

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

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **Who says unions are bad?**

Well, a lot of Republicans do. Listen to any talk radio or conservative analyst shows and they are always in a tizzy on how unions are bad. It's as if they all jumped on the bandwagon of big business and management has the right to do anything since they are, well, the owners. Yeah, I guess they are, but as owners they need to treat their employees in a proper manner. Like providing fair wages, benefits, pensions, and equitable treatment when it comes to discipline, promotions, or other working conditions. After all, it is the worker who allows the owner to grow and prosper.

Yes, I have heard all that worker Marxist crap spewing out of some right wing mouths. That is not what many unions are about, especially this one. These show hosts are as bad as the far left with their ultimate utopian and socialist agendas. I can bear them no further as the union bashers on the right just have no clue.

For example, in the months of January and February alone, MAP has signed up about 15 new chapters. Most are coming from other unions like the Teamsters, FOP, and ICOPS. We will comment on members changing unions in another essay. But for now, suffice to say that some new towns have had enough of believing that their municipality, mayor, or chief is going to take care of them. Fair play is just not on the top of the list as far as employer-employee relationships in many cities and towns when it comes to management.

Management rights become a perverse ideal after while when it is used to give an employee less rather than more. It is an injustice to take away wages or benefits and coerce or intimidate workers simply under the guise of "ownership" or "management."

After a while, when the administration for any government refuses to take care of their own, it ultimately leads to the employees willing and wanting to affiliate with an organization or union that will "stick up" for their rights as a worker. There has to be some give and take here, and management, especially in local governments, is all about taking rather than giving in some quarters.

It gets worse when they use you, the worker, as a shield against the citizens and taxpayers which you serve. The concession and pension problem is a shining example of that, isn't it, my friends? It has never been okay for me to hear bosses say "if you don't like it here, go somewhere else." That's just asinine. But it is music to my union ears. Because when you have had enough of this malarkey and collective begging and it doesn't work for you anymore, then it's time for collective bargaining and for you to buy into getting help.

No matter what the pundits try to spin on the right (and remember, I don't think too highly of some on the left, either), the right to organize to better your lot in life as far as your working environment is, as Martha may say, "a good thing."

And about those management types, those irascible bosses and better-than-thou administrators? I actually like them—they are good for business!

Stay safe.

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