

# COVER STORY

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

# UNITED WE CAN PROTECT OUR RIGHTS



*Building Trades union members gather in Madison, WI, to participate in a labor rally in March.*

Who could have imagined the destructive legislative actions we've seen this winter and spring? From attacks on public employees in the Midwest to right-to-work and anti-prevailing wage legislation being pushed across the nation, rights that unions have worked for decades to gain are being threatened every day. Elected politicians are ignoring working families' No. 1 priority—jobs and the economy—to deliver political payback to the CEOs and corporations that bankrolled them into office.

But we are Union Roofers, and we are not going to sit quietly as our livelihoods are being attacked. Our local unions have been involved in several crucial rallies for workers' rights over the last few months. This show of solidarity sends a message to politicians that their actions have gone too far.

The battles started in Wisconsin, heated up in Ohio, and continue to spread across the country. And our union brothers and sisters have been there every step of the way to let these lawmakers know that enough is enough.

## Madison, Wisconsin

We all know the story by now. Newly elected Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker decided to balance the state's budget by passing laws requiring union-represented public employees to pay more towards their collectively bargained benefits and pensions. Then, to kick them while they're down, he sharply curtailed their collective bargaining rights, effectively preventing them from negotiating benefits, hours and working conditions in the future. A stand-off between Republican and Democratic state senators took place, but ultimately the devastating bill was passed.

For weeks, thousands of Wisconsin public employees and supporters gathered at the capitol to protest Walker's legislation. Nearly every union in the AFL-CIO was represented in the unprecedented display of union solidarity. Members from areas Roofers local unions joined the cause, making numerous trips to the Madison landmark.

At this point we are trying to stop and reverse damage that has been done. Citizens in Wisconsin have



gathered signatures needed for a recall vote on six state senators who voted to end collective bargaining and will ultimately launch an effort to recall Governor Scott Walker.



*Local 96, Minneapolis, MN, President Victor Lucio and Local 96 members Dennis Henning and Ryan Gloede, who work for W. J. Woodruff Roofing Contractors, Inc. in Fond du Lac, WI, protest inside the Wisconsin Capitol building in Madison.*



*Members of Roofers Local 11, Chicago, IL, make the trip to neighboring Wisconsin to show support for their fellow union members.*

## Columbus, OH

Governor John Kasich is behind the onslaught of anti-worker legislation that's been introduced in Columbus, OH, this year. It started with the passage of Senate Bill 5, which reduced collective bargaining rights of all 350,000 public workers in the state. The widely protested bill was passed by the Republican majority in both state houses.

Currently legislation is on the table to block the use of PLAs for public works projects. "Our fear is that the next bill will be trying to make Ohio a right-to-work state," said International Marketing Representative Fred Gee, who attended demonstrations in Cincinnati with local Roofers Union members.

Also protesting Ohio laws were the apprentice class and other members of Local 242, Parkersburg, WV, who took a bus to Columbus to rally against SB5. Once there they met up with members from other local unions who were also rallying. "Not only did the Local 242 apprentice class learn about different roofing systems that week, but they also experienced first-hand how unions unite and stand up for what they believe in," said Local 242 Business Manager Joe Strain.



*Members of Local 242 attend a rally in Columbus, OH.*



*Jose Rodriguez, Local 44 President Carl Timko, International Vice President Mike Vasey, Local 42 Business Manager Butch Stockelman and Local 44 Business Agent Chuck Lavelle attend a rally in Cincinnati on March 3.*



*International Marketing Rep Fred Gee, Local 42 Business Agent Rodney Toole, Sheetmetal Local 24 member Jerry Taylor and Local 42 Business Manager Butch Stockelman at the rally in Cincinnati.*



Former Democratic Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and his wife attend the Columbus rally against SB5 on April 9.



Members of Local 26, Hammond-Gary, IL, proudly display their local banner at the rally.



The "Repeal SB5" rally in Columbus draws huge attendance.



Asst. Director of Market Development Frank Wall, Local 26 Business Manager Jeff Lussow and Local 106 Business Manager Steve Barnes enjoy the rally.

## Indianapolis, IN

Union members staged a massive outdoor rally in Indianapolis on March 10 in protest of the state's GOP agenda against workers' rights to collectively bargain. It was one of the largest protests ever held in Indiana. Roofers from Local 26, Hammond-Gary, IN; Local 42, Cincinnati, OH; and Local 106, Evansville, IN, were among the thousands of protesters.



International Vice President Don O'Blenis, Local 26 members Dan Hegeduis and Phil Zandstra, Local 26 Business Agent Joe Pozzi, Local 26 Business Manager Jeff Lussow, Local 42 Business Manager Butch Stockelman and Local 42 Business Agent Rodney Toole attend the rally in Indianapolis.

## Los Angeles, CA

On March 26 in Los Angeles, CA, union members joined activists from community, religious and civil rights organizations in what has become known as "Solidarity Saturday."

Protesters gathered at the Los Angeles Convention Center and marched to Pershing Square, making their message heard loud and clear across town: collective bargaining rights cannot be taken away from America's workers.

Members of Los Angeles Local 36, including Business Manager Armando Sainez, joined the throngs on Solidarity Saturday as they marched to show solidarity with rights supporters across the country.





## Chicago, IL

The We Are One movement is a national collaboration that brings together like-minded individuals and groups with a common goal: to stop the attacks on workers' rights.

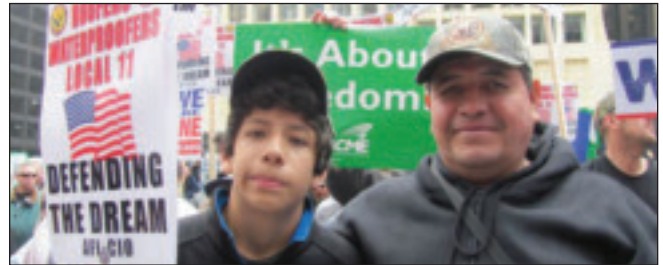
April 4, 2011, was the first national "day of action" for We Are One events. The date marks the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., a day of commemorating the courage, vision and contributions of one of America's greatest leaders.

Through a mass mobilization effort, dozens of rallies and gatherings were organized across the nation. The purpose was to not only show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin and Ohio, but to educate more and more people about the assaults on the middle class by legislators.

In Chicago nearly 6,000 people converged on Daley Plaza in support of unions and public employees—it was just one of three events held in Chicago that day. Organizers said that busloads of people from across the state attended the rally, where Wisconsin Senator Chris Larson spoke briefly about fleeing to Illinois during the collective bargaining rights debate in his home state.



This summer, when members of Congress are in their home districts for recesses and many state legislatures are out of session, voters will hold these politicians accountable for their actions and positions on working family issues. Events, such as rallies, petition drives, worksite events and educational meet-ups, will continue to be held in cities big and small across the nation.



*Local 11 Organizer Ruben Barbosa attends the rally with his son Arturo.*



*Defending the dream: Local 11 members Rodolfo Ruiz, John Bueno, Guadalupe Morales, Jaime Coria and Organizer Ruben Barbosa.*



*Local 11 Business Agent Gary Menzel, International Director of Research and Education John Barnhard, Local 11 Apprentice Coordinator Marty Headtke and Kevin Coleman join the We Are One march.*



*Rallying Local 11 members Travis Gorman, Trustee Gerardo Morales, President Rich Mathis, Robert Del Rio, and Adam Wille.*