

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Labor Day—9/11 and the end of summer

Yeah, it's coming to a close, sooner than later. Hard to believe that soon a crisp chill will be in the air and the leaves will start to fall. Man, I hate that, but others will welcome it. Such is the beauty of the four seasons. Something for everyone.

For us, it also means another Fall Veto Legislative Session here in Springfield, IL. It may not be good for coppers and public sector workers. We just have to hope that politicians have listened to us and will cease in their never-ending struggle to bash cops and trash our pensions.

It is tough. Tough to hear that with the 10th anniversary of 9/11 on the horizon, politicians and the public could turn so rapidly against us. At one time, we were heroes. Now we are the bad guys, forcing the taxpayers to pay us outrageous wages, benefits, and pensions.

Politico types of all persuasions have managed to get the media to jump on their bandwagons and parrot the falsehoods, innuendoes, and sometimes outright lies coming from our governmental leaders on both sides of the color spectrum of blue and red.

They have directed their scandalous ways into the smoke filled mirror rooms and convinced many that we are the cause of their fiscal irresponsibility. Reading this garbage has been a joke, but they have the press and the press more often than not does not report the entire story. I can only guess why. Their love affair with all things political? Their fear that if they don't cater to the government, that they won't get stories to report on? I don't know; do you have any answers?

Maybe our benefits are just that much better than some in the 4th estate and they are simply jealous. Maybe they want us just to be public servants like in the 70's with emphasis on servants.

Also in a few days is Labor Day—a day that we should value as a venerated symbol to our past accomplishments in labor and to our advancements leading up to the present. It is these things you should cherish and be willing to fight for. Because a lot of folks have forgotten the blood, sweat, and tears it took to get you decent, fair wages and the opportunity to retire and not have canned dog food on the menu. It is a fight that you, we, all, need to ponder, consider, and study. For the future in labor could be bleak. The past is not something you want to go back to.

Look to the future. Stand in solidarity. And keep those cards and letters going to your representative. Tell them hell, no, to changes in your pensions and working environment without collective bargaining.

Your future in labor is **now!** Stay safe.

Vita é Bella

Editor: Let us ask for blessings for the victims and families of 9/11, for our own humanity in this great nation and compassion for all the public sector workers affected by that great tragedy.