

October Newsletter

AFSCME LOCAL 448

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October, 2020

President: Kathy Lane, 1-815-677-3699
Vice President: Alice Sutherland, 395-6661
Secretary:
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
 Kassandra 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 S. 1st St.
 Rockford, IL

October 1, 2020

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

VOTE IN THIS UPCOMING ELECTION

It is important for everyone to vote in this election. We as AF-SCME are supporting Joe Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice President of the United States. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's platform includes raising federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; paid family and sick leave; against for-profit charter schools, two years of college be free; expand or fix existing debt-relief programs; boost teachers pay; campaign finance-unlimited spending should not be allowed in politics; support developing new nuclear technologies as part of an effort to fight climate change; end new oil and gas leases on federal land and end off-shore drilling; tax carbon emissions; support a voluntary buyback program on assault weapons; in favor of universal background checks on guns; build on ACA/coverage expansion; linking drug costs to overseas prices; citizenship for Dreamers/DACA; pay for infrastructure through changing taxes on corporation and the wealthy; boost the defense budget; increase the capital gains tax rate; raise corporate taxes, but keep rates lower than before 2017; increase existing taxes on upper-income Americans and dedicating open-ended federal funding to support rural broadband.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

Nominations for officers, executive board members and trustees will be held on November 5, 2020 starting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Loveland Community Building, 513 W. 2nd St in Dixon, Illinois. Elections, if needed will be held through mail in ballots due to COVID 19. Ballots will be sent to your home to vote. You must be a member to vote. It will be your responsibility to send back the ballot in the self-addressed stamp envelope provided. Ballots will be sent out to all members within 2 weeks of the nomination meeting. The self-addressed stamped envelopes must be post marked no later than November 30, 2020 to be counted.

CYNDI OVERTON SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Cyndi Overton was a child enforcement specialist at Health and Family Services in Rockford. Cyndi, a dedicated union member was on the AFSCME Local 448 executive board as a Chapter Chair. Cyndi's support to her co-workers in assuring their rights were protected was something she did not take lightly.

Even throughout her medical issues, Cyndi attended union meetings, executive board meetings, held site meetings and was the biggest cheerleader we had when fighting for our collective bargaining agreements. It was important for our local to honor Cyndi by naming our local scholarship on behalf of her, a tireless worker for the State of Illinois and advocate for union workers. Congratulations to Jordan Streckwald daughter of Kip Streckwald who works for DNR; Olivia Zaluckyj, daughter of Jennifer Zaluckyj who works for DCFS; Valarie Miller, daughter of Pam Miller who works for Department of Transportation and Taylor Spellman, daughter of Kathy Spellman who works at IEMA. Good luck on your future endeavors.

HELP IS NEEDED TO PHONE BANK FROM YOUR HOME

Due to COVID 19, our union will be phone banking instead of leafletting neighborhoods. You can phone bank from your home. Information will be sent including a script and phone numbers for you to call from the comfort of your home. Please contact Sara Dorner, union staff representative at sdorner@afscme31.org. Please provide your name and phone number within the email you send to Sara.

MEMBERSHIP UNION MEETING IN OCTOBER

Due to COVID 19 issues within the Labor Temple, our September membership meeting was cancelled. We've rescheduled the membership meeting to October 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Labor Temple 212 S. 1st St. in Rockford, IL. There will be no food or drinks due to COVID 19. We will be practicing social distancing including setting chairs at least 6 feet apart. Masks will be provided at the door.

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. September is dedicated to engaging and educating the public about suicide prevention and warning signs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is a serious public health problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families and communities. The goal of suicide prevention is to reduce factors that increase risk and increase factors that promote resilience. COVID 19 has increased anxiety, depression, suicide and substance use this year. It is important for people to understand the importance of providing support and remind each other than no one is alone as a community.

The Personal Support Program has provided assistance for many union members and that of their families. Please call 1-800-647-8776 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule day, evening or weekend appointments if available. If you call at other times, you may leave a confidential message or receive taped information about what to do in an emergency. Your and your family's well-being is utmost important.

TAMARA SHORTER CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS AFTER CAR ACCIDENT

Tamara Shorter is up using a walker just 9 weeks after she was critically hurt in a car accident. Tamara was overwhelmed with the cards, flowers and phone calls she received while at St. Anthony's Hospital, Van Mater Rehabilitation and when she returned home. Tamara asked that a thank you be placed in the newsletter as it's hard for her right now to send thank you cards. We look forward to Tamara's continued progress in treatment.



DON'T BE MISLED—FAIR TAX AMENDMENT KEEPS RETIREMENT INCOME TAX-FREE

AFSCME strongly supports the Fair Tax constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot in this fall's General Election. It will make our tax system fairer and stabilize Illinois finances, helping to safeguard our pensions and other vital programs.

The Secretary of State's Office recently sent out a mailing to inform voters about the upcoming vote on the Fair Tax. The Secretary of State (SOS) is required by law to notify voters in advance of a ballot measure like the Fair Tax—and is also required to include position statements submitted by supporters and opponents of the measure.

- Even though Jesse White, the Secretary of State, mails out those statements, he has no control over their content and does not vouch for their accuracy or truthfulness.
- As Illinois law provides, the statements sent out to voters by the SOS regarding the Fair Tax were submitted by members of the General Assembly.
- **The statement opposing the Fair Tax was submitted by the Republican minority in the General Assembly. It is deliberately misleading** and its claim regarding taxation of retirement income is simply FALSE. It does not represent the opinion of the Secretary of State!

The Fair Tax Would Maintain the Current System, With No Tax on Retirement Income.

FACT #1: The Fair Tax DOES NOT tax retirement income.

The Fair Tax Amendment does not create any mechanism to tax pensions or any other retirement income. It only grants the state authority to impose higher income tax rates on income levels over \$250,000 a year—and lower rates for lower- and moderate-income levels below that amount—for those who currently pay taxes.

FACT #2: The Fair Tax DOES NOT lay a path toward taxing retirement income.

There is no way that the Fair Tax would "pave the way for a tax on retirement income" as opponents claim. That's just a scare tactic.

FACT #3: AFSCME supports the Fair Tax to ensure the state can finally fund our pensions.

AFSCME has led the way in fighting off attacks on public employee pensions. We would never support any legislation that threatened those pension benefits. It's important to keep in mind that the forces opposing the Fair Tax are the same ones that have pushed for pension cuts, or even abolishing public pensions.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PEACH COFFEE CAKE

Coffee Cake:

2 cups flour	2-1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon	1/4 cup milk
3/4 cup brown sugar	1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup butter, softened	1 egg
1 tsp vanilla	2 cups sliced peaches

Crumb Topping:

1 cup brown sugar	2/3 cup flour
6 Tbsp butter, softened	

Glaze:

1/2 cup powdered sugar	2-1/2 tsp milk
1/8 tsp cinnamon	

In a medium bowl, combine 2 cups flour, baking powder and cinnamon.

Beat 1/4 cup milk, 3/4 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup sour cream, 1/4 cup butter, egg, and vanilla until creamy. Add dry ingredients and mix just until blended.

Fold in peaches.

Spoon batter into a 10-inch springform pan and sprinkle with crumble topping.

Bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown.

Combine ingredients for glaze and drizzle over bake coffee cake.