

December Newsletter

AFSCME LOCAL 448

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December 2021

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Vice President: Diane Ritter-263-6673
Secretary: Taquisha Santos-Teague
 973-2857
Treasurer: Laurie Scudder-987-7509

Chapter Chairs

Tanya Burns: DCFS-987-7542
 Marie Reck: Revenue-209-5405
 Jennifer Lavasseur: 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

| | |
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| Membership Meeting | Thursday 12-2-2021 |
| Executive Board Meeting | January 6, 2022 |
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| All Membership meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. | |

December Membership Meeting

As indicated in the last newsletter our next membership meeting will be held on 12-2-21. This will be an in-person meeting taking place at the Rockford Labor Temple located at 212 S 1st Street in Rockford. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. Unfortunately, the Labor temple still has restrictions on providing food so no food will be served at the meeting.

Representatives Dave Vella and Maurice West will be there to discuss staffing issue in all agencies but particularly at DCFS.

Representatives Vella and West were kind enough to join us for our last executive board meeting to begin this discussion and wanted to follow up with us at our next meeting.

No Dues Increase in 2022

We realize things have been tough this past year. Even though our per-capita rate with both the International Union and AFSCME Council 31 will increase we are currently above the minimum dues rate. With that in mind, the executive board voted to waive our annual dues increase for members.

Veterans Drop-In Center - Veterans 5K Run

A huge thank you to the following members and their families for representing our local in the Veterans 5K run this year!! Alison Lind, Julie Steel, Shawna Almonaci, Cecilia, Jose, Romeo and Roman Ayala, Tanya Burns, Laurie Scudder, Ynez Moreno, Valdemar Chaidez, Alma Chaidez, Rey Ruiz and George Valadez.

Court-mandated Revamp of the State's Promotion and Hiring Process Pursuant to the Shakman Degree

In order to ensure that any revisions made are fair to current employees, AFSCME secured agreement for a joint labor-management committee that would review all proposed changes.

The committee has been meeting for more than a year and on October 29 reached a groundbreaking agreement that has the potential to radically speed up the filling of vacancies process.

There are 17 titles covered by the addendum. The titles Impacted by MOU Addendum are Mental Health Technician, Trainee Mental Health Technician II and III, Correctional Sergeant, Corrections Food Service Supervisor III, Corrections Supply Supervisor III, Dietician, Security Therapy Aide, Social Worker I, II, III and IV, Support Service Worker, Support Service Lead, Support Service Coordinator I and II, Veterans Nursing Assistant – Certified.

Employees bidding for these positions will no longer need to fill out the exhaustive CMS 100 or 100B. Instead, there will be a simple "yes/no" electronic questionnaire to demonstrate that an employee meets the qualifications for the position. There are also new time limits established for application assessments and grading to ensure more timely hiring based on seniority and qualifications.

In addition, employees will now be able to apply for open positions during working hours, and if they are not allowed time during their workday, they can remain at work to complete the application, getting overtime pay if appropriate.

Promotional Opportunities Expand

The Upward Mobility Program (UMP), a joint program of AFSCME Council 31 and the state of Illinois, is back in full swing after steadily recovering from former governor Bruce Rauner's attempt to shut it down.

Participation has hit an historically high level in 2021. Nearly 6,000 AFSCME members are currently active within the Upward Mobility Program and in the past year, the number of employees taking promotional tests through the program has increased by more than 50% statewide.

Now, opportunities to participate will be even greater as UMP has begun operating its Online Registration System on an open and continuous basis rather than having a time-limited registration period. This means that the Online Registration System is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

With open and continuous registration, union members can register when they are ready to take advantage of the program's benefits, not because of trying to beat a registration deadline. And they don't have to worry about missing a promotional opportunity because registration has been closed.

Bad Addresses

If you move don't forget to let your steward know your new address or send an email to Alice Sutherland at presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com. Each month we get several newsletters back because members have moved, and we don't have an updated address. Member's if you know of someone who has moved, make sure to reach out to them and let them know they need to update their address with us. We want everyone to stay informed.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Join your AFSCME Local 448
family for some holiday cheer!!

Come to one or come to them all. One guest per
member welcome.

All events start at 5:30 PM

Thursday 12-9-21 Palmyra Pub and Eatery

628 Palmyra Rd, Dixon, IL

Wednesday 12-15-21 Stone Eagle Tavern

6445 E State St Rockford IL

Tuesday 12-14-21 Cimino's Little Italy

421 Challenge St, Freeport, IL

Quick Caramelized Apple Tart

Ingredients

- 3 red apples, cored, cut into thin wedges
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, just thawed
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 200 c. Line a large baking tray with baking paper

Combine apple, sugar, cinnamon and lemon juice in a large bowl. Set aside for 10 minutes to develop the flavours.

Place pastry on prepared tray. Use a small knife to score a 1 cm border around the edge (don't cut all the way through). Use a fork to prick center of pastry several times. Layer apple, overlapping slightly on pastry. Reserve juices in bowl. Bake for 20 minutes or until pastry is golden and apple is just tender. Brush with a little of the reserved juices. Sprinkle with walnuts. Serve with ice cream.

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