

January Newsletter

AFSCME LOCAL 448

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January, 2020

President: Kathy Lane, 1-815-677-3699
Vice President: Tamara Shorter, 621-6822
Secretary: Alice Sutherland, 395-6661
Treasurer: Gail Greenblatt-987-7721

Chapter Chairs

Dave Beccue-DNR, 885-3311
 Laurie Scudder-Revenue, 987-7509
 Diane Ritter-Lottery, 987-7018
 Meliza Lester-DCFS 987-7920
 Melissa Dix-DHS-987-7308

Members at Large

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

Trustees

Tiffany Moore-DHS-987-7620
 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

DeKalb DCFS Office
 760 Peace Rd.
 DeKalb, IL

January 9, 2020

All Membership meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Food and drink will be provided at 6:00 p.m. for all meetings.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

As we all know, 2019 was a much better year for state workers in Illinois than in past years however, there is a lot of work to do in 2020 to make the lives of those in the middle class better.

On February 1st AFSCME Council 31 will adopt our upcoming legislative agenda. On March 17, 2020 is the primary election in Illinois. The time begins to work the precincts to elect those who support an agenda for middle class workers. In June our local will nominate and vote for those wanting to attend the International convention in Los Angeles. The convention is in August. In July we start canvassing precincts advising everyone why it's so important to support the fair tax amendment to our Illinois constitution. In August, Council 31 will hold a PEOPLE convention to vote on state, congressional legislators and senators as well as judges in Illinois. Every weekend thereafter, we will canvass as its one of the most important elections for the middle class. Election Day is November 3rd. All state workers are off within our local so there's NO reason why you can't work the elections. In November our local will hold nominations for officers, executive board members including trustees. If necessary, elections for our local will occur in December.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW STEWARDS

On December 19th and 20th several members/activists attended a two day steward training. Within the training stewards learned how to conduct labor management meetings, file grievances and represent members at investigatory and pre-disciplinary hearings. Those who attended and are now certified stewards include: DHS in Rockford-Melissa Dix, Cynthia Witt, and Johnice Harvey; Public Health-Tina Radounais; DCFS in Rockford-Krista Vaccarello, Andy Saunders and Taquisha Santos; DCFS in Sterling-Tina Green. Congratulations to the new stewards.

DIX NAMED DHS CHAPTER CHAIR OF DHS

Melissa Dix, steward at DHS has been named as Chapter Chair. Melissa, a caseworker has been involved with the union for over a year. Melissa has attended the PEOPLE convention and AFSCME state convention. Melissa is well respected in her office and will be a wonderful asset to our local executive board.

IT'S OFFICIAL-WE HAVE A WEBSITE

A year later, we have a website where everything is at your fingertips. Newsletters, meeting minutes, scholarship information, meeting dates, executive board members and their contact information is just a few items on this site. If you have any questions or have any suggestions for the website, contact Kathy Lane at my3boys448@yahoo.com.

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

Many times management asks a member to come into their office to discuss an issue. Too many times management does not advise a member that they have a right to union representation if the conversation they have could lead to discipline. It's extremely important that you know your rights. WEINGARTEN Rights was a decision made by the United States Supreme Court in 1975 stating you have a right to union representation when you believe the conversation you are having with management could lead to discipline.

Below are your WEINGARTEN rights:

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request my union representative, officer or steward to be present at this meeting. Without union representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

MEETING DATES FOR 2020

January 9, 2020	DeKalb	
March 5, 2020	Sterling	
May 2, 2020	Rockford	
June 4, 2020	Freeport	Will have a meeting to elect delegates, alternates, and guests for the International Convention which will be in August.

RECIPES OF THE MONTH

LOADED TOT KABOBS

Ingredients

Ore-Ida Tater Tots

Colby jack shredded cheese

Real bacon bits

Sour cream

Chives (Optional)

Skewers

Bake tater tots according to directions. Cool slightly then thread them six at a time on skewers. Top with cheese and bacon bits (as much as you desire).

Return to oven and bake until cheese is melted. Serve up with sour cream topped with chives as a dip.

TEXAS TOAST GARLIC BREAD PIZZA

8 slices Texas Toast Garlic Bread (frozen)

8 Tablespoons Pizza Sauce

2 oz. Pepperoni or other pizza toppings

2 cups shredded Mozzarella Cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Place the garlic bread on baking sheet that has been sprayed with non sticking cooking spray.

Next add a little bit of pizza sauce to each slice of bread enough to cover the one side of the bread, then top with pepperoni or your desired pizza toppings. Lastly, cover with cheese.

Bake for 5-6 minutes or until cheese is melted.