

Weekly Word



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When in doubt,

Row "E" can help you out!

Right now, you're probably all saying, "What the "H" is he talking about!" And if you are saying that, then shame on me.

Face it...by the time Election Day is less than a week away, we should all know who we intend to vote for. Unfortunately, year after year, the campaigns get so nasty with this scandal followed by that scandal that you start to question if you want to vote at all. Furthermore, you can't even enjoy any part of commercial television 'cause the negative ads seem to exceed the program content.

Let me help. Row E is the line that all candidates that have been endorsed by the Working Families Party can be found. The WFP is a group formed in 1998 by the CWA, UAW, and other Union and community groups. Their sole purpose is to endorse candidates that support the issues that we as working people or retirees face each and every day. Each candidate is solicited to complete a questionnaire and then be interviewed. Recommendations are made from there and decided at the statewide convention of members.

The best part about this process is that it is completed before the mudslinging begins in earnest and candidates can be screened before they get careful about screwing up too close to the election. The WFP is made up of people, members, like you and me...not millionaires or millionaire wannabes.

You might say, "Yeah, well they endorsed Alan Hevesi who tried to bilk the state out of all that money for personal means." Yes, there are those allegations and the debate continues as to how much bilking occurred, but remember this: As Comptroller, Hevesi has done an outstanding job in overseeing the Retirement Fund and, locally, auditing the Ferry and investigating the lucrative pensions the Water Authority reportedly given out to Stanwix (a dollar amount far exceeding Hevesi's sin). He also stands by the Pension fund as it exists. His opponent wants to create a new Tier 5 based on 401k and to reverse the pension reforms of 2000 that stopped employee contributions after 10 years. Vote your conscience, but remember that you have a vested interest in the outcome.

Our only variation with Row E endorsed candidates comes with the Family Court race. The WFP

did not have the benefit of our worker's input in the selection process and Pat Gallaher answered the questions correctly to meet their standards. For most of the WFP issues, she may be adequate. The COPE committee recommendation that was supported at the last membership meeting was that we endorse Maryanne Townsend. This recommendation came after each candidate was interviewed and their records reviewed by workers who interact directly with Family Court and have history with each candidate..

I can't tell you how to vote, I can only give you some suggestions. As the person elected to represent your work and financial concerns, I recommend the candidates best suited to represent your interests in the political arena.

Another thing I ask is that you vote for your candidate on Row E, even if they appear on another row. This has helped the Working Family line move up the ballot each election cycle. Maybe someday we'll be on top and working women and men will finally get some recognition.

Now it's your turn. I can only take you so far. It's up to you to get your butt out to the polls on Election Day. And believe me, there is no such thing as a sure thing. Many people fail to vote on Election Day because they know their candidate is a sure winner. Many elections have been lost by people thinking that way.

Retiree Meeting

Monday, November 13

12pm at the Union office

I put this notice in here so that you can contact any friends and former co-workers that have retired from our Union to make sure they are aware of the meeting. I will continue to do this until we actually get the Retiree group formed and functioning on its own. Any help you can give to let folks know is appreciated!