, yeah sure, ya betcha, by golly!"

Clarence would yell back, "Ya don't scare me, ya old turd. I cud beatcha wit one hand behind me back, fer sure!"

This went on for years.

Finally, the state built a bridge across the river right there by their houses.

Ole's wife, Lena, says, "Now iss yer chance, Ole. Why doncha go over dere and beat up dat Clarence like you said you vud?"

Ole replied, "OK, by yimmy, I tink I vill do yust dat!"

Ole started for the bridge, but he saw a sign on the bridge and stopped to read it, then turned around and came back home.

Lena asked, "Why did you come back?"

Ole said, "Lena, I tink I changed my mind 'bout beatin' up dat Clarence. You know, when I yell at him from across da river, he don't look so big. But dey put a sign on da bridge dat says "Clarence is 13 feet, 6 inches."



The Next Badger Bulletin Due Date is November 1st