

## **A Few minutes with the Boss**

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **Ohio: The big swing state**

Last time I wrote a little about life after the 2012 election, and labor's place in so many democratic wins. Please know that I expect all of us to vote our conscience as I have said many times, no matter what political persuasion you may adhere to.

However, it is quite obvious that a plethora of pundits on the right and almost all red politicians have expressed the notion that unions should just die. As a matter of fact, I believe there are a number of Democratic leaders who seem to believe the same. Sometimes it is hard to figure who is on our side. And I'm talking about the death of unionized public sector workers, as most employers have already convinced many in the private sector "to trust them" and employees will be well cared for. That is probably why many in the private sector have lost union membership, suffered from depleted wages, benefits, and crappy pensions, if any. They trusted "them!"

This push is to do the same with public sector workers. But what is left in the private sector, with help from public workers, made a stand in Ohio that bled over to other blue states. But Ohio was big. After earlier this year getting their whacked-out governor's union-stripping legislation recalled, the labor leaders geared up to swing Ohio to the left where, for the most part, Democrats are still the party of labor.

Ohio had a chance to become red, but I believe their anti-union animus mobilized forces to truly make Ohio "The Swing State." It was reported that unions in the Buckeye State had over 7,000 union members on the ground, knocking on over 150,000 doors the last two days before the election.

With that, thousands more in all professions and fields worked the phones, handled mailings, and talked to their neighbors. They embarrassed Governor Kasick with his many predictions of a win for the right. Unions are paying back the governor and the Republican party for the nasty treatment they shoved down labor's throat.

Again, you should vote your conscience and for the party that will provide for all its citizens in the most effective manner. But I'm sorry, demonizing unions and stripping collective bargaining rights does not fall into effective leadership, in my opinion.

But the right still ignores the role of labor. In a recent right leaning paper, a reporter states that Mr. Romney lost for two major reasons:

- the lack of a message that woman could identify with, and
- not turning out enough of their Republican base

Yes, maybe that's part of it, but I feel strongly that especially in Ohio, it was the union workers who turned the tide. And here in our home state, labor has shown that they are still a vastly powerful group that is still capable of winning an election. Just like in Ohio.

Vita é bella