

# LOCAL<sup>1000</sup>

welcomes these **NEW MEMBERS**

Garry Jones  
Ed Kelly  
Harrison Kennedy  
Richard Kriehn  
Dan Lapidus  
Aaron Lightstone  
James McEleney  
Amber Rogers  
Erin Rogers  
Jeff Rothwell  
Adam Shier  
Steve Sinnicks  
Ciara Walton  
Claire Whitehead  
Neil Wiancko



**Reinstated Members**

Chris Coole  
Evan Greer  
Corin Raymond  
Corey Ticknor



Illustration by Amy Fix

## New Deal News

Next *New Deal* will be the Summer issue. The theme will be Inspiration.

Send us anything on that theme: lyrics, drawings, doodles, stories, lists, flower seeds, etc... We will contact you for permission to print your submission, and we will edit for length.

We will feature a report on the Highlander Retreat, follow-up on the new Local 1000 Recording Contract, Member News, a Member Profile, On the Road, and more.

A new column will make its debut: "Best Gig/ Worst Gig" Send us a description of your best and worst gigs and we will publish a list of Best/Worst in every issue.

Anything you'd like to see in your newsletter? Get in touch with Amy Fix to make suggestions and submit content at [office@local1000.com](mailto:office@local1000.com) and put *New Deal* in the subject line.



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# LOCAL 1000

North American  
Traveling Musicians Union

# NEW DEAL

WINTER/SPRING 2011



## Gathering the Local 1000 at Highlander

by John McCutcheon

When I was a fresh-faced 19-year-old, hitchhiking the mountains of Southern Appalachia looking for banjo players, one of the first places I stopped was the Highlander Center near Knoxville, TN. They were holding their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Guy Carawan offered me an invitation. It was there I got my first serious taste of unionism. Members of Miners for Democracy were there. MFD was a reform movement within the United Mine Workers, fighting to defeat Tony Boyle, the corrupt head of the UMW, with Arnold Miller in the wake of the murder of their initial candidate, Jock Yablonski. There were veterans of early efforts to organize miners. Old miners who'd fought alongside Mother Jones. Florence Reese, the writer of "Which Side Are You On," was there. Rosa Parks was there. And future Local 1000 member Utah Phillips staged a workshop/rally giving the most impassioned appeal for unionism I'd ever heard. Myles Horton, Highlander's founder, took me under his wing and gave me guidance, encouragement, and more than a couple swift kicks in the ass.

Highlander became a place of resource, relaxation, and rejuvenation for me over the years. It was there that Guy and Candie Carawan gathered regional musicians to organize support for grassroots movements around Appalachia. It was there I met Nimrod Workman, one of my great mentors and the greatest unionist I've ever had the honor of knowing. It was there that the Southern Mountain Musicians Coop, one of many efforts to organize musicians regionally



around the country, held their founding meeting.

It was there, years earlier, that blacks and whites first met (illegally, at the time) to strategize the Civil Rights Movement. It was there that Zilphia Horton, Myles' wife, gathered improvisations on an old hymn and helped write and disseminate "We Shall Overcome." It was there Woody Guthrie took the young Pete Seeger to meet Myles Horton. It was there that miners with Black Lung met with millworkers with Brown Lung to help them understand the political ropes of gaining help through OSHA and government programs.

Music and culture has always been central to Highlander's organizing philosophy. It was there that so many musicians learned how to be instrumental, rather than merely ornamental, to social movements in this country and beyond.

And it is there that Local 1000 is holding its first Retreat, a gathering of our membership for resource, relaxation, and rejuvenation. Highlander is hosting this historic event Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>. A Membership Meeting of Local 1000 will take place at 4:00 PM on Wednesday,

May 18. The Executive Board will have its day-long retreat on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Local 1000 stalwart Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, will lead a gathering. Guy & Candie Carawan will conduct a workshop. There will be singing, informational sessions, Labor history perspectives, and great food and fellowship. The cost is a mere \$200 and covers all events, food, and dormitory lodging. (There are hotels/motels nearby for private accommodation). Space is extremely limited (35 maximum!) so sign up today at [\[redacted\]](#) and click on Highlander Retreat. This is a members-only event and you must be in good standing, i.e. current with your dues. There is limited space, if available, for spouses/partners.

It has long been a dream of mine to gather our Local at Highlander. As this is my final year as your president, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to join your sisters and brothers at this amazing place. We are unique in the AFM in that we are the only "non-geographic Local." Kind of an oxymoron, isn't it? Unlike other Locals we don't have a Union Hall where we can gather to wrestle with issues, jointly solve problems, or imagine our future, face-to-face. Most of us have never met many other Local members. Here's your chance. We designed it mid-week so as not to interfere with weekend gigging. The location, in the springtime hills of east Tennessee, is stunning. The Center itself is wonderfully rich in history. And the company is sure to be the best. See you there!

New Deal is the official organ of Local 1000. Please read it carefully.

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# LOCAL 1000

The Spring Membership Meeting of Local 1000 will take place at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 18 during the Member Retreat at The Highlander Center near Knoxville, Tennessee. You must be a member in good standing (dues paid up to date) to attend.

The Spring Executive Board Retreat will be held at The Highlander Center on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> from noon into the evening.

## Local 1000 on Facebook—

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/AFM-Local-1000/144321148933284?ref=ts>

## Local 1000 on Myspace.com—

<http://www.myspace.com/afmtravelingmusicians>

212-843-8726

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NEW DEAL is the official organ of the North American Traveling Musicians Union, Local 1000, AFM

# On the Road...

by Dave Lippman

## You Can Go Home Again: Dave Lippman Achieves Homeland Security

All my shows are organized by activists from community peace and justice organizations, many of whom I've known for years. Sometimes the folks from nearby towns know each other and work together on the concerts, which can provide the performer with a small gaggle of fellow travelers for a few days. It's a much less alienating form of travel than one-night stands, suitcase and guitar in hand. People party down in multiple settings, almost like you had a real tour bus with real friends instead of just cable and beer. Or iPhones and beer. Or a Blackberry and Twitter...

I recently had the great fortune to tour in both my hometowns. (When I was 13 my family moved – taking me along – from Seattle to Sacramento.) As I'm now pushing 61, my old homies are all grown up - and in some cases just shy of retiring - yet I still run into people I haven't seen since they were sixteen, or in some cases, two. One of the latter came with her sister, neither of whom had I seen since 1965, and she later wrote to me "After your concert, my childhood now makes sense." Maybe we'll now stay in better touch.

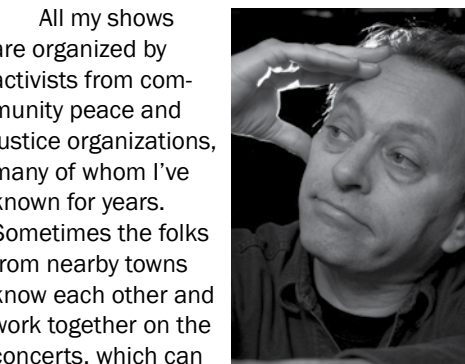
In Sacramento the audience included my original guitar teacher, an original *Sing Out!*

subscriber who had produced an early post-blacklist Pete Seeger concert; her son, with whom I played in a band in high school and who produced an album for me in 1998; and a clutch of folks from my frosh year with whom I'd had no later contact whatsoever. These were classmates from before I became politically active, so I had no ideological link with them; yet they came and enjoyed it, indicating possible agreement with my rabidly socially-engaged lyrics. Phenomenal and heart-warming.

Anyway, in this case, not only did some of the event producers know each other, but I was able to introduce them to my family members who came along for the week, and they all had political activities in common. It was as if we were part of some great ongoing community of concerns and pro-activity. All in all, a highlight of my very strange career.

If you live long enough and stay in something like the same circles, you will come around again to some of the same people. They will have enriched their lives

by living them, and there will be lots to share, along with the simple fact of coming full circle to the people you knew when. In my case, I tied together threads of different parts of my life and re-cemented some community bonds. Of course you could do this without being a performer, but I think it happens more if you keep moving (in circles) and keep doing worthwhile things. It's especially precious when it happens in the old hometown.



Top: Dave Lippman as Wild Bill Bailout, Bard of the Bankers; Middle: Portrait of a thinking man; Bottom: Dave Lippman live, as himself.



# MEMBER NEWS

Do you want to announce New Releases, Projects, Events, Births, Deaths, Marriages etc.? Send information to Joe Jencks via [joejencks@hotmail.com](mailto:joejencks@hotmail.com).

Please specify in the title that the message pertains to: Local 1000 Member News. Please limit descriptions to 30 words or less. Thanks.

## New Releases...

Erin Rogers & Scenic Roots announces the release their newest recording, **The Bound for Somewhere-EP** on February 1st. Members Erin and Amber Rogers are sisters from Concordia, KS who recently joined Local 1000 and are touring full-time. More information on the group and the CD is available at [www.scenicroots.com](http://www.scenicroots.com).

Charlie King and Karen Brandow have released their 7th CD as a duo. **The Distance Remaining** is a lively mix of original songs, re-writes and covers of songs by Local 1000 member's Pete Seeger, Elise Witt, and Tom Paxton. The disc includes 14 pieces in English & Spanish. "It's among the most hopeful & heartfelt recordings we've made, buoyed up by wonderful songs by some of our favorite writers!" [www.charlieking.org](http://www.charlieking.org).

Michael J. Miles released his 5th CD, **col•lage**, with new compositions and covers of Brubeck, Little Feat, JS Bach & Robert Johnson. Employing string quartet, flugelhorn, vibes, vocalists, drumset, & hand percussion, Miles has created a new work that pushes the boundaries for the banjo further than he has ever done before. Michael has also released a new book of banjo transcriptions called **Counterpoint**, published by Mel Bay. Says Pete Seeger, "Of all the recordings I've heard, this is one of the most beautiful. It is enough to make me want to learn the banjo all over again." [www.milesmusic.org](http://www.milesmusic.org).

Kim Beggs — CD **Blue Bones** on Black Hen Music. "Kim Beggs is the real deal", says Now Magazine. Her album **Blue Bones** was the iTunes Spotlight Feature for Indie Singer Songwriter in August, while the Globe and Mail declared Maiden Heart (a song from Blue Bones) an *Essential Track*. "Her marvelously anecdotal songwriting (nine originals are here) authentically captures and comments on various elements of the rustic, laid-back charm of the Canadian north." says Sing Out! Magazine. **Blue Bones** has been released in Canada, the US, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. [www.kimbeggs.com](http://www.kimbeggs.com)

Ray Corona — CD **A Little Too Much Sunshine**, is a new CD from the Ray Corona Band. Named after its Tom Lehrer-ish climate change track, the CD features several environmental songs including *Water—the Song*, used in UN events focusing on the

world water crisis. Other subjects addressed are the economy, working, peace, displacement and even electronic voting machines! As usual, there are lots of vocal harmonies and acoustic instruments on board. [www.raykorona.com](http://www.raykorona.com)

Dave Lippman — CD. Dave has just released a new CD with his performing partner Wild Bill bialout called **Food, Clothing & Glaciers**. Dave's website features audio and video recordings of the new material, including video for the song *We Are the Ones*. "It's all about all those great grassroots groups you meet at the Social Forums. Fora. Forai. For more information, go to [www.davelippman.com](http://www.davelippman.com).

## Local 1000 at the Grammys...

Pete Seeger has won another Grammy! He won in the category of Best Musical Album for Children for his latest release, **Tomorrow's Children!** [www.peteseegermusic.com](http://www.peteseegermusic.com).

Bill Harley was nominated in the category of Best Spoken Word Album for Children, for his release, **Healthy Food For Thought: Good Enough To Eat.** [www.billharley.com](http://www.billharley.com)

## Local 1000 at the JUNOs...

Chris Luedecke - (aka Old Man Luedecke) is nominated for Best Roots & Traditional Album of The Year, for his latest release **My Hands Are On Fire and Other Love Songs**. This CD is the follow up to Old Man Luedecke's JUNO Award-winning album, **Proof Of Love.** [www.oldmanluedecke.ca](http://www.oldmanluedecke.ca).

The Creaking Tree String Band — (Local 1000 members: Andrew Collins, Brad Keller, Brian Kobayakawa, and John Showman) have been nominated for two JUNO Awards in both Best Roots & Traditional Album of The Year: Group, and Best Instrumental Album of The Year for their latest release **Sundogs.** [www.creakingtree.com](http://www.creakingtree.com).

## In Other News...

James Durst — On the mend... "It was just two years ago that I began radiation & chemo treatment for a back-of-the-tongue carcinoma, not unlike what Michael Douglas has recently endured. 33 daily zaps of 72,000 rads & 2 concurrent 2-day chemo sessions. Even though the condition had been categorized as a Stage-4, I was told by my Sloan Kettering oncology team that it was

eminently treatable — and curable. With that assurance, I approached the ordeal with confidence, even humor, titling my occasional news update for family & friends *'Engine Light On, Vehicle In The Shop.'* The good news is that after the past year and a half of recovery, I've not only regained 25 lbs of the 75 lbs I lost, and am eating nearly normally, but best news of all — and to my great relief, my voice has very nearly regained its original function and facility. I'm an official 'survivor,' or as I prefer to say, 'transcender.' And so, as I've just passed the milestone of my fifty-fifteenth natal observation, I look ahead with eager anticipation to many productive musical years ahead. Onward & outward! —Your friend in Song, James." [www.jamesdurst.com](http://www.jamesdurst.com).

Elise Witt - Singer/Composer will join African Chorus conductor Dr. Fred Onowwero-suke June 24-26 in Baltimore MD to lead the Peace with Harmony Community Chorus for **ROOTS Fest 2011: Many Communities, One Voice**. This 35th anniversary festival of Alternate ROOTS, is an interdisciplinary coalition of Southeastern artists for social change. Singers of all styles are welcome to join the celebration! [www.ROOTSFest2011.org](http://www.ROOTSFest2011.org).

Jim Cosgrove's latest release **Swimming in Noodles**, has won a National Association of Parenting Publications Gold Award, the association's top honor for outstanding family music. For more info visit: Hiccup Productions, [www.jimcosgrove.com](http://www.jimcosgrove.com).

Jimmy Keane - just received an award for **Best Male Musician of the Decade** from the **Irish American News** and from **Live Ireland!** Says Keane, "It is an honor to be even considered for such an award and it is a very humbling experience." The award presenter Bill Margeson said of Keane, "Now, you might think that this would really be a tough award to figure out. Not so. It may be the easiest of all. In Irish traditional music, as in every other form of art, you can usually be headed to an enjoyable fist fight in a pub if you want to argue who is the best fiddle player, the best bodhran whacker, the best flautist. Not so for this award. Trust us. In the halls of Irish music, one musician is unanimously recognized as the best at his instrument. The best who ever was. Jimmy Keane on piano accordion has become what it means to be the best in any art form."



# The New Local 1000 Recording Contract: It pays!

by John McCutcheon

This year's AFM Convention brought about many important changes. We have a progressive new leadership team and a more unified sense of purpose. But we also made an important new stride for our own Local. For the first time, we are able to accept and process recording contracts. This is good news for every member, as it'll now be easier to file Union, getting the protection and the benefits provided by doing so.

## Why File Union?

Like every Union contract, recording contracts provide for a minimum basic scale wage, guarantee a pension contribution for all participants, and offer the assurance of Union intervention should there be a dispute regarding the terms of the agreement. Now, most Local 1000 members are producing their own recordings, so the issue of grievance vs. a record company is probably not a concern. But providing a guideline for payment and the ability to pump up one's pension are both helpful and profitable. Filing Union also means receiving a "royalty" from the Special Payments Fund every August. This is based on the total figure of all recording contracts filed industry-wide and is a nice little bonus you can expect when the summer financial doldrums are the deepest. This year, for instance, I received what amounted to about 30% of what I was already paid for recording in the previous year...a 30% raise!

Filing Union also means that your recording is protected by the New Use clause, meaning that if a song on your recording is picked up for use in another medium (film, television, commercials, etc.) the user is obligated to pay a new scale wage to everyone involved in that recorded piece. Again, another raise.

## OK, What'll It Cost?

Local 1000 helped establish a realistic scale for recording artists in our field. If your entire recording budget is less than \$100,000 (read on when you stop laughing...) you qualify for the Low Budget Recording scale. If your entire recording budget is less than \$40,000 you qualify for Tier 2 of the Low Budget scale. This scale is \$153/musician for a 3-hour session, roughly \$50/hour. Every session has to have a "leader," who would get double scale.

Remember, like all Union scales, this is a *minimum* wage. Nothing prevents you from paying or receiving more.

*NOTE: Everyone on the recording does not have to be in the AFM, but the leader (usually you!) does need to be a Local 1000 member.*

Add 11% of scale for Pension and that's it.

Musicians on the contract are assessed work dues of 3.5% of their scale wages. Local 1000 will bill you.

## How to File Union

NOTE: all the forms and documents described below are available for download at: <http://local1000.com/members/recording>

### Simple steps:

**Become a signatory to the Recording Agreement.** Download the agreement at the www site, fill it out and send it into the office. If you have questions, contact Pat Varriale ([patrickv@afm.org](mailto:patrickv@afm.org), 212-869-1330 x1234).

**Prepare and send in the Low Budget Estimate Form.** This establishes that your project qualifies for the Low Budget scale. Download, fill out, mail in.

**File the contract.** Download, fill out, mail in. You'll have to include a check, payable to "AFM-EPPF" for the total Pension contributions for the session. Musicians are paid directly. The contract should be filed within 30 days of the session.

I know that the first time people do all this it's confusing and even intimidating. The first time I filed (back in 1987!) former AFM President Tom Lee held my hand the entire process. Now, I can do it in my sleep. And here's my offer to you: *I will be happy to personally walk you through the process of filing the Low Budget Estimate and the contract for your first Union recording.* Just be sure you've already become a signatory and you have your plans well-developed. Send me an email at: [president@local1000.com](mailto:president@local1000.com) with your phone number and I'll call you and show you how easy it can be.

Recording Union is easy, affordable, and the right thing to do. It makes everyone stronger and helps grow the Local. And that is sweet music to everyone's ears.

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## Solidarity with People Around the World

Streets around the world are filled with people who are demanding dignity and respect from their government. Cairo, Tripoli, Bahrain, Tehran...and Madison. Local 1000 stands with its union brothers and sisters...along with AFM Locals 8 (Milwaukee) and 166 (Madison) in resisting Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's attempts to bust unions and deny workers collective bargaining rights. In recent days it has become clear, after unions agreed to accept the Governor's reduction in benefits, that his real goal is to strip workers of their rights to negotiate anything other than wages, which are already legally capped.

Workers would have no say on working conditions, vacation and family leave, health care, pension, grievance. Wisconsin is a mere test case for similar measures waiting in the wings in Indiana, Ohio, and beyond. Workers are willing to lift their share of the burden when it comes to helping balance state budgets. But this current assault is not about money. It is about power. It is about justice. And, in this fight, it's easy to decide "Which Side Are You On?" Solidarity Forever!



# 50 Ways to Leave Your Union...♦♦

## A Local 1000 Educational Announcement/Reminder

by Western US Executive Board Member Steve Eulberg

There appears to be a misconception about leaving union membership that needs to be clarified. There are only two ways to leave an AFM Local: resigning while in good standing, or getting expelled. There is no such thing as just letting your dues lapse. If you think you may need to leave us for a while, or permanently, read on.

We all experience tough times and we all understand the struggles of making our living as itinerant or migrant musicians. If your situation changes and you wish to become inactive in Local 1000 for a period of time, our By-Laws permit you to “resign in good standing.”

To do this, you must have your dues paid up to date and communicate in writing (email is fine) with the Local 1000 Office notifying the staff of your intent before the end of the quarter in which you are seeking to resign. In other words, before the expiration date on your union card. When this happens, you will later be able to re-instate your membership by simply updating your contact info for us and paying a minimum of one quarter's dues. This way you also avoid paying any penalties or reinstatement fees.

There are some consequences for you, for the office and for the rest of the membership if you simply stop paying your dues:

- 1) Because you haven't communicated your intent with the Office, the Local has to pay the Federation the quarterly per capita (our dues to the larger organization) on your behalf. This means taking money we don't have (because you didn't pay it) to pay on your behalf, which means the work of the local is negatively impacted and our ability to serve not only you but all the other members is hampered. It is like stealing from your brothers and sisters. (The following italicized definitions are from our By-Laws 2009 Revision, a copy of which is on our website in the Members Area at [www.local1000.com](http://www.local1000.com).
- 2) Because missing one quarter's dues puts your membership in suspension, Consequences for us: we pay money on your behalf to the Federation. Consequences for you: you have to pay your membership dues for the past

quarter (\$40) as well as for the current quarter (\$40) all at once.

- 3) If you neglect to renew in the suspended period, then you will be expelled for 'non-payment of dues for two consecutive quarters.' The Local has to pay money on your behalf to the Federation for both of these quarters, and you have to pay a re-instatement fee of 25% of all initiation fees (Local & Federation) + all dues owed at the time of expulsion, plus a minimum of the current quarter's dues. This is much more expensive for everyone.
- 4) We hate to lose any of our members, but if that situation does arise, it is much more economical to be responsible and resign in good-standing both for you, for all the other members of our local and for the work of our office.

### Any questions?

Call or email either the Office at 212-843-8726, [office@local1000.com](mailto:office@local1000.com) or one of the Board Members (see page 2 for contact information).

## Get Together Now...

Local 1000 members Rik Palieri, Debra Cowan, and Peter Siegel organized their own autumn concert with each other, with the hope of raising some money for Local 1000's Emergency Relief Fund. Peter says, “The concert was a success in that it brought together three musicians that don't often get to play together in the name of raising money for something worthwhile. A slew of members from the IWW were in attendance so the concert seemed more like a group sing than a concert (much the way I like it). It allowed me to dig up songs from the far distant past, songs I haven't sung since I was an idealistic 20 something college student attending labor rallies. I hope to be able to do it again closer to my own turf in southern VT in the next few months! I'm making calls right now...” The concert raised \$100 for the Emergency Relief Fund.

Ken Whiteley (left), Local 1000's Canadian Vice President, organized a Woody Guthrie Bowling Tournament in October. Ben Whiteley (center) and James Robertson (right) attended and had a great time. Member Jamie Bonk could not make the event but sent a donation to the Emergency Relief Fund anyway.

Let's do more of this, everyone! Get together for music, for talking shop, for fun, and maybe even for fundraising. Send photos and descriptions of your get-togethers for future issues of New Deal, and for the website.



Woody Guthrie Bowling Tournament, Ontario. Ken Whiteley, Ben Whiteley, and James Robertson.



# Supporting Wisconsin Workers



AFM Locals 1000, 166 and 8 at the Public Workers Demo in Wisconsin. John McCutcheon (3rd from right) with arm around Tret Fure (2nd from right)

Local 1000 members across the country are lending their support to the Wisconsin public employees that are fighting attempts by Governor Scott Walker to strip them of their collective bargaining rights. The story has dominated the news for weeks now as union members and their supporters have rallied round-the-clock in Madison, even occupying the State capitol. President John McCutcheon was in Madison on February 24<sup>th</sup> appearing at the Orpheum Theater with “Democracy Now!” host, Amy Goodman. The following morning President McCutcheon and Local 1000 Vice-President Tret Fure marched with fellow AFM members from Local 166 (Madison) and Local 8 (Milwaukee) as well as a large contingent of IATSI members from Madison’s large stagehands union. Following a march around the capitol they led “Solidarity Forever” in the packed Rotunda of the capitol building.

The following week, Local 1000 members across the country joined Solidarity Rallies. Member Peter Yarrow was in Madison at a rally of nearly 100,000. Aaron Fowler led a crowd of over 1200 at the Kansas State capitol in union songs. Spook Handy and Ray Korona led singing at the New Jersey State House at a rally of over 4,000 that included AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and CWA President Larry Cohen.

In a statement by the NJ AFL-CIO, “We thank the union members who set up the sound system and sang the songs which reverberated to both ends of West State Street, sending a message for all to hear. We are proud of our unions which contributed so generously to the Wisconsin workers during the rally, proving once again that the New Jersey labor movement stands in solidarity.”

What’s at stake in the Wisconsin...and now Ohio and Indiana...statehouses is an attempt to use budgetary language to denude labor unions of their most basic power, the right to collectively bargain for workers.

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**In a NY Times/CBS poll released just this week Americans opposed the stripping of public sector union collective bargaining rights 60% to 33%, including nearly half of all Republicans surveyed.**

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Without that right they are, as Jon Stewart recently said, “just a bunch of people standing around in the same T-shirts.” In Wisconsin the public sector unions agreed, almost immediately, to the Governor’s demands for givebacks on health care and pension benefits. It was all too clear then that the Governor’s true objective was to erase the bargaining rights, and nothing less. That realization has brought together workers from across the labor world in solidarity with the Wisconsin public workers. Firefighters have

been a constant presence, enlivening the gatherings with bagpipe and drum bands. Steelworkers, electricians, cops, teamsters, autoworkers, plumbers and pipefitters, laborers and carpenters, nurses and miners, actors, hospital workers, musicians...it’s been an exhilarating and empowering display of solidarity. The public, too, has not been fooled by the financial red herring being thrown about. In a *NY Times*/CBS poll released just this

week Americans opposed the stripping of public sector union collective bargaining rights 60% to 33%, including nearly half of all Republicans surveyed. And 61% said they felt public workers wages were “just about right” or “too low” for the work expected.

One of the assets that musicians bring to causes and their rallies is the ability to crystallize issues and ideas in music. People join in with these songs, make them their own and then carry those songs home with them. It is entertaining, sure, but it is also empowering. In the Wisconsin State capitol, for instance, after hours of speeches over a bullhorn (a PA was verboten inside the building) the thousands occupying the rotunda were able to sing as one voice, “the Union makes us strong!” It is our honor, it is our duty to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers and use our skills to protect their jobs and our collective rights. Thanks to all the fellow Local 1000 workers not mentioned herein for their on-going work in these and countless other instances. There are few things that make us prouder.



# Supporting Wisconsin Workers

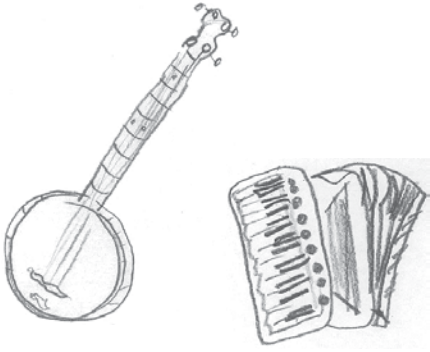


Photo by Rochelle Gordon



Madison, Wisconsin—100,000 people demonstrating in a snowstorm on February 26th.

Photo by Steve Boyda



Spook Handy and Ray Korona leading labor songs at New Jersey AFL-CIO Unity Rally on February 25th.

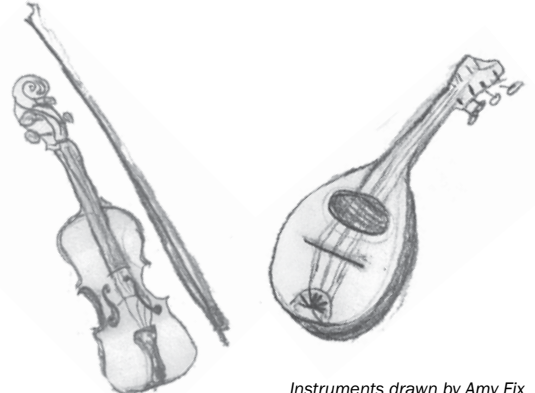
Photo by Steve Boyda



Members of Slow Ya Roll from Topeka add to the rhythm of the rally.



Local 1000 member Aaron Fowler and his wife, Laura Dungan, singing to the crowd on the Topeka capitol steps on February 26th.



Instruments drawn by Amy Fix

