

# AFSCME LOCAL 448



Phone: 815-520-4576

Fax: 815-284-4801

Email: [PRESIDENTAFSCMELOCAL448@gmail.com](mailto:PRESIDENTAFSCMELOCAL448@gmail.com)

2023

**President:** Alice Sutherland – 815-520-4576  
**Vice President:** Robin Aebly: IDES-815-908-9664  
**Secretary:** Tina Wren-815-590-9350  
**Treasurer:** Laurie Scudder-815-987-7509

#### **Chapter Chairs**

Tanya Burns: DCFS-815-987-7542  
Donna Wellman: DHS-815-990-7806  
Ryan Gladhill: DNR –815-590-0049  
Jennifer Strock: DOT- 815-677-0842  
Diane Ritter: Lottery - 630-234-1162  
Troy Morse: IGB 815-976-2585  
Marie Reck: Revenue- 815-209-5405

#### **Members at Large**

Aaron Sockwell: DHS- 815-670-5283  
Jeff Bergstrom: DHS 815-901-2969  
Tom Soresie: DCFS- 815-973-2857

#### **Trustees**

Dawn Chavez: IDES-815-441-9467  
Greg Duffy: DCFS– 815-994-0502

#### **People Chair**

Laurie Scudder: Revenue-815-987-7509

#### **Staff Representative**

Kyle Spencer -815-968-0447

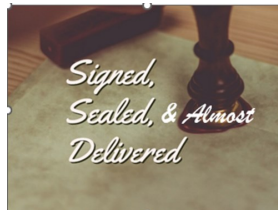
## Help Is Just A

### Call Away!

We wanted to take a moment to remind

you that if you are experiencing excessive stress, depression or anxiety, help is available through the AFSCME Personal Support Program. It's now even easier to access the help you need as PSP services are available via Telehealth.

**You can call 1-800-647-8776 for assistance.**



On September 6, 2023, our new contract was officially signed by AFSCME Council 31 Leadership, State Conference Board delegates, and the Governor's Representative. This final step was taken to fully implement the contract that members overwhelmingly ratified in July.

Now that the contract has been signed hopefully CMS will finish reviewing the changes with all agencies and we will finally have full compliance with the changes. I know that at of this writing we are still having major problems with DHS not allowing workers to earn comp time for overtime instead of being paid in cash. There are several statewide grievances at 3rd level for this. I am also currently investigating an issue with EPA staff not receiving their remote work request back in a timely manner.

If you are having issues with or agency honoring new language in the contract, please let you steward or an executive bord member know right away.

By now all bargaining unit employees should have received their 4% increase and most have received their back ay as well. If you are still waiting for either of these please let Alice Sutherland know.

Part of the new contract language stipulates that the Union will not be responsible for having the contracts printed and the State will reimburse the Union for the cost of the printing. This was something we pushed really hard for since the last contract was delayed by at least 2 years because the state could not even get a vendor to bid on its printing. Going forward we will no longer have this problem so we should receive our hard copies of the contract very quickly. Right now Council 31 is just waiting for the print ready copy from CMS to get the ball rolling.



Nominations will be accepted for the position of trustee at the November membership meeting. This is for a 3 year term. If you are interested in being nominated but cannot be at the meting you need to send that information to Alice Sutherland at [presidentafscmelocal448gmail.com](mailto:presidentafscmelocal448gmail.com) prior to 6:30 PM on November 2, 2023. The membership meeting will be held at **New DCFS office in Rockford 175 Executive Parkway suite 113** beginning at 6:30 PM. Food will be served beginning at 5:30 PM

# Attend Your UNION Meetings!

Membership meetings are held at least quarterly and always on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Food will be served (when allowed) beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.

**Next Membership Meeting**  
**11-2-23**

**In-person**  
**New DCFS office in**  
**Rokford 175 Execu-**  
**tive Parkway suite**  
**113**



## Board Meeting

Executive board meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. If a membership meeting is being held that month, the Eboard will meet the Thursday before the membership meeting. Any member who wishes to address the Board regarding a particular issue may do so by submitting a request in writing to an Officer. The request must state the reason you wish to address the Board. You will be notified of your agenda time to address the board.

**10-26-23**

**Zoom**



Please advise your local steward or Local President Alice Sutherland at [presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com](mailto:presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com) if you are planning on moving or have moved with your new address. We want you to remain informed of any union related issues. It's important as we continue to receive many newsletters back each month due to incorrect addresses.

Don't forget to check out our website at [www.afscme448.org](http://www.afscme448.org) and follow us on



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To all our veteran members we would like to extend our thanks for your dedication and sacrifice. Thank you for giving so selflessly to protect our country. Our debt to you can never be repaid.

## THE VETERANS DROP-IN CENTER



For the past several years we have been supporting the Veterans Drop in Center by Sponsoring and participating in their annual 5 K run. The mission of the center is to “...provide a safe, supportive, and positive social environment where all veterans and their families, along with local veteran service organizations, can give and receive help transitioning into and continuing to adapt to post-service life.”

This year's run will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

Those interested in participating can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Rokford/Veterans5K> our sign up code this year is LOCAL448-2023. We have 10 spots available this year. However, we will also reimburse the registration fee up to 10 additional runners if you do not get a free spot. All you need to do is submit your information to Alice Sutherland at [presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com](mailto:presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com)





Don't miss your chance to win a \$25.00 gift card by submitting the correct answer to [presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com](mailto:presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com) Winners will be selected by random drawing from all correct answers received by 11-15-23.

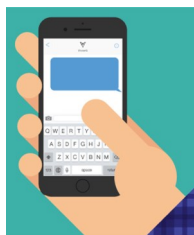
Who is Roberta Lynch?



to our July, August and September winners Diedre Hempstead, Dawn Chavez, and Jennifer Strock!!



OR



Want to stay up to date via email or text?? If so, make sure we have your home email address and personal cell phone number. Currently we only have this information for about one half of our members.

You can send your information to Alice Sutherland at [presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com](mailto:presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com) and we will get you added to the email and text list.

Just so you are aware, even if you request to receive your newsletter via email you will still also receive it in the mail. This is because for meeting notices, nomination meeting or election meeting, we are required to notify all members in writing to their last known address at least 15 days before those events.

So many things happening be on the lookout for more formation. To start we will having three holiday gatherings. We are currently looking to hold these events the last week of November and the week of December before things get to crazy for the holidays. One event will be in Rockford, one will be in Freeport and the last one will be in the Dixon, Sterling, Rockfalls area, wherever we can find a place.



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This year we are once

again sponsoring the Union Hall of Honor. This annual fundraiser for the Illinois Labor History Society is an important event. Labor history is important to all of us. We need to always remember those who fought before us and those still fighting today. This year's event will be held on Friday December 8, 2023. 5 PM cash bar, 6 PM dinner and program. The event will be held at the Operating Engineers, Local 399 Union Hall at 2260 S Grove St Chicago. Our sponsorship includes 10 tickets to the event. If you would like to attend please contact Alice Sutherland ASAP. Tickets will be given on a first come first serve basis.



It seems to be time once again for the great dress code debate. While in general, unless you are required to wear a uniform at work, we, as State employees, do not have a dress code to adhere to. While that might sound like a great thing, we also need to remember that we are professionals, and as such, we need to act and dress like it. At least when reporting to the office. We deal with the public every day. Let's take a step back and think for a minute. If you were going to conduct business anywhere would you expect to be greeted by someone in pajama pants and bedroom slippers? Or someone in ripped up jeans and a tee-shirt with profanity written on it? So let's use our common sense when getting ready for work in the morning.



## Sugar Free Banana Bread

### Ingredients:

- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 1/4 cups mashed bananas
- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 1/2 cups SPLENDA Naturals Stevia Sweetener

AFSCME LOCAL 448  
1302 Institute Blvd.  
Dixon, IL 61021



