

Missouri GOP's Policy/ Principle Disconnect

By **DAVID COOK**
President



The leadership of Missouri's Republican Party seems to suffer a major disconnect between their avowed conservative principles and their actual policy priorities.

The platform of the Missouri GOP states, "The government that governs best governs least." This preference for small government has a long tradition in U.S. political history, typically dated all the way back to Thomas Jefferson and his followers in the earliest days of our Republic.

Small government is a tenet of Republican Party ideology. All of the declared GOP candidates for the Presidency eagerly highlight their small government credentials, closely adhering to President Ronald Reagan's maxim that "Man is not free unless government is limited."

The Republican leadership of the Missouri General Assembly, however, seems to have abandoned this core principle when it comes to its policymaking preferences.

Right-to-work, which Governor Nixon recently vetoed, is an obvious exercise in government overreach. Not only does it unnecessarily insert the government into every single private collective bargaining relationship in the state, it also imposes severe penalties on employers for exercising their basic right to enter into contracts.

How can this intrusive measure be reconciled with small government principles?

Some Republican members of the General Assembly may want to reflect on their core principles before they return to Jefferson City for the September veto session. These anti-worker proponents should consider joining the numerous members of their party who stand by their core principles — and with Missouri workers in opposing 'right-to-work' laws.



LOCAL 655 SHOWS ITS PRIDE Local 655 officers and members were out in full force Saturday, marching to support the LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual and ally) community at the 2015 PrideFest Parade held in downtown St. Louis—two days after a landmark Supreme Court ruling making gay marriage legal in the United States.

Local 655 shows Union pride at St. Louis PrideFest Parade

More than 30 people marched with Local 655 in the 2015 St. Louis PrideFest Parade on June 28th in Downtown St. Louis. This was our third year participating in the parade, which promotes equal rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people.

The parade, always a high-spirited energetic event, took on special significance this year following the recent Supreme Court ruling which guarantees equal marriage rights for same-sex partners.

The air of celebration at PrideFest was infectious, but we know well there is still much work to be done to ensure full equality for LGBT

people in our state and throughout our country.

For instance in a majority of states, including Missouri, any individual can be fired simply because of their sexual orientation or identity. In Missouri, and 31 other states, the only formal defense that LGBT workers have against workplace discrimination is a strong Union contract.

We encourage all of our LGBT members and allies to join our local OUTreach group and to advocate for both LGBT rights at work and for building our Union. For more information about OUTreach contact Laura Kelley at 636-736-2760, or LKelley@ufcw655.org.

**AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR**

**UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES**

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BERG SWORN INTO LOCAL 655 E-BOARD Local 655 President David Cook (left) was proud to swear in Union Representative Karen Berg as a member of the Union's Executive Board.

Karen Settlemoir-Berg elected to Local 655 E-Board

Union Representative Karen Settlemoir-Berg is the newest member of the Local 655 Executive Board. Karen was unanimously elected to the Executive Board at its June 2015 meeting.

Karen has been a Union Representative since 2011 and services the South Metro and South Outstate territory. Karen first became a UFCW Local 655 member in 1985, while working as a clerk and later manager of non-foods. Karen also served Local 655 as a Shop Steward from 1987 to 2008.

In addition to her regular duties at Local

655 Karen, has served on the United Way of Greater St. Louis Allocation Panel for the past four years and serves on boards of the Gateway Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association and the Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates.

Settlemoir-Berg is enthusiastic about her new role on the Executive Board saying, "It's an honor to serve the members of Local 655, and I am thrilled to take on my new responsibilities as an Executive Board member."

Karen holds a Bachelor's in Science in Business Administration and lives in Imperial, MO.

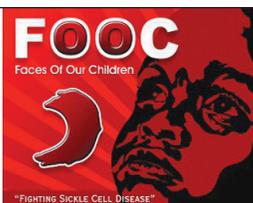
Barbecue
Saturday, July 18th, 2015
at Cross Keys Schnucks

(in Florissant at the intersection of Lindbergh and New Halls Ferry)

To raise money for Faces of Our Children to help in the fight against Sickle Cell disease.



Members interested in helping should contact Levi Eddins at 636-736-2791.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**UFCW Local 655's
Annual Co-ed Softball Tournament**

WHEN: August 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11

WHERE: BRIDGETON MUNICIPAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX
13217 Ferguson Lane
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

Rainout Dates: August 12 & 13

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The annual softball tournament applications will arrive at stores soon so be one of the first to sign up for this exciting, fun event. The softball tournament is limited to the first 50 teams.

Talk with your coworkers. Gather your team. Dig out your bats and gloves and be ready to join us for another fun tournament.

Don't have enough for a full team? We can pair you up with another store that may be short on players. (All combined teams must be approved by the Union).

For more information contact
Robert Spence (636-736-2775) or Kevin Ryan (636-736-2766)