



Chamber Connection

“Creating a Bright Future”

**Trotwood
Chamber of Commerce**

**Volume 5 Issue 2
February 2009**

Executive Director’s Notes

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for American men and women. February is Heart Month, Dr. George Broderick, Medical Director of Cardiology Services at Good Samaritan Hospital, will make a presentation on “Save Your Heart for Someone Special,” at our board meeting February 18 at noon, Sycamore Woods Lake, 4444 Lake Center Drive. He will discuss how simple lifestyle changes may keep your heart healthy.



NEWSLETTER DISSEMINATION

Many times we get information that we would like to get to our members quickly, because we do not have email addresses for all members, we cannot get the information to you. To assure you are getting information/newsletter in an efficient and timely manner, the Chamber is considering sending your newsletter via email rather than via mail. Members, if we do not have an email address for you, please submit it to the Chamber along with the contact for your business. Email your information to trotwoodchamber@earthlink.net. If we find this is not an effective way to get information/newsletter to you, we will of course return to regular mail.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT (Card Check)

BACKGROUND

Under current law, if union organizers collect signatures from at least 30 percent of the employees in a bargaining unit, the federal National Labor Relations Board will hold an election to determine whether to certify the union. This process, established and refined through decades of experience, carefully balances the interests of employees, unions, and employers in order to ensure that workers can hear all sides of the union organizing argument and then make up their minds and vote in private, without intimidation or coercion.

WHAT THIS BILL WILL DO

Organized labor is seeking to change the rules and make it easier to organize. Instead of determining whether a union would be certified through a federally-supervised, secret ballot election, the union would be certified the moment it collected a majority (51 percent) of signed authorization cards. The Card Check Bill would eliminate the campaign period when employers present their rationale against union organization and when organizers present their case in favor of union organization. The legal requirements that regulate this process and the ability of employees to make an informed decision in private would also be eliminated. Instead, employee decisions on unionization would be made in front of union organizers greatly increasing the opportunity for coercion and pressure in the union organizing process.

A secondary, purpose of the bill is to amend collective bargaining law so that when a union is recognized for the first time, government arbitrators will likely set the terms and conditions of the union contract unless the union and the employer can meet some rather unrealistic timelines. Today, the law requires that both parties bargain in good faith and recognizes that the union, representing workers, and the employer are in the best position to determine whether an agreement is acceptable and whether compromising on one goal in order to achieve another is acceptable. Under the provisions of Card Check, if the employer and union fail to reach agreement on contract terms within 120 days of the union certification date, mandatory arbitration begins. The Card Check Bill's mandatory interest arbitration provisions would remove any incentive for the employer or the union to adopt realistic bargaining positions, as each would be posturing for the arbitrator, and would give the arbitrator control of the most basic business decisions. It would also deny employees the right to vote on ratification of the contract. Send your approval/disapproval of this Act to: US Senators Sherrod Brown, George Voinovich or US Congressman Jim Jordan.

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Executive Director

In This Issue

Executive Director's Notes
Workers' Compensation
Employee Free Choice Act
Membership Renewal

Upcoming Event

Board Meeting
February 18 at noon
State of the City
February 24
Board Meeting
March 18 at noon

Chamber Connection

Special thanks to the following partners that have renewed their membership for 2009:

Calvary Baptist Church	Jerri's Catering	Salem Towing
Dayton Cub Foods	Katie's Hallmark	Shiloh Springs Care Center
DCR Moving & Storage (Tobin)	Korreck Plumbing	Shiloh Springs Store & Lock
Englewood Health Center	Liberty Savings Bank	Trotwood Library
FirstDay Financial FCU	M&H Service Center	United Theological Seminary
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