Scott Walker (The Other One) Sets Wisconsin Straight

New Orleans news anchor with a familiar name wants his many new followers from the north to know he isn’t their governor.

By Jim Price (Patch Staff) - June 3, 2012 9:52 pm ET

There are many Scott Walkers in the world, and quite a lot of Tom Barretts as well, only two of whom are running for governor of Wisconsin.

In fact, there are at least three more of each in Milwaukee alone, according to online directories, and no doubt they take some ribbing from friends and likely get some unusual comments from strangers for their names’ sake alone.

But it’s unlikely even these homegrown soundalikes are as
often mistaken for a certain candidate in the upcoming
election as is a Louisiana man well known in his own right
– Scott Walker, news anchor at WDSU TV in New Orleans.

"The other Scott Walker," as he has taken to calling
himself lately, has been hearing about his Wisconsin
doppelganger for years, and more and more in the past
year.

As the recall race has come down toward the wire,
the misplaced attention has gotten to the point that Walker
felt compelled to respond with an open letter on his
personal website.

My open letter to the people of Wisconsin:

Dear Wisconsinites,

I had a chance to spend time in your great state last
September. I was in Green Bay for the Saints/Packers
season opener and was very impressed with your
hospitality. But I did, in fact, leave. I've only been in
your state one other time, and that was during a visit to
Kohler in 1998. I say this to assure you I'm not your
governor and this isn't his website. You should see the
traffic I'm getting from Wisconsin!

As you're well aware, your governor, Scott Walker, is
set to face a recall election on June 5. I fully expect
visits to this site and emails to increase exponentially
in the coming days. And that's fine. I'll be just as
welcoming to you here as you were to me there.

There are people though who are a bit confused, like
the person who tweeted his family's support to me this
morning. There are many others like him. Reach out to
them. Reveal the truth. Let them know that I have
much better hair than your Scott Walker…and I'll be in
New Orleans anchoring the news on June 5.

Sincerely,

The OTHER Scott Walker

Actually, as he dashed off his letter, Walker apparently forgot one other visit he had made to Wisconsin – one that introduced him to "that" Scott Walker and changed the course of his own life.

"It started in 2005, when I interviewed for a job at WISN (Channel 12-Milwaukee)," Walker said in a phone interview. "They were, like, 'Scott Walker, huh? That's the name of our county executive.'

"I thought, wouldn't it be interesting to be doing the news here, saying 'Hi, I'm Scott Walker.'

The two didn't meet, and although Walker didn't take the job because of family concerns – his wife was expecting their first child – the WISN station manager who had made him the offer called him back after she made a move to Orlando, FL, and hired him there.

In his 17-year career, Walker has never left the South, working in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and now Louisiana.

"It (WISN) was a great job opportunity," Walker said, "but in the end, I didn't have to move to cold weather."

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Walker also didn't mention in his letter that when he visited Lambeau Field in September he got another surprising tweet – from the by-then governor.

"He said, 'Welcome to Wisconsin, it's great to have another Scott Walker here. We should meet.'

"So I tweeted back, 'Yes, let's meet!"

They did, in the legendary Lambeau tunnel, and Walker not only met Walker but interviewed him on camera, giving him a nice feature spot for the hometown folks in the Big Easy.

Interestingly, WISN relocated the southern Walker and interviewed him in turn in an amusing piece in which Walker and his news team are assigned a room that is wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling coated with Packers colors and emblems.

Along with that recent "random tweet" that drove him to set the record straight, Walker said, "I have a lot of people following me who, I think, had the wrong Scott Walker, and every day, there is a ton of traffic on my web site from Wisconsin."

A lot of that began after the Lambeau interview, he said, and so may be just new fans he earned from his visit.

Most of it, anyway, just seems to be curiosity, with some well-wishers but no charged messages one way or the other.

"Although I know he's not the most popular guy with some people up there, there's been no hatred toward me," Walker said. "I have tweeted a couple of times, 'Hey, I'm not that Scott Walker' – and a couple of people did tweet back, 'Oh, good. If you were that one, I'd stop following you.'"