Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:36 PM
To: McCabe, Fred - DWD; Georg, Gregory R - DOR; Verberkmoes, John - DCF; Kuechler, Mark W - DNR; Kramer, Calvin - DOA; Tim Hawks; 'Tom Ellett'; Doug Swanson
Subject: FW: Open records request

If this becomes a problem, I'll let you know. BF.

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:31 PM
To: Bernstein, Howard I - DWD
Subject: RE: Open records request

Fine with me. BF.

From: Bernstein, Howard I - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 4:53 PM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: Open records request

Hello Bill,

We have an open records request for your sent email (just from you) since January 1 of this year. Here is the entire request:

From: Ben Velderman [mailto:ben@edactiongroup.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 3:56 PM
To: Bernstein, Howard I - DWD
Cc: Kyle Olson
Subject: open records request

Mr. Bernstein,

I'd like to make an open records request for the following information:

All emails sent from the address of William.Franks@dwd.wisconsin.gov since 1/1/11 that contain any of the following words:

1. "strike"

2. "Maddow"

3. "Madison"

4. "Walker"

5. "AFT"

Please let me know if any additional information is needed, and if any fees apply to this request.

If possible, I'd like the records to be sent electronically to my address: ben@edactiongroup.org.

Thank you for your assistance,

Ben Velderman

(231) 733-4202

Ben Velderman | Project Manager | Education Action Group Foundation, Inc. | Phone: (231) 733-4202 | www.educationactiongroup.org

Now that we have this request, **the open records law requires that you not delete any of your sent email between the dates of January 1, 2011 to April 28, 2011** until further notice.

I have sent an acknowledgement of the request. We now need to begin the process of responding. Do you have access to all of your sent email since 1/1/2011? If so, can you send copies to me? We now need to review it to see which email, if any, should be withheld in full or in part. (Email that you deleted before learning of this request is not a problem.)

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has held that the governmental records custodian should not release the contents of email messages that are purely personal and evince no violation of law or policy. (Schill v. Wis. Rapids School Dist., 2010 WI 86.) However, if you have personal email that contains those specified words in the request, please send copies of those to me, so we can discuss this further.

In addition, we will routinely delete ("redact") the personal identifying information of third parties - SSNs, home addresses and telephone numbers, etc.

I am out of the office tomorrow. I will plan on picking up on this with you on Monday. Have a good weekend!

Howard Bernstein, Legal Counsel
Wis. Department of Workforce Development
608-266-9427

Howard Bernstein, Legal Counsel
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Avenue, A400
Madison WI 53707
Tel: (608) 266-9427 / Fax: (608) 266-1784
Howard.Bernstein@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

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Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 7:31 PM
To: Bernstein, Howard I - DWD
Subject: RE: Open records request

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Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 4:53 PM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: Open records request

Hello Bill,

We have an open records request for your sent email (just from you) since January 1 of this year. Here is the entire request:

From: Ben Velderman [mailto:ben@edactiongroup.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 3:56 PM
To: Bernstein, Howard I - DWD
Cc: Kyle Olson
Subject: open records request

Mr. Bernstein,

I'd like to make an open records request for the following information:

All emails sent from the address of William.Franks@dwd.wisconsin.gov since 1/1/11 that contain any of the following words:

1. "strike"

2. "Maddow"

3. "Madison"

4. "Walker"

5. "AFT"

Please let me know if any additional information is needed, and if any fees apply to this request.

If possible, I'd like the records to be sent electronically to my address: ben@edactiongroup.org.

Thank you for your assistance,

Ben Velderman

(231) 733-4202

Ben Velderman | Project Manager | Education Action Group Foundation, Inc. | Phone: (231) 733-4202 | www.educationactiongroup.org

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Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Avenue, A400
Madison WI 53707
Tel: (608) 266-9427 / Fax: (608) 266-1784
Howard.Bernstein@dwd.wisconsin.gov

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Smith, Russell A - DWD
Subject: RE: Heads Up. Whoa!

Good enough. I'll be around next week. BF.

-----Original Message-----
From: Smith, Russell A - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: RE: Heads Up. Whoa!

Ok no biggie I will just meet with him let you know when if you attend cool.

Peace Out

Russ

-----Original Message-----
From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:56 AM
To: Smith, Russell A - DWD
Subject: RE: Heads Up. Whoa!

Russ time may be a problem, especially if a meeting cannot be scheduled at my convenience. Just that time of year. BF.

-----Original Message-----
From: Smith, Russell A - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:46 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: Heads Up. Whoa!

Hello Bill

Thanks for the heads up yesterday. The methodology that is being used with what is said is seriously out of sync. Lip service is common practice I am finding out and a straight up answer is hard to find. Your keen insight and experience couple with your direct communication is a rare find for me. I am glad to know that someone has my back. I really do not see any press coverage with people with disabilities obtaining jobs through DWD many I am wrong. I see Veterans getting help which is long over due in my opinion. Fantastic program in place now.

My direct approach to this is I will request a meeting with Mr. Conway ask him straight out if he is willing to create a position for me. They have already had a meeting concerning staffing needs in ERD. Requests have been made to management

to keep me aboard. I believe that I have done all that is possible on my end and followed exactly what DVR wanted me to do but they failed to follow through.

My direct communication with Secretary Perez was my only option. I will be here 2 years this August only thing I am missing is health insurance and a green card. I would like you to attend this meeting if you are willing and have time.

Have a good day!

Russell A. Smith
Operations Program Associate
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Construction Wage Standards Section
Labor Standards Bureau
Equal Rights Division
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
201 East Washington Ave., Rm. A300
Madison, WI 53703

Tel: 608-267-9331
Fax: 608-267-0310

Email: russell.smith@dwd.wisconsin.gov
Wisconsin Is Open for Business!

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:56 AM
To: Smith, Russell A - DWD
Subject: RE: Heads Up. Whoa!

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-----Original Message-----
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To: Franks, William - DWD
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201 East Washington Ave., Rm. A300
Madison, WI 53703

Tel: 608-267-9331
Fax: 608-267-0310

Email: russell.smith@dwd.wisconsin.gov
Wisconsin Is Open for Business!

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:53 AM
To: Roberson, Cindi - DWD
Cc: Lopez, Juan Jose - DWD; Duffin, Jamie - DWD; Trimble, Julie - DWD; Cruz, Evelyn - DWD; Gormican, Carolyn - DWD
Subject: RE: MOA 2010-2012 Draft - UI LEP Plan

Both - thanks. BF.

From: Roberson, Cindi - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: RE: MOA 2010-2012 Draft - UI LEP Plan

I have received the necessary approvals. Do you prefer hard copy or soft copy? The soft copy would not include the signatures.

We have not typically sent an employee email, I do plan on publishing the LEP on our UI internet page.

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Roberson, Cindi - DWD
Cc: Lopez, Juan Jose - DWD; Gormican, Carolyn - DWD; Duffin, Jamie - DWD; Cruz, Evelyn - DWD; Trimble, Julie - DWD; Fike, Sandra - DWD
Subject: RE: MOA 2010-2012 Draft - UI LEP Plan

Thanks Cindi - much appreciated. Please send when the approvals have been completed. Also, is it your intention to send an all employee e-mail and publish on your intra and/or internet webpage? If, so, please advise. BF.

From: Roberson, Cindi - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: RE: MOA 2010-2012 Draft

Hi Bill. Just an update for you. The LEP for current year - 2012 is completed. It does require sign off from the Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Bureau Directors. I hope to have it to you this week.

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:02 PM
To: Peirce, Benjamin - DWD; Reid, Andrea - DWD; Solomon, Brian - DWD; Denis, Gary J - DWD; O'Brien, Pamela - DWD; Loerke, Theresa - DWD; Pfeil, Karen - DWD; Roberson, Cindi - DWD; Bernstein, Howard I - DWD; Duffield, Marlene - DWD; Cruz, Evelyn - DWD; Palzkill, Bruce R - DWD
Cc: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: FW: MOA 2010-2012 Draft

FYI. Let's see what ASD has to say. Our deadline to transmittal is April 11th. BF.

From: Lopez, Juan Jose - DWD
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 5:59 PM
To: Pawasarat, Jane - DWD; Rozek, Allison J - DWD
Cc: Cox, Brian D - DWD; Franks, William - DWD; Valentine, Rosemary - DWD; Tranchita, JoAnn M - DWD
Subject: MOA 2010-2012 Draft

Jane and Allison,

The following are drafts of the table of contents and the narrative portions of the MOA:

<< File: MOA 2010-2012_Table of Contents.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012 _Introduction.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 1.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 2.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 3.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 4.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 5.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 6.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 7.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 8.doc >> << File: MOA 2010-2012_Element 9.doc >>
The MOA Drafts are for our meeting tomorrow at 3pm. Thank you.

Juan José López
Bureau Director
Department of Workforce Development
Division of Employment & Training
201 E. Washington Ave., Room G-100
Madison, WI 53707
608.266.0002
608.261.8506 Fax
JuanJose.Lopez@dwd.wisconsin.gov
Wisconsin is Open for Business!

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Mandell, Diane A - PSC
Subject: RE: ****IMPORTANT 2011 WPEC CONVENTION INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS*******

You will - thanks for getting back to me so soon. BF.

From: Mandell, Diane A - PSC
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: RE: ****IMPORTANT 2011 WPEC CONVENTION INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS*******

Hi, Bill,

I'll miss you! Hope to see you soon elsewhere then.

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 8:06 AM
To: Mandell, Diane A - PSC
Subject: RE: ****IMPORTANT 2011 WPEC CONVENTION INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS*******

Diane - save a meal or two for me. I won't be there this year. Thanks. BF.

From: Mandell, Diane A - PSC
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Alexander, Jean Ann - DOT; Andrews, Anne M - DOR; Attoe, Lowell R - DOR; Azeh, George A - DOR; Bergamini, Margaret; Berry, Aaron; Berry, Edward J - DHS; Beyer, Glenn C - DOJ; Brown, Colette M - HEAB; Campana, Joyce L - DCF; Coaty, Erik R - DOR; Conduah, Joe - DOT; Crandall, Aaron; Davies, Gretchen W - DOR; Diaz, Mary; Drea, Sheila - DOR; Dwyer, Mark - DWD; Dzamonja, Dijana - DCF; Ellis, Jack J - OCI; Findley, Frances L - DNR; Foeste, Arthur E - DOR; Franks, William - DWD; Fries, John A - DOA; Gall, Lynn K - DHS; Gehrke, Kay; Genthe, Michael; Georg, Gregory R - DOR; Ginzberg, Ruth; Hart, John; Higgins, Cynthia D - DHS; Hilker, Linda L - DOR; Jensen, David A - OCI; Jones, Dianne R - DHS; Kanack, Robert; Kieck, Lawrence - DOT; Kmetz, Scott E - DOR; Konkel, Duane A - DOC; Kuechler, Mark W - DNR; Lamb, Russell L - OCI; Link, Virginia; Litwin, Layne
Subject: ****IMPORTANT 2011 WPEC CONVENTION INFORMATION FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS*******
Importance: High

Dear WPEC Member:

The 2011 WPEC Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at the UW-Pyle Center in Madison. You are registered to attend. If you find that you must cancel, please contact me as soon as possible so that WPEC does not have to incur the cost for unnecessary meals and materials. For questions or cancellations, please contact: Diane Mandell at diane.mandell@wisconsin.gov or by phone at (608) 261-9419.

****

Included in this email:
(1) 2011 WPEC Convention Program **
(2) WPEC Constitution & Bylaws updated May 1, 2010 **

****

Convention Schedule:

7:00 – 8:15 am	Registration check-in and continental breakfast Wanna-be Delegate sign-up for AFT-W Convention in Eau Claire, Oct 26-28
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8:15 am	Deadline for member check-in.
8:15 – 8:30 am	Member seating for Convention quorum begins.
8:30 am	Meeting - call to order promptly at 8:30 Welcome/Housekeeping Adoption of Convention Rules
8:45 – 9:30 am	President's Report Treasurer's Report Q&A for all other committee reports
9:30- 10:00 am	Amendments: CA1; CA2; CA3 Bylaw: BA1 Resolutions 1 through 11
10:00 – 10:15 am	Break with refreshments
10:15 – 11:15 am	Meeting continues promptly with continuation of Amendments and Resolutions
11:30 – 12:45 pm	Lunch buffet with honoree recognition
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Meeting continues promptly with Resolutions and other Convention business
1:45 pm to ????	optional: Political Action/Member March down State Street to the State Capital for the ThundaAroundtheRotunda 10,000 Motorcycle Rally in Support of Workers (see website for more information: http://www.thundaaroundtherotunda.com/)
2:30 pm	Tentative Convention Adjournment *

* Times are approximate. Meeting will conclude when convention business is completed.

Breakfast will include bakery items, fruit, cereal, yogurt, and beverages (coffee, tea, juice, milk)
Lunch buffet will include butternut squash soup, salad, vegetable, Veggie Paella w/ Saffron, Potato-crusted Cod, Jalapeno Bacon BBQ Meatloaf, dessert, and beverages

---

Directions to the Pyle Center and information about parking:
http://conferencing.uwex.edu/location.cfm

**** Please review the materials in the program prior to the convention. No time will be allowed during the Convention to review the materials. Please prepare any questions beforehand so that we may proceed through the convention business promptly. ****

Thank you. Please contact me if you have any questions or need to cancel. See you at the

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(608) 261-9419
diane.mandell@wisconsin.gov

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diane.mandell@wisconsin.gov

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	Treasurer's Report
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	Bylaw: BA1
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Diane Mandell
(608) 261-9419
diane.mandell@wisconsin.gov

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:31 PM
To: Calhoun, Jody - DCF
Subject: FW: [Seac] news:League of women voters on voter id

Now, this makes a whole lot of sense. BF.

-----Original Message-----
From: seac-bounces@ufree.info [mailto:seac-bounces@ufree.info] On Behalf Of private seac list
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:26 PM
To: seac@ufree.info
Subject: [Seac] news:League of women voters on voter id

http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/April11/0427/0427lwv.pdf
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
®
OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND
642 W. Main Street, Suite 200 Phone: (608) 256-0827
Madison, WI 53703 lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org
http://www.lwvwi.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director
April 27, 2011 608-256-0827; kaminski@lwvwi.org
Instead of Voter ID, Invest in Better Election Management
MADISON: An Assembly committee today is hearing testimony on a voter ID bill to create a new
government program that would restrict citizens' right to vote and waste tax money. It would pose a
greater burden for certain groups of people, including the elderly, disabled, low-income and students.
"If passed, this would be the most restrictive voting law in the nation. You have to wonder how
proponents of this voter ID can justify this, when they still can't identify what the people of Wisconsin
have done to deserve such restrictions," said Andrea Kaminski, executive director of the state League of
Women Voters. Local, state and federal investigations in the past several years have not identified any
cases of voter impersonation, the only type of illegal voting that a voter ID program could prevent.
The DMV has estimated it would cost $2.7 million annually just to provide free voting IDs, and the
DMV would also likely have to increase its hours and locations in order to make the IDs accessible to
voters statewide. In addition, it would cost millions of dollars to educate voters and train election
officials in the new procedures. Recent court cases nationwide indicate that without accessible, free IDs

and good voter education, voter ID laws are viewed as a kind of poll tax. A repugnant tactic formerly employed by southern states to keep African Americans from voting, poll taxes were outlawed in the 1960s.

"While the League of Women Voters opposes voter ID, we note that the cost of such a program could be significantly reduced by allowing more types of photo IDs to be eligible, including state-issued student IDs, passports and tribal IDs. That would also leave fewer voters out in the cold," Kaminski said.

A voting ID requirement would add greatly to the workload of local election officials and the costs for local governments. "At a time when funding is being cut for many long-standing programs and services for Wisconsin residents, how can lawmakers even consider a new multi-million dollar program based on nothing more than unsubstantiated anecdotes about illegal voting and seeds of doubt sown by partisan interests?" Kaminski asked.

The recent vote counting irregularities in Waukesha County and elsewhere show once again that where our election system needs improvement is in reducing human error and uneven election management.

The League believes the best way to improve our elections would be to take a portion of what it would cost to implement a photo ID program and use it to provide for better training and resources for local election officials.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that promotes informed and active participation in government. Through member-led research, public education and direct advocacy, the League works to improve public participation in the democratic process and to champion public policy goals that are beneficial to all. There are 16 local Leagues in Wisconsin.

Seac mailing list
Seac@ufree.info
http://mail.ufree.info/mailman/listinfo/seac_ufree.info

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:17 PM
To: O'Brien, Pamela - DWD; 'Tom Ellett'
Cc: McCabe, Fred - DWD
Subject: RE: Furlough Days: need to put on legal list to pursue

This certainly puts the issue into perspective in a way that illuminates the discussion. Thanks. BF.

From: O'Brien, Pamela - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:15 PM
To: 'Tom Ellett'
Cc: Franks, William - DWD; McCabe, Fred - DWD
Subject: RE: Furlough Days: need to put on legal list to pursue

Thanks Tom, Yes, your summary is very useful for further understanding and conversation ! Take Care

---

From: Tom Ellett [mailto:ellett@aft-wisconsin.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 1:21 PM
To: O'Brien, Pamela - DWD
Cc: Franks, William - DWD; McCabe, Fred - DWD
Subject: RE: Furlough Days: need to put on legal list to pursue

I think the free exchange of ideas is vital for our movement and appreciated talking with you as well. Sometimes we just have to say things that our brothers and sisters don't like hearing.

I was under the impression that you were saying Tim had written an email opining that the furloughs were illegitimate. His email below is consistent with what "we" have been thinking about the furloughs, which for clarity I will summarize:

There is no dispute that the contract allows the employer to layoff employees for periods of various durations--some short and intermittent enough to be called "furloughs" (I never liked the term and believe we should have called them what they were--layoffs--but it's merely semantics). Contrary to popular belief, the furlough MOU is not what allowed these layoffs to happen; it merely allowed them to be done in a way different than what was required by the contract. The thinking was that spreading the burden over all of the bargaining unit was preferable to having only some people take a much more serious hit (as a strict application of the contract would have produced). One could argue about whether this was the right thing to do (I happen to think that it was--not that I get to make those decisions), but that's all the MOU did. It was an agreement separate from the contract, reached through negotiation, and binding on the parties until June 30, 2011.

When the contract extensions were terminated on March 13, further confusion arose about what it means to "work without a contract" and the continuing legitimacy of MOU. As to the former, nothing changed with the termination of the extensions because SELRA requires the status quo to remain in place until a new contract is negotiated (this would change, of course, if Act 10 is ever implemented, but it hasn't yet and may never happen).

As to the latter, the MOU is a separate agreement and did not terminate on March 13 (but its termination would not have prevented furloughs anyway, it just would have had the result described above).

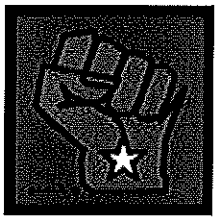
Lastly, the MOU contains a "me too" clause that says WPEC members cannot be treated any worse than other represented employees. This may be where the agreement has some continuing value. As you have probably read in the news (and as Tim mentions in his email), the ADAs have only served 10 furlough days, instead of sixteen. If the State does not rectify this (which they are trying to do, but are going strong push back from the DAs), WPEC members will be entitled to the return of six furlough days. We are monitoring the situation closely.

As Fred mentions in a separate email, there are grievances pending arbitration as a result of disputes about the specific application of the MOU, but it should be pointed out that none of them challenge the basic legitimacy of the furloughs themselves. And there is some real dispute about the chances of success.

I hope this helps provide better information about our discussion at the training.

****

Tom Ellett
Representative
AFT-Wisconsin
608-662-1444x233



From: O'Brien, Pamela - DWD [mailto:Pamela.OBrien@dwd.wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:02 PM
To: Tom Ellett
Cc: Franks, William - DWD; McCabe, Fred - DWD
Subject: Furlough Days: need to put on legal list to pursue

Tom, It was great chatting (sparring?) with you at the AFT 16 April all-day session. Our conversation regarding furloughs, for me, was the only useful item from that event. You had asked me to forward the Tim Hawks email about legally pursuing the shaky grounds in which the State is now in regarding requiring furloughs. I see in the email below, you were already cc'd on this. We need AFT and other Unions to add this to their legal case list as the "dynamic- me too" provision that they're claiming as their right to enforce across-the-board furloughs is bogus. Also, the implementation of the mandatory furloughs has not been consistent nor applied in all cases which is another point of contention at the coal face.

Second, I had mentioned that Bill, other Stewards, and I had provided old AND pending with OSER grievances that Bill had boxed up for posterity, and my offer to gather the names of the folks from these files. Most of these people are gone from State service so it wouldn't be a useful exercise. What is striking, is how many grievances are still in some queue-- so much for justice via the grievance process...

Take Care and Good Luck in this Mighty Movement

From: Tim Hawks [mailto:thawks@hq-law.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:09 PM
To: Franks, William - DWD; O'Brien, Pamela - DWD
Cc: Tom Ellett; Doug Swanson
Subject: RE: Furlough Days

I don't have directions at the moment, Bill. Also at the moment all efforts are to prepare litigation to kill the bill. In the past when asked about this, I responded with a question: What is the balance between days left to serve and days already served over the biennium? And, what is the practical consequence, if any, of the "me too" agreement? Really should get a handle on the answer to these questions. If someone has already served the 16 days and the ADA's served only 10, the employee may be entitled to reimbursement for six. If someone hasn't served any in this fiscal year, he or she would be better off if the balance was waived.

From: Franks, William - DWD [mailto:William.Franks@dwd.wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:00 PM
To: Tim Hawks; O'Brien, Pamela - DWD
Subject: FW: Furlough Days

Tim -are we pursuing any specific action on this matter (furloughs)? I sent this inquiry on to Fred and Tom earlier. BF.

From:

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:49 PM
To: Uhler, JD - DOT
Cc: Georg, Gregory R - DOR; Foeste, Arthur E - DOR; McCabe, Fred - DWD; Verberkmoes, John - DCF
Subject: RE: Friday April 29th

JD, if the issue is scheduling vacation, Article VI, Section 6 is all inclusive. Begin with 6/6/1. Again, denials must be in writing when the employee requests it. 6/6/2 indicates that where there is a conflict, Article V is controlling. BF.

From: Uhler, JD - DOT
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Cc: Georg, Gregory R - DOR; Foeste, Arthur E - DOR; McCabe, Fred - DWD; Verberkmoes, John - DCF
Subject: RE: Friday April 29th

The problem we had is that a couple of people requested the day off not for the PDD... and they asked within the 14 days (not that that is relevant in this case)... and now they are getting denied because so many people are out that day already. I have told those people "get your time off requests submitted earlier. Management has a need to maintain operations. Sorry."

No one has been denied the PDD yet. They have been denied regular vacation requests.

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:09 PM
To: Uhler, JD - DOT
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Subject: RE: Friday April 29th

JD - The language is in 10/2/1. Read it in it's entirety. The item you ask about is covered in the explicit language. All denials must be reduced to wrting. BF.

From: Uhler, JD - DOT
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: FW: Friday April 29th

Bill,

Is it true that the employee only needs to inform the supervisor that they are attending the SEC PDD at least 14 days in advance (April 15th)? If the employees requests the time off after April 15th, then it is discretionary. Or can the supervisor deny the request if business operations cannot be fulfilled due to so many employees being out on that day?

JD

From: Longfield, Diana - DOT
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:49 AM
To: Uhler, JD - DOT
Subject: Re: Friday April 29th

I understand that - We still need to conduct business here. Approval to attend is still discretionary..

From: Uhler, JD - DOT
To: Longfield, Diana - DOT
Sent: Wed Apr 27 09:12:53 2011
Subject: RE: Friday April 29th

April 29th is the State Employees Council (SEC) Professional Development Day (PDD). That is why you are seeing so many people out of the office. I believe more people are attending than in previous years due to the political climate.

JD

From: Longfield, Diana - DOT
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:03 AM
To: DOT DL BITS WEB (Web Unit)
Subject: Friday April 29th

At this point we have QUITE a few Web staff scheduled out of the office this Friday (4/29).

I will NOT be approving any more time off for that day.

I have trusted that you all have followed procedures, and checked in with your Project Leaders and peers – and have insured that we have adequate coverage for all systems that day – before you sent me your time off requests .

Thanks

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Thanks

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Vincevineus, Deidre A - DWD
Subject: FW: 3 important events starting today at 8am! PLUS People's Rights Campaign Updates
Attachments: People Rights Campaign Outreach Letter.pdf; Peoples Rights with Resolution_LaborCommunityNetwork.pdf; May 1st March_LaborCommunityNetwork2.pdf

---

From: Pilar Schaivo [mailto:pschiavo@nationalnursesunited.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 1:37 AM
To: Franks, William - DWD
Subject: 3 important events starting today at 8am! PLUS People's Rights Campaign Updates

Hi Folks,

Some important events and updates below.

TODAY Tuesday, April 26th - 8AM!

Who's House? Our House!

Rally at the Courthouse - Meet outside on the corner of S. Hamilton and Doty (Hearing: 8th Floor, Courtroom 8D)
Join Take Back the Land-Madison, and community partners to stop a foreclosure that will force formerly homeless community members back into the streets. These community members are renting a property that is being foreclosed on by M&I Bank. The court date for the confirmation of sale is tomorrow. Join us for a protest to this eviction and to demand the property be turned over to the Madison Area Community Land Trust, not to M&I Bank.

Wednesday at 5:30pm

Jobs and Education Rally - organized by United Council of UW Students

State Street entrance to the Capitol
Please join students and union members to fight to save education. To co-sponsor the rally and participate by having a speaker at the rally and inviting your membership to come out - contact Erika Wolf (715.781.9635). The rally will follow a day of student and community lobbying. Please join and march around the capitol at any time during the day. More info here: http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=192243034153961&notif_t=event_wall#wall_posts.

Sunday May 1st at 1pm

Madison May Day March to the Capitol (please use attached flyer to pass out at work and events)

Meet at Brittingham Park (near the intersection of W. Washington Ave and Park St) - Marching

to rally at the State Street side of the Capitol

Fighting for Working Families of Wisconsin:

- The Right to Collectively Organize and Bargain
- A Just Taxation System in which corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share
- Living Wage Jobs
- Quality, Affordable Public Education
- Quality, Affordable Healthcare
- No Arizona-style Anti-Immigrant laws!

Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=203411196347742
More Info: http://uniondetrabajadores.org/?q=en/node/841

Latest People's Rights Campaign Endorsements:

- AFSCME Council 40 (representing over 100 locals and 22,000 members!)
- Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
- AFSCME Local 171
- GEF1 Stewards Council
- AFSCME 2412
- Immigrant Worker's Union (UTI)
- Family Farm Defenders
- Liberty Tree
- Wisconsin Resists (formerly Kill the Whole Bill Coalition)
- Sheet Metal Local 565

Outreach letter attached:

If you are doing outreach to unions and organizations please use the attached outreach letter.

Interesting article..Our neighbors learn an important lesson: Tax breaks don't create jobs.

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_eded11e4-6d1b-11e0-a939-001cc4c002e0.html

Thanks,
Pilar

Pilar Schiavo
National Nurses United (NNU)
Cell: 510-385-4213
Email: pschiavo@nationalnursesunited.org
Web: www.nationalnursesunited.org

JOIN THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGN:

Dear union/organization,

We know that working people of Wisconsin and the nation have sacrificed enough. We know the nation is looking to Wisconsin to win this fight against worker scapegoating and public service slashing. We know Wisconsin is not broke. Two-thirds of corporations operating in Wisconsin not pay taxes to the state; with corporate tax evaders such as GE posted record profits in 2011 and yet did not pay a single penny in Wisconsin or federal tax.

United, we can stand up to Corporate America, halt the reverse Robin Hood economic policies of the past thirty years and in Walker's proposed budget, and insist the very rich pay their fair share.

In reaction to Governor Walker's attacks on our education, health care, environmental protections, vital services and the rights of its citizens, labor and community organizations and other concemed citizens joined forces as the Labor/Community Network. The first action by the network in March 2011 was to create the People's Rights - a platform articulating Labor and Community's alternative agenda for our state. In addition to protesting against Walker's attacks, it is time to articulate a positive vision of the Wisconsin we wish to live in and are willing to fight to create and maintain.

The People's Rights is a platform that not only to unites Wisconsinites, but also gives notice to those in and aspiring to be in public office. Only candidates and politicians that support our rights and vision will receive our support. We the people, must hold our elected officials accountable to uphold these rights, **these rights include:**

- The Right to **Collectively Organize and Bargain**
- A **Just Taxation** System in which corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share
- Living Wage **Jobs**
- Quality, Affordable Public **Education**
- Quality, Affordable **Healthcare**
- Strengthened **human, civil** and **immigrant rights**

We ask your organization to endorse the People's Rights Resolution (attached) and commit to working in solidarity with the Labor/Community Network's People's Rights Campaign to achieve a budget which enhances the lives of all Wisconsinites rather than the bank accounts of corporations and wealthy Walker supporters. Please help us to build this movement by joining the People's Rights Campaign and educating your membership/constituency about the People's Rights and the importance of putting forward and agenda that represents the values of Wisconsinites and the state they have invested in building.

In solidarity,

People's Right Campaign Outreach Committee
Labor/Community Network

For an electronic copy of the attached resolution or for more information about the People's Rights Campaign and the Labor/Community Network visit www.PeoplesRightsCampaign.org or E-mail LaborCommunityNetwork@gmail.com.

RESOLUTION FOR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS OF WISCONSIN

Whereas, the groundswell of protest in Wisconsin has brought people and groups from across the state together in solidarity; and

Whereas, public money has been shifted to finance tax cuts, subsidies, and provide incentives for big corporations that outsource jobs; and

Whereas, public education and access to affordable healthcare are essential to our future; and

Whereas, Wisconsin has the second lowest corporate tax burden in the nation – politicians are choosing to further the gap between rich and the rest of us by giving even more tax breaks to corporations and continuing "reverse Robin Hood" policies; and

Whereas, billions of dollars spent to stage and execute wars abroad are being taken away from our schools, healthcare, housing, public safety and services; and

Whereas, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States endorsed in 1948, states that all workers have the "right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests". And the State of Wisconsin led the way in extending those principles to the public sector by adopting a 1959 law providing their right to organize – but Wisconsin's workers are now being deprived of their rights, voice, wages, right to take collective action and strike; and

Whereas, we will not stand for millions living in poverty with a lack affordable housing and healthy food; and

Whereas, racial disparity in Wisconsin's criminal justice system is at intolerable levels, and black males are 22 times more likely to be convicted than white males, we seek an end to lengthy incarcerations for nonviolent crimes and unequal treatment under the law; and

Whereas, our communities rely on the economic contributions of immigrants, both authorized and undocumented; and

Whereas, participation, accountability, and transparency in the government are vital to build a strong democracy; and

Whereas, we are citizens of this state who seek a common good, which is threatened by corporate interests and those wanting political power; and

Whereas, there is a coordinated national attack on us all by the extreme right, corporations, and wealthy elites. We join together as workers, seniors, communities of color, disabled, immigrants, women, LGBTQ, unions, faith, environmentalists, students and children, unemployed, underemployed, and the poor - to answer this coordinated attack with a coordinated response; and

Whereas, we refuse to let such power pit us against one another, we have a common interest to lift one another up; and

Whereas, we will no longer stand by as our rights are stripped away; and

Whereas, we recognize that our work does not end with the recalls and elections, in order to remain in solidarity and retake the government for the people we must present a shared positive vision of the Wisconsin we can create; and

Be it resolved that __[union/organization/individual name]__ endorses and pledges to engage in this fight for the core principles in the People's Rights for the formation of an enduring people's movement; and

Be it further resolved that we will hold politicians accountable to these principles in order to ensure transparent and responsive government.

PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

- A **just taxation** system in which corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share
- Living wage **jobs**
- The right to **collectively organize and bargain**
- Quality, affordable public **education** in the public domain
- Quality and affordable **healthcare**
- Protection of our **environment**
- Access to healthy **food** and quality **housing**
- A secure **retirement**
- Strengthened **human, civil** and **immigrant rights**

FOR ALL

International Workers Day

May 1st MARCH to the CAPITOL

1 PM Brittingham Park



For Immigrant Rights
For Workers Rights
For People's Rights

Join the Fight for **PEOPLE'S RIGHTS:**

- The Right to **Collectively Organize and Bargain**
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FOR MORE INFO: WWW.PEOPLESRIGHTSCAMPAIGN.ORG OR CONTACT THE LABOR/ COMMUNITY NETWORK AT LABORCOMMUNITYNETWORK@GMAIL.COM.

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PEOPLE'S RIGHTS FOR WISCONSIN

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FOR ALL

The People's Rights Campaign is a project of the Labor/Community Network that stands against the Walker attacks on our workers and our communities as a whole, and who believe that in this time where Americans are suffering we need an agenda that fights for expanding rights and protections for workers and our communities — instead of "Reverse Robin Hood" politics that take from our students, families, and schools to give tax breaks for Walker's wealthy and corporate supporters.

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From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 9:02 AM
To: Vincevineus, Deidre A - DWD
Subject: FW: May Day March in Madison! - Brittingham, 1pm on Sunday

-----Original Message-----
From: Barbara Smith [mailto:barbara@merr.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2011 5:16 PM
To: Barbara S
Subject: May Day March in Madison! - Brittingham, 1pm on Sunday

MAY DAY MARCH -- for International Worker's Day!
Sunday, May 1
1:00 pm
Gather at Brittingham Park
March to the Capitol

Please spread the word about the May Day march being held in Madison on May 1st. Demands include:

The Right to Collectively Organize and Bargain. Living Wage Jobs. A Just Taxation System where corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share. Quality Public Education for All. In-state Tuition for Undocumented Students. Quality, Affordable Healthcare. No Arizona-style Anti-Immigrant Laws.

Endorsers: Building Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin, South Central Federation of Labor, AFSCME Local 1871 (Dane County workers), Chicago & MidWest Regional Joint Board of Worker's United, Workers International League, AFSCME Local 171 (UW Madison workers), Madison Worker's Rights Center, We Are Wisconsin, Progressive Dane, Industrial Workers of the World , International Socialist Organization, Immigrant Workers Union, & others...

More information & sample resolution in support:
http://www.uniondetrabajadores.org/?q=en/node/841

Bernstein, Howard I - DWD

From: Franks, William - DWD
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 6:25 PM
To: Bill Franks
Subject: FW: AFSCME/FYI - Thursday, April 21, 2011

From: Sean Heiser [mailto:sheiser@wseu-24.org]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 5:27 PM
Subject: AFSCME/FYI - Thursday, April 21, 2011

From: Marty Beil
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Amy.Huss@doc.state.wi.us; Barb Peters (E-mail); Bob McLinn (E-mail); dan meehan; feld@uwosh.edu; Georgette Gehring; Gerry Zastrow; Jennifer Merlin; John Gast (jgast2545@att.net); Jon Patzelberger; Ken Weaver; lautelp@dhfs.state.wi.us; Mary Czynszak-Lyne; Mike Ledwidge; ronald.mcallister@doc.state.wi.us; Steve Kuehn (kuehns@charter.net); Taylor Cynthia A; Tom Thornton (E-mail); Willie Backus; Bill Schmit; Carolyn Kaiser; Gary Lonzo; Jana Weaver; Jim Mills; Jim Parrett; Maggie Merdler; Mel Elgersma; Sean Daley; Sean Heiser; Steven R. Williams; Todd Wetzel; Troy Bauch
Cc: Jana Weaver
Subject: FW: AFSCME/FYI - Thursday, April 21, 2011

From: Jessica Storrs [mailto:JStorrs@afscme.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 9:01 AM
To: Jessica Storrs
Subject: AFSCME/FYI - Thursday, April 21, 2011

AFSCME/FYI – Thursday, April 21, 2011

National/Politics

Obama, Before Facebook Crowd, Presses G.O.P. on Budget
By JACKIE CALMES, New York Times
April 20, 2011

President Obama on Wednesday opened a Western front in his war against House Republicans' budget, telling an appreciative audience at Facebook headquarters here that the plan is radical, short-sighted and would reduce annual federal deficits at the expense of the nation's poor and powerless.

Ryan booed at Wis. town hall event over tax rates for wealthy
By Erika Niedowski, The Hill
04/21/11 07:05 AM ET

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) was met with boos at a town hall event in Wisconsin this week as he defended

Republicans' plan to extend Bush-era tax rates for the wealthiest individuals. A video posted by the liberal site Think Progress shows a back-and-forth between Ryan and a constituent who, according to the site, described himself as a "lifelong conservative."

GOP escalates debt-limit demands
By: Jake Sherman and Jonathan Allen, Politico
April 20, 2011 06:41 PM EDT

One day after being named to a presidential task force to negotiate deficit reduction, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor fired off a stark warning to Democrats that the GOP "will not grant their request for a debt limit increase" without major spending cuts or budget process reforms.

'SAVEGO' plan presented as way out of debt standoff for GOP, White House
By Erik Wasson, The Hill
04/20/11 06:05 PM ET

A bipartisan think tank has circulated a proposal it believes could be a way out of the debt ceiling standoff between the White House and Congress. The Bipartisan Policy Center on Monday began circulating a proposal called SAVEGO to the Senate Gang of Six and other key budget players as a plan that could be linked to a hike in the debt ceiling increase. The administration says the ceiling must be raised by no later than July 8.

Big Brothers: Thought Control at Koch
Mark Ames and Mike Elk, The Nation
April 20, 2011

On the eve of the November midterm elections, Koch Industries sent an urgent letter to most of its 50,000 employees advising them on whom to vote for and warning them about the dire consequences to their families, their jobs and their country should they choose to vote otherwise. .... Legal experts say that this kind of corporate-sponsored propagandizing has been almost unheard-of in America since the passage of New Deal–era laws like the National Labor Relations Act, which codified restrictions on political activism and pressure in the workplace.

Obama weighs disclosure order for contractors
By Perry Bacon Jr. and and T.W. Farnam, Washington Post
Wednesday, April 20, 9:22 PM

President Obama is considering an executive order that would force government contractors to disclose their donations to groups that participate in political activities, a move Republicans slammed Wednesday as an attempt to restrict political speech. .... The provision is similar to one in a bill that Democrats pushed before the midterm elections called the Disclose Act. That legislation was part of a broader effort by Democrats and the White House to limit the influence of interest groups, which played an expanded role in last year's midterm elections. A string of Supreme Court decisions has freed corporations, **labor unions** and other interest groups to participate in elections as long as they operate independently of candidates.

Related Wall Street Journal: Political Contributions by Contractors Targeted

The Influence Industry: New Republicans play an old fundraising game
By T.W. Farnam, Washington Post
Wednesday, April 20, 4:47 PM

Many of the Republican freshmen in the House won election vowing to shake up Washington, so it's a little surprising that many of them seem to be playing an old Washington game: raising much of their campaign money from corporate political action committees. More than 50 members of the class of 87 GOP freshmen took in more than $50,000 from PACs during the first quarter of 2011, according to new campaign disclosure reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. Eighteen of the lawmakers took in more than $100,000.

Letter: Finding souvenirs that fit our values
Carol L. Burnett, The writer is an assistant director of public affairs at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.
Washington Post
April 20, 2011

As someone whose job it has been for a decade to buy not only American-made goods but also U.S. union-made products, I was surprised to read the Smithsonian's Peters Gibbons quoted as saying that he can't find dog tags and magnets made in the United States ["A souvenir shift at the Smithsonian," news story, April 17]. It may be more difficult to find American manufacturers, but it is not impossible, and with a little work, Mr. Gibbons will find that he can even get competitive bids on U.S., union-made goods. I have long been appalled that Americans buy so many products made outside the country, much to the detriment of our workers who have seen their jobs shipped overseas, hence our high unemployment rate. The new Smithsonian policy to buy American should be applauded.

Editorial: 77 Cents on the Dollar Isn't Fair
New York Times
April 20, 2011

In a disappointing defeat for women, Senate Republicans worked overtime in December to ensure that a measure addressing gender-based wage discrimination never reached the Senate floor where it likely would have passed by a sizable majority. Fortunately, supporters of the Paycheck Fairness Act have not given up. ... The bill, a much-needed updating and strengthening of the nation's half-century-old Equal Pay Act, would enhance remedies for victims of gender-based wage discrimination, shield employees from retaliation for sharing salary information with co-workers and require employers to show that wage differences are job-related rather than sex-based, and justified by business necessity.

Liberals pitted against W.H. on trade
By: Richard E. Cohen, Politico
April 21, 2011 04:56 AM EDT

The White House's free trade negotiations with South Korea, Colombia and Panama are about to look like a piece of cake, compared to the work ahead to get House Democrats to agree on the details..... Still, much of organized labor and its closest Hill allies remain staunchly opposed—a source of discomfort for Obama as he prepares for reelection. With unemployment close to nine percent, many Democrats believe that reduced trade barriers are a bad message to beleaguered workers.

Labor board accuses Boeing of adding non-union 787 assembly line to retaliate for strike
JOSHUA FREED, AP Business Writer
4:11 p.m. CDT, April 20, 2011

Federal labor regulators are accusing Boeing Co. of illegally retaliating for a 2008 union strike by adding a non-union assembly line in South Carolina for its new 787 passenger jet. The complaint filed by the National Labor Relations Board said the remedy should include moving the South Carolina assembly work back to Washington

state, where it would be under union jurisdiction. .... Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the NLRB complaint, if successful, would give unions a virtual veto over business decisions.

Editorial: The Death of Right to Work / After 17 months and $2 billion, the NLRB sandbags Boeing.
Wall Street Journal
APRIL 21, 2011

.... With a Republican House, Mr. Obama's union agenda is dead in Congress. But it looks like his appointees are determined to impose it by regulatory fiat—no matter the damage to investment and job creation.

Cases Target Illegal Labor / Immigration Crackdown Widens With Criminal Probe and Arrests at Restaurant Chains
By MIRIAM JORDAN and JULIE JARGON, Wall Street Journal
APRIL 21, 2011

The federal government deepened its crackdown on employers of illegal immigrants, charging the owners of one restaurant chain with hiding the employment of hundreds of undocumented immigrants and launching a criminal probe into the practices of another chain.

Otter vetoes anti-health reforms bill, replaces it with stronger executive order
By Dustin Hurst, Idaho Reporter
April 20th, 2011

As was first reported by IdahoReporter.com Wednesday morning, Gov. Butch Otter has vetoed a bill that would have blocked implementation of discretionary provisions of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly called Obamacare. This the only bill Otter has vetoed this year. .... After voiding the measure, formally House Bill 298, Otter issued Executive Order 2011-03, which carries essentially the same spirit of the legislation, but takes the message one step further.

Deal signs health compact bill into law
By Aaron Gould Sheinin and Carrie Teegardin
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (GA)
5:14 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Georgia could join with other states to try to assert control over health policy under legislation Gov. Nathan Deal signed into law Wednesday. Deal signed House Bill 461, which allows states to work together on health care through a legal compact -- a measure that could make it possible for them to avoid implementation of the federal health care law. But, since any compact requires congressional approval, many see Georgia's move as largely symbolic.

Book bind: Public libraries feel strain of budget cuts
Tony Pugh | McClatchy Newspapers
April 20, 2011 11:17:38 AM

..... After spurring a surge in public library use nationwide, the tough economy is forcing many branches to cut staff, hours and programming right when many cash-strapped people need them most. As in previous downturns, Americans turned to their libraries during the Great Recession for free children's programming or to borrow books, movies and music. In 2008, when the economy was in freefall, a record 68 percent of Americans had a library card, and library visits and borrowing spiked as well. However, a whopping 72 percent of public libraries reported budget cuts this year; 43 percent cut staff as well, according to a recent survey by the Library

Journal.

Airport Screeners Need Runoff to Pick a Union
By STEVEN GREENHOUSE, New York Times
April 20, 2011

In the largest unionization vote involving federal employees, the nation's airport screeners voted in favor of unionizing, but federal officials said on Wednesday that there would be a runoff because neither union on the ballot received a majority of the votes cast. Federal officials said 8,369 security screeners, who are employees of the Transportation Security Administration, had voted to join the American Federation of Government Employees, while 8,095 had voted to join the National Treasury Employees Union. The vote against unionizing was 3,111.

Wisconsin

Kloppenburg requests recount in state Supreme Court race
Patrick Marley, Larry Sandler and Mike Johnson of the Journal Sentinel
April 20, 2011

Assistant Attorney General JoAnne Kloppenburg asked Wednesday for a statewide recount - the first in 22 years - to check the results in the April 5 state Supreme Court race she lost to Justice David Prosser. That recount will start next week, at taxpayers' expense, the state Government Accountability Board said.

Related Journal Sentinel: Editorial - Recount unnecessary

Groups to file recall petitions / Three senators are first from Democratic Party
Tom Tolan of the Journal Sentinel
April 20, 2011

Organizers say they'll submit recall petitions Thursday against three Democratic state senators - the first time since the state went recall happy in February that filed petitions have targeted that party. The campaigns against Sens. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay), Jim Holperin (D-Conover) and Robert Wirch (D-Pleasant Prairie) said separately Wednesday that they'll file enough signatures to force each senator into a recall election.

Labor's last stand? Missouri a prototype for Walker's policies
DAN SIMMONS | madison.com
Thursday, April 21, 2011

.... Missouri, perhaps more than any other Midwestern state, provides a long-term prototype of policies championed by Walker: a state government that's less lucrative for public workers but more friendly to businesses and tax-averse citizens. A look into Missouri's past could provide a glimpse into Wisconsin's future. Some of the predictions being made by Walker's opponents haven't proved true in Missouri. For example, weaker public-employee unions has not led to Republican domination at the polls that some have predicted for Wisconsin. .... Rather than Missouri, Walker compared his union and budgeting approach to Indiana, where Gov. Mitch Daniels abolished state public unions by executive order in 2005. The move led to government consolidation, reorganization and privatization. .... "If you invest in a good human infrastructure, you generally have better services for the citizens who pay the taxes," said Susan McMurray, a Wisconsin lobbyist for the **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.**

Join the union/labor conversation on Friday at noon
Wisconsin State Journal, Saturday, April 16, 2011 1:44 pm

The Wisconsin State Journal will be hosting a live chat at noon on Friday to discuss the state of unions, collective bargaining and the future of Wisconsin labor.

21 nonfiscal policy items removed from Walker's budget
CLAY BARBOUR | madison.com
Wednesday, April 20, 2011 7:11 pm

The Legislature's budget committee announced Wednesday the removal of 21 nonfiscal policy items from Gov. Scott Walker's budget, including proposed changes to family planning laws and charter school teacher licensing. .... Most of the policy items identified by the Fiscal Bureau are not controversial. Others are, including Walker's efforts to repeal pollution, water quality and phosphorous standards, as well as his proposal to end public financing of campaigns for the state Supreme Court and repeal a mandate that insurance cover contraceptives.

Another Walker pick causes stir
Patrick Marley of the Journal Sentinel
April 20, 2011

In picking a new register of deeds for Marinette County, Gov. Scott Walker picked a Republican campaign worker with no experience with land records and vital records. He passed over three candidates with detailed knowledge of how the office of the register of deeds works, including two deputies who have worked in the office for years.

Ohio

Gov. John Kasich's budget has good news for charter schools, voucher programs
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7:18 AM
By Edith Starzyk, The Plain Dealer

While suburban districts like Solon and Rocky River are wailing over proposed cuts in their state funding, supporters of "school choice" are pleased with Gov. John Kasich's budget -- and hopeful that they'll get even more of what they want down the road.

Even air we breathe could be privatized
Thursday, April 21, 2011 03:09 AM
John Blundo, The Columbus Dispatch

So much to privatize. So little time. Under Gov. John Kasich, the state already has a privatized Department of Development. His budget also calls for turning over two prisons to private operators. Some legislators want to open state parks to drilling. And talk of leasing the turnpike and selling the lottery continues. How much further can this go? A lot further, given Ohio's budget situation. Here are my predictions on what else will be privatized and how it will work:

State/Local

Right-to-work passes Senate by big margin / Lynch vows veto; override possible

By Kathy Mccormack / The Associated Press (NH)
April 21, 2011

The New Hampshire Senate yesterday voted to end the practice of requiring non-union members to pay a share of collective bargaining costs, a bill Gov. John Lynch has said he plans to veto.

Related Reuters: New Hampshire is first in Northeast to pass right-to-work

Maddow: Benton Harbor is ground zero of American politics
By Eartha Jane Melzer | Michigan Messenger
04.20.11 | 11:29 am

On her show last night Rachel Maddow said that the takeover of Benton Harbor and the privatization of Jean Klock park is a perfect illustration of what current Republican philosophy has to offer American communities

Related Messenger: Benton Harbor takeover sparks furious reaction

Super powers intrigue Bing / Expanded emergency manager laws give mayor more leverage
Laura Berman, Detroit News (MI)
April 21. 2011 1:42AM

When he's not reading from a script, Detroit's mayor talks as straight as he stands. "I'm not afraid of an emergency financial manager being named," Mayor Dave Bing told a conference of urban strategists, former mayors and policy makers last week. An emergency manager has powers to right-size obstacles that he, as mayor, runs into over and over again. "He or she almost becomes God and can do whatever is necessary to bring financial stability back," he said.

Related
Detroit Free Press: DPS' Bobb expects replacement soon
Michigan Messenger: Legal challenges to Emergency Manager bill emerge

Snyder feels searing heat of social media / Critics use Facebook, Twitter to set up protests, fight policies
Paul Egan / Detroit News
April 20. 2011 12:52PM

Filmmaker Michael Moore used Twitter to get demonstrators to Lansing for a huge Capitol rally. A Facebook page run by voter Derek Stephens tracks Gov. Rick Snyder's stops so protesters can show their opposition to his policies. Videos of those protests quickly find their way onto YouTube.

Editorial: Health premium cost sharing is needed
Lansing State Journal (MI)
3:27 PM, Apr. 20, 2011

Legislation hatched in the Michigan Senate that would require public employees to pay 20 percent of their health premiums deserves support. It has a rocky road ahead.

Nine Taylor police officers to be laid off in budget move
04/20/2011
WXYZ (MI)

Taylor Mayor Jeff Tamarand is announcing the layoffs of nine of the city's eighty-one police officers. With the police chief at his side the mayor said Taylor has a nine million dollar deficit and is also negotiating with the fire fighters union and two **AFSCME** locals.

Snyder appoints corrections chief
Apr 21, 2011 |
BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF, DETROIT FREE PRESS (MI)

- Jackson County Sheriff Daniel Heyns will become director of the state Department of Corrections on June 1, completing Gov. Rick Snyder's cabinet.

Bills to prevent teachers from striking debated
Apr 21, 2011 |
BY LORI HIGGINS, DETROIT FREE (MI)

Legislation that would revoke teacher licenses for two years or permanently as punishment for illegal strikes would be an effective deterrent, some lawmakers said Wednesday.

Council member suggests privatizing sanitation jobs to save money
Apr 20, 2011 7:07 PM EDT
By Kontji Anthony
WMC-TV (TN)

Sanitation workers were outraged Tuesday when a city council member suggested Memphis could save money by outsourcing their jobs. Tuesday's Memphis City Council discussion sent shock waves through the Memphis sanitation workforce. ..... Sanitation workers called the Action News 5 newsroom with concerns, so we went to the **AFSCME** union for their reaction. "I'm not at all convinced that there are any cost savings," **AFSCME** administrator Shelley Seeberg said. "I think this is a political move, and that's all it is."

Bill to Help Cash-Strapped Cities May Be Dead / Sponsor pulls bill after "critical" bankruptcy provision stripped on House floor
By Eric Berman, WIBC (IN)
4/20/2011

A proposal to help cities get out from under crushing debts has been pulled from consideration and could be dead for the year. The Senate has already approved a plan to let cities ask the state to appoint an emergency manager to slash spending and find other efficiencies to balance red ink-stained budgets. But Valparaiso Republican Ed Soliday yanked the bill from the House floor after legislators voted 50-41 to delete the option of declaring bankruptcy if the emergency manager can't solve the problem. Soliday calls the bankruptcy provision "absolutely critical" to the bill. He says it's doubtful any city would use that option, but says without having the possibility of Chapter 9 protection, there's no incentive for a city to take the extreme step of turning over its fiscal powers to an outsider.

Malloy, Dems agree on budget plan
By JC Reindl, The Day (CT)
04/21/2011 06:34 AM

Hartford - Democratic legislators and Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced Wednesday that they have reached a deal on his two-year budget plan, with some minor changes to his package of tax increases. .... **Labor spokesman** Larry Dorman said union officials are pleased that the amended budget asks the wealthiest to pay more in taxes.

But they would like to see more sacrifice from big business and the rich, rather than the struggling middle class.

Related Courant: Malloy, Legislative Leaders Reach Budget Deal

Union questions Ill. treasurer pension comments
Associated Press
Wednesday, April 20, 2011 4:58 pm

A major state employee union objects to the Illinois treasurer opening the door to making workers contribute more money to their pensions. The **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees** said Wednesday that increasing worker costs would violate the Illinois Constitution, which bars cutting pension benefits for current employees.

Related AP: Illinois union calls pension proposal unconstitutional

Basu: $4 billion in profits, but no taxes to pay
10:15 PM, Apr. 19, 2011
REKHA BASU
DMREG.COM (IA)

.... To the honks of approving motorists, speakers from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom stepped onto a homemade soapbox outside Bank of America downtown and exhorted: "Pay your taxes! We do!". .... In Iowa, corporations that paid no taxes have gotten $30 million in Research Activity Credits from state government since 1985, said Jan Corderman, former president of **AFSCME Iowa Council 61**, though there's no evidence they're doing what they're supposed to do. She said under 8 percent goes to firms of less than 100 employees.

County CSEA takeover target / Another union gauging interest in Schenectady for switch after scandal
By LAUREN STANFORTH Times Union (NY)
08:41 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Some members of the county's **CSEA** local who were left reeling by the Steven Raucci scandal are shopping for new representation. The **United Public Service Employees Union** is gauging to see if there's enough interest within the **Schenectady County Civil Service Employees Association** to petition to take over leadership of the unit of 750 county office, nursing-home and community-college workers.

Will deal cutting state retiree health credits spur early retirements?
By CASEY SEILER Times Union (NY)
Thursday, April 21, 2011

Could the preliminary contract agreement worked out between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the members of **Council 82** prompt a rush for the exits? .... It would be what you might call a negative retirement incentive. "I never thought of it that way, but you're right," said Dick Stevens, **Council 82's** staff director, who said the union has received many questions about that aspect of the deal. .... Cuomo has made it similarly clear that he thinks the **Council 82** deal should serve as a model for ongoing negotiations with the two largest public employees unions, PEF and **CSEA**. The recently enacted state budget calls for $450 million in workforce savings to be achieved through negotiations with public employee unions.

Essex County retirees sue over health insurance
LOHR McKINSTRY

Press-Republican (NY)
April 21, 2011

A group of retired Essex County employees are suing the county over an attempt to make them pay a larger portion of their health insurance. The county asked them to pay 12 percent of their premiums this year, but that violates their contract, the suit contends. The litigation was filed by the **Civil Service Employees Association Local 1000**, representing Essex County workers, on behalf of 27 retirees, against the county, the County Board of Supervisors and board Chairman Randy Douglas (D-Jay).

Hannibal school board to discuss budget at Thursday meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 7:49 PM
By Debra J. Groom / The Post-Standard (NY)

The Hannibal school board is supposed to adopt its school budget Thursday night. But board President Matthew Henderson said he won't vote in favor of a spending plan for 2011-12 if the district's unions don't agree to freeze wages for one year. As of Wednesday, none of the unions had agreed to a no strings attached pay freeze. .... The district's six unions are: .....; **Civil Service Employees Association**, for custodians, bus drivers and food service workers;

Liberty, police reach deal on concessions
By Leonard Sparks
Times Herald-Record (NY)
04/21/11

..... The village will meet April 25 with representatives of the **Civil Service Employees Association** to discuss additional concessions. The village already rejected one **CSEA** offer. That proposal would have deferred $9,000 in raises for five public works employees in exchange for a one-year extension of the union contract. "We're absolutely willing to work with the village," said Chris Decker, a labor relations specialist with **CSEA Local 853**.

MT House rejects pay raise for state workers
Apr 20, 2011 9:59 AM by Marnee Banks (Helena)
KRTV

The Montana House of Representatives on Wednesday struck down a second attempt to give state workers a pay raise. House Bill 13 would have given state employees a 1% raise in 2012 and a 3% raise in 2013.

Tea party members at odds with West Palm Beach-based group
BY MARY ELLEN KLAS
HERALD/TIMES (FL)
April 21, 2011

Trouble is brewing among Florida's tea parties. A West Palm Beach-based group called Tea Party in Action is being criticized by other tea party groups who allege the organization is a front for the Republican Party of Florida and a hired gun for special interest groups in Tallahassee. The group's executive director, Marianne Moran, dismisses the allegations. The issue came to a head last week when Moran testified before a Senate committee on behalf of a bill to ban unions from using payroll deduction to collect dues.

Fla. House vote likely Thursday on revamped election laws
By Lloyd Dunkelberger, Ocala.com (FL)
: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7:57 p.m.

Holding super majorities in the House and Senate, Republicans are pressing ahead with a broad revision of Florida's election laws, with Democrats complaining the changes are aimed at giving the GOP an edge in next year's presidential election. The changes would affect voter registration, shorten the early voting period and make it harder for third-party groups to register voters, among other provisions.

Baker seeks to nix union contracts OK'd by predecessor
by Daniel Valentine | Gazette (MD)
April 21, 2011

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III (D) has asked the County Council to scrap a group of labor contracts left over from his predecessor, Jack B. Johnson, saying the former leader promised pay raises to the unions without the money to back it up. "At this time, the county cannot afford it," Baker said of the contracts promised to the **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees** last year. The contracts promised those 1,500 workers a 2 percent cost-of-living raise retroactive to January. Overall, those raises would cost the county $820,000 through July and about $1.6 million next fiscal year.

City Labor Board Still Lacks Member; / Management Representative Rejects Third Neutral Party
Dan McKay
Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)
April 20, 2011 Wednesday

City Hall isn't any closer to impaneling a labor board, even after a testy meeting Tuesday morning. The management and union representatives to the labor board met about 8 a.m. with plans to appoint a third, neutral member. But the management representative, Barbara Stephenson, withdrew her approval of the person they'd initially agreed on, civil rights attorney George Bach. So now she and Justin Lesky, the unions' appointee, must start over and search for someone acceptable to both sides. ..... "Negotiations are here again, and again we have nowhere to go," Deb Rainaldi, president of the **AFSCME** clerical union. "Here again, we're getting kicked in the teeth. When's it going to stop?"

Hollidaysburg accepts wage freeze
April 21, 2011
By Amanda Clegg The Altoona Mirror (PA)

The Hollidaysburg Area school board unanimously accepted a wage freeze from several district groups, including its teachers' union, in exchange for a promise of no furloughs Wednesday evening. ... Solicitor David Andrews read memorandums of understanding that included the Hollidaysburg Area Education Association, one of two of the district's **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees** unions and Act 93 employees.

Longevity pay for R.I. state workers questioned in time of multimillion-dollar deficit
01:00 AM EDT on Thursday, April 21, 2011
By Katherine Gregg, Journal (RI)

This may come as a surprise, but double-digit raises are commonplace throughout state government this year despite the state's multimillion-dollar deficit. Recent attention has focused on the hefty pay raises awarded legislative staffers, including the $31,000 pay hike given House Speaker Gordon D. Fox's chief of staff ... Longevity pay has its defenders. "We believe it is grounded on the idea of retaining experienced state employees, and we believe it is a good thing for efficient and effective state government," says J. Michael Downey, president of the largest state employees union: **Council 94, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees.**

Deal would end Furlough Fridays
POSTED: April 21, 2011
The Associated Press (HI)

Hawai'i's largest public employee labor union and Gov. Neil Abercrombie tentatively agreed on a new contract last week that ends two-day-a-month furloughs but still cuts worker pay by 5 percent. The labor deal with the **Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA)**, which represents more than 28,000 active state and county employees, saves the state about $65 million next fiscal year and $59 million the following year, the Democratic governor said. The proposed contract will be put to a vote of the **HGEA's** members for ratification.

New contracts: Police, public employees get OK from Enid City Commission
By Robert Barron,
Enid News and Eagle (OK)
April 20, 2011

Enid City Commission approved new contracts Tuesday for public employees and Fraternal Order of Police, and City Manager Eric Benson expects ongoing negotiations with the firefighters union to be just a productive. Benson said the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees contract is similar to last year's contract, with the same rate structure and across-the-board cost-of-living increases. AFSCME employees will receive a 3.5 percent salary increase.

Unions push alternative to House plan on health care
By Kyle Cheney / Boston Herald (MA)
Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Fifty Democratic lawmakers, including six of Speaker Robert DeLeo's handpicked committee chairs, have lined up behind a union-backed alternative to a House leadership proposal that would permit cities and towns to unilaterally shift health care costs onto their workers, setting up a high-stakes policy battle during next week's budget debate.

T unions lose on coverage battle / Court paves way for plan switch; workers would pay more of costs
By Eric Moskowitz
Globe (MA)
April 20, 2011

A Suffolk Superior Court judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by MBTA labor unions that sought to prevent the transit agency from unilaterally switching them to the state employee insurance plan, a move that would strip the unions of some bargaining power but save the financially ailing agency nearly $30 million a year. The ruling, which the unions plan to appeal, comes at a time of increasing political pressure on public employees in Massachusetts and across the country to absorb more of their health care costs and to cede bargaining rights to help balance strained budgets.

Non-union workers collect merit increases while others are asked to give back
TRACIE MAURIELLO Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)
April 20, 2011 - 1:46 pm

While the state universities' lowest paid workers are gearing up to fight a proposed 4 percent pay cut in July, their bosses already are putting extra money in their own pockets. Gov. Tom Corbett is asking for the pay giveback from 45,000 state workers represented by the **American Federation of State, County and Municipal**

Employees, including 3,500 at the State System of Higher Education.

LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's budget includes furloughs, no layoffs
Daily News (CA)
04/20/2011 11:39:09 AM PDT

City employees would have to take more than a month of furlough days in the next fiscal year under a $6.9 billion budget proposed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today, but many workers could avoid furloughs by agreeing to defer pay raises and increase health-care contributions.

Related: L.A. budget plan erases deficit while adding services

United Farm Workers fight dwindling membership
AP (CA) April 20, 2011

.... The workers in the room were too afraid of reprisals to agree to be named or even quoted individually by The Associated Press, and that fear is one reason union leaders want to change the way workers organize. In 1975, the union fought for workers' right to hold secret ballot elections. Now, in a historic shift, it is backing a California bill that would move organizing efforts off farms, where leaders believe employer intimidation has helped throw elections. .... Growers oppose the card-check bill, saying secret ballot elections work well and most employers follow the law.

Pension Clash Could Wind Up on Ballot
By BOBBY WHITE, Wall Street Journal (CA)
APRIL 21, 2011

Local leaders in San Francisco are so at odds over how to overhaul the city's pensions for public employees that different constituencies are crafting competing ballot measure for the fall, a situation that political observers say could confuse voters and prevent any proposal from winning a needed majority. Interim Mayor Ed Lee announced a pension proposal earlier this month that would boost employee contributions and raise the retirement age for new hires. Public defender Jeff Adachi has devised at least three ballot proposals, one of which he says will end up on the ballot. And the city's labor leaders are crafting their own potential ballot measure.

Legislators come to aid of Vineland Developmental Center
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:41 PM
By Jason Laday/The News of Cumberland County (NJ)

As the Department of Human Services nears completion in its move to close the Vineland Developmental Center's west campus, and while the groundwork is being laid to shutter the east campus, numerous officials in the Statehouse called for the entire process to cease. ... An **AFSCME** flier for the meeting states Rev. Al Sharpton will attend. A representative for Sharpton's National Action Network did not respond to a request to confirm his appearance.

Related Press of Atlantic City: Legislative review panel to state: Please delay closure of Vineland Developmental Center

Assembly committee to hold hearing on Parkway, Turnpike plan to privatize toll collection
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 6:55 AM
By The Associated Press (NJ)

Plans to privatize toll collections on New Jersey's two major highways will be hashed out at a legislative hearing. The Assembly State Government Committee meets today and will hear from Transportation Commissioner Jim Simpson, Turnpike Authority officials and union representatives on the plan to privatize toll collections on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. The plan would affect the jobs of 800 full- and part-time toll collectors.

Gov. Christie's legal team tells N.J. Supreme Court to keep hands off education dollars
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 6:31 AM
By Chris Megerian/ NJ.com

Back off. That was the Christie administration's message today to the state Supreme Court as New Jersey's legendary battle over the state's obligations to its poorest students was renewed in nearly two hours of arguments. .... Verniero said the court should tread lightly in a high stakes battle that could blow a $1.7 billion hole in Gov. Chris Christie's proposed budget if it decides he violated the constitution by slashing funding last year.

DC Water chief turns on the public diplomacy to make tap hip again
By Annys Shin, Washington Post
Wednesday, April 20, 10:15 PM

.... Acting more like a political figure than a water utility executive has its drawbacks. Some of the unions that represent DC Water employees have soured on Hawkins. "When he came on, we were looking forward to working with him," said Dwight Bowman, vice president of AFGE's 14th District. "He presented himself extremely well." But his plans to reorganize water and sewer crews have not gone over well. The union raised concerns about potential health implications, which Hawkins and Walker dismissed.

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