

Two minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Politics on a Small Scale

Obviously you have not seen much from MAP about our national election. Couple of reasons for that, most notably is while receiving union inquiries and interest from Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and a few other states, MAP is pretty much, at least for now, an Illinois union.

Not affiliated with an International gives us the ability to keep dues low and focus on state-wide and local issues that directly affect our members. As the breadth of MAP expands, so will the policies that direct us to better serve our members whenever they might come from within our organization, which would include political elections in various states or on a national level.

So while MAP may support local or state political leaders, we avoid a national scope. Yes, there is a trickle effect but we can resolve those few issues on a state and local level for our members without venturing outside our influence and keeping our assets local.

And while most of those in the labor movement espouse a Democratic scheme, there is much to be said about Republican candidates. I just wish they were a little bit more for labor, but that doesn't mean that Dems are always the people's choice, either.

So while we may not throw our hat in the ring for Obama or McCain, we most certainly ask you to research the candidates and go in the direction your heart tells you, formulating your opinion with all the facts at hand.

On a local level, there are state's attorneys, coroners, senators, representatives, mayors, and council people who will impact your daily life. At times it's hard to tell a Democrat from the GOP with all the different party names out there. But especially for those of us in law enforcement, a mixture of both is a great check and balance, isn't it? And that is MAP's philosophy on endorsing a friendly, compatible philosophy for all law enforcement and a compassion for our profession and the people who work in it. Someone to help us, to make us safer, and who isn't afraid to openly support us. Someone who doesn't see any of us as simply an "invoice" for their principles engulfed strictly on party lines. These are the individuals we suggest you vote for in November.

So keep that in mind as you prepare to vote. From our highest office to our least locally known politician, good luck on your choice. It will be an interesting November 2008.

Stay safe.

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