

Political Action Update

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Setting the Tone

By Charlie Wishman, Secretary/
Treasurer IFL AFL-CIO

Well, we're just two weeks into the legislative session, and we're seeing just what kind of divisiveness the Republican Party has in store for Iowans this year. The very first bill that was scheduled to come before the House Labor Committee was HJR1, an amendment putting the so called "right to work" law into the Iowa Constitution. Not only is it an insult to trade unionists, it is a waste of time that won't create a single job, and won't even pass the Iowa Senate.

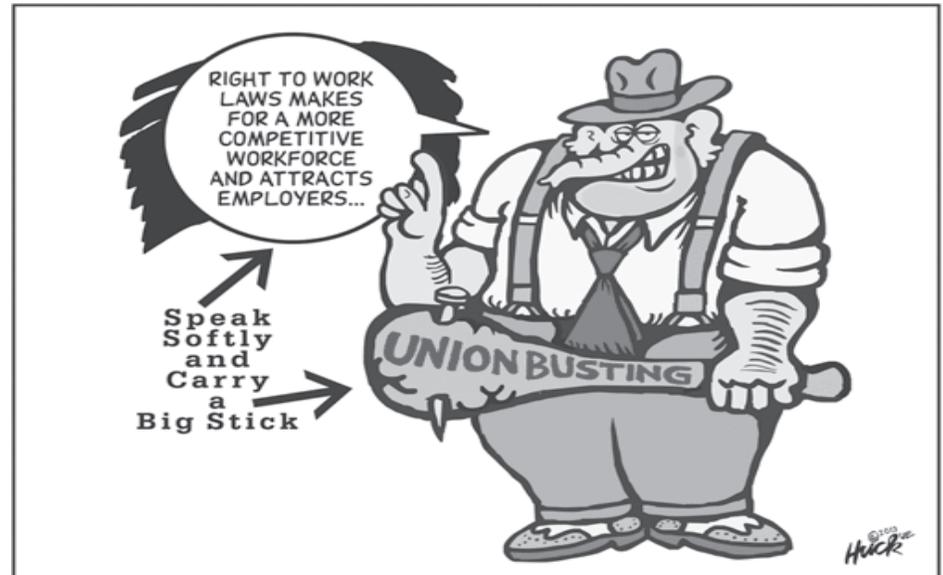
The backlash was enormous. The subcommittee hearing (chaired by Forristall) on the bill was packed, and the Representatives holding the hearing quickly lost control of the meeting when it became apparent union members were not going to allow them to lie. The Representatives called off the sub-committee, retreating from the room shouting "This meeting is over!" One Representative told me that we could "call off the dogs" because they've been hearing from you so much through email. For now, Speaker Paulsen has retreated on the bill by cancelling the labor committee meeting that was scheduled to pass this amendment on Thursday. I'm sure this will come back, but the Iowa House knows that we're not going to take it this year. Here's a list of legislation that we're currently following, and the IFL's position on it:

HJR 1 RIGHT TO WORK AMENDMENT (Forristall & 52 R's)

Proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution to add right-to-work provisions.
IFL OPPOSED

HJR 2 BUDGET AMENDMENTS (Paulsen & 51 R's)

Proposes two amendments to the Iowa Constitution. Puts the 99% spending limit in the Constitution and limits the spending from a new sources of revenue to 95%. Proposes a second amendment that re-



quires that new taxes or tax changes which increases state revenues be approved by a 3/5 majority in both chambers.

IFL OPPOSED

HF 3 ALTERNATIVE FLAT TAX (Sands & 52 R's)

Establishes an alternative flat income tax of 4.5% of a taxpayer's base income.

IFL OPPOSED

HF 18 MEAL & REST BREAKS (Hunter)

Requires employers to give meal and rest breaks to employees. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 19 PAID TIME OFF & VACATIONS (Hunter)

Requires employers to pay employees who are suspended or fired for any unused paid time-off. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 20 LIVING WAGE STUDY (Hunter)

Directs ISU, contingent on funding, to study the effects of establishing a living wage requirement in Iowa.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 21 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Hunter)

Requires state agencies to consider using project labor agreements for large-scale construction projects that cost more than \$25 million. Allows an agency to require a project labor agreement if it will advance the state's interest. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SSB 1058/HSB 4 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION REFORMS

Enacts the Governor's education reforms.

IFL MONITORING

HF 27 WORKER SHORTAGE LOAN FORGIVENESS (Hunter)

Creates a Worker Shortage Loan Forgiveness program. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 31 NURSE STAFFING PLANS (Hunter)

Creates a new Code Section on nurse staffing plans, a collaborative nurse staffing committee and on patient safety plans. Includes detailed implementing provisions and protections for nurses against retaliation. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 33 CHOICE OF DOCTORS (Hunter)

Allows an employer to pick a doctor to care for on-the-job injuries unless the employee has already designated a doctor. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 34 WORKER INJURIES (Hunter)

Establishes a Worker's compensation formula for a worker who sustains a scheduled injury and is unable to return to work at substantially the same pay.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 35 FAIR SHARE AGREEMENTS (Hunter)

Allows public and private unions to bargain for fair share provisions in contracts. Includes many related provisions.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 36 PREVAILING WAGE (Hunter)

Requires contractors for public improvements over \$25,000 to pay workers the prevailing local wage for private projects.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 37 UNEMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION (Hunter)

Prohibits employment discrimination against a person for being unemployed. Directs the Civil Rights Commission to administer the bill according to existing employment discrimination provisions.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 38 EMPLOYEE PAY (Hunter)

Requires an employer to determine that a deduction from an employee's pay is lawful and for the employer to get written authorization from the employee in advance. Requires an employer to give employees notice about wages that are paid based on mileage, piecework or loads.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 39 MINIMUM WAGE (Hunter)

Raises the state minimum wage to \$7.75 (January 2014), \$8.25 (July 2014), and \$9 (January 2015).

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 40 WORKERS COMP (Hunter)

Requires calculations for worker's comp benefits to include overtime and premium pay and to be adjusted each January by the Social Security cost of living increase.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 41 EMPLOYEE MISCLASSIFICATION (Hunter)

Establishes penalties for an employer who has previously been found by the DWD to have not paid unemployment contributions due to the misclassification of an employee on a 1099 form.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 51 SEEKING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Pettengill)

Requires the DWD to send notice to an employer when a person receiving unemployment benefits lists the employer as a job contact. Requires the notice to include the name of the job seeker and the applied position. **IFL OPPOSES**

SSB 1002/HSB 18 UNEMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Conforms state unemployment law to federal law.

IFL MONITORING

SSB 1018/HSB 22/HSB 35 ELECTION POLICY BILL

Technical changes. **IFL MONITORING**

SSB 1012 /HSB 23 VOTER ID

Requires acceptable proof of identification for voting on Election Day or in-person absentee voting to include a photo and be issued by the federal government, the state, a local government or an Iowa college or secondary school. (SOS) **IFL OPPOSES**

SF 3 MINOR LAUNDRY JOBS

(Johnson)

Limits the prohibition on minors holding jobs that involve operating laundry machines to jobs that involve commercial or industrial laundry machines.

IFL MONITORING

SF 5 CRITICAL NEEDS FUND

(Anderson) (Transportation)

Creates a critical needs fund to be used by the DOT for the repair and maintenance to identify "critical needs" roads and bridges.

IFL OPPOSES

SF 15 COMPETITIVE BIDDING

(Mathis)

Requires the state or local government give an Iowa business the chance to match a low bid from an out-of-state business if the Iowa company bid is within 5% or \$10,000. **IFL MONITORING**

SF 17 SELF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (Hatch)

Establishes a self-employment assistance program for persons who seem likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits. Allows the person to continue to collect unemployment benefits while seeking to become self-employed. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 22 STRAY VOLTAGE IMPACTS

(Sodders) (Commerce)

Requires the IUB to establish protocols for measuring stray voltage. Requires a dairy farmer to give written notice to a utility that the farmer believes the cows are being affected by stray voltage and gives the utility 14 days to take measurements.

IFL SUPPORTS

SF 51 4% CATEGORICAL GROWTH

Makes the Categorical Growth rate for school foundation aid in for the 2013-14 school year 4%.

IFL SUPPORTS

SF 52 4% ALLOWABLE GROWTH

Makes the Allowable Growth rate for school foundation aid in for the 2013-14 school year 4%.

IFL SUPPORTS

New Update format:

Besides looking a little different, the Political Action Update will only be printed and mailed once a month. The Update and the CLC newsletter have combined and are now the new Iowa Labor News, which is a blog/webpage at www.iowalabornews.com. The update will be sent out at least twice weekly through an email system.

We need to have your current and correct email address to make sure you continue to get the Update and current news. Please help sign up more union members by sending us their email address to lance@iowaaficio.org

We will be mailing three versions of the Iowa Federation of Labor Newspaper, along with the Updates.

US Labor Department, Iowa Workforce Development sign agreement to reduce misclassification of employees as independent contractors

WASHINGTON — Officials of the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division and Iowa Workforce Development today signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the rights of employees by preventing their misclassification as independent contractors by employers.

Mary Beth Maxwell, acting deputy administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and Teresa Wahlert, Director of Iowa Workforce Development, also hosted a press teleconference to discuss how their two agencies will embark on new efforts, guided by this memorandum, to protect the rights of employees and level the playing field for responsible employers by reducing the practice of misclassification by some businesses. Iowa is the 14th state to form this type of partnership with the Labor Department.

"This memorandum of understanding sends a clear message: We're standing united to end the practice of misclassifying employees," said Maxwell "This is an important step toward making sure that the American dream is still available for employees and responsible employers alike." "Misclassification is an issue that affects all states. This memorandum will allow Iowa to utilize federal resources that weren't available to the state previously," said Wahlert.

A Surplus of Ideas

The state Republicans want to give income paying Iowans some of the billion dollar surplus

The Democrats would like to a boost in standard funding for K—12 schools. *"I got thinking about if I got a check for \$350 or \$700, I'd be thinking about a big screen TV. But if you look to see where it was made, most of that money will go to China. How's that going to help people here in Iowa?" I think it's a discussion we've got to have and I think most Iowans would like to take that money and reinvest it in their communities."said Senator Bill Dotzler.*

Blue Green Alliance in Iowa

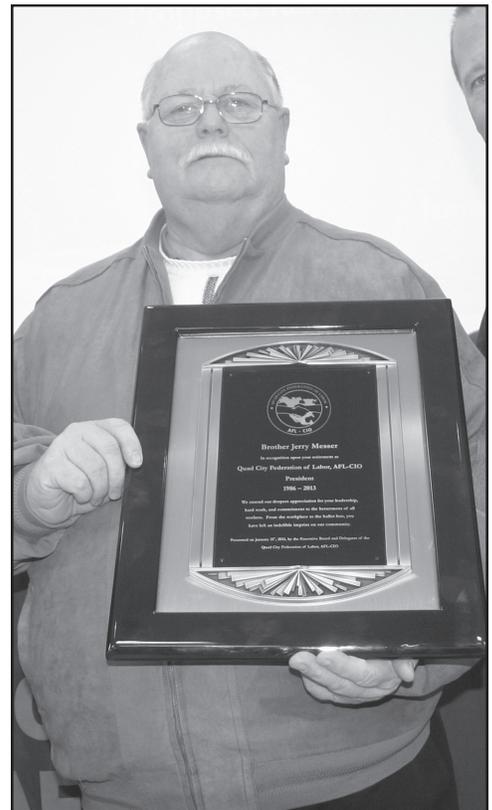
By Ken Sagar, President

What do high speed rail, solar energy and wind power have in common? Well, that was the question a group of labor, legislative, environmental and community folks, met recently to discuss. There are a number of organizations in the national Blue Green Alliance that have partners here in Iowa.

The United Steel Workers, Communications Workers of America, Sierra Club, Utility Workers of America, American Federation of Teachers, Natural Resources Defense Council, United Auto Workers, UFCW, Union of Concerned Scientists, Plumbers, Sheet Metal, National Wildlife Federation, SEIU and the Amalgamated Transportation Union are national members of this organization.

National goals include: 1. Grow Clean Energy 2. Revitalize American Manufacturing 3. Move power and Connect the Country 4. Rebuild Roads and Railways and Drive 21st Century Vehicles 5. Improve Job Quality, The Health of Our Communities – and the Environment We Share.

So the answer to the first question is the Blue Green Alliance. We all have an interest in those issues and the Federation is looking at working to expand the number and quality of jobs in a cleaner, more efficient and more competitive American economy. As the Alliance progresses, we will keep everyone informed. If you have an interest, please contact the IFL at [515-262-9571](tel:515-262-9571).



Jerry Messer stepped down after twenty-six years as President of the Quad City Federation of Labor. He will continue to serve as President of his local, UFCW 431. Dino Leone, of AFSCME was elected as the new President

Prichard wins HD 52

Labor endorsed candidate, Todd Prichard, won the special election for House District 52, January 22. Prichard, a Democrat from Charles City, is a lawyer and Assistant Floyd County Attorney. He won with 54.6% of the votes .

The district is made up of all of Floyd and Chickasaw counties and part of eastern Cerro Gordo County. Prichard was the leading vote-getter in all three counties. He replaces Brian Quirk of New Hampton, the incumbent Democrat who won re-election in November and resigned in December because of a taking a new job.

"Thank you, everyone, who took time to help with this special election" said Ken Sagar, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor. "It was a cold one."

IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

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Upcoming ...

- Feb 4, WIN meeting, Clinton, 7:30pm,
- Feb 5 QC Next Up meeting
- Feb 6, WIN meetings, Iowa City. 6 pm,
- Feb 9 Labor Center Confront Inequality
- Feb 11, WIN meeting, Burlington, 6 pm,
- Feb 12, WIN meeting, Davenport, 6 pm,
- Feb 18, WIN meeting Des Moines, 6 pm
- Feb 20, WIN meeting, Muscatine 6:30 pm,
- Feb 20, WIN meeting Council Bluffs, 6 pm
- Feb 21, WIN meeting Mason City, 6 pm
- Feb 21, WIN meeting, Dubuque, 6 pm.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Iowa Federation of Labor Legislative Conference— February 25—27

Prairie Meadows, Altoona.

Registration: \$150, which includes Monday Hospitality, Tuesday Banquet, lunch Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

CLC and Young Workers Conference—Wednesday afternoon

Call 515-262-9571 for more information
ifl@iowaaflcio.org.

2nd annual Iowa AFL-CIO Members Choice Award

Presented for the outstanding video/slide show produced by union members.

Subject matter: up to you! Examples: -Why belong to a union?

-A day in the life of a union steward. -Why are unions involved in politics?

Length: 3 minutes max

Format: Video or slide show of pictures; music/sound/silent all acceptable

Who can submit: Local Unions, Central Labor Councils, State Conferences, Union Members, Union Retirees, Next Up Committees, Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA), Members of Union Households

How to submit: Submit as a DVD or flash drive or email to lance@iowaaflcio.org

Deadline for Submissions: August 1

- * Videos will premiere at the Iowa AFL-CIO Convention August 21—23, 2013
- * Entries will be voted upon by the delegates at convention
- * Members' Choice Award will be presented Friday morning, August 23

For more info: Contact Lance Coles at 515-262-9571 or lance@iowaaflcio.org

