

## November Newsletter

# AFSCME LOCAL 448

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November, 2019

**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  
 Louise Hrubecky-DORS, 625-8885  
 Diane Ritter-Lottery, 987-7018  
 Meliza Lester-DCFS 987-7920  
 Donna Wellman-DHS-232-6121

**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.**

### **STEWARD TRAINING**

One of the most important jobs within the union is being a steward in your local. Steward training is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. Per the contract you are allowed both days off with pay. Please submit your time off requesting union business paid. You must also submit an application to become a steward and have either a steward or union officer sponsor you as a steward. You can get that information by either contacting a steward or officer of AFSCME. If you are unable to reach someone, please contact Tamara or Kathy at the number listed below. The steward training will be at The Machine Shed. The address is 7475 E. State St in Rockford. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for both days. Please contact either Kathy Lane at 815-677-3699 or Tamara Shorter at 815-621-6822. Thank you for participating in the future of your union.

### **AFSCME COUNCIL 31 STRENGTH AND SOLIDARY 21<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION HELD**

Wow what a great convention that was held in Springfield, Illinois. Our local sent 19 delegates, alternates and guests to listen to Executive Director, Roberta Lynch speak about the strength of our union, the victories we've had including ousting Bruce Rauner as Governor and electing JB Pritzker, negotiating and ratifying a contract after 4 years of battling Rauner, court cases that AFSCME won including striking down Rauner's calling an impasse, paying step raises and longevity and receiving interest and the strikes throughout the State that have been won. Mike Newman, Deputy Director talked about the fair tax and how important it is to pass this in November of 2020. Without the fair tax services will cease for the mentally ill, developmentally delayed, elderly and those with substance abuse. Without the fair tax bill passing agencies will have draconian cuts and legislators will continue to look for ways to cut our pensions. Lee Saunders, International President talked about the Janus case and how everyone thought AFSCME would be decimated but we have risen above and have more people signing up to be in the union than ever. The importance of electing those within our states and in the federal level that is worker friendly and the state of the November 2020 election. Saunders congratulated Illinois on negotiating a fantastic contract and the win of ousting Rauner and

electing a pro-worker Governor. Pat Devaney, President of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois congratulated AFSCME on their leadership in formulating the We Are One coalition fighting to keep worker's pensions and fighting for pro-worker legislation. Lastly, Mike Carrigan, President of the AFL-CIO who is retiring in December spoke about how strong AFSCME is in as a union and how Roberta Lynch, Mike Newman and the membership of AFSCME has forever showed how strong a union can be in negotiating a contract in the hardest times and ratifying an excellent contract after defeating Bruce Rauner in November of 2018.

To say the least, the room was fired up and ready to work for the next 2 years to pass the fair tax and to elect pro-worker's rights which includes defeating Donald Trump.

## **WORKSHOPS ATTENDED WERE THE BEST EVER**

There were several workshops delegates, alternates and guests attended on both Friday and Saturday. Labor History for Labor Activists was presented by Larry Spivack, President of the Labor History Society and retired AFSCME Regional Director. Those attending learned the history of the labor movement and how those before us won the 8-hour work week, overtime, better working conditions, pensions and benefits to name a few. Up for the Fight-Strengthening your Leadership Skills provided information on how to improve your leadership skills and involving those around you as power is in numbers.

Fight for a Fair Tax-Why it Matters, How to Win was one of the most important workshops. To win a fair tax those within our union need to educate those within our local and those within our community. Beyond the Janus Ruling-Building Our Union AFSCME strong. Meeting those one on one within our local to explain the importance of our union in assuring their benefits remain. Signing up those within the workplace as members is important for us to maintain the resources we currently have including lobbyists, staff representatives, paying for attorneys that represent us in arbitrations, winning the impasse lawsuit, step-raises and longevity.

Politics, PEOPLE and Power in Illinois. It's important for the union to be involved in politics as the Governor, legislators, congressman (women) and President we elect have the power to change laws that affect our pensions, working conditions, negotiating a contract, changing the United States Supreme Court, even collective bargaining laws as seen in Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana. If we want to sustain our ability to sit at the table and negotiate with the legislators, we must be involved. Our dues cannot be used for political purposes which is why there is a separate fund that you can pay \$4.20 a pay period to help pay to protect our interests in the work place.

Growing our Ranks, Growing Our Power is an important piece of sustaining our union. Getting younger people involved, getting those within the work place involved in not only attending meetings but working on campaigns at election time, working election day, walking picket lines, calling legislators or passing the word at the office when a needed message needs to be conveyed.

A successful convention closed on Saturday night. Those attending on behalf of our local was excited to attend and came out of the convention fired up and ready to meet the challenges of the next 2 years. You can help meet our union goals through Strength and Solidary by becoming involved in your office, attending meetings or becoming a leader. Contact Kathy Lane at 815-677-3699 or Tamara Shorter at 815-621-6822.

Tamara Shorter spoke with support from our local on a resolution regarding workplace safety. Shorter made it clear that DCFS is not assuring the safety of their workers in the field or even in the office. Shorter mentioned that it has taken nearly a year of labor management meetings of the union conveying the importance of advising workers of any threats or incidents and how management still has not set up a "phone tree" to communicate with their workers.

Kathy Lane, with support from our local the importance of maintaining the resources the union has to negotiate contracts, provide lawyers, lobbyists, staff representatives and clerical support. Without lawyers, the cases that were won in court wouldn't have been filed, lobbyist meet with legislators even when they are not in session regarding proposed bills and how they'd affect the working class. Our lobbyist has brought forth bills through lobbyist to maintain collective bargaining, securing our personal information and pensions. Staff representatives provides guidance and negotiate contracts with those within county, municipal and private agencies.

### **LANE WINS THE AFSCME COUNCIL 31 JANE FITZGERALD-GLORIA ARSENEAU AWARD**

Jane Fitzgerald and Gloria Arseneau both worked for DCFS before they lost their battle with cancer. Both Jane and Gloria worked tirelessly for their members at any time of the day or night. What was even more significant is that Gloria Arseneau was Kathy Lane's mentor and best friend. Lane was surprised by the award when Rose Daley read the letter submitted by Tamara Shorter, Gail Greenblatt and Alice Sutherland on behalf of local 448. The letter mentioned the unwavering support of union members, leadership and how Lane would call the local officers to make sure everyone was working at election time when she was on vacation at the sandy beach or when calling, emailing and texting when on vacation in Ireland. The plaque reads "Kathy Lane, AFSCME Local 448, for your tireless efforts on behalf of AFSCME members; for unflinching answering the call whenever there is a battle to be waged; for rising to meet every challenge; and for your unflagging dedication to the principles and goals of our union; you are hereby awarded the biennial Jane Fitzgerald-Gloria Arseneau Award'. Lane was very emotional stating that when she began in 1990 as a union steward it was because Jay Ferraro, then staff representative and now retiree President asked her to become involved. Joe Bella and Larry Spivack both Regional Directors of AFSCME provided support and always was there during challenging times, Roberta Lynch, Henry Bayer and Mike Newman who have lead the union without waver, the executive board members now and those in prior years as no one can be a leader without surrounding themselves with hard working people who believe in the union and to Gloria Arseneau, Lane's mentor who always provided great advice, solid union support and unwavering friendship.

**AFSCME LOCAL 448**  
**401 Devonshire St.**  
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