

Local 831 Believes In Bipartisanship

Pictured here are Local 831 Cope Committee Members...from left to right: Ronnie Watson (Rapid Response), Richard Austin III, Mark Powers, Congressman Robert Hurt, Delta Williams, Stuart Lovelace, Courtney Dixon, Rhonda Walker and Pete Morton.



Unions Winning Battle For Public Opinion In Wisconsin

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, less than two months into his first term as the state's chief executive, may already be the most well-known governor in the country.

A plurality of people nationwide side with labor unions over Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) in the ongoing budget standoff in the Badger State, according to a new Pew Poll.

Forty-two percent of people said they favor unions, while 31 percent take Walker's side and another nine percent take neither side in the skirmish.

The Pew numbers are the first credible polling since Walker introduced his budget repair bill and state Senate Democrats left the state to prevent the Republican majority from being able to pass it.

Protests -- organized by unions -- have ensued with thousands of people flooding the state capitol to try to force Walker to back away from a provision in the bill that would

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Kansas House Shows It's No Friend Of Unions

The Republican, union-busting campaign spread to Kansas this week like a disease, with state lawmakers approving a bill that would gut the free-speech rights of union members.

Now that may not be the most even-handed way of explaining what happened in the Kansas House. However, it is the truth. The kind of truth that you only hear when, say, the governor of Wisconsin thinks he's talking privately to one of his fat-cat donors.

But as there's no shortage of analysis on Gov. Scott Walker's frank admissions over the phone to a blogger pretending to be billionaire David Koch, let's focus, instead, on what political allies of the real Koch brothers have been up to in their home state.

Kansas House Bill 2130 got final approval in that chamber and now goes to the Senate. It is a transparent attempt to strip already weakened unions of what little political power they have left.

The bill's supporters -- among them the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity --

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The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present except J. C. Hudson. There were 120 members present.

Opening prayer led by Earl Guill followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved. Treasurer's report read and approved.

The name of Linda Gunnell was called for the attendance prize. She was not present, therefore, next month's prize will be \$20.00.

Freddie Stroud questioned the Board's decision that a Board member should be the one to attend the International Conference in August instead of any member who is in good standing. President Dodson asked for a standing vote for approval of the Board's decision. The recommendation was approved by the members. George Stewart, Board member, will attend the meeting and Jack Dodson is the Alternate.

New members welcomed:

Otis and Jeanette Belcher and Harold and Margie Campbell.

Brenda Scarce gave a report on bus tours. She has planned a trip to the Barn Dinner Theater in Greensboro on May 17. Deposits must be made by April 25. Call Brenda at 434-724-7158 or 434-489-3705 for more information.

There was a discussion about whether to have the picnic. Members voted to continue with the picnic followed by attending a Brave's ballgame.

Door prizes won by the following:

Oil, lube & filter change -
Goodyear Piney Forest Store - Irma Walker

Oil, lube & filter change
- Goodyear Mt. Cross Rd. Store - Nancy Chaney

50-50 - Sam Barker

Motion made by Judy Dickerson to adjourn seconded by Byron Taylor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

RETIREMENT OPTIONS

If you are considering retirement, please make sure that you read over all the options that are available to you before you make your decision with the Goodyear Representative. The retiree and spouse can come by the Union Hall with their pension estimate and the Benefits Representative will go over the options with you, to help answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Once the retiree and spouse sign the pension option of their choice and the pension packet goes to Akron, the pension payments will start and it cannot be changed thereafter.

Make sure you understand what you are signing because this applies to your future. The Company will go over this paperwork as many times as the retiree needs to make sure that they have a good understanding of how the option they choose will work. It is the responsibility of the retiree to make sure this happens before signing their name on the dotted line.

Note: If you choose an option to leave your spouse a benefit (ex. Option A 100% Joint & Survivor or Option B 50% Joint & Survivor) and your spouse passes away before the retiree passes, the money that has been reduced from your pension payment does NOT go back into the retirees' pension amount. The reduced money continues to go into the pension plan.

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

If you are an active employee with a dependent age 19 or older and they are still in college, you are not required to send class schedules to the Benefits Solution Center unless they are age 26. This is due to the Healthcare Reform Act that allows dependent adult children to remain on the parents insurance if they do not have access to employer sponsored benefits.

Retirees are required to send class schedules and proof of financial dependency at the designated semester. (Spring/Fall) VEBA plans were exempt from the Healthcare Reform Act.

STATE OF VIRGINIA TAX WITHHOLDING

All Retirees/Surviving spouses that live in Virginia can now have state taxes automatically taken out of their pension checks before they receive it. If you are interested in doing this, come by the Union Hall and fill out a State Tax withholding form and it will be faxed to the Benefits Solution Center. This also applies to your Federal Tax Withholdings.

Titan To Buy Goodyear European, Latin American Farm Tire Business

Titan Tire Corp. has agreed to buy Goodyear's European and Latin American farm tire businesses for about \$130 million.

Goodyear said the deal with Titan Tire's parent, Titan International Corp., includes a licensing agreement through which Titan will make and sell Goodyear-brand farm tires in Europe, Latin America and North America. The agreement is subject to post-closing conditions and adjustments.

Goodyear put the European and Latin American farm tire businesses up for sale in May 2009. Titan bought Goodyear's North American farm tire business, including a plant in Freeport, Ill., in 2005.

The Latin American portion of the transaction includes Goodyear's Sao Paulo, Brazil plant, property, equipment and inventories, Goodyear said. That deal is expected to close in the first half of 2011.

The European portion of the transaction is subject to the exercise of an option by Goodyear following completion of a social plan related to the previously announced discontinuation of consumer tire production at its Amiens North, France, factory and required consultation with the local Works Council. After that is done, as well as customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals, the transaction will include the Amiens North plant, property, equipment and inventories.

The sale will reinforce Goodyear's focus on its core consumer and commercial tire businesses.

March Membership Meeting Minutes

USW Local 831 held its regular membership meeting on March 10, 2011 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Prayer led by Sylvester Mayo followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of officers
- Motion to suspend with regular business, for the purpose of nominating delegates to the 34th Constitutional Convention.

Grievance Appeal-Motion to uphold the Grievance Committee

- Motion to accept eight new members

- Lynn Grace and Karen White won the 50/50 raffle.

- The name of Ricky Wharton CC#4324, Dept 2541 was drawn for the attendance drawing. He was not present. The April door prize will be \$50.00.

- The Picnic raffle winner for the \$250.00 Visa, was Chris Webster, CC#5403-Dept 2431.

- The Following were nominated for the 34th Constitutional Convention and they did accept: Barry Bridgen, Jr., Gloria Gravely, Becky Inman, Sharon McClearn, Pam Wright, Carolyn Coles, David Smith, B.J.

Moore, David Soyars, Bennett Goble, Bobby Bryant, Diane Durham, Tony Harris, Mike Fox, Rhonda Walker, Brenda Miles, Sean Poole, Joshua Moyer, Courtney Dixon, Karen White, Terry Reynolds, Terry Trull, Ben Mayhew, Hampton "Lee" Martin.

The following names were drawn for the Election Committee and they did accept: James Layne, Mark Powers, Larry Hook

Alternates: Lisa Spicer, Darryl Logan, Larry Gorkan

Motion to adjourn. The next union meeting will be held April 14, 2011.

How The Middle Class Became The Underclass

Are you better off than your parents? Probably not if you're in the middle class.

Incomes for 90% of Americans have been stuck in neutral, and it's not just because of the Great Recession. Middle-class incomes have been stagnant for at least a generation, while the wealthiest tier has surged ahead at lightning speed.

In 1988, the income of an average American taxpayer was \$33,400, adjusted for inflation. Fast forward 20 years, and not much had changed: The average income was still just \$33,000 in 2008, according to IRS data.

Meanwhile, the richest 1% of Americans -- those making \$380,000 or more -- have seen their incomes grow 33% over the last 20 years, leaving average Americans in the dust. Experts point to some of the usual suspects -- like technology and globalization -- to explain the widening gap between the haves and have-nots. But there's more to the story.

A real drag on the middle class

One major pull on the working man was the decline of unions and other labor protections, said Bill Rodgers, a former chief economist for the Labor Department, now a professor at Rutgers University. Because of deals struck through collective bargaining, union workers have traditionally earned 15% to 20% more than their non-union counterparts, Rodgers said. But union membership has declined rapidly over the past 30

years. In 1983, union workers made up about 20% of the workforce. In 2010, they represented less than 12%.

"The erosion of collective bargaining is a key factor to explain why low-wage workers and middle income workers have seen their wages not stay up with inflation," Rodgers said. Without collective bargaining pushing up wages, especially for blue-collar work -- average incomes have stagnated.

International competition is another factor. While globalization has lifted millions out of poverty in developing nations, it hasn't exactly been a win for middle class workers in the U.S. Factory workers have seen many of their jobs shipped to other countries where labor is cheaper, putting more downward pressure on American wages.

"As we became more connected to China, that poses the question of whether our wages are being set in Beijing," Rodgers said. Finding it harder to compete with cheaper manufacturing costs abroad, the U.S. has emerged as primarily a services-producing economy. That trend has created a cultural shift in the job skills American employers are looking for.

Whereas 50 years earlier, there were plenty of blue collar opportunities for workers who had only high school diploma, now employers seek "soft skills" that are typically honed in college, Rodgers said.

A Boon For The Rich

While average folks were losing ground in the economy, the wealthiest

were capitalizing on some of those same factors, and driving an even bigger wedge between themselves and the rest of America. For example, though globalization has been a drag on labor, it's been a major win for corporations who've used new global channels to reduce costs and boost profits. In addition, new markets around the world have created even greater demand for their products.

"With a global economy, people who have extraordinary skills... whether they be in financial services, technology, entertainment or media, have a bigger place to play and be rewarded from," said Alan Johnson, a Wall Street compensation consultant. As a result, the disparity between the wages for college educated workers versus high school grads has widened significantly since the 1980s.

In 1980, workers with a high school diploma earned about 71% of what college-educated workers made. In 2010, that number fell to 55%.

Another Driver Of The Rich: The Stock Market

The S&P 500 has gained more than 1,300% since 1970. While that's helped the American economy grow, the benefits have been disproportionately reaped by the wealthy. And public policy of the past few decades has only encouraged the trend.

The 1980s was a period of anti-regulation, presided over by President Reagan, who loosened rules governing banks and thrifts.

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Wisconsin Sheriff Pulled Deputies From Capitol, Says They Won't Be 'Palace Guard'

At the same press conference where Dane County, Wisc., District Attorney Ismael Ozanne told reporters he found nothing criminal in Gov. Scott Walker's comments to a prank caller last week, Dane County Sheriff David Mahoney spoke about law enforcement's role in the push and pull over access to the Capitol building in Madison. Mahoney revealed that yesterday he pulled his officers from a duty to guard the building's entrances.

According to WisPolitics, Mahoney said that over the last two days, "we have placed those law enforcement officers in the position of being palace guards."

"When asked to stand guard at the doors that duty was turned over to the Wisconsin State Patrol because our deputies would not stand and be palace guards," Mahoney said. "I refused to put deputy sheriffs in a position to be palace guards."

Mahoney also said that it was "crucial" for individuals have access to their lawmakers, and said he's "never been prouder" of his officers than over the last two weeks.

Earlier on Tuesday, a Dane County judge ordered state officials to re-open the Capitol, where access has been limited since yesterday. In response, Wisconsin's Department of Administration issued a statement saying that the policies it currently has in place "are in compliance with this order."

EDITOR'S COLUMN...

GOP Showing True Colors

If the Grand Old Party (Republicans) have not shown their true colors to working people lately, they sure are now! In Wisconsin, Senate Republicans under the leadership of Governor Scott Walker are out to strip most public-sector workers of collective bargaining rights. Folks, this is serious stuff that could have a negative impact on working families and unions all over the United States.

This union busting governor along with his fellow republicans have successfully found a loophole that will strip public workers of most bargaining rights. This move came after a three week self-imposed exile of Democratic Senators. They had taken refuge in Illinois to prevent a vote on the measure to which collective bargaining was attached. Republicans in Wisconsin are bound and determined to strip bargaining rights of public workers despite more than 80,000 protests at the Capital building.

These same republicans however, believe strongly that the Bush tax cuts should be extended to the wealthiest of Americans making \$250,000 per year or more. What Hypocrites! Governor Walker will have you believe that this is about reform and balancing the budget. But this is really about busting unions. This is about taking from the poor and giving to the rich! This is about putting school teachers in their place! Who do you think better can afford healthcare or four dollars per gallon of gas, a schoolteacher or someone making \$250,000 a year? This is an assault on working families and nothing less, and it can have a snowball effect. On Wednesday, March 9, in just 30 minutes, 18 state senators undid 50 years of workers' rights in Wisconsin.

"Scott Walker and the Republicans' ideological war on the middle class and working families is now indisputable," said President of the Wisconsin state AFL-CIO, Phil Neuenfeldt.

As a young boy, I remember asking my grandfather what was the difference between a Democrat and a Republican. His answer was that a Republican looks after the rich and a Democrat looked after the poor and working class... Papa, you don't know how right you were.

Danny "Tree" Travis, Senior Writer



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How The Middle Class Became The Underclass

A major game changer came during the Clinton era, when barriers between commercial and investment banks, enacted during the post-Depression era, were removed.

In 2000, the Commodity Futures Modernization Act also weakened the government's oversight of complex securities, allowing financial innovations to take off, creating unprecedented amounts of wealth both for the overall economy, and for those directly involved in the financial sector.

Tax cuts enacted during the Bush administration and extended under Obama were also a major windfall for the nation's richest. And as then-Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan brought interest rates down to new lows during the decade, the housing market experienced explosive growth.

"We were all drinking the Kool-aid, Greenspan was tending bar, Bernanke and the academic establishment were supplying the liquor," Deutsche Bank managing director Ajay Kapur wrote in a research report in 2009. But the story didn't end well. Eventually, it all came crashing down, resulting in the worst economic slump since the Great Depression.

Questions & Answers

If anyone has a question for The Informer, please submit it to Danny Travis, Sandra Hairston, Joshua Moyer or your Division Chairman.

I bid on a job, why does it show, "No Bids"?

Job bids are categorized in, 1st Vacancy and 2nd Vacancy categories. 1st Vacancy applies to anyone contractually able to bid; 2nd Vacancy jobs, applies only to those with "grandfathered" status.

Goodyear Golf Club's 2-Man League 2011

We are less than two months away from the start of the season. Scoring for the team will remain with the best net score of one golfer of a 2-man team. Last year everyone liked the 2 man best ball. During the last week of play, there were five teams in the league in the running for 1st place. This showed the fairness of the format. Scheduling will be different this year as a result of the change in scheduling. We are planning to offer Tuesday and Thursday morning for the A/C or B/D shift rotation as well as any retirees and 2nd or 3rd shift workers. Tuesday afternoon will still be played for those who are on 1st shift. Once again, we will need some subs to help in case a player has a conflict. Also new this year will be some openings for non-Goodyear members to play in the league. Perhaps you have a child, father, or a friend that would like to join in the fun, but doesn't belong to the club. We are planning a special rate for them to participate.

League play starts May 3rd and May 5th with sign-up deadline of April 4th, 2011. Signup is available at the club house or in the plant. For more info, please see David Vernon "B" shift 2-Roll Gum Calendar Terry Reynolds "B" shift Electrician Tireroom Johnny Gauldin 1st shift ARTS/SMARTS Richard Davis "A" shift RNG'S

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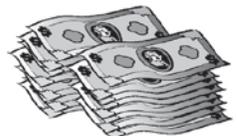
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Training Disruption Form

Today we are talking about the Training Disruption Form. This form is new and its purpose is to document any time training is being disrupted. The disruption could be a trainer being moved, taken away from his / her trainee or the trainee being moved from the job he / she is training on. This form also helps the training department to know exactly how long the trainee has been training on the job. Example: the trainee has been on his / her job for five weeks, the trainee or trainer has been moved to perform some other job or tasks for two weeks of their training period. Using the Training Disruption Form will indicate the trainee actually has only three weeks of training.

I know you are probably thinking how does this wonderful, new training form work? If used correctly it is very simple, so here goes.

I am your area manager and for some reason I need to move you from the job you are training on. It could be because of labor, production or various other reasons. It doesn't matter if the manager is moving the trainer or trainee, the manager has a procedure to follow. As a trainer, or trainee, the first thing you do is say to the person who is moving you that, "I am not refusing to do the job, but you need to fill out a **Training Disruption Form.**"

You do not move to the job until this form is filled out and you cannot be disciplined for insubordination if the form is not filled out and you do not go to the job. PLEASE do not let the person moving you tell you to go ahead and move I will fill the form out later, **THIS IS NOT THE PROCEDURE.** Note: trainer / trainee should have these forms in training folder. If you do not have this form, notify your training coordinator.

The following information has to be filled out on the Training Disruption Form: date, name of learner / trainer, clock card number, department, job transferred to and the reason for the transfer. The reason for transfer has to be in detail. Example: you couldn't say John is moving from bands to belt. You have to tell why John is moving from bands to belts and how long you think this disruption is going to last.

Once this information has been filled out the following signatures have to be on the form: learner, labor trainer, area manager and training coordinator. Finally the question is asked, has the business center manager been notified and has this moved been approved by the business center manager prior to the move, **YES or NO.** When completed the form is turned into the training department for review. Remember, this form is to help us better serve you.

Ronnie Crane, Union Training Coordinator

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Unions Winning Battle For Public Opinion In Wisconsin

eliminate collective bargaining for public-sector employees.

Walker set a hard deadline, insisting that the failure to pass his budget plan will force the state to bypass an opportunity to re-finance its debt -- and cost Wisconsin voters \$165 million in the process.

Looking inside the Pew numbers, it's clear that the budget showdown has, not surprisingly, devolved into a partisan fight. More than two-thirds of self-identified Democrats take the unions' side in Wisconsin, while 53 percent of Republicans side with Walker. Independents are almost evenly split; 39 percent back the unions, 34 percent take Walker's side. There is also a considerable age -- and race -- divide at work in attitudes toward the Wisconsin situation.

Those between 18 and 29 years old are broadly supportive of the union position -- 46 percent support versus just 13 percent support for Walker -- while a plurality of people 65 years of age and older back the Republican governor in the dispute.

White voters are almost equally divided, with 38 percent favoring the unions and 36 percent behind Walker. Non-white voters are not; 51 percent back unions in the dispute, while just 19 percent side with Walker.

Wisconsin Democrats -- and national unions -- have shown no signs of budging in the dispute, and the Pew numbers -- when coupled with a new CBS News/New York Times poll that shows 60 percent of Americans oppose taking away collective bargaining rights to balance state budgets -- are almost certain to embolden them to continue the fight.

It's worth noting, however, that the Pew numbers come from a national sample and not a collection of Wisconsin residents. While Walker doesn't want to lose the public relations battle on the issue at the national level, he's almost certainly more concerned with how the people who elected him -- and he will ask to re-elect him in 2014 -- feel on the issue.

The Pew poll is, like all polls, a snapshot in time, and the Wisconsin situation remains very volatile. When so many people are paying such close attention, momentum can shift in a moment. But, for now, the momentum appears to be on the side of the unions.

Sobering Jobs Numbers

This is from an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal by Matthew J. Slaughter, associate dean at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business:

- The U.S. currently has 108 million private sector jobs; the same number it had in April 1999
- The last time the U.S. had just 11.7 million manufacturing jobs, as we do today, was in April 1941

That amounts to 70 years of politicians watching our country's working class suffer, and ultimately move closer to extinction.

This is more proof that politicians are like old rugs. They need have the dirt beat out of them once and awhile. Or just be replaced.

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Kansas House Shows It's No Friend Of Unions

pretend that the legislation is aimed at protecting workers' rights.

That's baloney. Kansas is a right to work state. Not only is it illegal to make union membership a condition of employment, union members cannot be forced to provide financial support to political causes and candidates.

No, what HB 2130 does is attempt to limit the political influence of unions, which tend to support Democrats. It denies union members the right to make voluntary payroll deductions to union political action committees.

Sure, union members would be free, like anyone else, to write a check to their union PAC. But a far less painful payroll deduction for average folks wouldn't be allowed.

And this from the same gang that claims any attempt to limit corporate campaign contributions is trampling on free speech rights – of the wealthy, anyway.

Not surprisingly, Kansas union leaders are livid. And they fully expect more is to come. Perhaps even an attempt, similar to the one in Wisconsin, to strip public employees of their collective bargaining rights.

"I fully expect to see something," Jane Carter, head of the Kansas Organization of State Employees, told me. "I think it's apparent there's an all-out war on working families."

Sure feels that way. Between attempts to unravel the new health care plan, cuts in safety net programs and corporations' drive to cut pay and benefits, working class Americans have every right to feel threatened.

Little wonder that the only income group supporting the GOP's union-busting agenda, according to a new USA Today/Gallup poll, is those making \$90,000 or more a year. But then a lot of things look different on Easy Street.

SO MUCH PLANNING GOES INTO RETIREMENT.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TAXES AS WELL?

It's likely that your retirement income may come from many sources, such as Social Security, pension distributions, a 401(k) or IRA withdrawals. That's why, if taxes are a concern for you, it's important to choose the right investments for your portfolio. At Edward Jones, we have many options that can give you more control over your taxes, so you can enjoy what you've worked so hard to achieve.

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RETIREES

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Becky Brown 2431/4903
James Dodson Jr 1110/3163
Samuel Henderson 1430/3836
Kenneth Johnson 1524/5577
Charlene Mebane 2415/6203
Tony Powell (correction) 2541/3946

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

James Adams, John Bowe, Robert Bowe, Thomas Brown, Acie Brumfield,
 Guss Camburides, Michael Cockram, Christopher Draughn,
 Samuel Edmunds, Lucious Elliot, James Evans, Darsell Farris,
 Sharion Frazier, Timothy Gammon, Casey Haas, Herbert Holder, Carl Marilla,
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3 BD	4 Exec. Board Meeting AC 7:30 AM	5 AC	6 SOAR Exec. Board Mtg BD 1:00 PM	7 BD	8 AC	9 AC
Interim Meeting St. Petersburg, FL						
10 AC	11 BD	12 BD	13 SOAR Meeting AC 11:00 AM	14 Union Meeting AC 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	15 BD	16 BD
17 Palm Sunday BD	18 Passover Begins AC Sundown	19 Passover AC	20 BD	21 BD	22 Good Friday AC	23 AC
24 Easter Sunday Holiday AC Continuous 12 Hrs	25 Holiday Traditional 8 Hrs BD	26 B/D	27 A/C	28 A/C	29	30