



Vanguard

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Message from UAW Region 2-B Director, Ken Lortz



The activity of the past few weeks has been at a fast and furious pace as we sought to push back on Ohio's anti-middle class SB 5.

I want to personally thank all of you for the tremendous effort you have put forth, from writing and phoning senators and representatives, to organizing and attending rallies all over the state –

most at short notice and in inclement weather. I am always proud of all of you when I look out see that UAW Region 2-B members are there in force.

You may be feeling now that things are at a standstill, wondering, what do we do next?

The activity on SB 5 has quieted a bit for a few reasons: unfortunately it is sure to pass in the house and be signed into law by the Governor.

A tactical decision has been made by the Ohio Labor Table, a group in which I represent you, to stand back for now and plan strategic efforts to get this anti-middle class legislation on the Ohio ballot for a referendum vote in either November of 2011 or 2012.

Many of you remember our successful efforts in 1997 on Issue 2, a bill designed to gut Worker's Compensation rights in Ohio. We will be replicating those efforts and will be successful again – but we will all have to put our shoulders to the wheel to get it done. I know Region 2-B is up to the task!

Until preparations for that campaign are underway I would like to direct your efforts in the following way(s):

1. Please enroll as many co-workers, retirees and friends as you can into the "GimmeFive" program. This

program is quickly becoming the way for us to quickly and efficiently pass on crucial information to you about issues and plans. We are quickly becoming a virtual army! www.gimmefiveuaw.org

2. Please check-out and support the activities of "Stand Up For Ohio," a group in which we are also invested. This group is channeling a lot of energy and effort in Ohio under one tent and into meaningful ways designed to build momentum and power.

They are organizing small rallies around the state (see attached schedule) this coming Tuesday, March 15. Please take an hour and turnout to represent us in your area.

Stand Up For Ohio is planning a much larger rally for May 5 at the statehouse in Columbus at approximately 5:00 p.m. Please save the date.

Please join Stand Up For Ohio's Facebook page – it is a treasure trove of information and support.

3. Also please mark April 4th on your calendar. The anniversary of the assassination of the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King has been designated as a national day of action. The plan is to do nation-wide creative mobilization activities in SOLIDARITY with workers all across the nation. (Flyer is on page 13.)

Plan your event today, and stay tuned to www.gimmefiveuaw.org and www.uaw.org for details.

4. Lastly, when talking about our efforts, I believe framing the discussion on attacks against democracy and the middle class of Ohio, rather than organized labor itself, reaches a much broader base of support, which is of course, our goal.

Thank you again for all you do – onto victory for SB 5!

Fraternally,
Ken