



# LABOR ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN, INC.

## Serving Public Employees Throughout Wisconsin

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*"Serving Public Employees  
Throughout Wisconsin"*



THIRTY YEARS AGO, four people had a vision of a better way to represent public employees. (Patrick Coraggio, Thomas Bauer, Linda Vanden Heuvel and Dennis Pedersen) The Labor Association of Wisconsin, Inc. registered with the Secretary of State in April 1985. LAW, as it is commonly referred to, is a full service labor association, labor consulting firm and a strong advocate for improved public employee benefits. In 1985, there were a handful of locals and only a few hundred members. I am very thankful that Pat, Linda, Tom and Dennis had the foresight to start and build LAW from the ground-up. They built the base and over the past 30 years, we have exceeded all expectations. That is because of all of you that have put your faith in LAW!

I would be remised if I didn't mention and thank Pat Coraggio for everything he did for LAW over these past 30 years. He was the main force for the majority of this time and LAW is where it is today because of him.

I believe these past 5 years have had more ups and downs then the previous 30 years combined. With passage of ACT 10, which saw the General Public Employees lose their collective bargaining rights to the transfer of ownership of LAW, LAW has proven that

The encouraging part of the last 30 years is that LAW has seen steady growth and that there has been a steady increase in the benefits made available to LAW members for the lowest cost of representation in the state. No other labor organization anywhere has the benefit package or variety of programs that LAW

*(Continued on page 2)*

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offers their members, a goal that the founders of LAW wanted to accomplish and did! One unique feature of LAW is no change in the dues during the term of the contract. In addition to the health, dental and vision Trust for retirees, LAW offers benefits, such as vision insurance, dental insurance, disability insurance, baseball raffle, Lake Cottage rental, discounted attorney's fees and the monthly Letter of the Law newsletter. LAW is not done improving benefits to members.

LAW's success is attributable to the hard work and dedication of the LAW employees and the faithful members who have supported us for the last 30 years. I want to personally thank the following current and past associates of mine who helped make LAW a success. *Pat Coraggio, Doug Nelson, Pat Kelly, Debbie Plunkett, Tom Bauer, Gloria Leeb, Melissa Blackburn, Jo Ellen Islo, Jason Ganiere, Steve McKinnon, Randy Myles, Dan Kraschnewski, Gary Kruger, Kevin Naylor, Mike Yogerst, Marlene Yogerst, Bob Blumenberg and Dennis Pederson.*

LAW's success is also attributable to the quality hard working attorneys who have made themselves available 24-7. *Linda Vanden Heuvel, Lisa Vanden Heuvel, Scott Schroeder, and Andy Phillips* have been an important part of LAW's success and are very much appreciated. I also want to thank *Marty Tomcek* of the Tomar Company for all his help regarding health insurance and testifying as an expert witness on behalf of LAW Inc. members.

Thank all of you for your service to LAW members.

Finally, LAW is what it is due to our members. We have never spent any dues money to advertise. Our growth is due to the positive feedback we get from our members and for that I thank you and give you my personal assurance that LAW will continue to provide the best service possible. Your thoughts are always welcome.

*Sincerely,*

*Benjamin M. Barth, President*



### ***MILWAUKEE BREWERS TICKET RAFFLE!***

There are two tickets per game. If you are interested in entering the raffle, please mail, email, or fax (see page 4) your name and association name, address, telephone number and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> game preference to the Germantown office no later than **March 16th**. Winners will be notified on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*If more than 3 selections are submitted, your entry will not be entered into the raffle.*

**Section 327, Row 7, Seats 10 & 11**

### **BREWER'S RAFFLE GAME DATES**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>TIME</b>
4/7/2015	7:10 PM	Rockies
4/10/2015	7:10 PM	Pirates
4/11/2015	6:10 PM	Pirates
4/21/2015	7:10 PM	Reds
4/23/2015	12:40 PM	Reds
4/25/2015	6:10 PM	Cardinals
5/5/2015	7:10 PM	Dodgers
5/9/2015	6:10 PM	Cubs
5/11/2015	6:20 PM	White Sox
5/13/2015	7:10 PM	White Sox
5/30/2015	3:10 PM	Diamondbacks
6/11/2015	7:10 PM	Nationals
6/27/2015	1:10 PM	Twins
7/6/2015	7:10 PM	Braves
7/18/2015	6:10 PM	Pirates
7/30/2015	7:10 PM	Cubs
8/1/2015	6:10 PM	Cubs
8/4/2015	7:10 PM	Padres
8/8/2015	6:10 PM	Cardinals
8/14/2015	7:10 PM	Philly
8/17/2015	7:10 PM	Marlins
8/29/2015	6:10 PM	Reds
9/1/2015	7:10 PM	Pirates
9/3/2015	6:20 PM	Pirates
9/19/2015	6:10 PM	Reds

*(See next page for information on where to send your three game preferences.)*

### **Balloting Period for Non-School District Non-State Annual Certification Elections Set for April 1-21, 2015**

The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission announced that annual certification election balloting regarding school district unions and State of Wisconsin employee unions will be held from noon on Wednesday, April 1 through noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Petitions and appropriate filing fee must be received by WERC no later than January 30, 2015.

Voters who choose to vote by telephone will do so by calling 1-866-458-9862 (toll free) anytime between noon on Wednesday, April 1 through noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. After providing information that will allow the computer to verify that the employee is an eligible voter (the first four letters of last name and the last four digits of social security number), the employee will be asked "Do you want to continue to be represented by (the name of your current union) for the purpose of collective bargaining?" The employee will then be instructed on how to vote "yes" or "no" and asked to confirm his or her choice. After confirming his or her choice, the employee's vote will be electronically cast. The employee must confirm his or her choice for the vote to be cast. Employees experiencing trouble using the telephonic voting system can call 1-800-529-5218 during the hours of 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday.

Balloting periods regarding 2015 school district and State annual certification elections will be announced at a later date.

## Visit Wisconsin



**FIRST STOP** - Little Bohemia in Manitowish Waters which no longer offers lodging, but its restaurant draws diners from around the country and abroad because of its tasty food and place in gangster lore. The owners have kept a shrine of sorts in one of the former hotel rooms that's filled with mobster memorabilia, including clothing, toiletries and other items left by George "Baby Face" Nelson and the even more famous John Dillinger.

The lodge also still has windows with bullet holes in them from the gun battle that unfolded 80 years ago.

Little Bohemia gained renewed fame during the summer of 2008 when some scenes from the movie "Public Enemies" about the final years of Dillinger's life were shot on location. The film starred Johnny Depp.

Where to send your Milwaukee Brewer's Raffle Information:

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**FAX:** 262-946-3000



### DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE RATE INFORMATION UPDATE FOR 2015

Our Insurance premiums for 2015 are still on a two tier system: Single Plan and Family Plan however, the payment rates have changed for LAW Members and Non Members. Monthly payment coupons for Dental and Vision Insurance for both LAW Members and Non-Members are available to print on our web site under the "Insurance/Dental/Vision" tab.

#### 2015 Delta Dental Insurance Monthly Premium Rates

Single Rate LAW Member: \$47.00

Single Rate Non-Member: \$49.00

Family Rate - LAW Member: \$118.00

Family Rate - Non Member \$120.00



#### 2015 Vision Insurance Monthly Premium Rates

SINGLE PLAN LAW MEMBER	FAMILY PLAN LAW MEMBER	SINGLE PLAN NON- MEMBER	FAMILY PLAN NON- MEMBER
\$9.75 PER MONTH	\$22.00 PER MONTH	\$11.75 PER MONTH	\$24.00 PER MONTH

#### *Little Bohemia - continued...*

Dan Johns, whose parents run Little Bohemia, said interest in the gangster legend hasn't subsided much over the past six years.

"There is still a lot of excitement about the lodge," said Johns. "I'd say the majority of the people who come here know something about its history. They are interested in seeing the bullets holes, the old newspapers, and the items the bank robbers left behind — as well as have a meal."

*Excerpt from - Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel*





## Birdfeeders

### ingredients:

2 packets Knox gelatin  
 2/3 cup water  
 2 cups birdseed  
 cooking spray  
 cookie cutters/molds  
 wax or parchment paper  
 straws  
 twine



In a small saucepan, add gelatin to water. Stir until dissolved. Turn burner onto medium heat. Stir constantly until gelatin simmers. Remove pan from heat. Stir in 2 cups of birdseed until well incorporated. Let cool a few minutes. Line baking sheet with parchment/wax paper. Spray the insides of the cookie cutters/molds. Carefully spoon birdseed mixture to the top of each cutter. Insert a straw 1/2' from the top to create a hole for hanging. Place cookie sheet in the fridge for 1 hour or until solid. Remove cookie cutters and straw, insert twine and tie a knot. *Makes 2 bird feeders approximately 4" wide.*



### Upcoming Holidays:

March 8 – Daylight Savings Time

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 – Spring Begins

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 1 – April Fool's Day

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – Easter

April 24 – Arbor Day





## Great Gardens!

Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea* spp.) produce bountiful, globular blooms that range from red to varying shades of pink to white. With the right soil, hydrangeas produce blue to lavender-blue blooms. Coffee grounds are one way to create soil that supports the growth of more unusual-colored hydrangea blooms. Before you swing by your coffee shop to pick up pounds of grounds, understand the process to help your hydrangea produce blue blooms.

Turning the flowers blue with coffee grounds isn't necessarily a quick process. Some hydrangeas grow flowers on last year's growth; other hydrangeas grow them on the current year's growth. Flower buds typically begin to develop on hydrangeas that are 2 or 3 years old, depending on the species and cultivar. The buds develop during the winter and continue to develop in spring, producing full blooms in late summer to early fall. As a result, the earlier you add coffee grounds to the soil, the earlier you impact the bloom color of the hydrangea, assuming it's old enough to bloom.

Coffee grounds also help retain moisture in the soil, which is an additional benefit to your hydrangea. Hydrangeas grow best with deep weekly watering rather than light daily watering and the coffee grounds help keep the soil moist between watering times. If you have azaleas and rhododendrons in your garden, as well as hydrangeas, these plants also respond well to a more acid soil, providing further use for your used coffee grounds.

### VEBA - How does it work?

**Proceeds from the VEBA Health Trust can be used for:**

- Health Insurance Premium
- Vision Insurance Premiums
- Dental Insurance Premiums
- Home Health Care Premiums
- Medicare Part B Insurance Premiums

**There is NO LIMIT to the number of shares an individual may purchase. Anyone can be a member of the Trust, not just those represented by LAW**

*\*\*\*The only requirement for non-represented members is a payment of a \$2.00 per month affiliate fee.*

### Simple Trick for Easy-to-Peel Hard Boiled Eggs



If you have ever been in charge of the deviled eggs for your family picnic, you know that shelling a dozen hard boiled eggs can be a real chore. And did you know that the fresher your egg, the harder it is to peel? For easy peel hard boiled eggs, there is a fool-proof and simple trick to make shelling super easy – just add baking soda!

The egg white, also known as the *albumen*, sticks to the shell of fresh eggs after they are cooked. As the egg ages, however, it will not stick quite as much to the shell after cooking. The trick to easy shelling – add 1/2 tablespoon of baking soda to the cold water before boiling the eggs. When the water boils over the eggs, the baking soda will pass through the eggshell causing the egg white to separate from the shell.

So for easy-to-peel hard boiled eggs, just add baking soda to the water and the shell will come right off.

