

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Wisconsin and the cradle of labor

Not no more. The governor's resounding win in the recall election means Wisconsin's storied labor history has gone down the chute. With the "red" wins for the governor and all the Senate seats being retained by the redcoats (except maybe one that's still in dispute), the "blues" surely fits the Democrats at this time.

While we at MAP jump on both sides of the spectrum, supporting both Republicans and Democrats, labor did take a hit on this one. And that is painful for the unions in the land of the cheese. A vote for blue would have followed up a great victory recently as was demonstrated in Ohio where labor pushed back and had anti-labor legislation dumped. That was big—Wisconsin would have been bigger.

So while Republicans and conservative tea-parties gloat, remember, nothing is forever. To hear the talking head buffoons on cable, one would think unions are doomed. Sometimes, with some of the Democrats in Illinois leading the fight to destroy your pension, you have to wonder however, just who is a friend of labor?

But the actual friends of labor will eventually show their faces again. After all, who is going to finance their campaigns? Republicans are chomping at the bit at these representatives who have "forgotten the face of their supporters" and as Democrats are taking anti-union stances. They are, for some reason, blinded by the push of "unsustainability" that really no one actually knows for sure if everything Republicans claim is truly unsustainable.

When the Republicans get their way because the Democrats helped them, it will be bye-bye to Democrats as their districts get gerrymanded to smaller and smaller pieces of the pie. Who will be sorry then?

Remember, as I've said, we will support a Republican if they are labor friendly, and a few are. But you have to be careful. There is a reason why we support Democrats who see the wisdom for fair play and have aligned with labor.

The bad guys look to Wisconsin as an opportunity to shake the foundation of unionism. All of a sudden, it's a bad thing. Once we were heroes after 9/11; now we make too much, live lavish lifestyles, and will retire on our own islands. Such baloney, but the press and politicians have kissed the Blarney stone and are having all the luck.

But all things are cyclical—just like global warming—and unions will be strong once again after people see that they have been hoodwinked and that the jobs will not be there, the union middle class nears poverty, and the politicians continue to erode union rights leaving many in the cold while they and their friends prosper.

Yeah, some unions have bought this upon themselves. They are partly to blame, but there is good and bad in everything. Cops, firemen, unions, lawyers, and governors. We know that quite well as there are two governors currently playing chess in cell blocks in Illinois. Even police chiefs and mayors have issues.

But here in Illinois, **you** have to get involved. Look at who in your legislature is trying to sandbag you and who really wants to be fair.

That's all we want or can expect—fairness.

Vita è bella