

...Wisconsin gov's strategy is 'divide and conquer'

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also targeted Walker donors for campaign finance law violations; one railroad executive pled guilty and paid a \$167,000 fine. And two top aides were charged with embezzling \$60,000 intended for a veterans' support group.

Since winning the May 8 primary, Barrett hasn't focused his campaign on collective bargaining rights but rather on Wisconsin's economy and on the criminal investigation around Walker. TV ads for Barrett say Wisconsin lost 23,900 jobs last year.

Walker ads say the reverse, that the state gained 23,321 jobs. And Walker has more money to spend on ads, having raised over \$25 million, much from out-of-state millionaires. As a result, Wisconsinites are being subjected to non-stop television and radio ads, mailers, robocalls from the Walker campaign.

Polls of "likely voters" show the two as neck and neck.

But for unionists, it's a defining fight, made all the clearer with the May 10 release by a documentary filmmaker of video footage from January 2011. In the video, Walker comes up to give a kiss to billionaire Diane Hendricks, a major donor and owner of ABC Supply Company.



RECLAIMING WISCONSIN: At the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO office in Milwaukee, a phone bank is part of the effort to recall union-busting governor Scott Walker.

"Any chance we'll ever get to be a completely red state, and work on these unions?" Hendricks asks Walker. "Oh yeah," Walker nods.

"And become right to work?" Hendricks asks.

Walker's reply: "We're going to start in a couple weeks with our budget adjustment bill. The first step is we're going to deal with collective bargaining for all public employees, 'cuz you use divide and conquer."

Walker doesn't spell out who is to be divided and conquered, but his bill is a masterpiece of the strategy, attempting to pit public against public employee, nonunion against union, private sector union against public sector union, and even — by exempting police and fire unions from the attack — public sector union against public sector union. But Walker may not have anticipated the counter-reaction — a high degree of solidarity by unions and an outpouring of support by nonunion working people

nationwide.

Now, backed by money, Walker is fighting to stay in power with an overwhelming "air war" of broadcast advertising.

Organized labor is hoping to overcome that with a "ground war" of volunteer. In Wisconsin, the AFL-CIO and other labor organizations are focusing on door-to-door and face-to-face contacts with a field operation that's bigger than the Obama campaign was in 2008. "We Are Wisconsin," the labor-backed coalition, has set up 29 field offices statewide. Nationally, the AFL-CIO's new Super PAC, Workers Voice, is coordinating fundraising and volunteer signup at its web site, workersvoice.org. At <http://bit.ly/Km2cKF>, supporters can sign up online to make phone calls, contribute, and get campaign updates.

Labor organizations nationwide are also helping out.

Four staff members of Tigard-based United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, an affiliate of the Change to Win labor coalition, were dispatched to Wisconsin to assist in the get out the vote campaign.

And the Oregon AFL-CIO has organized eight shifts of phone banking, including, in the final week, 3 to 6:30 p.m. June 3, 4, and 5. To sign up, call 232-1195, extension 114.



UFCW's Anderson re-elected to Salem Electric Coop

Jeff Anderson, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, won re-election to a seat on the board of directors of Salem Electric, a private, non-profit, member-owned electric cooperative serving 20,000 members in Salem and Keizer. The seven-member board is elected by the members it serves. Following its annual meeting in May, the board reorganized and elected Anderson to serve as president. Anderson, of Keizer, was first elected to the board in 1985 and has served as secretary-treasurer and vice-president. Anderson's term expires in 2015.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council recognition dinner is June 2

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council will host the 15th annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night Saturday, June 2, at Milwaukie Elks Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd. A no-host cocktail hour starts at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

Dinner tickets are \$15 per person. Raffle tickets also will be sold for \$1 each or seven for \$5.

The labor council is still accepting cash and prize donations for the raffle.

The dinner and awards ceremony, serves as a fundraiser for Labor's Community Service Agency, while also recognizing individuals for their service and support to the labor community.

For more information or to order tickets, call 503-235-9444.

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