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WISCONSIN WORKERS FIGHT FOR WORKER'S RIGHTS



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Wisconsin has had a collective bargaining law for public employees since 1959. Republican Governor Scott Walker has submitted a budget bill that will strip workers collective bargaining rights. The bill will eliminate essentially all collective bargaining rights for public employees, except public safety workers. It eliminates collective bargaining rights for child care and home health care workers. It mandates annual re-certification elections, conducted and paid for by the union and requires a majority

of **ALL eligible voters.** Governor Walker wants to make union elections impossible to win by requiring the majority of all eligible voters rather than the majority of those who vote. Maybe we should make the Governor's election the same way.

The unions have offered concessions that will balance the budget but Governor Walker is not interested—wonder why? This is not about balancing the budget, it's about busting the Unions. The report is that the Governor provided a tax - cont. on pg. 2





cut for the wealthy of the state thereby creating the budget shortfall.

It's all or nothing for this Governor, even though national polls show the citizens of Wisconsin, the people he was elected to represent, do not want the union members to lose their collective bargaining rights 61% to 33%. He is not listening to the people he was elected to represent when over 100,000 workers have been outside his door for over two weeks telling him to "Kill The Bill".

If you have not listened to or read the transcript of the David Koch and Scott Walker conversation, please go to www.onewisconsinnow.org and take a look at it. It reaffirms that this fight is not about balancing the budget; it shows we are in a fight for our lives. He is the start of taking our UNION, our

RIGHTS and our VOICE. There are radical anti-worker politicians that have gained control in other areas as well and they are quickly advancing legislation that will destroy the principles that go to the very core of worker's rights. If they succeed in overturning decades of collective bargaining, our state and local unions will be destroyed and working families throughout our nation will be weakened. Listed below are other states facing this fight:

Ohio-

- Elimination of all collective bargaining for state employees and severe limitations on collective bargaining rights for other public employees.
- Elimination of dues check-off at all levels of government
- Right-to-work legislation.

New York-

- Proposed cutbacks in public services statewide which will destroy thousands of jobs.

Iowa-

- Legislation has been introduced to substantially diminish collective bargaining for public sector workers. Proposed layoffs of up to 1,500 state workers.

Florida-

- Legislation making dues and PAC deductions at all levels of government illegal. Requiring public employee unions to conduct recertification elections under certain circumstances.

Kansas-

- Elimination of check-off for any public or private sector union that engages in political activity.

Michigan-

- Right-to-work and "financial" emergency legislation giving any level of government the right to cancel union contracts for budgetary reasons.

New Jersey-

- Reduction in state worker health and pension benefits and an increase in the retirement age.

- Property tax relief for homeowners contingent upon state workers' increased contributions to pension fund.

New Hampshire-

- Right-to-work legislation.
- Pension reforms to increase employee contributions, raise the retirement age and change the formula for determining benefits.

Maine-

- Right-to-work legislation

The stakes are higher than they have ever been, and we have only one choice: to fight with every fiber of our being. Our unity and determination will help us withstand these assaults and build a better nation. This is not just an economic issue; it is a moral imperative. All of us are called upon to lead in new ways in these challenging times. If you can help either within your local or in any of these state fights, please contact your local or council leaders.



CHARLESTON WORKERS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF WISCONSIN



On February 26, 2011 approximately two hundred Charleston area workers gathered to show support for the workers in the

Wisconsin battle to save their collective bargaining rights. President Barbara Spradling spoke to the crowd saying "we are in for one hell of a fight". There will be another rally in



support of the Wisconsin workers on March 12, 2011 at 12:30pm on the Kanawha River side of the Capitol. You are encouraged to attend and bring a family member or co-worker with you. Remember this is a fight to protect every working man and woman's rights.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

Want to support American jobs and boost the economy? If so, then you want to buy products

made right here in the USA. Find USA made products at:

- www.madeinusa.com
- www.madeinusaforever.com
- www.americansworking.com
- www.stillmadeinusa.com
- www.americanmanufacturing.org

Union made products:

- www.unionlabel.com
- www.theunionshop.org
- www.unionmade.com
- www.theunionbootpro.com

GRIEVANCE UPDATE

Ethel Boggs, et.al. vs. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources/Bureau for Children and Families and the Division of Personnel. Judge Paul Zakaib, Jr. issued a ruling on 1/18/11 that affirms the ruling of the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board. There was no appeal.

Randy Hammond, et. al vs. Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and Division of Personnel. Judge Paul Zakaib, Jr., issued a ruling on 12/22/10 that affirms the ruling of the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board. This decision was appealed to the West Virginia Supreme Court on 2/14/11. We will keep you updated on its progress.

Mary Rossana, et. al. vs.

Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families and the Division of Personnel. Judge Irene Berger issued a ruling on 5/13/09 that affirms the ruling of the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board. There was no appeal.

We are stronger together—talk to your co-workers about becoming a union member.

If you are interested in help-

ing organize your union into a stronger unit, please contact the Council 77 office at 304-342-2114. Trainings on how to organize, how to talk with your co-workers about joining the union, steward training and many others can be scheduled in your area.

Remember, we are stronger together, we are stronger together.



LOBBY DAY 2011



The was quite a gathering for the 2011 Lobby Day at the Capitol on February 21st. Our members talked to the legislators about improving pay for

state employees; we have been working to obtain a 3% salary increase with a \$1,000 floor so our lowest paid members will receive a reasonable salary increase. We are working to increase the increment pay from \$60 per year of service to \$100 and take off the 3 years service requirement. In addition, members worked on Hatch Act reform; they advocated the lifting of all restrictions that

prevent public employees from running for political office or from participating fully in the political process.

Just a reminder that in 2008 our members lobbied and won the right for public workers to serve as poll workers. That was previously considered a prohibited political activity.

Public Employee Collective Bargaining is and will always remain a high priority for our members. However, in light of the attack on collective bargaining all around the United States, our collective bargaining bill did not receive the attention it deserved. We will prevail in the fights around the nation and we

will continue to fight for our collective bargaining rights here at home.

During our Lobby Day group meeting, members talked with Delegate Mike Caputo and gubernatorial candidates John Perdue, Rick Thompson, Jeff Kessler and Natalie Tennant.





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On the Web— www.afscmewv.org
www.wvstateemployee.com/ this is
the MACC website

**Check out the
AFSCME Advantage Program**

Discounts and free products and services you
can use everyday, including but not limited to:

- Legal Services
- Credit Cards
- Credit Counseling
- Loans
- Discounts on Auto repair
- Mortgage Programs
- Discounts on Flowers, pet supplies and
much, much more!

KEEP IN TOUCH -

UPDATE YOUR LOCAL UNION

Keep up to date with your Local news and events. When changes
occur let your Council Office know.

Please complete the attached information form and turn it in to your
Council Office to update the records. It is important that you receive your
newsletter and other union information.

_____	_____	_____
Name	H-Phone	Cell-Phone

_____	_____	_____
Address	State	Zip

E-Mail address