

AFSCME LOCAL 448



Newsletter

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2024

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Treasurer: Laurie Scudder 815-987-7509

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Tanya Burns: DCFS 815-987-7542
Jeff Bergstrom: DHS 815-901-2969
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
Tom Sories: DCFS 815-973-2857
Greg Duffy: DCFS 815-994-0502

Trustees

Kristina Steele DCFS 779-772-1364
Dawn Chavez: IDES 815-441-9467
Emilie Hanson IDES 715-379-4806

People Chair

Laurie Scudder: Revenue 815-987-7509

Staff Representative

Kyle Spencer 815-968-0447

Legislative Agenda

On January 27, 2024 AFSCME Presidents, PEOPLE Chairs, and activists, from all over Illinois met in Springfield to decide on what candidates, if any, we would endorse in the upcoming Illinois elections. We also discussed our legislative priorities for this session.

I am here to tell you that we set some lofty goals for this year. The statewide PEOPLE Committee has identified 8 top priorities and the voting members at this conference unanimously agreed with those items and they are as follows.

- Support reasonable budget and adequate revenues for state and local government.
- Stabilize pension funds and address inadequacies and inequities of Tier 2 & Tier 3 pension benefits.
- Address staffing crisis in the public sector.
- Protest and expand worker's rights.
- Support adequate funding for state universities/equality for employees.
- Fight privatization of public services and assets.
- Fight to improve wage levels in community disability agencies and other AFSCME-represented nonprofit agencies.
- Fight for Affordable Prescription drugs.

For more information on these initiatives or who we endorsed for the primary elections take a look at your latest ON THE MOVE, or head our website at www.afscme448.org.

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.





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

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

Next Membership Meeting
3-7-24

IN PERSON
Fatty's Pub & Grille 1312 West Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb, IL



Board Meeting

Executive board meetings are held on the 1st 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.

2-22-24

Zoom

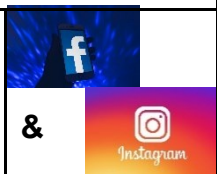
4-2-24

In Person



Please advise your local steward or Local President Alice Sutherland at 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 and follow us on



So now that the contract is ratified lets take a look at some of the changes that were made. We are now up to Article VI. The text in **red** is the new language in each section.

ARTICLE VI UNION RIGHTS

Section 3. Time Off for Union Activities

Local Union representatives shall be allowed time off **without pay** for legitimate Union business such as Union meetings, Union administration, State or area wide Union committee meetings, Union training sessions, State-wide contract negotiations, State or International conventions., **AFSCME Council 31 shall endeavor to supply the Department of Central Management Services with a list of such scheduled events by February 1st of each year. Prior to leaving the worksite, local union** representatives shall give reasonable notice to **their** supervisor (**including the approximate duration of time away from the worksite**) of such absence and shall be allowed such time off if it does not substantially interfere with the operating needs of the Employer. The Employer shall not involve itself in the internal affairs of the Union by approving or disapproving time off for union activities based upon the nature of the legitimate union business. The employee may utilize any accumulated time (compensatory time, holiday, personal, vacation days) in lieu of taking such without pay.

So what does that mean? It means that AFSCME Council 31 will let CMS know, to the extent possible, what activities are already planned for the upcoming year so that management will have a heads up that staff may be asking for time off for these events.

It also means that those requesting Union business time off should let their supervisor know BEFORE leaving the worksite that they are going and how long they expect to be gone.

While management does not have the right, unless it is under extreme circumstances, to deny someone time off for union business, members should always be considerate and request their time off as soon as they become aware that it will be needed. While it is understood that some situations can come up unimpededly, those situations are not the norm.

Contract Books

We are still waiting for the new contract books to be printed. Rest assured, that as soon as we know something we will let you all know!



Don't miss your chance to win a \$25.00 gift card by submitting the correct answer to presidentafscmelocal448@gmail.com. Winners will be selected by random drawing from all correct answers received by 3-15-24.

When was Union Membership at its highest rate in the United States?

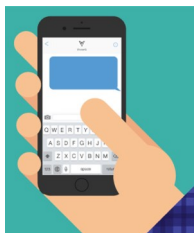


To our January/February winner Danisha Taylor! Danisha knew that Martin Luther King Jr. was in Memphis to speak with the sanitary workers union

Did you know that those sanitation workers were represented by AFSCME?



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 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.



The ASCME International Convention will be held this year the week of August 11th through August 17th in Los Angeles, California. Start thinking about if you would like to attend this convention. Elections for Delegates, Alternates, and Guests will be at an in person membership meeting which will be held either May 2, 2024 or June 6, 2024 depending on when we get the convention call.

Those elected to represent our local will be paid 37.5 hours lost wages for Monday through Friday provided you attend all convention sessions and required workshops.

Transportation and hotel expenses will be covered by the local and members will be paid per diem for each day of travel.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information in the upcoming months.

Rockford Public Library Contract Fight

The Rockford Public Library workers are currently in an ugly contract battle. They are asking us to support them by joining an informational picket on March 25, 2024 beginning at 5:00 PM. They will be picketing before the Library board meeting which begins at 6:00 PM. We will meet outside the Nordlof Theater which is located at 118 N Main Street in Rockford.

This battle is so intense that management is targeting workers on the bargaining team as well as long time employees and bringing them up on discipline. While the employees and the Union have been able to defeat any attempts at making the discipline stick it is still not right and these employees should not have to endure this treatment.

The library local is a very small local which represents only about 30 workers. If there is any way possible you can come out in support of these workers please do so.





Recipe of the month

Traditional Kerry Apple Cake

This traditional Kerry Irish Apple Cake is a family favorite and can be served any time.

Ingredients

3 C. Flour	1/2 C. Sugar
2 t. Baking Powder	4 large Granny Smith apples, cored
1/4 t. Cloves, ground	2 Eggs
1/4 t. Nutmeg, ground	3/4 C. Milk
1/8 t. Salt	1/4 C. white sugar
6 tbsp. unsalted butter, cold	



Instructions

Preheat oven to 375F. Grease or spray a 9" round springform pan.

Sift together flour, baking powder, cloves, nutmeg, and salt into a large bowl.

Blend the butter into the flour mix using your fingers until the mix resembles fine crumbs.

Add the 1/2 C. sugar to the flour mixture and whisk together. Peel and slice the apples into bite-size cubes. Stir into the flour mixture.

Beat the eggs and milk together in a clean bowl. Using a wooden spoon, stir liquid mixture into the apples and flour mixture until just combined and dough-like.

Transfer the doughy batter to the prepared cake pan.

Sprinkle the remaining sugar over the cake.

Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

The top will be golden brown.

AFSCME LOCAL 448
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