



The DemoFacts

A publication paid for & by the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party

SPECIAL EDITION

April 2011

Be a Part of Our Grassroots Advocacy Efforts!

With the passage of the dreadful Senate Bill 5 by the Ohio General Assembly, and its signing into law by Governor John Kasich, Ohio Democrats and our brothers and sisters in organized labor are already engaged and energized to repeal this law.

We will need every member of the BWHDP, whether you live in Cuyahoga County or not, to assist us in our signature-gathering efforts. We are also inviting every member of organized labor who resides in Bedford or Walton Hills to join the BWHDP.

In addition to our efforts pertaining to the repeal of SB 5, the

BWHDP will be working to protect our communities' vital interests with regards to the State Budget.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be sending post cards to members of the General Assembly urging them to protect the state programs that are important to us. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor, and also get your friends and neighbors involved.

Additionally, the BWHDP will be active in the communities over the summer months sharing information about state-level issues, including the budget and the SB 5 repeal, but also

about our local candidates who are on the ballot this year.

This is the time where we can all pitch in and help out. Our collective efforts will result in the obtaining of the necessary signatures to get the SB 5 repeal on the ballot and to also increase our membership and spread our Party's message.

It has often been said that local Party organizations like ours are going by the wayside. Together, we can reverse that trend in our two communities, and make the BWHDP the premier local Party organization in Cuyahoga County.

Information about SB 5 repeal petitions is forthcoming. To get involved with the repeal efforts, please contact Democratic Leader Andrew Mizsak at 440-550-9620

Inside this issue:

<i>Bedford SB 5 Rally a Success</i>	2
<i>From the Front Lines: Bill Lavezzi</i>	2
<i>From the Leader's Desk</i>	3
<i>Events Calendar</i>	3
<i>State Senator Nina Turner</i>	4
<i>BWHDP Seeking to Partner with Organized Labor</i>	4
<i>Ohio House Democratic Leader Armond D. Budish</i>	5
<i>The View from the Village</i>	7
<i>Treasurer's Notes</i>	8

OFFICIAL CALL OF MEETING

The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party will be meeting in REGULAR SESSION on **TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011, at 7:00 PM**, for the purpose of the third reading and final consideration of Resolution 2011-001, *A Resolution Amending and Revising Certain Sections of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Democratic Party of the City of Bedford and Village of Walton Hills, Ohio.*

The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party will also

consider any other business relative to the Organization that may be brought forth.

The Meeting will be held at the Ellenwood Recreation Center, 124 Ellenwood Avenue, Bedford, Ohio 44146.

Any questions, please contact Democratic Leader Andrew C.M. Mizsak at (440) 550-9620 or via email at LeaderMizsak

@bwhdems.org

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ ANDREW C.M. MIZSAK

Andrew C.M. Mizsak,
M.A.P., MBM

Democratic Leader

City of Bedford and Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Special points of interest:

- To Get involved with efforts to oppose SB 5, contact Democratic Leader Andrew Mizsak or Central Committee Member Bill Lavezzi

Bedford/
Walton Hills



Democratic
Party

Rally Opposing SB 5 on Bedford Commons a Success

On Sunday, March 20th, more than 150 people gathered on Bedford Commons to oppose Senate Bill 5, a measure in the Ohio Legislature that would strip public employees of their collective bargaining rights.

Headlining the event was State Senator Nina Turner (D-25th District) who rallied the troops and reminded those in attendance that this bill is nothing but the Republican's first step in a full assault on the middle class.

"This is an attack on our rights as a people," said Senator Turner.

The rally was attended by public school teachers, firefighters, police officers, and members of Organized Labor from the private sector as a show of solidarity.

"This Governor of ours has admitted he is trying to 'break the backs of the unions who run public schools,' and he is going after the Trades next. We have to stand united," said Democratic Leader Andrew Mizsak.

Also addressing the crowd was Bedford Vice Mayor and courageous Democrat Stan Koci, who shared the story that Bedford was one of the first communities to engage in collective bargaining with their employees in the 1980's when he was a leader in the Firefighters' Union. The Vice Mayor also said that this bill is more than about collective bargaining...its about maintaining the quality of life for middle class families.

"I am worried that with what [Governor] Kasich is doing to unions, my son-in-law, who is a union bricklayer, is going to move his family out of state. My wife and I thought when he and my daughter moved to Streetsboro that 20 minutes was far away. I couldn't imagine them being out of state. This bill affects families."

Bill Lavezzi, our Central Committee Member in Bedford 6-B, and Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Education Association, spoke to the fundamental fairness of collective bargaining.

"I lost my job in a school district because I was a Union Leader... that was in the pre-collective bargaining days, when school districts could do that. Collective bargaining rights allow unions to be something more than just a bowling league."

The crowd also heard from JoAnn Johntony, the President of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, who put anyone who supports SB 5 on notice.

"I will work day and night to let people know who is hurting working Ohioans and their families," said Johntony.

The event received a great deal of coverage in the local media, and dominated much of that day's television and radio news. Members of over 15 unions ranging from several education associations to the Teamsters, UAW, and the Building Trades were represented.

Because of the March 20th event's success, a second rally for sometime in the late summer/early fall is being planned. Details for the future event are forthcoming.

SB 5 Referendum Fight Begins

From the Front Lines

Bill Lavezzi, Member of the Central Committee - Bedford 6-B

The Senate Bill 5 fight entered a new phase this week, as the House amended the bill and passed it, the Senate passed the amended bill, and Governor Kasich signed it and filed it with the Secretary of State's office. While some details about the situation are still unclear, here's what we appear to know at this point.

1) The ninety-day countdown for filing referendum petitions began when the bill was filed on Friday, which means that the signing period expires on June 30.

2) Before general signing petitions can be circulated, 1,000 petitions with sample language need to be submitted to the Secretary of State, and the Ohio Ballot Commission needs to approve ballot language. The referendum is on whether the law will be allowed to go into effect, so we will be working for a "No" vote.

3) The referendum campaign will be coordinated by a campaign organization called "We Are Ohio." According to *The Plain Dealer*, "the new group is heavily influenced by Democratic and union leaders but was created to stand alone from the party and any single labor group, in part to try to attract others who do not subscribe to Democratic politics but who oppose SB 5" (March 31, 2011).

4) Now that the final bill has been passed and we know the time line, We Are Ohio is using the early weeks of April to conduct trainings. At the local level, we should have much more information by late April, when we will be seeing the final petitions.

5) Under Ohio law, We Are Ohio will need to gather 231,147 valid voter signatures, which is the number equal to 6 percent of the total turnout in the 2010 gubernatorial election. It is anticipated that the goal will be much higher than that, since the laws for collecting signatures are very detailed and some signatures will almost certainly be ruled invalid. It is common in these campaigns for supporters to seek double the minimum number of signatures.

6) It is generally thought that collecting signatures will be relatively easy, since public labor unions alone have about 350,000 members; the tougher issue will be getting our friends, family members, and neighbors to vote the right way in the referendum.

7) The campaign to sustain SB 5 is expected to draw millions of dollars of contributions from right-wing sources outside Ohio. Although union dues cannot be used to support candidates, they can be used for ballot issues, and many unions are planning special one-time dues assessments. Still, it is generally believed that our side cannot match the other side dollar-for-dollar, and we will need to work creatively to leverage our "people power" to get the necessary votes.

From the Leader's Desk

Andrew C.M. Mizsak, M.A.P., MBM

Democratic Leader

City of Bedford & Village of Walton Hills

This, I am now quite sure, is going to be a recurring theme...
ALL HANDS ON DECK.

Let me repeat.... **THIS IS NOT A DRILL, ALL HANDS ON DECK.**

It seems like time after time we keep asking for volunteers, grassroots advocates, people who claim they are Democrats to act like Democrats, and it's like I am shouting into the Grand Canyon. Yes, the message is echoing off the canyon walls and through the valley, but it's a one way message.

There is rarely a return call.

Now, there are those who have stepped up lately and sent the post cards, made the telephone calls, and been a great part of our SB 5 Opposition efforts. I cannot thank them enough.

There are those volunteered last year at the Southeast Cuyahoga Democratic Center... some have stayed involved, while others have not. If you are one of those great folks, **THANK YOU... AND WE NEED YOU BACK.**

Ladies and gentlemen, here's the deal... I cannot promise you fame or riches, but what I can promise you is that I will thank you time and again for your time, talent, efforts, and treasure. And when I am done thanking you, I will most likely thank you again. I can also promise you that you will be part of a worthwhile cause that will, in the end, serve the people of Ohio.

You will never hear a cross word from me... one of the things I learned as a volunteer swim coach is that you never yell at a volunteer or criticize them because they are giving of themselves. Nor will I ever ask you to do something I would not do myself. What you will hear from me is thank you, and how can I help you help us be even better?

Yes, I can be demanding at times, and I am sure there are times when you get really sick of hearing me ask for funding or volunteer hours. However, I do it because we have spent a lot of money over the past 7 years trying to communicate with our constituency, and more importantly, because our core volunteers have given thousands of hours of themselves, and they need some relief. And for the times I can be a little demanding and seem like a royal pain, I apologize.

I, too, am a volunteer, and I, from time to time, would appreciate an extra set of hands, too.

You will never hear me complain about this position I have aspired to. I love being your Democratic Leader, and I feel so fortunate that the Central Committee has entrusted me with a four year term to do this job I love so much.

(Continued, "Leader," Page 7.)



BWHDP Gear to be On Sale Soon!

If you would like to show your BWHDP pride, and sport our "team colors," fret not. Beginning in May, orders will be taken for BWHDP gear. The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party will be offering the following products for sale (as long as they Union made in the USA):

Fitted baseball cap

Blue polo shirt

Fleece half-zip sweater

Crewneck sweatshirt

All-weather jacket

Nylon windshirt

Winter jacket

Prices are forthcoming, so think about what you would like to purchase. We would love to see all of you showing your pride in our organization by literally wearing it on your sleeve.

Thank you for your support!

EVENTS CALENDAR

- ◆ Tuesday, April 12, 2011: Regular Meeting of the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party. Ellenwood Recreation Center, 7:00 PM
- ◆ Tuesday, May 10, 2011: Regular Meeting of the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party. Ellenwood Recreation Center, 7:00 PM
- ◆ Wednesday, May 18, 2011: Fundraiser for Councilwoman Paula Mizsak. Mr. Gee's Bar and Grille. 5:30 - 8:00 PM. \$35/person
- ◆ Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2011: BWHDP Outreach Booth at the Bedford Rotary Day of the Rib. Bedford Commons.
- ◆ Tuesday, June 14, 2011: Regular Meeting of the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party, Annual Picnic, and Awards Ceremony. Willard Park at Ellenwood Recreation Center, 6:30 PM
- ◆ Friday, June 24 - Sunday, June 26, 2011: BWHDP Outreach Booth at the Italian American Brotherhood Festival. Bedford Commons.
- ◆ Monday, July 4, 2011: BWHDP Entry in the Bedford- Bedford Heights Independence Day Parade.
- ◆ Saturday, July 16, 2011: BWHDP Booth at the Bedford Street Dance. 6:00 PM, Broadway Avenue
- ◆ Friday, July 29 - Sunday, July 31, 2011: BWHDP Booth at the Bedford Lions' Carnival. Bedford Commons



State Senator Nina Turner

Serving and Representing the People of Ohio's 25th Senatorial District



State Senator Nina Turner (D-25th Senate District)

Our State Senator, Nina Turner, has been one of our Party's leading voices against the Republican attack on Ohio's Middle Class.

A now-frequent guest on MSNBC's "The Ed Show," Senator Turner has appeared weekly for the past 5 weeks and has provided an accurate picture of what has been going on not only on Capitol Square, but also across Ohio. On the local level, Senator Turner was gracious enough

to serve as the keynote speaker at the Anti-SB 5 Rally the BWHDP held on March 20th.

Senator Turner has developed a following on YouTube and through other social networking websites because of her impassioned speeches on the floor of the Ohio Senate, where she has tirelessly fought for the rights of Union workers. Senator Turner, who also serves on the faculty member of Cuyahoga Commu-

nity College, is directly affected by SB 5 because of her affiliation with the American Association of University Professors.

Senator Turner shared with **The DemoFacts** that she is gratified by the support she has received from the residents of her District and Ohio during these tumultuous times, and that she will not relent in her efforts to fight for Ohio's middle class.

BWHDP Seeking to Partner with Organized Labor to Increase Membership

The BWHDP is proud to stand with our Brothers and Sisters in Organized Labor



If there is anything that Senate Bill 5 has done, it has galvanized the BWHDP's resolve to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Organized Labor.

In order to better serve our constituents, and to show support for each other, the Democratic Leader is seeking to work with Organized Labor - especially those who live in Bedford and Walton Hills.

There are numerous unions that serve the City of Bedford and Village of Walton Hills, whether they are public sector or private sector, and there are many mem-

bers of those organizations who reside in our two communities. It would behoove all of us to all work together.

If you are a member of an organized labor group, the BWHDP would be honored to have you amongst our ranks. If you are an organized labor leader, and believe we can help each other with campaign efforts, then please let us know.

We are trying to build a better, stronger, BWHDP, and we know that if we work in tandem with our brothers and sisters in Organized Labor, we can do

that. We would also love to engage in other activities with Organized Labor, such as Town Halls, rallies, etc.

If you would like to join our mailing list, please email Secretary Stephanie Terrell at sterrell3@yahoo.com; and if you would like membership information, please contact Assistant Democratic Leader Nancy Lachowski at (440) 232-8897 or via email at NancyLachowski@att.net. Any other questions may be directed to the Democratic Leader.



**TO VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST THE BWHDP
AT OUR SUMMER FESTIVAL BOOTHS,
PLEASE CONTACT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ANDREW P. MIZSAK
440-232-4626**



Democratic Leader Armond Budish

Leading the Fight for Working Families in the Ohio House of Representatives

“We are going to fight like hell!”

These are the words of Ohio House Democratic Leader Armond D. Budish (D-Beachwood), who has been the chief advocate for Ohio’s Middle Class in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Leader Budish, who, appeared on MSNBC’s “The Rachel Maddow Show,” on Thursday, March 31st, shared his views as to how SB 5 has done nothing but hurt Ohioans, and how the Democrats and Organized Labor will be successful in repealing this piece of legislation.

The Leader has asked for the help of Ohioans like those of us in the BWHDP.

In two letters sent to supporters by Leader Budish, he states (excerpted):

“Republicans there just passed a bill that’s even more radical than what Scott Walker is trying to do in Wisconsin.

Before the vote, Ohio House Democrats delivered petitions from 65,414 Ohio residents who opposed the GOP’s union-busting power grab. House Republicans, naturally, refused to read those names into the official record.

But those petitions made the Republicans so ashamed of their bill, they refused to vote until all 65,414 petitions were dragged away!

And then they voted for the very same bill they were so ashamed of!

They literally silenced over 65,000 constituents, and then they voted to strip away the rights of over 350,000 teachers, firefighters, and other state employees.”

(Letter of March 31, 2011)

As Leader Budish told Rachel Maddow, “We’re going to work like hell, and we’re going to fight like hell.”

The BWHDP should thank Leader Budish for being our voice in the Ohio House.

Editor’s Note: Mr. Leader, the BWHDP is more than happy to join you in the work and in the fight.



House Democratic Leader Armond D. Budish (D-Beachwood)

Electronic Communications to be Key Component of BWHDP Outreach

The BWHDP will be taking their message of fighting for Working Ohioans to several different forms of media over the next few weeks.

Already on Facebook and Twitter, the BWHDP is going to be expanding their Web presence with a site on the Internet blog page Blogspot, and we will have a revamped website.

“This expanded outreach could not be done without the great work of our Secretary, Stephanie Terrell, and her brother Sheldon, who will be blogging. Additionally, our technology

consultant, Brian Trafis, has provided us with knowledge on how to increase our Internet capabilities,” said Democratic Leader Andrew Mizesak.

The Leader believes it is crucial to use Internet communications to not only share information that is coming from numerous directions at break-neck speed, but also as a recruiting tool.

“This is the way of the future. Eventually, everything we do will be paperless and web-based,” stated Leader Mizesak.

The BWHDP’s expanded

web presence will allow anyone in the world, at any time, to see what is going on with the BWHDP.

“The plan is to eventually podcast our meetings, as well as share YouTube videos about some of the things we are working on,” continued the Leader.

Our web presence will eventually include an interactive calendar of events, as well as the ability to pay your membership dues and make Capital Campaign contributions online.

“Everything you get at a meeting, you will be able to get online... that is, except the pleasure of our company.”





Democratic activists energized by budget and collective bargaining battles

By Dan Fejes, Guest Columnist, www.pruningshears.us

John Kasich and the rest of the state GOP is going full steam ahead with an agenda that attacks middle class families. Their recent budget also attacks public schools' funding from the State of Ohio at their core.

Republicans admit this is not about long term fiscal prudence. They even admit they are doing it out of ideology; here is Kasich policy

"Even if there weren't an \$8 billion deficit, we'd probably be proposing many of the same things."

In addition, they are attacking the right to collective bargaining with SB 5, a bill so unpopular it sparked massive protests at the capitol and required extraordinary parliamentary maneuvering to accomplish. Not surprisingly, forcing through bad policy over the strenuous objections of Ohioans has

quickly gained the governor the kind of widespread unpopularity that it took Bob Taft years of diligent effort to build.

Democrats and activists are fighting back, though. While the budget battle is still up in the air, In response Ohioans are gearing up for a referendum on the November ballot to repeal SB 5. The state Democratic party is getting the word out and calendars are getting put together.

Most importantly, Ohioans are energized. As opposition has built there have been huge turnouts not just at the capitol but for local events throughout the state. It isn't just union members either; here in the northeast a rally in Kent on a rainy Tuesday drew hundreds.

Some local students made the trek off campus to show support:

Another rally sponsored by the Bedford and Walton Hills Democrats had a similar turnout

Among the speakers was state Senator Nina Turner.

There is tremendous interest in striking it down. Folks are ready to grab their clipboards, go door to door and start talking with their neighbors. Republicans might soon get a reminder why public opinion matters.

I encourage you to join us in this fight. This affects all of us.



Summer Fundraising Dinner for BWHDP Under Consideration

Leadership looking at ways to increase general fund due to stepped-up outreach efforts.

In an effort to generate additional revenue for the operations of the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party, as well as to assist our campaign efforts, Democratic Leader Andrew Mizsak and the Finance Committee will be considering hosting an fundraising dinner in summer.

While this event will primarily an event to generate dollars, it will also be an opportunity to showcase the BWHDP to our members and allied groups.

"The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party's intention is to be an active organization in this community for a long time, but we cannot do that without members and dollars," said Leader Mizsak.

Although no firm plans have been made yet, it is most likely that this event will take place on a weekend and feature a notable keynote speaker.

We will be outreaching to our allies in other progressive organizations, as well as our brothers and sisters in

organized labor for their assistance in this endeavor. This event will be a total team effort in every sense of the phrase.

"The initial idea of a fundraising dinner was proposed in 2009 by Councilwoman Paula Mizsak and Assistant Leader Nancy Lachowski, and we have also received some great ideas from our finance committee members. It is now the time to follow through with this event," Leader Mizsak concluded.

How you can help...
Send any ideas you have for fundraising or outreach to LeaderMizsak@bwhdems.org. Also, to volunteer, call 440-232-4626.

*Bedford/
Walton Hills*



**Democratic
Party**



Summer Festival Series Prime Outreach Opportunity for the BWHDP

Volunteers Needed to Staff Booths and Parades

So, do you have some time to spare on a given weekend or two from June to October?

If you do...and it's really only a block of two-to-three hours at a time... then we need you.

The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party will begin its 10th year of active outreach during the Bedford Summer

Festival Series, and we need volunteers to help staff our booths.

With all that is going on with the efforts to repeal SB 5, combined with our local elections, and the build-up for 2012, the BWHDP will be mighty busy.

It is our goal to have a booth at most of the festivals. Should you choose

to volunteer, please contact Leader Mizesak.

In addition to our festival outreach, the BWHDP will be participating in at least two parades (the 4th of July Parade and the Labor Day Parade). If you want to join us for a fun time, lace up your walking shoes, and join us on the parade route!

Thanks again!



The View from the Village

The Walton Hills Perspective

Well, she did it.

Not surprisingly, State Representative Marlene Anielski toed the Republican line and supported Senate Bill 5.

While candidates are already lining up to take her on in 2012, the task at hand is to continuously remind her of the error of her ways.

Maybe Representative

Anielski forgot that Walton Hills is a Union town... whether it is the men and women of the United Auto Workers, or her very own police officers who are members of the Fraternal Order of Police.

The point is that the Representative, who serves communities that are mostly comprised of middle class individuals, did not stay true

to the people of House District 17. She supported a bill that can could dramatically affect the livelihoods of many of her constituents.

Residents of Walton Hills, members of Labor, and this Party need to communicate with Representative Anielski their disappointment with her vote, and then do what they can to defeat her at the polls in 2012.

Leader, *continued from page 3.*

It, however, is with the knowledge that we will be embarking on our biggest continuous campaign efforts, that I ask you to once again pitch in and serve.

Over the next few months, we are going to need your help with gathering signatures for a referendum to repeal SB 5. We will also need you to staff outreach booths, march in a few parades, and help our local candidates.

Additionally, it would be great if you would join us at our regular meetings. Believe me, people far greater than I attend our meetings. I know you

can make a significant contribution too.

We need you at this critical juncture. We are not going to lessen our campaign efforts for a while, so we need as many people to help as possible.

I thank you, our volunteers thank you, and I know you will enjoy pitching in. I know I do.

So, I repeat my earlier message... ALL HANDS ON DECK.

And yes, for those who were wondering, I did, from time to time, clean the bathroom at the Southeast Cuyahoga Democratic Center.

Thank you again.



The DemoFacts

DELIVER TO:

41 Santin Circle
Bedford, OH 44146

Paid for by the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party,
Nancy M. Lachowski, Treasurer. Printed In-House.

Phone: 440-550-9620

**Check us out
on Facebook!**

**Operations + Outreach
= Dollars and Cents**

Treasurer's Notes

Nancy M. Lachowski

Assistant Democratic Leader/Treasurer

Hello Everyone...

The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party has earned a reputation of being one of the most active local Democratic Party groups in our area. That is in no small part to everything we do when it comes to festivals, campaigns, and communications.

Every time I meet with the Leader, his first question is how are we on finances? My answer: we are holding steady.

I have been a Member of this organization for about 30 years, and in that time, we have seen our share of members come and members go. There are some things we used to do that we cannot do anymore, but we still remain a strong and vibrant, AND VIABLE, organization.

We have found ways to cut costs...to do things for free or at little cost, and we have always been able to raise dollars when we need them. For example, thanks to the generosity of Senator Nina Turner, now-Judge Maureen Clancy, and Bill Lavezzi, last year, we were able to get some seed money for the storefront headquarters, and pay for our last few festival booths. Thanks to Judge Mike Donnelly, our website will be back up and running.

If you have \$10, please join our organization... believe me, we will be able to stretch it. If you can spare a few extra dollars, we would greatly appreciate it. -Nancy

Purchase an Ad here in the Demofacts!

We have heard your suggestions, and yes, we will be publishing The Demofacts more often. However, we know that this will be a costly endeavor. Therefore, we are asking that those vendors, unions, and individuals who would like to keep this publication going to consider sponsoring The Demofacts.

For simply \$25.00, you can buy an eighth-page advertisement. Send in your check, and email your graphics to LeaderMizsak@bwhdems.org, and we will get it in for the next edition.

If you would like to be a Demofacts Patron, and have your name listed, you can do so for just \$10.00.

Larger ads may be purchased, for an additional \$25.00 per additional eighth-page.

Checks may be payable to "The Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party."

The ads will go to defray the costs of printing and postage.

Thank you for your continued support.

**The Bedford/Walton Hills
Democratic Party Blog can be found
online at:**

www.BedfordDemocrats.blogspot.com