

873 NEWS

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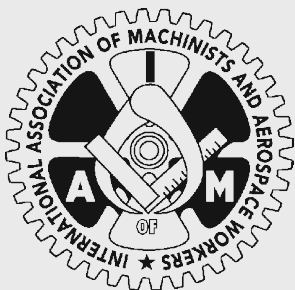
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**LOCAL LODGE 873
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May2007

What's Up with Organizing?

American workers need unions now more than ever:

America's working people are struggling to make ends meet. Our middle class is disappearing.

Joining a union and bargaining collectively is the best solution to this problem.

Workers who belong to unions earn twenty – nine percent more than nonunion workers. Union workers are sixty-two percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions.

American workers want unions:

More than half of America's working people – 57 million – say they would join a union right now if they could! So, why are the numbers of unionized workers at an historic low?

American workers are denied their legal right to join unions:

The current system for workers to form unions and bargain is broken. Every day, corporations deny workers the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions and bargain for a better life.

Restore workers' freedom to form unions

The Employee Free Choice Act would level the playing field between workers and employers.

It will enable workers to form unions when a majority signs union authorization cards; strengthen penalties for companies who intimidate, coerce or discriminate against workers who want to join unions; and establish mediation and binding arbitration when an employer and workers cannot agree on a first contract.

America needs the Employee Free Choice Act:

The law has to change so that American workers truly have the freedom to join unions. American workers want and need unions to improve their wages and benefits and reduce the growing economic inequality that threatens our country's prosperity.

In the United States, every 23 minutes a worker is fired or discriminated against for their support of a union.

**Tell your U.S. Senators and Representative to
SUPPORT THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT**

Log on to www.goiam.org



Safety Committee Notes

OSHA's – The Stoplight has us at 17; so far we are not reaching the goal. Overall fiscal hours worked are less than last year. **FIRST**

AIDS – we have shown an improvement in first aid cases. Take the extra step to be careful; I realize everyone wants to get their work done and go do something else, but you'll enjoy yourself more if you are not hurt.

Gray assembly gloves: once again if you wear the gloves until they are ripped, torn or un-usable; please throw them away. If the gloves are still good, the company asks that you place them in marked containers so they can be washed and re-used. Please do not throw damaged gloves into the wash barrels; if we pay to wash them, we are wasting money.

The Safety Committee has an opening for a Delegate at Large; if you are interested in joining the Joint Safety Committee please contact me at x5332. I will bring this up at the next Union Meeting (3May) and the Committee will meet and decide on the 8th of May.

There was an agreement made earlier this year that if you have an ergonomic related first aid Steve Kovalaske will be addressing those concerns. If you have any concerns about that process; please contact one of the Safety Representative or myself.

I hope that spring is going well for everyone; please remember there are more people walking and riding to/from work, so please be careful.

Matt Kollath
Chairman Safety Committee

Presidential Candidates to Join 'Day of Action'



Senator Hillary Clinton (left), Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich (center) and Delaware Senator Joe Biden (right).

New York Senator Hillary Clinton, Delaware Senator Joe Biden and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich will address the Transportation Department's 2007 'Day of Action' rally in Washington, D.C., on May 17, 2007. The rally is aimed at highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of transportation workers worldwide.

"Our goal is to articulate a clear message, 'Enough is Enough!' and to do so at the front end of the 2008 presidential election cycle," said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., who is coordinating the event. "Union members have suffered grievously under the current gang that occupies the White House, but on May 17 our members will make their voices heard."

The day-long rally will begin at 10 a.m. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. where more than 10,000 union members and representatives of global unions are expected to attend. Additional information can be found at www.17may07.org.

STEWARDS

All effective unions have one characteristic in common. They build a relationship with members through good communication. A steward plays a vital role in communication within the union.

The steward is the union's eyes, ears, and voice in the workplace – listening to members concerns and interests; answering questions and clearing up misinformation; watching and interacting with management – and voicing all that information to the union's leadership.

Get to know your steward better - these are the stewards and their departments for 2007.

LOCAL LODGE 873 STEWARDS AND ALTERNATES FOR 2007

DEPARTMENT	STEWARD	ALTERNATE
Bldg 101 - 1st shift		
T03-A36	Rick Tesch	
A30-A72-A74-A75-A77-A78-86-89	Harlow Freimann	Ken Lischka
A70-A71	Ernie Scott	Kris Kuhl
DOWNTOWN - 1st shift		
B00-B03	Dave Bednarek	Ricky Born
23-24	Jerry Kiesow	
850-853	Tim Shookman	Roger Bradley
70-72-73-75-97	Bill Byrne	Dan Shadley
74-77-78-79-90	Ron Rux	Eric Keup
81	Brian Brath	Doug Flouro
46-35	Dennis Kuechler	Jerry Jordan
470-473(55H)	Jeff Dehn	Richard Karel
750-753	Onnie Gregory	Gene Sitzman
60	Jay Vree	Bill Koenitzer
PS1-85-86	Brian Trotter	Cheryl Wilson
950-953	Marlene Bernhard	Sherry Vree
201- NWG 8,2,3,5,4,17	Dale Deibert	Ed Loth
201- NWG 1,13,14,15,16	Sam Galaviz	Jeff Braun
201- NWG 6,7,9,10,11,12	Bradley Franke	Phil Apfelbeck
Bldg 101 - 2nd shift		
A30-A70-A71-A72-A74-A75-A77-A78-86-T03	Jeremy Terlisner	Ted Fellenz
DOWNTOWN - 2nd shift		
72-73-74-75-77-78-79-PS1-85-86-89-91-81	Steve Buechler	Ken Bender
B00-24-B03-60-35-46-23-803	Tim Netzer	
850-853	Doris Morgan	
950-953	Randy Immel	Tim Netzer
201- NWG 1,2,3,4,5,8,13,14	Robert Peterson	
201- NWG 6,7,9,10,11,12,15,16,17	Steve Lockwood	
Bldg 101 - 3rd shift		
T03-36	David Weikert	Dennis Schroeder
30-70-71-78-79-81-86-89-A72-A74-A75-A77	Tom Schoenberger	
DOWNTOWN - 3rd shift		
24-46-60-72-74-75-78-85-86-PS1-B00 803-203	David Berezinski	Jim Chicolini

Financial Officers Hours For May 2007

Fri. April 27 - 12:00am to 2:00pm
Thurs. May 03 - 11:00am to 9:30pm
Fri. May 11 - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Fri. May 25 - 11:00am to 4:00pm

I am off May 18,2007

Remember!!!

New hires and rehires when you find out when your last day is, remember to get a withdrawal card. It only costs a dollar. Stop by the union hall during my hours and get one. You have 60 days from the last day you worked. Otherwise you become lapsed and it will cost you \$75.00 to get reinstated when you come back.

A reminder if you are off for more then half the month, you need to get an unemployment stamp. They cost \$2.00 for each month you're off.

What's New!!!

Boy the weather is starting to get warmer as seen lately and thoughts turn to when can I go golfing and where am I going to go on vacation.

Do you need a golf towel to wipe your club heads? We got IAM Golf Towels for sale \$3.25. Do you need a travel mug for your coffee or soda when you go on your vacation? We have IAM Color Thermal Travel Mugs for sale \$4.70. Stop by and see them and I will have them up front at the union meeting next Thursday April 5th.

We still have shirts for sale. Stop by and check it out.

A reminder that if you change address, phone number or get married and change your name, let me know because John Deere does not let me know. You can call 920-485-2631 ext. 23.

David Berezinski Secretary/Treasurer

The Wisconsin Health Care Partnership Plan

(Part 2) The Possible Solution

Physicians, organizations, employers, unions, and other concerned groups joined together and formed a coalition to develop a new proposal: The Wisconsin Health Care Partnership Plan. It is based on our current system of employer-based access to health care for workers and their families, but lowers costs and levels the playing field between employers by requiring all employers in both the private and public sectors to pay their fair share towards the cost of health care.

The basic elements of this plan, inspired in part by Wisconsin's successful and nationally emulated Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance systems are:

- Labor- Management commission will be established through legislation to decide precisely what the health care plan will cover. The Commission will be required to develop a quality-driven comprehensive plan, not just bare-bones or catastrophic coverage, and the plan will cover all medically necessary care. The Commission also will oversee a bid process for administration of the plan. Modeled after the Wisconsin Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance advisor councils, the commission will be advised by the finest medical and health care experts available in the state and the nation.
- All Wisconsin employees and their dependents, in both the private and public sectors, will be covered by the common comprehensive health care plan developed by the Commission.
- The plan would be financed by a fair split of costs between employees and employers. Employers would pay a standard monthly assessment for each employee, as determined by the Commission. Employees would pay their fair share in the form of deductibles and co-payments. An actuarial study of the Wisconsin Health Care Partnership Plan done by the highly regarded Lewin Group estimate that, even with reduced employer assessments for part-time workers and low-wage workers in small firms, the standard employer assessment would workers in small firms, the standard employer assessment would have been considera-

bly less than \$300 per worker per month in 2003., the year the actuarial study was done. (The assessment is projected to be \$330 - \$340 per worker per month in 2006.)

- The employee share of the cost will be paid through co-pays (\$15 per physician visit, \$10 for generic prescription drugs, \$20 for brand name prescriptions) and deductibles (\$300 per year for a single person, \$600 for a family).
- Employers may offer, or unions may still bargain for, employer payment of part or all of any co-pays, deductibles or other employee costs set by the commission, as well as additional benefits (such as vision, dental or long-term care, which we do not propose to include in the initial plan).
- The self-employed, early retirees and their families and others not covered through employment could buy into the plan at cost. Thus making comprehensive health insurance affordable to those who currently are charged extremely high premiums for substandard coverage. (The cost of buy-in has not yet been determined. It will certainly be less than an individual policy in current markets, but this will be a separate statewide community-rated pool that will participate in the cost reductions of the standardized comprehensive plan and reduced prescription drug prices.)

UNION MEETING

The monthly meeting for May will held on Thursday, May 3, 2007. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon for the night shift.

The meeting for the day shift will begin at 3:30 PM. Lunch and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Rick Priewe's name was drawn at the April meeting. His name was not in the register. This month's drawing is worth \$240.00. Plan now to attend.

Remember it does not cost to attend the monthly meeting. It Pays!!!

Calling Your Legislator

Prepare For Your Call

Know the facts, including bill number, title and status. Think about how you can best explain how the issue affects you and the community.

Consider the kinds of questions you may be asked and be prepared to answer them.

Calling the Legislator's Office Directly

You will probably speak to a staff member who handles the issue rather than the legislator.

Focus on one issue.

Keep the call brief and to the point.

Present your views politely, but persuasively.

Find out exactly where the legislator stands on the issue.

Ask what action he or she intends to take.

Do not be afraid to ask for specifics.

Listen carefully.

If you do not know the answer to a question admit it

and send the answer later in a letter or follow-up call.

You will be asked to provide your name, address, and

phone number.

You may also send a follow-up letter confirming your

conversation and summarizing your views.

Some Important Phone Numbers:

State of Wisconsin Legislative Hotline Number:

1-800-362-9472

--A central Capital office number which will take short Messages and route them to your legislator.

--You may also use this number to find out who your Legislators are. Simply state your request and provide your full address.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard Numbers:

Senate-- 202-224-3121

House---202-225-3121

--call to find out the phone number of your legislator or be directly transferred to the appropriate office.

Writing to Your Legislator

Be Confident

You can be certain your letter will be read by the legislator or staff person.

Your letter will almost always be answered.

Be Concise

Keep your letter to two pages or less.

Make Your Letter Personal

Use personal examples of how the issue affects you.

State your views, whether you support or oppose the

legislation, in your own words.

If you are a constituent, let your legislator know.

Have the Facts

Refer to bills by title and number

Cite experts when needed to back you up.

Be Direct and Focus on One Issue

Tell the legislator what actions you want him

or her to take, such as introduce legislation,

Co-sponsor a bill, vote for or against a bill, etc.

Be Civil

Do not threaten, insult, wisecrack, or name call.

Always praise the legislator if she or he votes the way you wish.

Don't Overdo It

Don't write too often

Keep your letters timely so the legislator can act effectively on your behalf.

Some Important Addresses

Wisconsin Legislative Mailing Addresses

Senate: P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

Assembly: Reqs. with last names A-L—P.O. Box 8952

Madison, WI 53708-8952

Reqs. with last names M-Z—P.O. Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708-8953

Governor Jim Doyle

State Capitol 115 East

Madison, WI 53702

President George W Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, D.C. 20500

For the addresses of your federal legislators, call the capitol Switchboard --Senate: 202-224-3121

House: 202-225-3121

Visiting Your Legislator

Make an Appointment

Call or write the legislator's home or capitol office. State the subject to be discussed and the time needed.

Identify those who will attend.

Provide as much advance notice as possible.

Be flexible with your schedule.

Be Prepared

Know what you want to say.

Emphasize how the issue affects you, your community, and your state.

Know the facts in an orderly, concise, and positive manner.

Present the facts in an orderly, concise, and positive manner.

Use relevant facts and research to support your views.

Present your views politely, but persuasively.

If you disagree with the legislator, do not lecture or be argumentative.

Prepare a one-page fact sheet to leave with the legislator outlining

your views on the issue and the impact it will have.

Some Tips

Be on time

Be Confident

-Focus on the issue

-Show enthusiasm and concern for the issue

Be Firm

-Find out exactly where your legislator stands.

-Ask what action he or she intends to take.

Be Brief

-Legislators are very busy. Try to get your point across in 5-10

minutes

Listen Carefully

-Be ready to answer questions clearly.

-If you do not know the answer to a question, admit it and send an

answer later.

-Listen carefully to the legislator's viewpoint even if you disagree.

Follow up your visit with a thank you letter to the legislator and the staff person who arranged your visit, which includes a summary of your position along with any new information that supports your views.

E-Mailing Your Legislator FOLLOW THE TIPS IN THE “WRITING TO YOUR LEGISLATOR” SECTION

Some Important E-mail Addresses:
State Senators:

Sen.lastname@legis.state.wi.us

State Assembly Representatives:

Rep.lastname@legis.state.wi.us

Governor Jim Doyle:

wisgov@mail.state.wi.us

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold:

senator@feingold.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl:

senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov

To send E-mail to Your U.S. Representative, look them up on the U.S. House of Representatives Web Page: www.house.gov/

To send E-mail to the President, Vice President, or First Lady, visit the White House Web Site: www.whitehouse.gov/

Other Important Web Sites:

United States Senate: www.senate.gov/

Wisconsin State Legislature Online:

www.legis.state.wi.us

WHO CAN LOBBY IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

According to the 1997 Wisconsin Legislative Directory, you can lobby without a license if....

.. You are not acting on behalf of anyone other than yourself.

..Even if you represent the views of a business or Organization but does so as an unpaid volunteer.

..Even if you represent the views of a business or Organizations that pays you, but convey those views only to legislator’s elected from the Senate and Assembly Districts in which you reside.

..Even if you represent the views of a business or Organization that pays you and you convey those views to all or many legislators or officials but do so only occasionally, up to 4 days within a 6-month period.

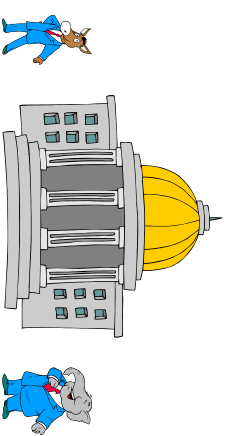
The Importance of Contacting Your Legislators

Legislators carefully consider the viewpoints expressed by their constituents as they make up their minds on certain issues. Your elected officials want and **NEED** to hear from you.

You don’t have to be an expert on the issues in order to lobby your legislators. It is your interest and concern rather than your knowledge about the issue that counts. However, the way that you lobby **DOES** make a difference.

CONTACTING Your LEGISLATORS

A HANDBOOK



Legislative & Women’s Committee
Local 873

