We Care. We Fight. We Show Up. WE VOTE!

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Damage & Division

In 2010 our union represented over 500 nurses and health professionals working for counties throughout Wisconsin. They were employed by Kenosha, Racine, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Dodge, Wood, Columbia and Milwaukee County, plus the cities of West Allis and Sheboygan. After Scott Walker was elected Governor, he passed a law—Act 10—that stripped away contracts from virtually all City, County, School and State workers. As a result, hundreds of thousands of workers lost their contracts, the right to bargain, and their protected voice on the job, including our 500 members. Today, our union only represents a handful of members that work for Milwaukee County; and, while those members, especially at the mental health center, join together in solidarity over staffing and safety; they no longer have a contract governing their rights.

As promised, when caught on tape saying his ultimate plan was to “divide and conquer,” once Walker destroyed the protections for public employees, he went on to pass dozens of other anti-worker bills that would take away rights from private employees. His administration also declared war on all working families by weakening workers’ compensation rules, and removing the worker representatives from oversight of Unemployment Compensation. The attacks did not end in 2011. They continued each year. No Governor in history did so much to reduce worker protections and union rights.

As a healthcare union, WFNHP has always fought for affordable healthcare as a human right and, for the last eight years, we have watched as Walker worked to reduce coverage. He refused to take federal money that would have expanded Medicaid to thousands of Wisconsinites and helped small, rural, critical access hospitals like the ones we represent in Antigo and Cumberland. We also stood together with our allies in Citizen Action to oppose attempts by Walker and the Republicans to end the Affordable Care Act, an action that would have stripped protections for pre-existing conditions. We have also been relentless in pushing for control over high costs of healthcare, especially prescription drugs; but, our demands on behalf of our members and our community have fallen on deaf ears.

Over the years, it has become more and more clear who is standing on the side of nurses and healthcare workers, and working families; and, it is not Walker and his allies.

The Future Before Us

We have a real chance this year to take back our state and begin the road back to real protection for workers. We have a chance to regain the right to bargain for public employees, and to end the so called “Right to Work” law that allows employees to have all the rights under the contract, without paying their fair share of the costs of those rights.

The last few years have made it clearer than ever before that elections have consequences; and, that basic rights to education, healthcare, and to a union contract, are in the hands of the politicians. This newsletter includes recommendations for candidates that stand clearly on the side of nurses and working families. As always, how you vote is a personal decision; but, as a union that represents healthcare workers, it would be irresponsible and even unethical, if we did not share information regarding the candidates running in this critical election, so that is what we are doing.

Over the last few years, I heard from hundreds of our members that they were so sorry they did not vote in past elections. They said they did not realize it would make a difference—but, they do now. They wished they could have another chance to vote. Well, this is your chance. This is our year to make a difference. Do not let the mistakes of the past predict the future. Get out and vote, and bring friends and family with you. We can protect and improve the healthcare of our members and community, restore funding for schools for our children and grandchildren, and bring back workplace protections for Wisconsin workers.
PROTECTING OUR HEALTHCARE.  Evers will fight against attempts to let insurance companies discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions. He wants to drive down healthcare costs while ensuring more Wisconsinites are insured.  *(The (Madison) Capital Times, 7/22/18)*

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF WORKING PEOPLE.  Evers supports strong unions and opposes Walker’s attacks against workers. He will repeal Act 10 and restore collective bargaining rights for Wisconsin’s working people.  *(Wisconsin Public Radio, 6/4/18)*

INVESTING IN EDUCATION.  Evers knows our children deserve access to quality public education and is committed to providing our teachers the resources they need to do their job. He will allow Wisconsinites to refinance their student loans at a lower interest rate.  *(WUWM, 7/31/18)*

TAKING HEALTHCARE AWAY.  Walker supports repealing the Affordable Care Act, gutting protections for the nearly 850,000 people in Wisconsin with pre-existing conditions and stripping healthcare from those who need it the most.  *(Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/20/18)*

ATTACKING THE RIGHTS OF WORKING PEOPLE.  Walker prides himself on his union-busting policies. He took away the collective bargaining rights of hundreds of thousands of workers, effectively denying them a voice at the workplace.  *(The New York Times, 6/8/15)*

DEFUNDING EDUCATION.  Walker has cut more than $2 billion from public schools, universities and technical colleges in Wisconsin. Due to his attack on unions, teachers’ salaries fell and thousands left the profession. *(The Washington Post 7/3/18; CNN Money, 11/17/17)*
Why Should We Care About the State Attorney General?

One state-wide race this fall that seems to be under the radar is for State Attorney General. Josh Kaul is the candidate running against Brad Schimel.

The Attorney General is the top lawyer for our state. As such he files or defends lawsuits. Brad Schimel has been a disaster for workers and our communities. For two years, he has supported efforts to end the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Just a month ago, he went out of his way to join a Texas lawsuit to once again stop the ACA and end protections for pre-existing health conditions. Recently, he joined a lawsuit that stopped 165,000 Wisconsin workers from getting overtime pay.

Schimel has also led the fight against rules that protect drinking water and clean air standards, and he vigorously defends rules that restrict voting rights, like cutting down on early voting and limiting voting sites, especially in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin deserves an Attorney General that is on the side of workers—not corporations—and will protect the ACA and guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions. That is why WFNHP is recommending a vote for Josh Kaul for Attorney General.
Victory for St. Francis

When We Stand Up Together—We Win Together

On October 11th, union members from both bargaining units at Ascension-St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee overwhelmingly voted in support of the tentative agreements for the new three-year contracts.

The members made their voices heard at the table by signing a petition telling management of the hospital why they deserve to be paid time and one-half for premium pay and call-in pay. The voices of hundreds of health professionals prevailed, and the contract includes keeping these standards in place! We only did it together. In totality, the contract includes no reduction in standards that were in the contract before bargaining; there will be raises for all members with no link between raises and performance evals, as well as other positive additions that respect and honor the work our members do at the hospital.

The Bargaining Team wants to again THANK all members for the support they gave throughout the bargaining process. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote, fill out surveys, sign petitions, attend meetings, and wear buttons/pins/stickers showing solidarity with their Bargaining Team. And a HUGE THANK YOU TO THE BARGAINING and CONTRACT ACTION TEAM MEMBERS for all their time and hard work! This successful contract negotiations proves that WHEN WE STAND UP TOGETHER—WE WIN TOGETHER, and that's what being a union is all about!

Members to Vote on Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws

On Friday, November 9th, from 5-8:30pm we will be holding our Fall Membership/Dinner Meeting. At that meeting, members will vote on the following proposed changes to the Constitution & Bylaws that will add clarification to the Articles and Sections on Chapters:

Definition of a Chapter:
Each certified bargaining unit shall be considered a Chapter of the Local and governed by the following rules: Where there is more than one bargaining unit under a single employer, the units can be combined to form one, unified Chapter. In addition, where no certified bargaining unit exists, individual members can form an approved Chapter, provided they have at least 10 dues paying members. There may also be a Chapter of retired members.

Chapter Executive Board:
A. Each Chapter shall have an Executive Board consisting of the Chapter President, Chief Steward and Secretary, plus any other elected leaders.
B. The Chapter Board shall make appointments of Stewards (unless they are elected), Area Reps, and Committees, including the Bargaining Committee and Arbitration Committee; and, shall have the power to fill vacancies in elected positions until the next elections.
C. The Chapter Board shall meet as needed to decide issues of importance that must be handled between regularly scheduled Chapter meetings.
D. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board.

Retiree Chapter:
Clarify, that individuals in the Retiree Chapter that pay retiree dues are eligible to vote and hold office in the Retiree Chapter, but cannot vote or hold office in the Local (except the Chapter President), unless they pay full member dues.

Add Alternate Representative for Chapter President:
In the event a Chapter President is unable to attend a Local Executive Board meeting, an alternate, elected officer of that Chapter shall serve as a substitute, with full voting rights, at the Local Executive Board meeting.

Only members in good standing can vote. You must be present to vote—no absentee ballots.

For more information on the meeting, turn to page 6.
General Election Endorsements

Nobody's vote is more important than yours! We have a lot of concerns this election. We're sure you do, too. Now, let's make sure we do something about them! **VOTE on Tuesday, November 6th** for candidates who will stand up for working families. How you vote is a personal decision. Our union has researched the candidates' records and believes these are the best candidates for working families:

**Governor/Lt. Governor:** Tony Evers / Mandela Barnes  
**Attorney General:** Josh Kaul  
**U.S. Senate:** Tammy Baldwin  
**U.S. Congress:**  
District 1 — Randy Bryce  
District 4 — Gwen Moore  
District 5 — Tom Palzewicz  