

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Dog days of summer barking at the politicians

I hope your summer has been pleasant. Nothing like sitting in your favorite chair or swinging on your hammock on a lazy summer afternoon. The sun reflecting off the leaves as you sway from side to side, listening to the cicadas makes for a wonderful afternoon.

Okay, enough of that. While we try to relax, we are bombarded with a never-ending barrage of attacks by our once appreciative politicians as they hammer away at our pensions and other benefits.

Here in our great state of Illinois, our democratic leadership continues to frustrate public service employees. House Speaker Michael Madigan and Minority Leader Tom Cross, with their cabal mates in the Civic Committee and Commercial Club of Chicago (read corporate elite types) tried desperately to pass SB512, which would have diluted your pension by forcing you into one of three categories. I have written about this earlier, so I won't repeat myself here.

Madigan and Cross allegedly put this bill together behind closed doors, but later announced that they would not bring it to the floor for a vote. This usually means they knew they didn't have the votes to pass it. The unions stopped it. Your calls, emails, and letters stopped it.

For now.

But as all crafty politicians do, they promised to meet over the summer with other conspirators and come up with something new for the Fall veto session. Oh, joy.

This all continues to hinge on dishonest and disingenuous portrayals in a statewide campaign utilizing various media to demonize our pensions and benefits as the cause for all their problems in the state. Whip up all those folks whose jobs have been destroyed by the economy. Higher taxes? Blame the cops and other public employees.

Problem here is that the press has bought into it and so have many of the citizenry. So it's clear to all of us in this noble profession of union labor that this battle/war is far from over.

The Fall veto session will bring more dastardly deeds from the Duddly-Do-Littles in Springfield.

Keep up those calls, emails, and letters to your reps. We need those to win this battle of good over evil.

Stay safe.
Vita é Bella