

August Newsletter

AFSCME LOCAL 448

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August, 2020

President: Kathy Lane, 1-815-677-3699
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Treasurer: Gail Greenblatt-987-7721

Chapter Chairs

Dave Beccue-DNR, 885-3311
 Laurie Scudder-Revenue, 987-7509
 Diane Ritter-Lottery, 987-7018
 Melissa Dix-DHS-987-7308
 Tanya Burns-DCFS-987-7640

Members at Large

Aaron Sockwell-DHS, 232-6121
 Cassandra Lumsden-DCFS-987-3266
 Tom Soresie-DCFS-625-7594

Trustees

Tina Green-DCFS-625-7594
 Jeff Bergstrom-DHS-987-7308
 Robin Aebly-DCFS, 235-7878

People Chair

Laurie Scudder-Revenue, 987-7509

Chris Hooser-Staff Representative, 815-968-0447

Meeting Dates

Rockford Labor Temple
 212 South First St.
 Rockford, IL

**September 3,
 2020**

**All Membership meetings
 will begin at 6:30 p.m.**

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

An in-person membership will be held on Thursday September 3, 2020. Meeting location will be at the Rockford Labor Temple located at 212 South First Street in Rockford. We will be in the upstairs meeting hall. Masks will be required. If you don't have a mask, we will supply one for you. The membership meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. No food or drinks will be provided due to COVID 19.

STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS

Our dear union sister Tamara Shorter on July 8, 2020 was hit head on by a distracted driver on Rt. 2 while heading back from an appointment with a client. Tamara suffered devastating injuries and was hospitalized at St. Anthony's Hospital for 16 days. She is now in recovery at Van Mater medical facility. Tamara has a long road ahead of her in recovering from this accident. To brighten her day, please send a card to Van Mater, 950 S. Mulford Rd, Rockford IL 61108.

NOW IT'S EVEN EASIER TO JOIN!

We're stronger together. Employees can now join our union online. If you or a co-worker haven't yet signed an AFSCME membership card, visit [AFSCME31.org/Join](https://www.afscme31.org/Join) to sign up today!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that Union membership has benefits outside the workplace? These are just few of the benefits available to AFSCME members.

You or a member of your family could earn a Free associates degree from Eastern Gateway Community College. Family includes children (or step children), grandchildren (or step grandchildren), parents, siblings, spouses, domestic partners, and financial dependents. Family members do not have to live with you and there is no age limit.

For more information call 1-888-590-9009 or go to freecollege.afscme.org

AFSCME ADVANTAGE provides a wide variety of unique discounts, savings and opportunities to AFSCME members. From scholarship opportunities, financial and insurance products, health services discounts, legal services, discounted tickets on theme parks and sporting events and more. For more information go to www.afscme.org/member-resources/afscme-advantage.

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY

The coronavirus pandemic has created a range of new problems and challenges for all of us—and many are finding it hard to cope with such rapid and wide-ranging changes. We wanted to take a moment to remind you that if these trying times are creating excessive stress, depression or anxiety, **help is available through the AFSCME Personal Support Program**. It's now even easier to access the help you need as PSP services are available via Telehealth. You can call 1-800-647-8776 for assistance

FAIR TAX IS FAIR FIX FOR BUDGET WOES

While the FY 21 state budget adopted by the Illinois General Assembly during its very abbreviated spring session avoided the massive budget cuts that would have necessitated service cuts and layoffs, Illinois' financial picture is far from rosy.

To close the budget gap, Governor Pritzker developed a plan to borrow money from the Federal Reserve pursuant to a special program established to help states cope with the pandemic.

Borrowing, of course, is only a stopgap measure, as the money must be repaid. That will require victories on two critical fronts. First is the battle AFSCME and others are waging in Washington DC right now to pass the **HEROES Act**, which will provide urgently-needed federal funds to state and local governments to help them meet the new costs created by the coronavirus pandemic. This legislation has already passed the House, but Mitch McConnell and fellow Republicans have been blocking passage in the Senate. McConnell argued that instead states should declare bankruptcy and try to get out of meeting their pension obligations to their employees.

The second critical piece is the crusade our union is helping to wage to fix Illinois' broken tax system by passage of the **Fair Tax** constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot in the November General Election. If adopted, it will open the door to allowing a tax increase on the richest 3% of Illinois taxpayers, while the rest of us would pay less or the same as we do now.

The same forces that want to cut our pay or lay us off are now aggressively mobilizing to defeat the Fair Tax in November. If that tax reform measure doesn't pass—leaving the state in even more dire straits—you can be sure the anti-government crowd will be coming after us even harder, with pensions back on their target range too. **So be sure you have the facts** and are prepared to help educate your family and friends about why the Fair Tax is essential to us all.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

LOADED BUTTERSCOTH TOFFEE PECAN COOKIES

2 1/2 cups flour	1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter (softened)	1 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 large eggs	1 (10 oz.) butterscotch baking chips]
2 cups roughly chopped pecan pieces	2/3 cup bits-o-brickle (English toffee bits)

Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

Using an electric mixer, cream together the softened butter, light brown sugar, sugar and vanilla extract.

Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each addition.

Gradually add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture. Stop and scrape the sides of the bowl periodically. After all of the flour has been added beat for 1 minute.

By hand, mix in the butterscotch chips, pecan pieces and bits-o-brickle until evenly distributed in the dough.

Cover and chill for a least 1 hour or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line 3 cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Use a 2 oz. ice cream scoop to divide the dough. Place onto the cookie sheet 2-inches apart.

Bake for 12-15 minutes or until lightly golden. Keep the dough chilled between batches.

Cool on the pan for 5 minutes then remove to a cooling rack to cool completely.

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