



N NTU

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Share Your Story

There are those that claim schools are doing just fine and that the “sky is not falling.” What they are really doing is attempting to minimize the concerns of many that what has happened since February has had an overwhelmingly negative impact on the employees and schools. And the catalyst for that negative impact was the elimination of Collective Bargaining Agreements that employees had bargained with their employer in good faith.

We question how much time these individuals have spent in schools asking the employees how they felt about their working conditions under Employee Handbooks instead of Collective Bargaining Agreements. We question how much time they have spent talking to those employees to really assess how things are going.

Well, NTU staff has spent time out there talking to members and we have heard from members who have real concerns. Members who tell us they are not sleeping well and are more stressed NOW than they ever have been.

They have told us of their increasing class sizes and work loads. In some workplaces, it appears the employers believe they can assign anything, anytime of the day, and with no additional compensation.

They have told us how their employer has, in one month, approved their Employee Handbook and in the next month, modified it. And, that they are expected to keep abreast of these changes and not do anything contrary to the latest modifications. This kind of uncertainty is unnerving for employees.

They have told us that they face ridicule and intimidation out in the public from people who feel they make too much money. People tell them it is because of them that “Wisconsin is broke.”

And, they tell us they are NOW considering a new career.

It is clear that the public must be educated on what is happening in public education. We need to tell our stories to all who will listen. We need to use blogs, websites, letters to the newspaper, and other social media. We cannot let others control the discussion. Their purpose is contrary to the future of public education.

And now there is another way to share your story.

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/SpeakOutWisconsin?sk=wall&filter=2> and "LIKE" the Speak Out Wisconsin Facebook page to follow along and share your story. It is easy and safe.

They need to hear from you NOW!

First Joint Conference Applauded

NTU and coalition partners from the North Central Labor Coalition (NCLC) participated in a joint conference at The Waters of Minocqua on October 28 & 29. Among those represented were: NTU, AFSCME Locals 36-A & 474-A, Oneida County Highway Dept., Lincoln County Highway Dept., Central Wisconsin UniServ Council, Democratic Party of Oneida County, Oneida County Courthouse, USPS, United Steel Workers, Middle Wisconsin, Democratic Party of Wisconsin, WPPA, and Marathon County Labor Council.

Friday evening, NTU members had the opportunity to discuss organizing and membership as well as their ability to still have input over handbooks and etc. Saturday morning was devoted to recertification and membership drives where locals were able to share what is working within their membership.

The coalition partners joined NTU members at 10 a.m. and the rest of the day was devoted to successful collective action and issues regarding candidate endorsements/recommendations.

Pat Kreitlow, candidate for the 7th Congressional District, was the guest speaker at lunch. Pat was a former journalist and news anchor, which gave him the ability to “pull back the curtain” and let people know what their leaders in government were doing and ensure elected officials were accountable to their constituents. During his presentation, he stressed that this is one of the most competitive and winnable races to get us closer to taking back control of Congress one seat at a time. He pointed out that 43% of the 7th District voters want to re-elect Duffy and 51% do not. He recognizes the importance of bringing back collective bargaining and would work for a government that would respect every American, create opportunities, and provide the tools to build a brighter future.

With such comments on their evaluations of the Conference as: informative, timely, inspirational, appropriate, and networking beneficial, NTU and its members recognize the importance of collective action and look forward to holding joint meetings in the future.

Are You Ready to OLLA?

Since putting that question in the newsletter, several people have asked what is OLLA? Most had figured it was an acronym, but did not know what it stood for. Have you figured it out?

In the post-Act 10 world, the rules have changed. The Union will not be filing grievances and going to arbitration. But that does not mean we will be doing less. In fact, some would argue we will be doing more. We will be:

Organizing – working together with members, other groups, and communities to advance the concerns of our membership.

Lobbying – working with elected officials and others to provide a political solution to advance the concerns of our membership.

Litigating – using the legal system to protect and advance the concerns of our membership.

Agitating – taking the steps necessary to express the truth about what is happening in our workplaces in order to advance the concerns of our membership.

So now you know what OLLA is. It is a different way of doing business which can be even more effective in the future if we do it collectively.

So once again – are you ready to OLLA?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Want to mentor new teachers, understand research-based instructional methods or learn some Spanish to help you communicate with students? The WEA Academy can help. The WEA Academy was established in 1992 to provide low cost professional development for members working in the field of education. The Academy provides online courses, an online video library, and Educational Support Professional certificate programs. Go to www.weacademy.org for the online catalogue of course offerings and certificate programs. To find the catalog, pull down the menu under LEARN ONLINE.