

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

The world has not ended

Well, the 2012 elections are over. The election that can change your life. The most important election of this century. The lean forward election. To keep Obama out of office. To prevent Romney from getting into office. To keep the Democrats in and the right out—and vice versa, not only on the federal level, but the state level, too.

It's over.

We will now either be a socialist nation or a more caring one. Freedom for women and equal pay. Or more of the same. Entitlements or a fair deal? Higher taxes or a fiscal cliff? More debt or print more greenbacks.

Maybe we will have peace in the world. Maybe we won't. Maybe the politicians will work together—probably not. Red and blue; kumbaya to you, too. Don't think so. I see more of the just plain old gridlock.

Yes, it is always good to vote your convictions, but sometimes, with some of these candidates, it makes no difference as they sooner or later can let you down. If you looked at various media endorsements, you have seen some where *no endorsement* was given. See, they think some of them would make no difference, either. The point is, all the huffing and puffing, doomsday scenarios, bad ads, vicious ads, and yes, maybe even some downright lies, one side is going to win over the other.

The best advice is to deal with it. Happy or sad, find your way around it and continue to enjoy and excel at your family and your work. Because as Sonny and Cher used to sing, "*The beat goes on.*"

But one other thing is noteworthy about this election cycle. Very few pundits, well, none on the right, but a few on the left, would give unions their due. Some of them don't want to admit that union "boots on the ground" cemented the presidential election in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and maybe Pennsylvania, too. They won't give us our due respect because most on the right, and yes, some on the left, have demonized unions as being old hat, not a factor, or something to be ignored.

But here statewide, the blue picked up seats and even the bastion of Republicanism in DuPage County went Democratic for the president. I believe labor had a lot to do with that. We are fed up with the right's attempt (and some on the left who forgot where they came from) to abolish collective bargaining and union rights.

We are fighting back and with a sustained effort, can bring back the principles what organized labor has stood for. Both in the private and public sector, we must choose candidates to lead us who reflect our union/labor heritage, no matter what their political color.

Vita é bella