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### LRR Focus: Pigs are Flying Over Ole St. Joe's

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## LRR Focus: Pigs are Flying Over Ole St. Joe's

### Abstract

[Excerpt] "You'll see a union in this hospital when pigs fly!" So went the opening statement of the new director of Human Resources at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Joliet, Illinois. Flying pigs instantly became our campaign mascot. On election night a banner flew proclaiming our victory that said, "Pigs are flyin' over ole St. Joe's."

### Keywords

St. Joseph's Medical Center, Joliet, Illinois, union organizing

## LRR FOCUS: Pigs are Flying Over Ole St. Joe's

"You'll see a union in this hospital when pigs fly!" So went the opening statement of the new director of Human Resources at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Joliet, Illinois.

Flying pigs instantly became our campaign mascot. On election night a banner flew proclaiming our victory that said, "Pigs are flyin' over ole St. Joe's."

After six months of demoralizing negotiations we learned that management's new union-busting group, Management Science Associates, (MSA) was holding a seminar for all St. Joe's managers. We had just secured a copy of MSA's training manual in which they refer to employees as Anita Absent, Tony Tardy, Edgar Ego, and Loretta Loyal.

The opportunity to bust the union-busters was at hand. A local company specializing in balloons and performing delivery people turned out to be the perfect "vehicle." They even had pig balloons and a "live" pig!



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The pig arrived, pig's head in hand, looking very overwrought. She informed us that she had been having a very bad day and began to cry. Luckily our staff person is a nurse, trained to handle any situation. She was able to calm the pig and then informed her that her performance that afternoon would not win her a standing ovation, and that her day most certainly was not going to get better. The pig thanked her for her candor, and as all true performers, she summoned her courage, donned her pig's head, and marched bravely into the building.

A poem in hand, the pig asked for the seminar leader by name. Thinking it must be an "in-house" treat for one of his seminar participants, he invited her up to the mike. The pig read the following poem:

*Pig's are flying over ole St. Joe's  
So hear us loud and clear,  
Modern Management failed the test  
Now we are here to stay my dears!*

*Now MSA has joined the fight  
This is two little and much too late,  
Quit wasting your money  
Quit wasting our time  
SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE!*

*With fondest regards,  
Anita Absent  
Tony Tardy  
Edgar Ego*

*P.S. Loretta Loyal DIED!*

The pig said there was a deafening silence in the room and then one collective gasp! She retreated, and we hired her to join us for our informational picket the next day! ■

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