Iowans Declare September Labor Union Appreciation Month

More than 65 elected officials, organizations, and businesses support the effort to make September Labor Union Appreciation Month. More than sixty elected officials, organizations, and businesses have signed on to the effort at ThankAUnion.com.

A proclamation recognizing September as Labor Union Appreciation Month will be requested from the office of Governor Kim Reynolds, as well as from cities and counties across the state. Supporters of Labor Union Appreciation Month will also attend events and share information about the important role labor unions have had and continue to have in Iowa and across the country.

“We know that public support for labor unions is strong, and that’s because workers everywhere want some dignity and respect on the job,” said Danny Homan, President of AFSCME Council 61. “At the end of the day, that’s what we’re here fighting for every day.”

“Labor unions have been an avenue to the middle class for millions of Americans for many years,” said Senator Amanda Ragan. “That is one of the reasons I believe they are important to our country.”

“I’m very thankful for the opportunities than union membership has provided three generations of my family and families all across Iowa. There has never been a time in our country’s history that more unions and more union jobs were more needed in our workforce. Unions are why we have a middle class in this country,” said Senator Claire Celsi.

“As an educator, every school district I’ve taught in (four states, four districts) has had a strong Union,” said Representative Art Staed. “The welfare of students and teachers in our schools is important to all of us.”

“A person working every day, and we all depend on that. We will only truly demonstrate our appreciation when we use public policy to make sure everyone is paid adequately, that they are protected on the job, that they have an opportunity for a secure retirement.”

“Labor unions are regularly the unsung heroes in our country,” said Matt Sinovic, executive director of Progress Iowa. “They fight for working families to have better pay and better lives, and every one of us benefits, because we all have higher wages, safer workplaces, and more quality of life as a result. If you like having paid sick leave, vacation days, or things as basic as child labor laws, you should thank a union. And if you want working families to have a seat at the table when it comes to determining the future of our state and country, you should support labor unions.”

The Polk County supervisors and the Sioux City and Cedar Rapids City Councils signed off on proclamations recognizing September as Labor Union Appreciation Month.

The plan is to keep this going and build a movement to make every September, Labor Appreciation Month.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSES

AFSCME Council 61
APWU Waterloo Local 451
Black Hawk Union Assembly
Central Iowa Neighbors
Citizens for a Healthy Iowa
GPS Impact
Greenwood Media Services
Hawkeye Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Hedberg & Boulton, P.C.
Indivisible Iowa
Interfaith Alliance of Iowa
Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Iowa Main Street Alliance
Iowa Policy Project
Iowa Postal Workers Union
Iowa River Labor Coalition
Iowa Safe Schools

Iowa State Education Association
Iowa Voices
I Work & Play
Josh Mandelbaum, Des Moines
City Council
Midvale Pinacotheca
North Iowa Nine Labor Assembly
One Iowa
One Voice Message & Media
Pingpoint Digital
Planned Parenthood Voters of Iowa
Progress Iowa
Rep. Marti Anderson
Rep. Karin Derry
Rep. Molly Donahue
Rep. Tracy Ehlers
Rep. Chris Hall
Rep. Chuck Isenhart
Rep. Jennifer Konfrst
Rep. Bob Kressig
Rep. Monica Kurth
Rep. Vicki Lensing
Rep. Mary Mascher
Rep. Heather Matson
Rep. Amy Nielsen
Rep. Todd Prichard
Rep. Art Staed
Rep. Sharon Steckman
Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell
Rep. Mary Wolle
Ben Rogers, Linn County Supervisor
Rush & Nicholson
Sen. Joe Bolick
Sen. Claire Celsi
Sen. Eric Giddens
Sen. Rob Hogg
Sen. Pam Jochum
Sen. Kevin Kinney
Sen. Janet Petersen
Sen. Amanda Ragan
Sen. Jackie Smith
Sen. Zach Wahls
Smith & McElwain
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Rod Sullivan, Johnson County Supervisor
Tax March Iowa
Teamsters Local 238
Tri-City Building & Construction Trades Council
Stacey Walker, Linn County Supervisor
Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO

Making Our Endorsements Meaningful

Page 3

IFL 2019 Election Endorsements

Page 5
2020 Caucuses Are Coming

By Julianne Frosolone, IFL Political Director

The hot summer weather has faded, the first day of autumn has passed, and before we know it, the Iowa caucuses will be upon us. On Monday, February 3rd, Iowans will gather in every precinct across the state to discuss their presidential preferences and conduct party business.

The Iowa Democratic and Republican parties will release caucus locations a few months before caucus night. Remember, your caucus site is unique to your address, so be sure to double check before heading out the door.

In order to participate, you need to be registered to vote at your current address. It’s ideal to do this ahead of time, but you can register on caucus night if necessary. Each caucus site will have same-day registration. You’ll need to be in line no later than 7:00 pm sharp. Everyone who is in line by that time will be allowed to enter and begin the registration process.

The caucus officially opens after registration, and once a leader is elected, the number of eligible caucus-goers present is announced. This number plays a crucial role in determining candidate viability later in the process. Next, you will hear from presidential candidate surrogates, each vying for your support. From this point on, the Democratic and Republican caucus processes are completely different. Democrats form presidential “preference groups” and Republicans utilize a paper ballot voting system. Here’s a brief overview of each party’s caucus process.

Republicans vote for their preferred presidential candidate on paper ballots. The votes are counted and recorded, and delegates are awarded based on the total counts. Democrats express their presidential candidate preference by forming “preference groups.” Each preference group needs to have a certain number of people in order to elect delegates. This term is called “viability,” and it’s based on the number of eligible caucus-goers and the number of delegates assigned to your precinct. Non-viable candidate groups, which can include “uncommitted,” must either join viable groups or come together to form their own viable group.

Each preference group is awarded delegates proportionally, based on the number of caucus-goers in their group. The delegates elected by both the Democrats and Republicans on caucus night will move forward in the County, District, State, and ultimately, National Convention process.

To increase caucus accessibility, the Iowa Democratic Party will be holding Satellite Caucuses. These locations are meant to accommodate people who are unable to attend their normal caucus. Site examiners will help ensure worker-friendly candidates get the needed delegates in Iowa and remind caucus-goers and reporters that workers’ issues are high priority. And, electing our members to the party central committees means that we can ensure union members are included in party decision-making.

As the saying goes, “If you don’t have a seat at the table, you’re probably on the menu.” If you have any questions about the caucus, would like a training for your members, or need help with a Satellite Caucus application, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Julianne@iowaAFLCIO.org

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By Mike Owen

Not all “R” words are the same. If you use the word “recession,” you’d better whisper it, or you’ll be blamed for starting one. But if you say “recovery,” nobody bats an eye.

“They should. We hear about “recovery” or a “strong” or even “booming” economy when most of us would have trouble finding any of those terms apply in our own lives or those of many folks we know, at least under current circumstances. And that’s a full 10 years after the last recession — you know, the big one, the “Great Recession,” which ran from December 2007 to June 2009.

In the intervening, “recovery” months and years since 2009, Iowa has experienced continuing challenges in family security, which is not surprising given its slow growth in jobs and wages.

Our Iowa Policy Project research through these years has demonstrated these trends, yet we still hear the same thing from those who for political reasons want to claim all is well. And because they are not acknowledging weaknesses and inequities in Iowa’s economy, they are not addressing them, and it makes it harder for others to do so as well.

So, if this is a “recovery,” why doesn’t it feel like it?

• One in 5 working households in Iowa, on average, fall short of meeting a bare-bones, basic-needs household budget on their earnings alone, as we show in our latest Cost of Living in Iowa report. For single-parent households, the share is a staggering 3 of 5 working households. (Find the report, released Sept. 24, at www.iowapolicyproject.org.)
• Yes, Iowa’s unemployment rate is low — at 2.5 percent — but payroll (or nonfarm) jobs are about 40,000 below where they would be had job growth kept up with population growth since the start of the Great Recession. Job growth so far in 2019 has averaged a minuscule 200 per month in a state with near-ly 1.6 million jobs. (See our monthly Iowa JobWatch report on our website.)
• Long a low-wage state, Iowa is staying inside its box. As Colin Gordon notes in our latest State of Working Iowa report, “Our decade of ‘recovery’ has not challenged persistent wage stagnation, declining job quality, and rising insecurity and inequality in the Iowa economy.” Over a decade, the state median wage has grown by only 4.4 percent. Meanwhile, high earners have seen double or triple that, on average. Gordon notes the pattern since 2009 “echoes the long-term trend of growing inequality.

Since 1979, wage growth has been hoarded by the highest earners.” (See StateOfWorkIowa.org, under the “Wages” tab.)

We can bring you this kind of solid data because Iowa labor unions and individuals have stepped up to support the work. IPP staff members have been able to develop and share expertise and insights to all. Please consider a substantial contribution in 2019, from your union organization and, if you can, personally as well.

Thank you for your support in getting our work, and Iowa working family issues, on the table in the Statehouse. Contact me at mikeowen@iowapolicyproject.org if you would like to have an IPP presentation at your local or a community forum in the coming months. Mike Owen is executive director of the nonprofit Iowa Policy Project in Iowa City.
Making Our Endorsements Meaningful

October 2019

1) "All candidates for offices of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO be required, as a condition of endorsement, to attend candidate academies to be educated on issues important to working families and complete the relevant questionnaire; and

2) That a copy of this resolution be attached to every questionnaire given to candidates."

To comply with this, the Iowa Federation of Labor will hold "candidate academies" or short classes to give a brief but concise overview of issues most important to labor across all sectors, and why we care about them. One main goal of the Federation in these academies is to involve affiliates. While we have a good guess of what our affiliates want candidates to know about them and their members, we won’t presume to do that. So, we will be working with affiliate unions to ensure that their priorities are reflected in this labor candidate academy, and it will be in their own words.

Another important goal of these classes is to create connections between candidates and their local labor chapters and members. While we are currently working out the schedules for these informational classes, when they are announced please make yourself available! I recently spoke to someone who ran for U.S. Congress, and they agreed that this is a very good idea because once they were running for that office, they didn’t know a lot of terms or ideas on labor and they felt they had to do a lot of research on their own. A candidate should know they can reach out to us or an affiliate to understand more and should at least have a “Labor 101” understanding of what they say they are supporting. Additionally, many candidates haven’t had to vote on our pro-active agenda yet, because the political make-up of the state legislature, and the US Congress for that matter, doesn’t lend itself to that yet. This is going to be a big shift in how we approach our endorsements, but it is long overdue. In the short term it will be a change, but it is one that will make our relationships with people we vote to endorse stronger and more meaningful in the long run for labor in Iowa.

Help Build The Iowa Chapter Of The Union Veterans Council

The Union Veterans Council brings working-class veterans together to speak out on the issues that impact us most, especially those need for good jobs and a strong, fully funded and staffed VA.

Additionally, we hold private enterprise and elected officials accountable for their words and actions.

Iowa ARA Honors Midge Slater

The attendees at the 2019 Iowa ARA Conference honored Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans President, Midge Slater for her years of work with the organization.

Midge Slater (retired CWA) has been the president of the Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans for over the past two years. Prior to that she was the nation-wide organizer in Iowa for five years.

Slater stepped down as president, and Mike McCarthy (retired AFSCME) was appointed to fill out the term. The Iowa ARA will hold elections next year.

The Iowa Federation stated “On behalf of the officers and affiliates of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, we can’t thank Midge Slater enough for everything she has done to build the Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans. Whether she was serving in a role of a staff person or as President, Midge has been an advocate for seniors and their families and Iowa is a better place because of all she has done. While Midge isn’t going away and still will advocate for seniors and the working class, we appreciate everything she’s done to help build this important organization for seniors through the years.”

The ARA is fights to make the voice of all seniors and retirees heard loud and clear. We exist for today’s retirees AND for those who want to retire SOMEDAY. They EDUCATE- MOTIVATE- ACTIVATE seniors to make a difference through activism, challenging the powers that be and advancing public policy that protects the health and economic security of older Americans.

Interested in being a part of the Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans, send an email to: iowa.alliance@gmail.com.

IFL Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Wishman

Too often, labor unions and organizations confuse writing a check to a candidate with having a political program. While that’s helpful for a candidate, if they don’t understand where that money is coming from, it’s not very impactful. And, by where that money is coming from, we don’t just mean what local or labor organization – the check obviously says that. What we mean is that this endorsement and anything that comes with it comes from the sweat and struggle of the members that make up the Iowa Federation of Labor.

We’ve heard from many of you that you don’t think that a lot of candidates understand that, or perhaps they do but only in an abstract way.

Because of that and for many reasons we’ve heard expressed all across this state, delegates to the 63rd Iowa AFL-CIO Convention unanimously approved Resolution #5.

Resolution #5 of the 63rd Annual Convention of the Iowa Federation of Labor resolved that:

1) “All candidates for offices subject to endorsement by the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO be required, as a condition of endorsement, to attend candidate academies to be educated on issues important to working families and complete the relevant questionnaire; and

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The Secretary-Treasurer’s Notes . . .

IFL Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Wishman
Iowa Voter Information

Who Can Register To Vote In Iowa
To register to vote in the State of Iowa, an individual must meet the following qualifications:
- Be a United States Citizen
- Be a Iowa resident
- Be at least 17½ years old (must be 18 years old by election day to vote)

You cannot register to vote if:
- You are a convicted felon (unless your voting rights have been restored)
- You are judged mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- You claim the right to vote in any other place

The Minimum Age To Register To Vote Is 17½: You must be at least 17½ to register.
The Minimum Age To Vote Is 18: must be 18 years old by election day to vote

Voter Identification Requirements In Iowa
Iowa has a Non-strict voter identification law
- Iowa requires voters to present some form of identification before casting their vote. Voters without acceptable identification must vote on a provisional ballot and also take additional steps after Election Day for it to be counted.

The following documents are acceptable forms of identification,
- Iowa driver’s license
- Iowa nonoperator’s identification card
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military card
- Veteran’s identification card
- A current and signed voter identification card

Iowa Poll Opening and Closing Times
7:00 AM-9:00 PM
For Primary and General Elections, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. statewide. For other elections, please contact your county auditor for the polling place hours.
For City/School Elections, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

If you have concerns or questions about your polling place or voter registration please contact your county auditor.
If you have moved to Iowa from another state or to a different county in Iowa, pre-register to vote in your new county 10 days before general elections and 11 days before all other elections. If you miss the pre-registration deadline, Election Day Registration is available.

Don't Be Fooled Again!
By Jay Smith & Dennis McElwain
In the last several weeks, the United States House of Representatives opened an impeachment inquiry into the President. Unlike the last impeachment process, which dealt with the personal actions of President Clinton, the current process is an inquiry into whether the President sought political assistance from a foreign nation in exchange for the United States providing funding to the nation to defend itself against Russia. During the last several weeks, if you have consumed any news, it seems that on a daily basis there is more information, which should be damning, that comes out into the public sphere.

And, as a result, the question has become – are we at the tipping point where the country will come together to rid itself of the disastrous experiment that is the Trump Presidency?

For the Labor Movement, however, while this question is an important question, it should not be our focus. Rather, our focus needs to be on educating workers on not only the failures of the Trump Presidency, but rather, the all-out attack by the Trump Administration on working people. The key to ridding ourselves of Trump and his anti-worker agenda is not betting big on impeachment, especially given the current make-up of the United States Senate, led by Majority Leader McConnell. Rather, the key is to organize and bargain. The list of attacks is endless.

In turn, while the media continues to be transfixed by the shiny new object that is the impeachment inquiry, it is critical for the Labor Movement to continue to focus on the only thing that ensures we rid ourselves of this circus that is the Trump Administration, and that is – educating and mobilizing our members to vote for the Labor Friendly candidates up and down the ticket in November 2020. This is the only way to guarantee success. We must not do this simply for our own survival, but for the survival of our Republic as we know it. It is that critical, and the Labor Movement has to take the lead in this endeavor. We can’t be fooled again.

NOVEMBER 5th
# 2019 Election Endorsements

## IOWA AFL-CIO NEWS

## AREA LABOR FEDERATION ENDORSEMENTS

### Great River Area Labor Federation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>WARD/DISTRICT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Matson</td>
<td>Davenport Mayor</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Broderson (LiUNA HH)</td>
<td>Muscatine Mayor</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirk Edwards</td>
<td>Muscatine City Council</td>
<td>Ward 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Salazar</td>
<td>Muscatine City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Dabeet (NEA)</td>
<td>Muscatine School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Cooney</td>
<td>Muscatine School Board</td>
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<td>Danny Schuur (NEA)</td>
<td>Muscatine School Board</td>
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<td>Ricky Teed</td>
<td>Muscatine School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Osborne</td>
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### Hawkeye Area Labor Council

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Taylor</td>
<td>Iowa City City Council</td>
<td>District A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Alter</td>
<td>Iowa City City Council</td>
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<td>Janice Weiner</td>
<td>Iowa City City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>RaQuishia Harrington</td>
<td>North Liberty City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Eastham</td>
<td>Iowa City School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce McConnell (IBT HH)</td>
<td>Marshalltown City Council</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Sadders (IBT)</td>
<td>Marshalltown School Board</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan McGinnis (NEA)</td>
<td>Waterloo City Council</td>
<td>Ward 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Boesen (IAFF)</td>
<td>Waterloo City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nate Gruber</td>
<td>Cedar Falls School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cory Vaupel (NEA)</td>
<td>Center Point City Council</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Olson</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids City Council</td>
<td>District 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Loeffler (UBC)</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Poe</td>
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<td>David Tominsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dexter Mershbrock (NALC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Garlock (NEA)</td>
<td>Linn-Mar School Board</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaSheila Yates</td>
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### South Central Iowa Federation of Labor

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Perry</td>
<td>Ankeny City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Judkins</td>
<td>Clive City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Cownie</td>
<td>Des Moines Mayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skip Moore (LiUNA)</td>
<td>Des Moines City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suresh Reddy</td>
<td>Johnston City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Syroka</td>
<td>Johnston City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridget Catherry Montgomery</td>
<td>Urbandale City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence MCBurney</td>
<td>Urbandale City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Blake</td>
<td>Urbandale City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Haroldson</td>
<td>Urbandale City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin Cubit</td>
<td>West Des Moines City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Crane</td>
<td>West Des Moines City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Anderson</td>
<td>Des Moines School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelli Soyer</td>
<td>Des Moines School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Murry (USW)</td>
<td>Madrid School Board</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Clark (IEW)</td>
<td>Bloomfield City Council</td>
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### Western Iowa Labor Federation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neven Conrad</td>
<td>Fort Dodge City Council</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Scott (UBC)</td>
<td>Sioux City Mayor</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Scott</td>
<td>Lawton-Bronson School Board</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Hurst</td>
<td>Minden Mayor</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Shudak</td>
<td>Council Bluffs School Board</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lessons From Labor History: The Keokuk Teachers Strike

Next year, 2020, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Keokuk teachers strike, a dramatic event that left a lasting legacy for Keokuk and the state of Iowa. Now—perhaps more than ever—that legacy is worth remembering and reconsidering, especially in light of the Iowa legislature’s recent attacks on Iowa’s public schools, public-sector collective bargaining rights, and workers as a whole.

In September 1969, when Keokuk teachers, represented by the Keokuk Education Association (KEA), began negotiations with the school district’s board of directors, Iowa did not have a law governing collective negotiations for public employees. The Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) had proposed a series of bills, but they applied only to certified school district employees (overwhelmingly teachers) and placed negotiations within the context of the education profession, not broader labor law.

Although no negotiations bill had passed the legislature, ISEA’s proposed legislation had provided a framework within which some Iowa teachers had negotiated with school boards during the 1960s. While some administrators and board members saw negotiations as a means by which to establish orderly and fair conditions within the education profession, teachers believed that it was both their right and professional obligation to use negotiations to improve wages and working conditions as well as the quality of education in their communities.

Before 1969, negotiations in Keokuk had gone relatively smoothly. For decades, the city’s boards of directors had worked to improve Keokuk’s education system to lure outside investment. Hiring and retaining highly qualified teachers was critical to their success, and they represented a giant step backward. Between years two and ten of employment, teacher pay would increase each year along tracks corresponding to education level, much as before. Between years ten and twenty-five, however, all pay increases came from merit pay at the discretion of administrators. Between years twenty-five and forty, teacher pay would gradually decrease for all education levels, eventually compressing into a single, static pay scale after year forty. Leland was opponents. In Iowa, the Keokuk strike helped to move ISEA away from district-only “professional” negotiations toward collective bargaining for all public employees. By 1974, this move, combined with broader labor support and the fear of copycat strikes, pushed legislators to pass the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA).

At the time of the legislative debate over what would become PERA, workers were divided over public-sector strikes. For some workers, arbitration was an acceptable or even preferred process for resolving deadlocked negotiations. Others felt that giving up strikes meant giving up crucial leverage. During the debate, pro-collective bargaining legislators and their labor supporters ended up accepting a very strong anti-strike clause in return for crucial compromise. At the time, most supporters of collective bargaining believed that it was an acceptable trade-off for all the positive aspects of the bill. Of course, only with a collective bargaining law in place could workers rally their labor supporters to act on their fears.

Given this turn of events, what use then is the Keokuk story? The strike is a reminder that effective collective action can take many forms, develop over long periods of time, and necessitate diverse community alliances. Teachers’ success in the strike was possible only after years of internal organizing, and, only with a community coalition that teachers and their allies developed over the course of weeks preceding the strike. And, while the Keokuk strike helped to transform the ISEA into a powerful vehicle for rank-and-file teacher empowerment, the 1974 collective bargaining law and the strong contracts that came out of it were the result of more than the law itself. They took thousands of small acts of collective action over decades by workers and their allies in communities all across the state.

Now, as we look toward the future, the Keokuk strike reminds us that Iowa workers can—and have—come together in ways that have improved conditions for all Iowans. By making changes requiring collective action in all its forms—especially the everyday acts of solidarity that often go unrecorded by historians. Only through such acts can we build the innumerable local movements and alliances that will be necessary to create an Iowa that truly works for all working people.
**Around The AFLs**

**GRAFL GREAT RIVER AREA LABOR FEDERATION**

Currently, the Great River Area Labor Federation is working on endorsements for local city council and school board elections in November. Each chapter hosted their own Labor Day events this past September and none were cancelled due to the rain. We have hosted numerous events with the Labor Center and have two upcoming events: Stewards Training Class in Keokuk, Iowa on Saturday, October 26th and Union’s Roles in Combating Harassment and Discrimination in Rock Island, Illinois on Saturday, November 16th.

**SCIFL SOUTH CENTRAL IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR**

**Cradling New Life Golf Tournament**

It is hard to believe it has been exactly one month since our 5th Annual Golf Tournament. In what seems like it could be a record July for the amount of families we have had referred to us, we would like to thank each and every one of you who donated, volunteered, golfed and showed your support. We would like to give a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to IBEW LOCAL 55 for their unwavering support this year and every year. This year they donated an extremely generous amount of $10,000 which allowed us to incur no expense for the golf tournament and use all other donations to help Iowa families with a little one (or multiple) in the NICU. We thank you IBEW LOCAL 55!!! We are very grateful for your dedication to the community.

**Holiday Baskets**

SCIFL assembles hundreds of holiday baskets each year in mid December. These food baskets usually go to unions sisters and brothers who have been laid off or are strike, or just need help. If you want to donate or help call 515-265-1862.

**Backpacks for Kids**

This was all made possible because children within the community volunteered their time over the last two weeks to fill the backpacks with resources that were donated by the Painters and Allied Trades for Children’s Hope Foundation (PATCH). These backpacks will provide education and medical care for children, as well as the opportunity to play sports. The primary goal of the Foundation, supported by IUPAT members and their employers, is to provide our youth with the resources they need to live the fulfilling life they deserve. “Our hope is to lessen some of the everyday stressors like the financial responsibilities placed on parents and students in our communities, by providing new school supplies” said JD Bitch, Business Manager of IUPAT District Council 81. “The men and women of the IUPAT are happy to help, and we are all humbled by the opportunities we are afforded through our PATCH Programs. We strongly believe, as a community-based organization, that we must invest in our communities and the future of the children within them by partnering with schools like Richard T. Castro Elementary and others all over the United States and Canada.” We would like to recognize Lt Gov. Primavera, Denver District 3 City Councilwoman Torres, Dr. Robert Villarreal and the staff of Richard T. Castro Elementary for helping us in making this happen. The Central Iowa Building and Construction Trades Council and Union Sportmen’s Alliance held a Youth Archery event at the Union Labor Park in Des Moines.

**Solidarity for Soldiers**

USW Local 310L member Chris Tague helped raise over five vehicles loads of donations for the Des Moines Homeless Stand Down.

**WILF WESTERN IOWA LABOR FEDERATION**

The WILF co-hosted a PRIDE event with allied groups in Sioux City and Council Bluffs.

A legislative forum was hosted by the WILF in Council Bluffs. Reps Mary Ann Hanusa, Rep Charlie McConkey and Sen Dan Dawson attended the legislative forum.

The WILF hosted a City Council and School Board forum in Council Bluffs and held a golf and bags tournament to raise funds for COPE to support local endorsed candidates.

**What Is The MLPA?**

Midwest Labor Press Association (MLPA) was supported by Iowa Labor when the delegates at the Iowa Federation of Labor convention voted to pass a resolution to promote labor press.

The resolution asked the Iowa Federation of Labor (IFL) and its affiliates to support the MLPA and participate in their annual education conference.

“This is a great organization,” said Ken Sagar, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor. “And we, the labor movement, need to do more to support and build up the Midwest Labor Press Association.” The MLPA is comprised of union members from: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The objective of the MLPA, a not-for-profit organization, is to increase the effectiveness of the Labor Press in the Midwest Region of the United States and Canada, as a communication medium in support of the goals of the Labor Movement.

The IFL and MLPA are working on a process where State Federations could make all locals in their state, members of the MLPA.

The MLPA annual conference was recently held in Dubuque, Iowa, where the IFL received four journalism awards. IFL Communication director, Lance Coles was also awarded the organizations Eugene Debs award.

For more information about the MLPA, go to their Facebook page.
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Contact Paul Iversen, Pre-Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, at 319-335-4080 or paul.iversen@uiowa.edu for more information.

First session scheduled to begin in September 2019.

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