

## EXCLUSIVE: Photographer Who Took Baraboo Nazi Salute Picture Is A Former Leader Of State Teachers Union

A background check of the Baraboo man who took the photo of a large group of Baraboo High School students giving a Nazi salute is a longtime leader of the Wisconsin Education Association Council, the large state teachers' union. Pete Gust was a director of WEAC from 1986 to 1999 and is a former teacher. He now takes photographs, often of motorcycles or biker events and calls himself an educational consultant and public speaker. The photo has gone viral and has been universally condemned.

The photo shows a large group of boys standing on the steps of the Sauk County Courthouse making the infamous Hitler Nazi salute with a couple of students making other "white power" gestures. Gust now says the whole thing is being "misinterpreted" and says he was just trying to get the boys to wave. The photo was taken on a prom night in April of last year but wasn't posted on Twitter until this past weekend.

Gust's LinkedIn page has now been taken down but it revealed his long background in the teachers union and listed his current occupation as a motorcycle photographer. Democrat State Senator Jon Erpenbach, whose district includes Baraboo, originally condemned the photo and blamed it on racism coming from President Trump. Now that the instigator appears to be a former teacher and leader of the teachers union, it's unclear who Erpenbach will blame the bigoted photo on.

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