

The fight continues until Election Day

By **DAVID COOK**
President



COOK

The Missouri Primary has come and gone, and it presented a mixed bag for those of us fighting for hard-working middle class families.

While we were happy to see victories for folks like Democrat Karen Settlemoir-Berg, our Union Rep at Local 655, and labor-friendly Republican Nate Tate in his crowded primary, we also sadly saw the loss of some of our friends on both sides of the aisle.

In Kansas City, Nick King, a Republican who has always been a friend, lost to a savagely pro-Right-to-Work Republican challenger by a mere 44 votes.

In St. Charles we have a friend in Anne Zerr that spent years bucking pressure from her own party and passionately defended Unions across the state. Zerr lost by less than

400 votes in a primary where more than 35,000 votes were cast.

While I'm deeply proud of the hard work we put into Zerr's campaign, and grateful for our partners and their brothers and sisters in Labor that put their work into races around the state, these close results highlight a critical point as we approach the November elections: **We cannot afford to skip a vote. Ever.**

This election will be uniquely meaningful for Missourians. Democrat and gubernatorial candidate Chris Koster is a warrior for Organized Labor and a fighter for middle-class families everywhere. Make no mistake: a Democrat in the governor's mansion is absolutely essential to keep so-called Right-to-Work out of Missouri, and his opponent has made it clear he'll support policies like it that will gut the middle class.

Across the state, candidates with clear opinions on so-called Right-to-Work will be

asking for votes, and we have to send a clear message to billionaires like David Humphreys who would buy our elections.

Our message must be that no amount of money can match the power we have in our numbers. Hard-working families will always outnumber the wealthy, and we have to show them that no matter how much they spend to smear our allies on both sides of the aisle, we will protect them by going to the polls and keeping them in office.

If you've ever had a doubt that your vote matters, just look at the narrow margins in some of the races in our primary, and remember that every single vote is essential in 2016.

We cannot afford to be complacent. We must continue to knock on doors, volunteer, and pound the pavement for our friends and allies. We must show that Union workingmen

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and women will not be bullied. Middle class families know what is at stake in these elections, and we will not be staying home.

I'm truly grateful for those of you who have put time and

sweat into the elections so far. You've knocked on doors, you've made phone calls, and you've volunteered. But our work is not yet finished. Your work will not go unnoticed, and if we truly fight, we can win. We need to do what brothers and sisters in labor do best: Work harder than the other guys.

Talk to your friends, your co-workers, your family. Don't be afraid to tell them why this election matters to people like you. Talking politics, especially in a year as divisive as this one, is always a teeth-grinding challenge. But you are the best advocates for this Union, and for middle-class families around the state.

Talk to those close to you, and make sure they get out and vote. If we put in the work, if we treat this election with the seriousness it deserves not only can we survive attacks on ourselves and our brothers and sisters - We can win.

AN EXCLUSIVE TWICE MONTHLY REPORT FOR

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Settlemoir-Berg wins primary



KAREN SETTLEMOIR-BERG addressing Union partners with President David Cook. - Labor Tribune Photo

UFCW Local 655 Union Rep and candidate for the House of Representatives in Jefferson County, Karen Settlemoir-Berg, won her primary on the Democratic ballot earlier this month by about 20 percent of the vote.

Berg's platform, which focuses heavily on commonsense, middle-class oriented policies, resonated well with voters, and she now heads toward a November showdown with first-term incumbent Republican Dan Shaul.

Shaul became a major target for Labor in general when he lied to his constituents last year, promising to vote against so-called Right-to-Work before flip-flopping only weeks later and supporting an attempted veto override of that bill in the House.

Berg said she is excited for the coming general election and grateful to her friends and allies.

"I want to thank everyone who has dedicated their time to help me win this race," she said.

"It's humbling to have so many people come out and support me. There's still a lot of work to do so we can win in November, but I'm excited for the challenge and optimistic about my chances."

Her race against Shaul is officially a Tier 1 Race according to the Missouri AFL-CIO, and will get a lot of attention from Labor supporters and so-called Right-to-Work advocates alike, particularly because of the 113th District's status as a swing area in Missouri. The seat has changed hands between Democrats and Republicans frequently in the last few years alone.

Karen Settlemoir-Berg is now gearing up for her general election, and will continue aggressive field and fundraising operations in the district considered so critical for Labor and Democrats in Missouri in general.

Continue your support for Karen. We need her in Jefferson City to fight for working men and women and the labor community.



UFCW TV commercial now on the airwaves

UFCW Local 655, in partnership with UFCW Local 88, produced a series of commercials with multiple goals in mind that are now playing throughout the St. Louis area.

The first commercial, already on the air, features rank-and-file partners thanking St. Louis customers for shopping with them and asks them to continue to support companies that employ Union labor and provide better wages and benefits.

A second crop of commercials, set to air sometime next month, will ask St. Louis shoppers to take their business to Union grocery stores instead of Walmart as a direct response

to Walmart billionaire Stan Kroenke's actions to relocate the Rams to Los Angeles. (See more detailed story on Page 1.)



WWW.UFCW655.ORG

Save the dates

Labor Day 2016 Parade

When: Monday, Sept. 5th
Where: Local 655 will set up and meet at Olive and 15th at 7 a.m.
What: Annual Labor Day Parade for all Union Brothers and Sisters

Theme: 'We Are Union and We Vote!'
Contact Mike Frame if you have any questions at 636-736-2765

'Light the Night' for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

When: Sept. 24th at 5 p.m.
Where: Forest Park's Central Fields

Join Us

Contact Jane Smith with the LLS at 314-590-2236 for questions on forming a team.

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
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taking steps to make someday today

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