

WAPC



Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels

Serving the needs of public, education, and government cable access television stations since 1998.

2010 - 2011

Board of Directors

Mick Givens

Rice Lake Public Access
President

Deb Brunett

Merrill Productions
*Vice-President
Conferences Chair*

Mike Ryan

West Bend Community Television
Treasurer

Kate Welter

Reedsburg Utility Commission
*Secretary
Nominations Chair*

Brad Clark

Madison City Channel
Public Policy Chair

John Foust

Jefferson JPEG

Dan Kummer

Marshfield Community Television

Galen Lingl

Mauston Public Access Television

Alan Luckett

Whitewater Community Television

Ryan Marquart

Pleasant Prairie Media

Scott Mealiff

Sheboygan WSCS
Communications & Resources Chair

Executive Director

Mary Cardona

608-215-5594
608-233-6148 (fax)
wapc@tds.net

www.wapconline.com

February 18, 2011

The Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels supports our union colleagues in their effort to retain their collective bargaining rights.

Thousands of Wisconsin citizens from all walks of life have been at the Capitol for days pleading with the Governor and the Republican-controlled legislature to respect the rights of state workers and more than that, to respect Wisconsin citizens, who oppose the Budget Repair Bill so intensely. WAPC fervently hopes that our Governor and our legislators demonstrate that they serve *all* the people of this state, by listening to all parties and seeking a solution to the budget deficit that preserves worker's rights.

In 2007, WAPC experienced bill fast-tracking firsthand in the guise of the Video Competition bill. Then, as now, legislators were hurried to a vote with pie-in-the-sky rhetoric – lower cable rates, hundreds and thousands of new jobs, and widespread competition -- and got none of it. The bill gutted consumer protections, ended local control, reduced revenue to local governments, and made the continued survival of community access television channels across the state tenuous.

Legislators are about to make the same mistake. Today, they are being told this bill is necessary to close a budget deficit. The real effect will be to break the state worker's union. Again, major parties affected by the legislation are not at the table and are being summarily ignored. Again legislation is being rushed to a vote without critical review. Again the rights and financial health of local governments and local school districts are on the chopping block.

Have we come to the point here in Wisconsin where we have a government by edict rather than a government of negotiation and compromise? Can we call ourselves a democracy when might makes right and minority interests be damned?

We stand with AFSCME and other workers in their quest for a fair hearing on the merits of this legislation and urge the Governor and the legislature to craft budget legislation that preserves the rights of Wisconsin workers.

Sincerely,

Mick Givens
President

Mary Cardona
Executive Director