

Walker and Prosser: A History of Collaborating to Oppose Workers

**The Supreme Court Election
affects YOU, YOUR FAMILY,
YOUR COMMUNITY,
and YOUR SCHOOLS!**

The debate over Governor Scott Walker's extreme attack on public employees and their collective bargaining rights is likely to face legal challenges that will ultimately be decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Many believe that Justice David Prosser, running for re-election in the April 5 contest, will serve as a rubber stamp for Walker's anti-worker agenda.

Prosser and his campaign have done little to discourage this notion. In a December press release announcing his re-election bid, Prosser's campaign director said he is committed to serving as a "complement to both the new (Walker) administration and Legislature." In February, Prosser said there is no desire on his part to add an obstruction to Governor Walker or the Legislature.¹

There is another reason to assume these two will join together on anti-worker issues. Back in the 1990s, when Walker and Prosser served together in the Wisconsin State Assembly, they voted the same way 95% of the time. Those votes were consistently anti-worker. For example, they both voted for a bill that said school boards do not need to negotiate with employees over the school calendar.²

Justice Prosser has a record of ruling against unions. In his decisions, Prosser has taken positions in opposition to due process, workers' compensation, retirement benefits and family medical leave.³

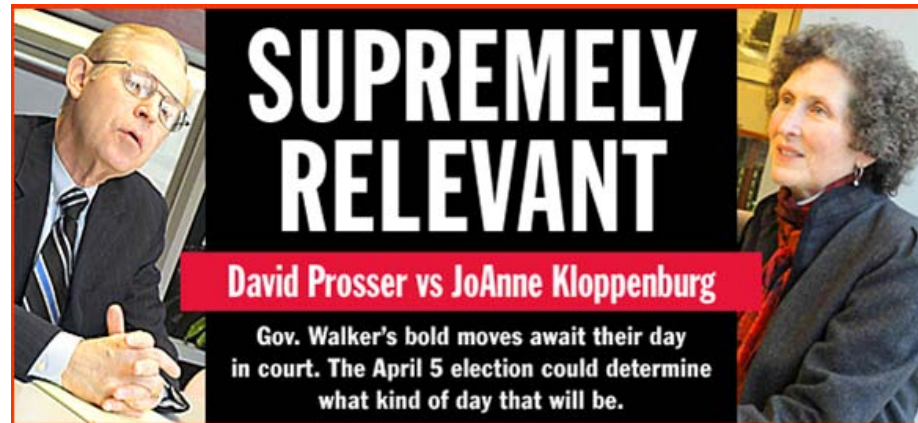
Big business is going to spend millions of dollars to re-elect Justice Prosser because they know he will back their anti-union and anti-middle class agenda. The only way we can fight back is by getting out to vote on April 5, 2011.

WEAC's recommended candidate for Supreme Court is JoAnne Kloppenburg, who will bring an impartial perspective and decide cases based on their merits. She has been a litigator and prosecutor at the Wisconsin Department of Justice since 1989, arguing cases before the Supreme Court and in courts around the state.

¹ The Reporter, February 20, 2011

² 1995 AB 505 3/25/96

³ Eau Claire County v. General Teamster Union Local No. 662, 611 N.W.2d 744, 753 (Wis. 2000); Kocken v. Wisconsin Council 40, 732 N.W.2d 828 (Wis. 2007); Kraus v. City of Waukesha Police and Fire Com'n, 662 N.W.2d 294 (Wis. 2003); Solie v. Employee Trust Funds Bd., 695 N.W.2d 463, 484 (Wis. 2005); DaimlerChrysler v. Labor and Industry Review Com'n, 727 N.W.2d 311 (Wis. 2007); Harvot v. Solo Cup Co., 768 N.W.2d 176 (Wis. 2009)



From the President's Desk...

On March 15 I had the honor of joining two strong women whom I greatly admire. The first one was Senator Julie Lassa. Senator Lassa had the courage to stand up for the rights of Wisconsin citizens and, at great personal cost, left the state for three weeks. That three week reprieve allowed time for analysis of the Budget Repair Bill and collective action against it. The second strong woman was WEAC President Mary Bell. She has spent countless hours not only at rallies, doing press conferences, and meeting with members, but also planning for the future of our organization. At the Wisconsin Rapids rally both women stressed that it was the combined efforts of all organized labor that made the difference in Wisconsin. Not just WEAC members, but Teamsters, AFSME, AFL-CIO, SEIU and others joined together to raise their voices for Wisconsin. Both Senator Lassa and Mary Bell thanked those present for the numerous phone calls, emails, peaceful demonstrations in Madison as well as in local communities, and for the continuing recall efforts in our areas.

I have joined many CWUC members at rallies, town hall meetings, organizing meetings and other events and I have never been as proud of the work done by CWUC members as I am right now! You folks are AWESOME! When we called and asked you to send emails – you did. When asked to attend a rally – you showed up. When we asked you to stand up and voice your concerns – your voices were strong. The responses and immediate action from all CWUC members demonstrates the strength and unity of Central Wisconsin.

We've done a ton of work. But it is not over. The CWUC office is working hard to help locals with recertification elections and membership sign-up, community outreach projects, and recall elections. With all these activities going on, there will be times when our UD's will be over booked. Because of this, CWUC is (and has been) receiving assistance from WEAC. WEAC has about 40 field staff from other states on loan from NEA to help in our efforts. These are trained staff members, just like our own UD's. They have the knowledge to help our locals. Your UD will let you know when someone else will be helping you with your requests. Please welcome the field staff into your meetings. They are there to help you.

I want to leave you with just a few thoughts. After a demonstration in Green Bay Governor Walker commented to a local TV station that, "All of this will all go away in a month or two once the state sees how the Budget Repair Bill helps our state." Walker's words are our challenge. We can't allow our actions to end and our collective voice to be silenced. If that happens, the legislature will have taken far more than our bargaining rights. They will have dismantled the whole middle class way of life.

Stay strong!

– Michelle Frola, CWUC President

SPRING ELECTION IS APRIL 5, 2011

Don't forget to . . . Polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.



The upcoming election is an important one to ensure the future of our schools, our communities, and our jobs. **Every** member needs to take action, to become informed, and to share information about what is best for Wisconsin. Remember that sharing any printed election materials must be done outside of school. Don't use school email, school mailboxes, or school copy machines to do the sharing.

If your school district has a spring break during the upcoming April election, please plan ahead to vote by absentee ballot. You must register to vote before an absentee ballot can be sent to you. To request an application by mail, there are forms available at the State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board at <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/absentee> The "Application for Absentee Ballot (form GAB-121) should be completed and mailed to your municipal clerk's office no later than the Thursday before the election in order for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you. You may also request that a ballot be sent to you by sending an e-mail or fax to the municipal clerk. A listing of the municipal clerks may be found on the Government Accountability Board website. Another way to complete the absentee ballot is by visiting your municipal clerk's office where you must vote immediately, seal your ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to a member of the clerk's staff. No ballots may be taken from the clerk's office. Completed ballots must be received by the municipal clerk no later than the day of the election so that it can be delivered to the polling location by 8 p.m.

Remind your family members, friends and neighbors to vote in the upcoming spring election. **Local school board elections and the Supreme Court election are critical to the success of our schools and our students.** (continued on pg 2)

Some “educational” information about the Government Accountability Board website: If you are looking up information on the State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) website about elections, you may also want to check the status of recall elections, find information about expected standards of conduct for elected state and local officials, and research numerous articles and statutes for the State of Wisconsin. This is the website of the board that is charged with the oversight of Wisconsin’s campaign finance, elections, ethics, and lobbying laws. The G.A.B. is made up of six former judges, nominated by a panel of four Wisconsin Appeals Court judges, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. The six board members serve staggered six-year terms; one member’s term expires each year. The Board and its staff must be non-partisan.

Source: G.A.B. website

CWUC’s Public Relations Committee Announces 2011 “Celebrate Reading” Contest Winners

This is the second year the CWUC Public Relations Committee sponsored a bookmark contest to promote **Read Across America**. Several hundred entries were sent to the CWUC office for the competition and each entry provided proof that we have talented students in central Wisconsin. Four bookmarks were chosen and each winner will receive \$50.00 awards for their outstanding entries. The winning entries and runner-up entries were displayed at the **CWE Convention** in Schofield on March 4. Congratulations to the following students and their teachers:

GRADE	STUDENT	TEACHER
K - 2	Greta Kamke	Jennifer Neuner
3-4-5	Natalie Rustad	Jill Willems
6-7-8	Keely Verbracken	Jackie Feldhake
9 - 12	Zoua Kha	Bonnie Bell

If you would like copies of the award winning bookmarks for your classroom or public school library, please complete the order form and return it to the CWUC office, 370 Orbiting Drive, Mosinee, WI 54455-0158 or call the CWUC office at 715-693-1740 or 800-472-0010 to place your order. The winning entries and additional finalists will be on display at the CWUC office. Be sure to stop by the office and see the work of our talented central Wisconsin students!

2011 CWUC “Celebrate Reading” Bookmark Contest Winners

Order free copies of the winning bookmarks for your classroom!

Books, Books, Books are fun!
Artist: Greta Kamke (Age 6)
Mosinee Elementary School
Qty: _____

READ!
Artist: Natalie Rustad (Age 10)
Iola-Scandinavia Elem. School
Qty: _____

Open your eyes...
Artist: Keely Verbracken (Age 14)
Cadott Jr./Sr. High School
Qty: _____

Butterflies
Artist: Zoua Kha (Age 16)
Wittenberg-Birm High School
Qty: _____

The Winners Are... Congratulations to the following individuals whose names were selected for special CWUC items, compliments of the CWUC Public Relations Committee, at the recent **CWE Convention** held at the D.C. Everest Greenheck Center.

- **Lori Mueller, Bowler Education Association, winner of a CWUC fleece vest**
- **Mary Ladron, Stevens Point Area Education Association, winner of a CWUC T-shirt**
- **Jenny Hintz, Stevens Point Area Education Association, winner of a CWUC fleece blanket; and**
- **Polly Bigler, Waupaca Teachers’ Association, winner of a CWUC lunch bag**

Thank you to the many members who stopped at the CWUC Public Relations booth to visit and to gather current information about our union activities. Sandy Fults and Tom Ivey, CWUC UniServ Directors, and Linda Copas, CWUC P.R. Chair, were present at the convention booth to greet members, to promote public education, and to present information to keep members informed.

Have you heard? This will be the last year that the **Central Wisconsin Educators’ (CWE) Convention** will be held. It was a difficult decision for the leaders of this organization and for the many loyal participants who have attended this centrally located event. The **CWE** celebrated its 98th year this year and, as usual, presented attendees with a wide variety of

sectionals and excellent speakers. The following individuals deserve recognition for their continued dedication to the planning and organization of this educational opportunity for central Wisconsin educators:

- ◆ **Brenda Jozwiak-Boldig, 2011 Chair (Wittenberg-Birnamwood)**
- ◆ **Mike Feltz, Exhibitor Chair (Stevens Point)**
- ◆ **Kathy Johnson, Treasurer (Wittenberg-Birnamwood)**
- ◆ **Tiffany Reindl, Past Chair 2010 (Stevens Point)**
- ◆ **Doreen Schultz, Past Chair 2009 (Marathon)**
- ◆ **Lisa J. Witt, Past Chair 2008 (Edgar)**
- ◆ **Kristin Thompson, Executive Secretary (Wausau)**

Reminder...SELF-RENEW BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

If your district has offered you an individual contract or “Letter of Intent,” make sure you sign and return it to the district by April 15. Not turning in your contract or “Letter of Intent” by April 15 can be construed as an indication you do not wish to continue your employment with the district.

If you have not been issued a contract or “Letter of Intent,” it would be wise to “self-renew” your contract. To self-renew, write a letter stating: “I hereby accept the renewal of my teaching contract for the 2011-2012 school year.” Your letter of “self-renewal” must be signed and delivered to your district by April 15.

RECALL EFFORTS – *What Can I Do?*

Recall efforts are currently underway for 8 Republican Senators. Signatures must be collected by May 2 for certification. Recall elections will then be held within 6 weeks. It is imperative to get petitions signed NOW. Use the website below to locate a recall petition staging location. Recruit friends to help. Volunteer your time and go to one of the staging sites to help collect signatures for the recall effort.

Contacting Legislators?

HERE ARE POINTERS TO HELP YOU...

Writing letters...

- ✓ Be specific. State your purpose for writing.
- ✓ State your position. Explain why you support or oppose an issue. Local examples are powerful.
- ✓ Ask for a response.
- ✓ Follow up on the issue. Check back with your legislator to see how he/she voted and let him/her know you are interested in their position.
- ✓ Check your spelling and grammar. Have another individual proofread your letter.
- ✓ Be polite and professional.

E-mailing...

- ✓ Identify the subject (i.e. state budget)
- ✓ State your reasons for your opinion. Explain how the issue will affect you, your family, profession, or community.
- ✓ Be reasonable. Don’t ask for the impossible or be rude.
- ✓ Timing is of importance. Keep the message current.
- ✓ Provide a “thank you” to your legislator if he/she voted correctly on an issue.
- ✓ Use “spell check” and have someone proofread your e-mail before sending it.
- ✓ Do not use school email to contact legislators.

Whether you choose writing letters, emails, or phone calls to your legislators, please make sure that you indicate your full name, address, and phone number on your messages.