

Council #10



CUDAHY • FRANKLIN • GREENDALE • GREENFIELD • OAK CREEK • ST. FRANCIS • SOUTH MILWAUKEE

Election Message: Time to Get in the Game!

Opportunities to win sweeping public policy changes are rare. But following the momentous election outcome of November 4th, we have now earned just such an opportunity for the first time in over 20 years.

At the national level we have an exciting new President. In Wisconsin, WEAC supported candidates won elections throughout the state. Pro-education, pro-worker legislators now control both houses of the state legislature and are preparing to work with the Governor who has been on our side all along.

Our first order of business will likely be an overhaul of our state's deeply unjust and irrational system for funding public schools. In recent years, our union's leadership has helped lay the groundwork for school funding reform. An unprecedented coalition of educators, school boards, administrators, and parent groups is coming together around this common goal.

But to succeed in our efforts at this crucial time, we will need all the grassroots power our one hundred thousand member organization can muster. In coming weeks and months, we will be rolling out many opportunities for members to become educated and involved in creating this change. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements, and please do your part to stay informed by visiting WEAC's school funding reform web page at www.weac.org/schoolfunding.

Healthcare Referendums Successful

This summer, Council #10 members devoted significant time and effort to gathering signatures for healthcare advisory referendums in Oak Creek and South Milwaukee. Another 20 cities and counties in Wisconsin had similar healthcare referendums. The healthcare referendum on most ballots read:

Shall the next state Legislature enact health care reform legislation by December 31st, 2009 that guarantees every Wisconsin resident affordable health care coverage as good as what is provided to state legislators?

Despite misleading attacks funded by special interests opposed to healthcare reform, each referendum passed by a landslide, garnering 74% of the vote and over 411,000 total votes statewide. **The referendums actually ran 18 points ahead of President-elect Barack Obama.** Furthermore, candidates who openly supported the referendums performed extremely well, contributing to a change in the State Assembly majority.

The referendum question does not tell the Legislature which healthcare reform to adopt. Rather, it tells legislators to develop a healthcare reform plan by the end of 2009 that is guaranteed, affordable, and of a certain minimum quality standard. Despite its apparent simplicity, the referendum contains clear instructions and a powerful message to politicians at all levels.

Whether at the state or national level, it's time we deliver on meaningful healthcare reform. For more information, visit www.citizenactionwi.org.

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OFFICERS

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Ted Kraig
Executive Director
Sharleen "Shorty" Ott
Staff Assistant

Council #10 Website
www.weac.org/council10

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Council #10 Building
Representative Training,
Tuesday, January 13, 4:30pm,
location TBA

WEAC Winter Conference
February 27 – March 1, 2009
Hilton Milwaukee

Great
Schools



weac.org

Posting for WEAC Board of Directors Position

On November 7, Council #10 President, Nancy Koeckenberg, received notice from WEAC that Council #10 has qualified for a second seat on the WEAC Board of Directors. The WEAC Board of Directors is the governing body of WEAC. The Board meets once a month, generally in Madison. If you are interested in running for the newly opened Board of Directors seat, please nominate yourself by emailing Shorty Ott at otts@weac.org. The runner up in an election for this position will become Council #10's Alternate WEAC Board member.

Workers' Rights at Woodman's Are Under Attack

Woodman's stores in Madison, Beloit, Janesville, Onalaska and Appleton have always been union. In previous years they have helped set a standard of good wages and benefits for retail workers in the areas they serve.

Unfortunately, things have changed dramatically at Woodman's. Woodman's recently built stores, including the new store on Howell Ave., are non-union. Phil Woodman, President of Woodman's now wants to get rid of the union and leave those workers without a voice on the job. He's hired high-priced anti-union consultants from the East Coast to help him use intimidation, harassment, and coercion, creating an atmosphere of fear in the workplace. In fact, Woodman's has been accused of over 70 violations of workers' rights under federal labor law.

As members of a strong union, we can help Woodman's workers by telling the local Woodman's manager that we won't shop at Woodman's unless Woodman's stops its unfair treatment of workers. Stores with employees represented by UFCW 1473 are at the following locations:

8770 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek
2931 S. Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee
5851 S. Packard Ave., Cudahy

You can also sign an online petition in support of Woodman's workers by visiting www.ufcw1473.org.

Why Einstein Joined a Union

"I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and, also, generally speaking, to secure their influence in the political field." Albert Einstein joined the American Federation of Teachers, Local 522, at Princeton University in 1938. (from MTI Solidarity Newsletter)

Council #10 PAC Dues Rebate

Any member who wishes to have his/her Council #10 PAC contribution (\$3.00 full-time teacher, \$1.50 full-time support staff) refunded must send a signed written request to the Council #10 Office, 13805 W. Burleigh Road, Brookfield, WI 53005, no later than December 15, 2008. Only requests postmarked on or before December 15 will be honored and any which are postmarked after that date will be disregarded.

Member Ads

Door County Cabin for Rent. Accommodates up to 12 people. Cabin is near Baileys Harbor in a rural, woodsy setting. Available year-round. Electric heat, many amenities, fireplace, open concept living, dining, kitchenette, sleeping loft with 4 beds, large deck with furniture, gas grill. Call (414) 427-8420 or (920) 839-2715 for additional information and educator discounts.