

## March Newsletter

# AFSCME LOCAL 448

Phone 677-3699

Fax: 285-3601

E-Mail: afscmelocal448@grics.net

March, 2020

**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  
 Diane Ritter-Lottery, 987-7018  
 Meliza Lester-DCFS 987-7920  
 Melissa Dix-DHS-987-7308

### 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

That Place on Palmyra  
 628 Palmyra Rd.  
 Dixon, IL

**March 12, 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.**

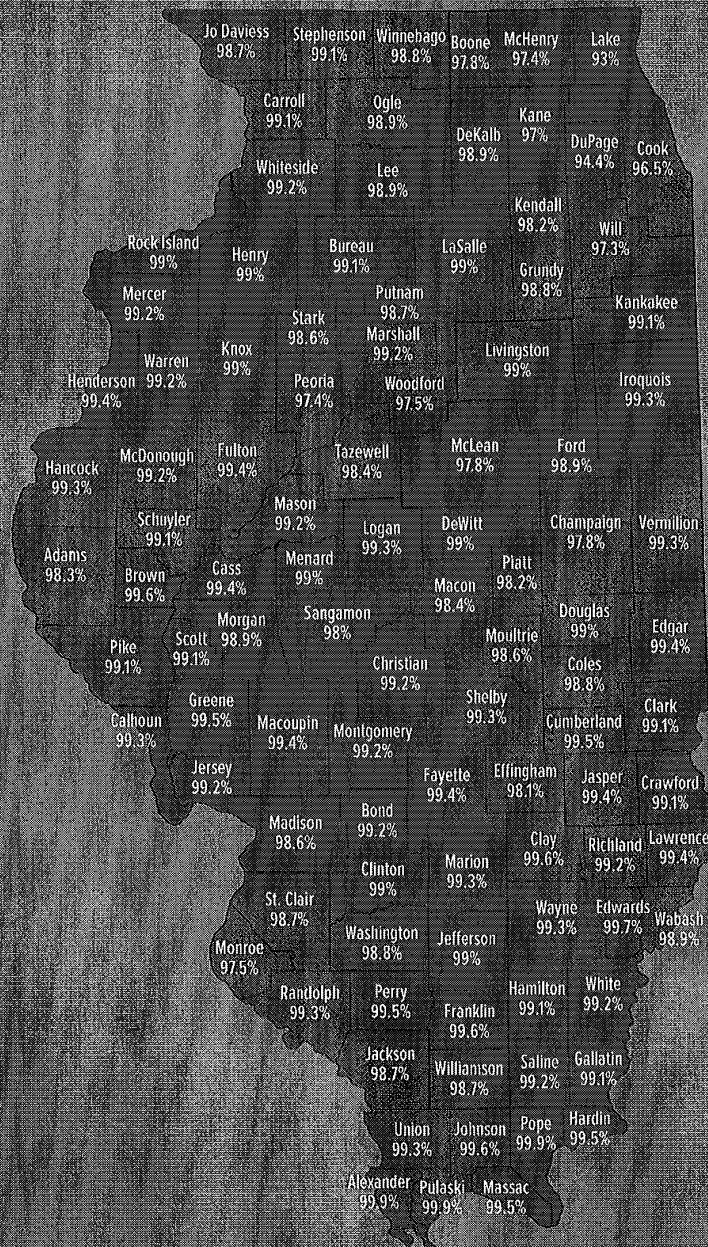
## TIME TO HAND OVER THE REIGNS

As many of you know, I've been talking about retiring for the past year. I've come to the decision after over 30 years with the state I will retire from DCFS and as the President of this local at the end of this year. I became involved with the union because too many people were being wronged within my agency and someone needed to stand up for their rights. I was at DCFS for 6 months when Jay Ferraro, the staff representative at the time asked that I become involved. I surely didn't know what I was getting into and boy has it been a ride. Nearly twenty-six years ago I became President of this local. Throughout those years there's been several people on the executive board who worked hard to make the local that we have today. When you hear of AFSCME Local 448 we are touted as the number one local within the state for a conglomerate. When Henry Bayer, retired Executive Director, would call our local was there to support those on the picket lines at the correctional facilities due to staff shortages or down at Beverly Farms, a developmental delayed agency who was fighting for their first contract to Heartland in Effingham who worked hard to get a contract and save the mental health services desperately needed in that area. When there was a prison riot at Dixon Correctional Center and a psychologist was taken hostage, our local stepped up to buy food for the tact teams that came from throughout the state and provided support to those officers, support staff and professionals that were reeling with hurt and concern for their fellow peer. We went to Sheridan Correctional Center when they were closing the facility and with continued support that facility was re-opened and now provides substance abuse treatment for those convicted of drug crimes. We supported Singer when the state felt necessary to close down a facility that provided excellent services for those with mental illness. Our local was there on the picket lines and calling legislators and the Governor asking to leave Singer open. Roberta Lynch, current Executive Director, asked each of us to stand up to then Governor Rauner when we took the strike vote. Our local had 92% of those voting saying yes to strike. Our executive board worked tirelessly to reach out to each member and advise them of what was at stake holding night after night meetings and holding strike votes at 13 sites, so everyone had a chance to vote. We beat Rauner because we had those within our local walking the precincts on the weekends canvassing neighborhoods to let everyone know how he would hurt those less fortunate in his efforts to destroy those within the middle income. The many pickets held at the Rockford Wyman office and several offices throughout our local fighting for a fair wage, to keep our pension and for staffing at DCFS. The bus rides to Springfield to lobby our legislators to stop the attacks (cont'd page4)

We need fair tax reform because the old way of taxing income in Illinois is unfair and inadequate. If the fair tax constitutional amendment is approved by voters in November, the wealthiest top 3% of taxpayers will pay more on income over a quarter-million dollars a year, while the rest of us—97%—get a tax cut or pay no more than we do now.

**This map shows the percentage of taxpayers in each county who will pay less (or the same) if voters approve fair tax reform in November.**

Source: County-level taxpayer information is based on Illinois Department of Revenue data from the 2017 tax year. For more information, visit [AFSCME31.org/FairTax](http://AFSCME31.org/FairTax).



# Fair Tax FAQ

## **What is the Fair Tax amendment?**

---

The fair tax constitutional amendment changes the state constitution to eliminate the requirement that Illinois tax income at a single rate, allowing instead for higher rates on wealthy people and lower rates for working people.

## **Why do we need Fair Tax reform?**

---

The old way of taxing income in Illinois is unfair and inadequate.

The old way is unfair because it taxes working people too heavily while letting wealthy people off easy. Working people in Illinois now pay almost double what wealthy people pay in taxes as a share of their income! That's wrong.

The old way is inadequate because it doesn't raise enough revenue. That causes recurring budget deficits at every level of government (state, counties, cities, universities, school districts), underfunds pensions, pushes up property taxes and forces harmful cuts to public services and jobs.

## **How do we win the Fair Tax for Illinois?**

---

We win the Fair Tax by voting Yes on the constitutional amendment on our ballots at the statewide general election in November 2020. A 'yes' vote of more than 50% of those voting in the election **or** more than 60% of those voting on the question is required.

## **What does the Fair Tax amendment mean for AFSCME members?**

---

Fair Tax reform will lift the burden from middle-class and working people: 97% of taxpayers will get a tax cut or pay no more than they do now.

Fair Tax reform will raise more than \$3 billion a year that can help to fund state and local government, schools and human services, and responsibly pay the state's bills.

Fair Tax reform will require wealthy people to pay their fair share, only increasing taxes on the top 3% (those who make more than a quarter-million dollars a year). The vast majority of the increases will be paid by millionaires.



on the pensions, to get a fair contract, to increase the budget, and to stop the attack on the Public Service Administrator Option 6 titles. The last rally held in Springfield where there was over 5,000 people in attendance and where so many unions gathered together in unity and solidarity to defeat the Rauner administration.

There are so many more pickets, rallies, grievances, labor management meetings that I could talk about and how many times our union brothers and sisters stood strong against management. I am proud to be a member of AFSCME. By the time I retire, I will be an AFSCME member for nearly 31 years. Without this union I wouldn't be able to retire. With the pensions we receive and no premiums for health benefits is what allows so many to retire at an age where a person can still enjoy their life. I look forward to coming to the several different worksites before I retire at the end of this year.

I appreciate all the support I've received from our members, stewards and executive boards that we've had throughout the years. You're the reason why I continued to be the President of the best local in the State of Illinois. I am now passing the torch to Alice Sutherland, your union secretary to write the newsletter. I'd ask you to help Alice in providing articles that you'd like to see in your monthly newsletter. Her email address is [mikenalice86@aol.com](mailto:mikenalice86@aol.com).

In solidarity,  
Kathy Lane, President

## **YOUR VOTE COUNTS**

On line registration is open until March 2, 2020 for those with state license or state identification. You can also register in person during early voting from March 2, 2020 through March 16, 2020.

Visit Illinois State Board of Elections website for more information. Remember your vote counts.

## **LARRY MARQUARDT SCHOLARSHIP**

*Union membership helps workers build a better future for their families. AFSCME members and their families benefit from annual scholarship opportunities to pursue their education goals.*

Children of AFSCME members who are high school seniors or college students under the age of 25 are eligible to apply for AFSCME Council 31's annual Larry Marquardt Scholarship, as well as members in good standing who plan to attend school full-time.

Two winners will be awarded \$2,000 each. The scholarship honors Larry Marquardt, the first executive director of Council 31 and a tireless union organizer who dedicated his life to improving the lives of working people. Look at the AFSCME Council 31 website for the online application.