

# AFSCME LOCAL 448

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June 2021

**President:** Alice Sutherland  
**Vice President:** Diane Ritter-263-6673  
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 973-2857  
**Treasurer:** Laurie Scudder-987-7509

**Chapter Chairs**

Tanya Burns: DCFS-987-7542  
 Marie Reck: Revenue-209-5405  
 Jennifer Lavoisier: Lottery 773-330-0566

**Members at Large**

Aaron Sockwell: DHS-670-5283  
 Robin Aebly: DCFS-908-9664  
 Tom Soresie: DCFS-973-2857

**Trustees**

Tina Wren: DCFS-590-9350  
 Jeff Bergstrom: DHS-901-2969  
 Greg Duffy: DCFS-994-0502

**People Chair**

Laurie Scudder: Revenue-987-7509

Chris Hooser: Staff Representative-815-968-0447

**Meeting Dates**

<b><u>Meeting Dates</u></b>	
<b>ZOOM MEETING</b> Contact Alice for link to Zoom meeting	<b>June 3, 2021</b>
<b>All Membership meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.</b>	

**BENEFIT CHOICE PERIOD**

This week launches the group insurance program Benefit Choice period for all state employees, which runs May 1st to June 1st. The Benefit Choice period is a time when you can make changes to your State of Illinois benefits (health, dental, life, AD&D, flex spending) before the new plan year starts on July 1st, including enrolling in coverage, changing plans, or adding/dropping dependents.

There are numerous changes to the group insurance program for the 2021-2022 plan year. So it will be important to carefully review the Benefit Choice materials. Virtual benefit fairs are also scheduled throughout the month of May. These changes are pursuant to the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement that was reached after extensive negotiations in which your bargaining committee worked to ensure that improvements were made to the health plan and cost increases were kept in check. We're writing you now to provide some additional facts which may be important in helping you make an informed choice at this time:

- ◆ **Employee Premium Increases:** Employee contributions will increase by a composite of \$13 a month for employee only coverage and \$18 a month for dependent coverage. These increases have been distributed across the salary bands to maintain the progressive structure of employee premium contributions, as well as across the health plans based on the relative cost of the plans. Please fully review each plan to know exactly what the increase would be for that plan.
- ◆ **Increases to Out-of-Pocket Expenses:** In FY 22 out-of-pocket costs will increase by amounts consistent with health care cost trends.
- ◆ **New Open Access Plan (OAP) Option:** Effective July 1st the state will offer a third OAP option through Blue Cross Blue Shield. If considering one of the OAP plans, check the coverage map to determine which plan(s) have Tier 1 and Tier II providers in your area to ensure access to in-network and reasonable out-of-pocket costs.
- ◆ **HealthLink Coverage Area:** For FY 22, the network for HealthLink has changed to Illinois and a limited amount of contiguous states. Members will no longer have access to network providers in areas such as Florida or Texas. The QCHP continues to offer a national network of providers.

## **HAVE REPRESENTATION WHEN SPEAKING TO POLICE**

It is extremely important for those whom are called to speak to police in your capacity of your job at the State of Illinois must seek advice of their attorney. You should not meet with police with an attorney. As many know, last year an investigator and supervisor from DCFS were charged criminally for the death of a child. The death was caused by the parents of the child however, the states attorney's office has criminally charged the worker and supervisor. This issue doesn't just pertain to DCFS as workers and supervisors can be charged criminally in other agencies as well. Remember to also contact your union official immediately to assure the agency is contacting the Illinois Attorney General's office if you have been charged criminally to obtain their representation as a state employee. If the attorney general's office finds that you acted in a negligent manner, they will not represent you hence you must seek your own attorney.

You can also be sued civilly as what has been done in the Crystal Lake case. Protect yourself and seek out legal advice if you find yourself in this situation.

## **BETH'S EASY BLACKBERRY CRUMPLE RECIPE**

### **Ingredients**

7- cups (1050g) of blackberries

¾ cup (150g) sugar

¼ cup (60ml) lemon juice

¼ cup (25g) cornstarch

pinch of salt

Crumb Topping:

1 cup (120g) flour

2 tbsp (23g) brown sugar

2 tbsp (25g) white sugar

1 tsp (5ml) baking powder

¼ tsp (1.25ml) salt

½ tsp (2.5ml) cinnamon

1 cup (90g) old fashioned oats

½ cup (120ml) melted butter

3 tbsp (45ml) heavy cream

2 ½ tsp (12.5ml) vanilla extract

¼ cup (40g) chopped walnuts

Service with Vanilla Ice Cream

### **Instructions**

In a large bowl combine the blackberries, sugar, lemon juice, cornstarch, and salt. Set aside. In a smaller bowl whisk together the flour, sugars, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Then stir in the oats. Add the melted butter, heavy cream, and vanilla. Combine with a fork until crumble forms, add the walnuts. In a smaller bowl whisk together the flour, sugars, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. Spoon the berry mixture into 1 cup ramekins or 9x12 baking dish. Sprinkle the crumble generously on top. Bake at 375 for 35-40 minutes or until berry juices start to run.

N	E	G	O	T	I	A	T	I	O	N	S	V	M	H
E	R	Y	K	A	L	O	P	J	M	T	I	Q	S	U
G	V	T	G	T	F	L	Y	I	E	X	S	W	T	N
O	Y	I	V	U	F	S	J	O	B	Y	T	Z	E	Q
T	T	R	B	N	E	R	C	R	A	R	E	Q	W	M
C	B	A	R	I	Q	D	O	M	P	T	R	Y	A	Y
A	T	D	E	T	L	T	G	H	E	D	S	D	R	G
R	R	I	B	Y	H	L	E	F	O	P	B	J	D	X
T	W	L	W	E	W	E	D	A	P	I	L	E	M	W
N	L	O	R	T	D	F	B	Z	L	E	W	R	B	H
O	R	S	E	B	I	G	R	I	E	V	A	N	C	E
C	T	H	U	N	I	O	N	B	I	G	K	T	U	A
G	S	E	U	D	E	T	H	E	K	I	R	T	S	Z

**AFSCME      PEOPLE      CONTRACT      UNION**

**STEWARD      GRIEVANCE      STRIKE      UNITY**

**SOLIDARITY      BROTHERS      SISTERS      DUES**

**NEGOTIATIONS**

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