

Random Notes

July 28, 2011

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Thousands March in “Peoples’ Parade;” Deliver Petitions to Secretary of State

Thousands of Ohioans from every corner of the state descended on Columbus June 29 to participate in the delivery of over 1.3 million repeal SB 5 signatures to Secretary of State John Husted’s office. The parade of teachers, firefighters, police officers, nurses and their family and friends started at COSI at the southern edge of downtown and at one point stretched from there, across the Scioto River and all the way to the Secretary of State’s office in mid-town. Thirty-eight members and their relatives joined the AEA bus ride to Columbus to help deliver the petitions.

HUSTED VALIDATES 900,000+ SIGNATURES

Of the 1.3 million signatures collected, Husted’s office validated well in excess of 900,000. The signatures were collected by over 10,000 We Are Ohio volunteers and the total far exceeds any petition campaign total in Ohio history. Said Melissa Fazekas of We Are Ohio, “This history making , grassroots campaign, continues to prove SB5 is a bad bill that was passed by extreme politicians who are out of touch with hardworking Ohioans.” The validated signatures represent more than four times the number needed to place the repeal issue on the ballot this November.



SB 5 petitions were delivered to Secretary of State John Husted's office in downtown Columbus by a teamster-driven tractor trailer. Some AEA members helped unload.

Kasich’s Budget Stripped of SB5 Language...Mostly

King John’s plan to take two bites of the pie by including tons of SB5 language in his education budget was nixed for the most part by the Ohio Senate. The budget was first passed by the House, where Republican Party extremists added even more SB5 language (think Shannon Jones, et.al.) than proposed by Kasich. By the time the Senate passed the measure, virtually every SB5 issue was voted out.

Whether the Senate acted out of guilt or as the result of some new-found common sense will never be known. Unfortunately, after a Senate/House Conference Committee came to terms over their respective differences, the education budget included language on teacher evaluation and merit pay.

Inexplicably, the bill only requires districts receiving Race to the Top funds to adopt a compensation system based entirely on merit! Non-RTTT districts may negotiate a merit pay system, but can also agree to continue to pay teachers on a traditional step salary schedule. The inane anomaly immediately raised the likelihood that many teacher unions would drop out of RTTT. AEA representatives and legal counsel met with our counterparts from the Cleveland Teachers’ Union and U.S. Representative Betty Sutton to explore the fed’s reaction to what amounted to a state law trumping Washington’s RTTT grant application rules (RTTT **does not** require districts to adopt merit pay language). Whether or not that get-together had anything to do with it,

Annual Akron Strides Campaign Set to Kick-Off; AEA Continues Corporate Sponsorship

The 2011 Akron Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Campaign kicks-off on August 3rd this year. Our Kenmore High School Strides captain, Carmel Oberdorfer, has reported that she has already raised \$500 for this year's event. Carmel will be a guest speaker at the August 3rd Kick-Off Breakfast.

This year's Walk is scheduled on Sunday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m. Walkers will gather this year at the University of Akron Field House. AEA Strides Captains' training will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, September 7&8 at the AEA office. Strides captains will be able to choose which day they wish to attend. Once school begins, an invitation to the training session will be sent to each captain.

Members who served as building captains last year but who will be unable to serve this year should notify AEA as soon as possible by phone (330.434.2181) or by emailing Executive Assistant Mikelann Adams at madams@akronteach.org. We welcome replacement suggestions from those who will be unable to serve again this year.



Joining The Peoples' Parade from Akron were (left to right) Jeff Moats, Bill Siegferth, Jim Perge, Diane May and Jan Shipe. Photo by Mike Rusnak

Kasich Budget

the State Department quickly put together an FAQ about "HB153 and Evaluations, Performance-based Compensation, and Seniority." With respect to merit pay, the document reads, *"If performance-based compensation is NOT a component of the approved LEA (school district) scope of work (in Akron, it is not), RTTT LEA's are NOT required to implement the performance-based compensation requirements in Section 3317.141 of the Revised Code but are strongly encouraged to engage in this work."*

When SB5 is repealed, there will be no legislated mandate that any school district adopt a merit based pay system, regardless of its participation in RTTT.

WE ARE OHIO BEGINS SB5 GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN

Members have been notified via email of the very first Repeal SB5 campaign activity in Summit County. Members may volunteer to help for one or more of four shifts (11-3 and 2-6, Saturday and Sunday). Volunteers will be canvassing communities in Akron, Cuyahoga Falls and Stow, making face to face contact with supportive voters. Canvassers will meet at one five locations around Akron, Stow and Cuyahoga Falls and will be given material to distribute. If you are able to help, please register via email with the contact at the location of your preference in the box below.

July 30

National Association of Letter Carriers Hall
518 Fouse Ave Akron, OH
Danny Wlosowicz -
dwlosowicz@weareohio.com

July 30

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall
2650 South Main St Akron, OH
Kaitlin Shivley - kshivley@weareohio.com

July 30

Oak Park
Jefferson and 13th, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Sarah Mullaly - smullaly@weareohio.com

July 31

Stow Kids Playground (SKiP)
3870 Darrow Road, Stow, OH
Sarah Mullaly -
smullaly@weareohio.com

July 31

Highland Square Library
807 West Market Street, Akron, OH
Danny Wlosowicz -
dwlosowicz@weareohio.com