



Political Action Update

2000 Walker St., Suite A • Des Moines, Iowa 50317 • Telephone 515-262-9571

Fax 515-262-9573 • www.iowaaficio.org • e-mail: ifl@iowaaficio.org

Vol 13 Issue 9

“

November 2013



Nov 5th

There are a number of elections going on at the end of this month and in November that are important to the labor movement.

Iowa Central Labor Councils have made endorsements for the following candidates:

Waterloo—Black Hawk Union Council - Buck Clark for Waterloo Mayor; Tavis Hall and Pat Morrissey for Waterloo City Council.

Clinton Labor Congress— Jennifer Graf , Ed O'Neill and Grant Wilke for Clinton City Council

Dubuque Federation of Labor— Ric Jones, Joyce Connor and Kevin Lynch for Dubuque City Council.

Cedar Rapids & Benton County—Hawkeye Labor Council - Ron Corbett for Cedar Rapids Mayor; Justin Shields and Chuck Swore for Cedar Rapids City Council. They have also endorsed Hawkeye Labor Council President, Shelley Parbs for Benton County Supervisor.

Fort Madison and Keokuk—Lee County Labor Council - Donna Amandus for Fort Madison Mayor. Thomas Marion for Keokuk Mayor, Richard Moore and Dan Win for Keokuk City Council

Des Moines, West Des Moines, Urbandale and Altoona—South Central Iowa Federation of Labor - Skip Moore and Cal Woods for Des Moines City Council; Kevin Trevillyan for West Des Moines City Council Rob Elgin Urbandale City Council and Kyle Mertz for Altoona City Council.

Ottumwa—Southern Iowa Labor Council - Frank Flanders for Ottumwa Mayor; Matt Dalby, Skip Stevens, Robert LaPoint and Belinda Smith-Cicarella for Ottumwa City Council.

Davenport—Quad City Federation of Labor - Carlton Wills, Shelia Burrage, Mike Matson, Rick Dunn, Jamie Woods Robbie Ortiz and Kevin Perkins all for Davenport City Council.

Blue Grass—QCFL—Brinson Kinzer for Blue Grass Mayor.

LeClaire—QCFL—Loren Long for LeClaire City Council.

Continued on Page 2



Veterans and the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare)

“The provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court will not affect the current role the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has in the lives of America’s Veterans.

We will continue to provide Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and benefits they have earned through their service.

VA health care does not change as a result of the ACA”

To apply for VA health Benefits go to www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply and complete VA form 10-10EZ, by phone at 877-222-8387 or in person at your local Veterans Administration office.

You can update your information with the VA form 10-10 EZR, or call 877-222-8387. You can print out the form and mail it to : Health Eligibility Center, 2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200. Atlanta, GA. 30329-1647.

Iowa Federation of Labor Legislative Conference 2014

The 2014 IFL Legislative Conference will be February 10-11 at Prairie Meadows, in Altoona.

For Hotel Reservations call: 515-957-3000 or 800-325-9015 or online at www.prairiemeadows.com. Group Reservation code is 02092014AFL.

Room rates are \$99. Deadline for room rate is 5 PM on Monday January 20, 2014.

Conference registration is \$150 which includes: All materials, transportation to capitol and back; Monday evening dinner with legislators and Lunch on Monday and Tuesday.

Registration forms are on the IFL web page and will be mailed in the next few days. Registration for the conference must be received by January 27, 2014.

VOTE CLC Endorsements from page 1

Iowa City— Iowa City Federation of Labor— Rockne Cole, Royceann Porter and Kingsley Botchway for Iowa City Council.

West Burlington—Des Moines/Henry County Labor Council—Hans Trousil for Mayor of West Burlington.

Contact your CLC or local union and help get out the vote.



United Neighbors meeting in Davenport, October 14th brought out a large crowd discussing the government shutdown and debt ceiling crisis. Left to Right: Mike Malmstrom, Homeless Veterans Standown Chairman; Tom Seymour, ARA; (At podium) Carl Hamilton Chapter Chair AFSCME 3289; Chuck Conger and Ken Larsen of AFGE. Photo by Sheri Carnahan

How Much did the Shutdown cost America?

By Charlie Wishman, Secretary/Treasurer IFL

The Federal Government is up and running again. Now that the dust has settled, we are left answering the question, how much did the government shutdown cost America? Well, since the government was shut down, there was no one crunching official numbers and we won't know for sure for a few months. We can draw some conclusions by looking at private sources.

Counting in wages that federal employees lost as well as past economic behavior, Moody's Chief Economist Mark Zandi estimated \$23 billion was lost during the shutdown. As a nation, we lost \$450,000 per day in lost revenue from America's national park system alone.

Indirect costs may be harder to measure. For example, take the undermining of consumer confidence. Mortgage applications dropped 5%. Auto sales dropped 2%. Interest rates on one, three, and six month treasury bills went up because investors thought the United States would miss an interest or principal payment on our debt, and will now increase borrowing costs \$114 million this year.

We're also left wondering what didn't happen

during the shutdown? For example, the FDA stopped inspecting many kinds of our foods and cosmetics. Here in Iowa, all but two I-OSHA inspectors were laid off. Air crash investigations being conducted by the NTSB, college sexual assault investigations being conducted by the Department of Education, and FDA investigations into drugs found in food and unsanitary conditions found at a Nashville canned foods facility were halted. What else possibly fell through the cracks during the shutdown?

Unquestionably, this damaged our country, both in standing in the world and in real dollars. A small fraction of one party that led us down this road, and at least in the short term polling suggests that their party is damaged too. According to an October 21st CNN poll, 75% of Americans believe that most Republicans don't deserve re-election.

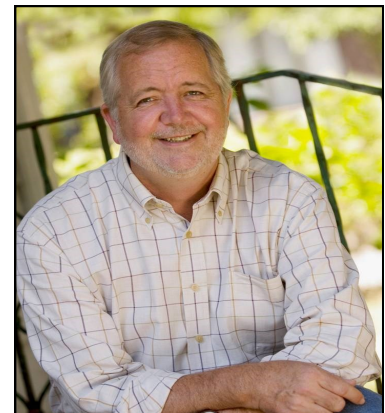
Unfortunately, this agreement only lasts until January 15th. Then, they will have to decide if they want to put aside obstructionism, or help move America forward on issues that matter to working families.



MARK DAVITT **Tuesday, November 19**

State Senate District 13

- Former CWA Union Member
- Served 3 Terms in the Iowa House
- Small Business Owner of Davitt Photo Alliance
- Worked as a photographer, operating manager and editor at Record-Herald Newspaper
- Born and Raised in Madison and Warren Counties



ON NOVEMBER 19, 2013 THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL ELECTION

IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

2000 Walker Street, Suite A
Des Moines, Iowa 50317-5201

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Des Moines, Iowa
Permit No. 269

Upcoming ...

- November 4— Clinton WIN
- November 5—GO VOTE
- November 6—Iowa City WIN
- November 7—U of I class Adv Steward
- November 11—Burlington WIN
- November 12—Davenport WIN
- November 16—Stewards School Waterloo
- November 18—Cedar Rapids
- November 19—Special Election S 13
- November 20—Council Bluffs WIN
- November 21—Dubuque WIN
- Marshalltown and Mason City Pending
- November 28—Happy Thanksgiving

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Iowa enrollment is now open for The
Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)**

GET THE FACTS: healthcare.gov

GET HELP: Navigators—Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa,
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and Genesis Health
Systems

ENROLL: 1-800-318-2596 or in person at DHS offices in
Iowa or on line at healthcare.gov.