

# AFSCME LOCAL 448

JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

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2023

**President:** Alice Sutherland – 520-4576

**Vice President:** Robin Aebly: IDES-908-9664

**Secretary:** Tina Wren-590-9350

**Treasurer:** Laurie Scudder-987-7509

#### **Chapter Chairs**

Tanya Burns: DCFS-987-7542

Donna Wellman: DHS-990-7806

Ryan Gladhill: DNR –590-0049

Jennifer Strock: DOT- 677-0842

Diane Ritter: Lottery - 630-234-1162

Troy Morse: IGB 976-2585

Marie Reck: Revenue- 209-5405

#### **Members at Large**

Aaron Sockwell: DHS-670-5283

Jeff Bergstrom: DHS 901-2969

Tom Soresie: DCFS-973-2857

#### **Trustees**

Dawn Chavez: IDES-441-9467

Greg Duffy: DCFS-994-0502

Tina Alber: DNR –535-6053

#### **People Chair**

Laurie Scudder: Revenue-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.**



## Contract Ratified

After 6 long months and countless hours at the bargaining table we have finally reached a tentative agreement with the State of Illinois and members statewide have come out in droves to ratify the new contract with a whopping 99% of

members voting in favor of the new agreement!!

I would like to thank Laurie Scudder and Greg Duffy for being a part of the bargaining team. Their participation in this process will greatly benefit our local

In addition to historic pay increases and no increases in health insurance costs until 7-1-24. Our health care cost overall are less than half of what they were in the last contract. We made some major changes in this contract. One of which is the right of the employee to choose if they want to receive Compensatory Time or cash payment for overtime worked. For some of this this was not an issue but for many, especially those in DHS, it was. While the change was effective 7-1-23 unfortunately CMS is behind in advising agencies of many the changes in the new contract, for DHS this happens to be one of those changes. Rest assured that we are aware of the issue and are addressing it.

## CONVENTION CALL

The AFSCME Council 31 Bi-Annual Convention will be held this October in Springfield. Elections for delegates, alternates and guests will be held at the in person membership meeting to be held 9-7-23. The meeting will be held in Dixon at the DOT office located at 819 Depot Ave Dixon, IL. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions to attend the convention but cannot attend the meeting you **MUST** submit your request to be considered in writing to Alice Sutherland at [Presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com) PRIOR to 6:30 PM on 9-7-23.



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**  
**9-7-23**

The meeting will be held in Dixon at the DOT office located at 819 Depot Ave Dixon



**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.

**8-16-23**

**In Person**

**10-5-23**

**TBD**



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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**Labor Day Parade and Picnic**



Bring your families and come walk in the parade 9-4-23. We will meet in the parking lot across from the old post office on South Main St at 8:00 AM where school buses will take us to our parade lineup spot. After the parade join us at the picnic. Food and drink tickets will be given out on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis starting with those walking in the parade.

We have a lot to celebrate this labor day so some join us!

**The True Meaning of Labor Day**

Labor Day was created to honor the American worker, but sometimes it seems the meaning and purpose of the holiday has been forgotten



Labor Day is coming up on Monday September 5. That means a holiday that most of us get off work and usually spend it barbecuing with family and friends, maybe sitting around doing nothing or even out shopping taking advantage of sales. However you choose to spend the holiday is, of course, your decision. Whatever it is you are doing on this upcoming September 2, take some time to remember to original purpose behind the Labor Day holiday.

According to the [U.S. Department of Labor](https://www.dhs.gov/e-verify/) website, Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and "is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country."

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday September 5, 1882 in New York City following the plans of the Central Labor Union. Labor Day was also held September 5, 1883. The following year, the holiday was celebrated on the first Monday in September.

It wasn't just the date that was specified for the holiday. The first proposal of the holiday outlines that a street parade should be held to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community. Following the parade should be a festival for the "recreation and amusement" of workers and their families.

Remember, Labor Day isn't just another day off — it's a deeply rooted historical holiday honoring the American Worker and everything he or she has done to make our lives what they are today. So thank you all for every thing you do!



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 9-15-23.

In what year were Public Employees awarded collective bargaining rights in Illinois?

to our June winner Laurie Scudder!!



Laurie know that Lee Saunders is the AFSCME International President.

## It's All... In The Contract!

Now that the contract has been ratified the next steps are to make agencies aware of the changes and to get the contract book printed and distributed.

CMS has the responsibility for making agencies aware and AFSCME Council 31, thanks to our new agreement, has the responsibility to have the contract book printed. How it will be distributed is still under discussion.

The good news is that we should have the new master contract in our hands a lots sooner that the last one, since Council 31 does not have to jump through all the procurements hoops the state does. Until we get the new copies continue to use your only contract book but make sure you consult the Contract Change document you received at the ratification meeting you attended. If you didn't attend a ratification meeting or tossed the paperwork you were given the documents will be posted on our website for your reference.

## SCHOLARSHIP



## AWARDS

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners of the 2023 AFSCME Local 448 Cindy Overton Memorial Scholarship!!

### Avery Medina

Avery is the son of member Art Medina who works for

the DeKalb County DHS.

**Avery is attending Arizona State University - College of Health Solutions. Avery is a high-performing student with a strong work ethic and dedication to personal growth.**

### Keiden Eason

Keiden is the son of member Lakeyda Eason who works for DCFS in Freeport. Keiden is an active member of his Church and has successfully completed ComEd's Tool of the Trade program Which is designed for high-school students to explore the skilled trades careers at ComEd.

Keiden will be studying Social Work at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis Tennessee. Keiden chose this line of study due to his desire to help people and watching his mother help people in her job as well as family and friends.

### Drew Streckwald

Drew is the son of member John (Kip) Streckwald who works or DNR at Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park.

Drew will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign majoring in Agricultural and Biological Engineering and will be pursuing a dual degree.

Drew is no stranger to high goals and hard work. While in high school he participated in football, basket ball and base ball. Not only that but he graduated 1st in his class from Lena-Winslow Hgh School.

**Please join me in congratulating this fine group of young men as well as their parents for doing such a fine job in instilling such a sense of public service in each of them.**



# Blueberry Lemon Pie Bars

A sweet and creamy lemon cheesecake filling bursting with blueberries sits atop a lemon shortbread crust with lemon shortbread crumbles on top.



## Ingredients

### SHORTBREAD CRUST

1 cup (227g) unsalted butter melted  
 ½ cup (100g) granulated sugar  
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 the zest of one lemon  
 2 cups (240g) all-purpose flour be sure

### Instructions

1. Position a rack in the center position of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Line an 8" x 8" (or 9" x 9") baking pan with foil. Leave an overhang on the sides. Set aside.

### SHORTBREAD CRUST

1. Stir the melted butter, granulated sugar, vanilla extract, salt, and the lemon zest together in a medium bowl. Add the flour and stir until combined.
2. Reserve ¾ cup of the shortbread crust and place in the refrigerator or freezer until needed.

Press remaining crust evenly into the prepared pan. Bake for 18 minutes while you prepare the filling.

### FILLING

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or in a medium sized bowl with a hand mixer, beat cream cheese on high until smooth.

Add the sugar and lemon zest and beat until smooth.

Add the eggs, and continue beating until completely incorporated. Add the yogurt, lemon juice, and salt and beat again. Finally, add the flour and beat one more time until just combined. Scrape down the sides as necessary before adding the blueberries, then gently fold in the blueberries with a large spatula.

Pour filling into prepared crust and add a few blueberries on top of filling. Remove reserved crust from refrigerator and crumble over top of the filling (you may need to separate into crumbs with a knife or fork). Sprinkle with additional sugar or course sugar, if desired.

Bake bars for 55-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Allow bars to cool at room temperature on a wire rack. When completely cool, chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

When bars are completely chilled, lift out of the pan using foil overhang and cut into squares. Top with lemon zest before serving, if desired. Bars can be stored covered in the refrigerator up to 5 days. Bars freeze well, up to 3 months. Thaw in the refrigerator overnight.

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