

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS is published by Capital Area UniServ-North

Volume 1, No. 1 – September 15, 2011

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RECALL ELECTIONS POINT TO TROUBLE IN WALKERVILLE

Over the summer, many of us worked hard on efforts to change the make-up of the legislature through recall elections. Thanks to all those who helped by making calls, writing postcards and going door-to-door in this fight to take back our public schools and regain our bargaining rights. We made a huge difference.

Racine legislator Corey Mason put all of our efforts in perspective. He notes that **Democrats won 5 of 9 recall contests, but improved Democrats' performance in 8 of 9 Districts; and was nearly unchanged in the 9th.**

On average, the Senate GOP candidate did 6.9% worse than Walker and the Senate Democrat candidate did 8.3% better than Barrett. This is in mostly GOP Districts, where Walker would need to do at least as well as his 2010 numbers if he hopes to win.

Keep in mind this is a Governor who won with only 52% of the vote. **If Walker won by less than 4% and the electorate has shifted 6.9% - 8.3% the other way, it is hard to imagine Walker winning statewide.** This is particularly noteworthy since none of these districts are overwhelmingly Democratic-leaning in normal circumstances. Again, Walker carried all of these districts in 2010. This is a big reversal in political terms in less than a year.

We must remember that this battle is not drawn solely along political party lines. Rather, it is an opportunity to fight for elected leaders who will fight for us. Members of both parties who support public education and collective bargaining rights will have our support.

Look for upcoming opportunities to help regain sanity in the legislature, restore our rights and fight for our public schools.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September - October 2011

- **CAUS-North Board of Directors**
Thursday, Sept. 15, 5:00 pm, CAUS Office
- **CAUS-North Retired Luncheon**
Friday, Sept. 16, 10:45 am, Sun Prairie
- **CAUS Building Corporation Meeting**
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6:00 pm, CAUS Office
- **PDP Training–New Member Goals Workshop**
Saturday, October 8, 8:00 am, CAUS Office
- **CAUS-North Board of Directors**
Thursday, Oct. 13, 5:00 pm, CAUS Office
- **Member Advocacy Training**
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 5:30 pm, Sheraton Hotel

NEW NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Capital Area UniServ-North and South have chosen to move ahead in exciting new ways to make sure we reach all of our members. You may note a new format for our UniServ newsletters. CAUS-North and CAUS South have joined together to publish a semi-monthly **newsletter** that we hope will provide relevant and timely information for you to use.

CAUS-North and CAUS South have joined the social media bandwagon. "Like Us" on **Facebook** at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/CAUS-North>.

Are you receiving your brief e-mail messages each week? The CAUS Chalkboard and CAUS Alert will give you up-to-the-minute information you need. Email the word "subscribe" to joshfeffm@weac.org and we'll add you to the list.

Also look for **10-minute meetings** coming to your local building soon. We are encouraging your local union to set up these quick and information packed meetings. Agenda topics will help to keep you informed and will give your union one more way to keep in touch.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE UNION?

Over the next year, we will be working to organize a stronger union that will be ready to face the challenges created by the attack on our bargaining rights. We will be working with each of your local unions to provide support for bargaining handbooks and will continue to represent you in time of need.

There is power in numbers! If we stick together, we can help each other prevent the types of things that are happening in districts like New Berlin. Among other things, the school board in New Berlin stripped teachers of prep time, added a dress code and instituted a very high deductible insurance plan with large co-pays.

The law restricts the collective bargaining agent to negotiating over just your base pay, and even that is limited to the increase in the consumer price index (CPI). Any ability to bargain other things is expressly prohibited. Therefore we must demand discussion and real input into employee handbooks that will replace your negotiated agreements.

The decision to remain the “collective bargaining agent” recognized by the state is also part of the new law which will require what is called a recertification election. CAUS-North will work with your local to analyze the pros and cons of holding a recertification election. If your local chooses to recertify, the vote would be set for the fall AFTER your contract expires. However, whether or not you choose to have a recertification election does not impact your ability to be in a union. A recertification election simply gives you legal recognition to bargain over base wages tied to the CPI.

Finally, you will be asked to sign up for your union dues by electronic funds transfer (EFT). So, rather than the district collecting dues, your bank will keep track of things for you. You will be contacted about this soon if your contract expires at the end of this year.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING

How Wisconsin turns out may be more important to the rest of the world than you think. Speaking at a World Congress of Education Unionists from 154 countries in South Africa this summer, the Dutch leader of Education International singled out three places in the world where the rights of educators were being ruthlessly violated: Ecuador, the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, and the American state of Wisconsin. Rough company, but it helps

demonstrate what a worldwide phenomenon Wisconsin has become. At the Congress, a leader of New Zealand's teachers union had a conversation with a Wisconsin teacher. He said New Zealanders were extremely interested in Wisconsin, not because we were victims, but because **we fought back**. Agitator Tom Hayden was in Madison a few weeks ago and echoed Wisconsin's importance: *“A great social movement has arisen this year in Wisconsin on which the future of America, and the next presidential election may depend.”* Hyperbole? Perhaps not.

NEIGHBORING UNISERV REPORT SIGN UPS GOING WELL

CAUS-North locals all have contract extensions. With the exception of Waterloo, they do not have to sign up members for the union—yet. Other UniServs have had to start immediately. Over the last few months about a dozen SWEA locals (SWEA is CAUS's neighboring UniServ) have gone through their initial Membership Drive. These were the locals that had their Collective Bargaining Agreements expire on June 30th. The new law requires those locals to have their members voluntarily sign up if they want to remain in the Union. That effort remains on-going but, in many locals, more than 90% of returning employees have signed up to continue their membership. Once you sign a membership continuation form you remain a member from year to year. In the past, the Union was legally obligated to represent all eligible employees. Under the new law those choosing not to belong will get no representation, services, or benefits from the Union except the negotiated pay increase in those locals where the Union remains the certified bargaining unit.

CAUS-N PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

The Political Action Committee (PAC) is used to support legislation favorable to students, schools, educators, local referendums, and campaign contributions to candidates recommended by our members. The full-time member contribution of \$3.00 (\$1.50 part-time member) is refundable.

Individuals who choose not to contribute to the CAUS-North PAC must file a written request to the CAUS-North Office, 4800 Ivywood Trail, McFarland, WI 53558, no later than October 31. Please include your name, home address and in what school district you are employed. Rebate requests after October 31 will not be honored.