

# AFSCME LOCAL 1668

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April 2010

## President's Report

Happy Spring AFSCME Local 1668! Sure is nice to have some warmer weather! I hope you all are enjoying it as much as I am. It was really nice seeing so many of you at the Winter Fest party! It is really great to see our union brothers and sisters in a setting outside of work where we can all get to know each other a little better and have fun. I want to thank those who went through all the work to make the party such a big success. Please help me thank Earl Conner, Sylvia Cotton, Francis Frazier, Carolyn Wiley, Chris Fawley and Kathi Cantley. And also thanks to Tom Swihart for helping secure the Moose lodge for us. The food was great, the music was great, and a good time was had by all. There is no news to report regarding the proposed changes to the MPSERS program. The state legislature went on break and will not reconvene until April 13. I will do my best to let our members know when there is any news on this matter. Speaking of the state legislature, at the latest CUCC we received a very good report from Nick Ciaramitaro, the Director of Legislation and Public Policy for Council 25. He told us that there will be big

changes in the MI legislature this year. In the Senate there will be 29 new members elected this year, there are a total of 38 state senators. In the house there will be approximately 50, out of 150 new members. And of course, we will elect a new governor. What a great time for us to get involved and get active in our state government! We need to mobilize and take back the government in this state. We need to get people elected that care about this state, and the people in it. We need a voice in Lansing and this is a great year to get it. We need to think outside of our local area and do what we can to get labor friendly people elected state-wide. The easiest way for us to do this is to become a member of AFSCME's PEOPLE program. Many of us don't have the time to volunteer on a specific campaign, or to man phone banks, but we can still help. We can provide the funds that are necessary to get people elected into all those positions mentioned earlier that are going to fight for the working people, fight for our state economy, and do what is needed to return Michigan to the status it once had at the top. This is a time when every little bit matters, so even if it is

only a dollar per pay period, or less, consider stepping up to the plate and helping change our great state for the better. WMU will have two new board members in January. Governor Granholm acted early and appointed George Franklin of Kalamazoo, and John Cakmakci of Schoolcraft to succeed Ken Miller and William Martin, whose terms expire in Dec. Franklin is a former board member and is president of Franklin Public Affairs. Cakmakci is a WMU alum and is executive vice president and a labor negotiator for UFCW Local 951 in Grand Rapids. Let's all hope that these appointments will be good for WMU and help to make WMU a better place to learn and to work. Finally, on the back page of this newsletter you should find information about our 6<sup>th</sup> annual golf outing. We are looking forward to this event again, and hope to see some new faces out on the course this year. This event is truly about solidarity, so don't let the fact that you aren't a scratch golfer stop you from coming out and having a great time. Hope to see many of you there!

In Solidarity,  
Dennis

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### Special points of interest:

- Baseball fundraising
- LIVE UNITED
- PEOPLE PROGRAM
- GOLF OUTING IN JUNE

## Vice President's Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters

I hope everyone is enjoying the month of April so far. There are several new faces I see in my department and around campus I hope you come to the golf outing to get to know us better. OK, you asked me to write a list of all committees the Union is involved in. They are:

Subcontracting Committee  
 JATEC Committee  
 Membership  
 Good and welfare  
 Uniforms Committee  
 Elections Committee  
 Safety Committee  
 United Way  
 PEOPLE Committee  
 Wellness Committee  
 Arbitration Committee  
 Constitution Committee  
 WMUSA Committee

Women's Committee

These are the committees we have had for some time now we are currently looking for volunteers for some of the committees and we are currently looking into starting a few more we will be bringing those up for further discussion in the near future. If anyone has any questions about these committees please call the union hall and leave a message. There are a lot of members who are either retiring, sick, having surgery, someone in the family has passed away or struggling to make it to the next payday. Please call the union hall to get information on what can be done for you or the one you call about. Something can be done to help.

In solidarity,

Val Armstrong, VP

## Chief Steward's Report

Hope all is well with you and yours. Everyone should have a copy of the New Contract by now. IF you do not, it is either because you are a new Employee and you were not on the Bargaining Unit Seniority list and you should get a copy of the new contract when you have your "Union Orientation". The University had discontinued the old process of New Employee Orientation and they have gone to an online version. We filed a grievance as they are violating our contract by not including a Union Representative to attend these information driven Orientations. They have agreed to allow us to have our own version of Orientation with all new hires. This process is still being ironed out. They have also agreed to allow us the opportunity to meet with all new hires within our bargaining Unit back as far as June of 2009. If you were hired before this time and you did not get the opportunity to meet with us in an Orientation meeting, please let me know as soon as possible so we can include you on the list.

There were a few Bargaining Unit Wide Grievances filed this month. A grievance dealing with the replacement

costs of the BRONCO ID/ Swipe cards. We presented a very good case to the University on the wear and tear of these cards by our employees as we not only use them as our timecards but we use them as keys to access several building and rooms on this campus. It went as far as a "show and tell" as the best evidence we had was the cards of the people around the table. We were able to show the University Representatives that the cards were not be "abused" by the employees but rather the swiping mechanisms that we have to use them in are literally wearing out the cards. The University should not be charging us to replace cards that are clearly worn out. These are part of the tools we need to do the work we do and as they are the Property of the University, they should be provided at no cost, if they are visibly worn. The University also increased the cost of replacing these cards from \$5.00 per card, to \$25.00 per card without discussion with the Union. This cost increase, should be a mandatory subject of bargaining as it is a change to the wages, hours and working conditions of the members of this local. Stay tuned to an update on this issue as the University has not issued an answer to

this grievance yet.

There is another grievance that is dealing with the Recall of an employee in BCSS. The University filled this position incorrectly and we are waiting an answer to this grievance. There is another grievance dealing with the subcontracting of Bargaining Unit work as well. This involved the Tile work in the Men's Bathroom at the Physical Plant.

Dining Services Summer work assignments have been assigned. There are 14 employees who will be assigned to Maintenance Services, 6 employees assigned to Landscape Services and 2 employees assigned to Dining Services. The remaining 8 employees will work in BCSS for the summer. IF there are other opportunities that become available, they will be assigned according to the contract.

You are all doing a great job making the University look good for the Graduation and other events on campus. Keep up the good work! Remember, "WE MAKE WMU HAPPEN!"

IN Solidarity,

Kathi Cantley

# TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! LIVE UNITED

May 25, 2010

The Labor Participation Division (LPD) of the Greater Kalamazoo United Way is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Kalamazoo Service Project Fund (KSPF). The KSPF is a fund that the LPD set up to be able to provide some funding for Projects such as Food Baskets or other projects where there is a need in our community. We are scheduling a special event at the Kalamazoo Kings Baseball Game on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. The Game starts at 7:05 and the gates open at 6PM. Tickets are \$5.00 each and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the proceeds go directly to this fund. The tickets are only available in advance for the fundraiser. The intent is to try to get as many people from Organized Labor to attend on this night. We will be also sell \$4.00 Meal vouchers at the game on May 25, 2010. This will get you a hotdog, chips and a pop for the \$4.00, which is a \$2.50 savings. This will only be available at this game. However, the game tickets can be used at any home game for the 2010 season. IF you are interested, please call me at the Hall. 269-381-1668.

**PEOPLE**

**PEOPLE**

**PEOPLE**

**PEOPLE NEEDS YOU!!!!!!!!!!**

Like all aspects of our union, PEOPLE is nothing without our members. To provide a strong political voice for public employees, we need your help. There are so many problems in Michigan now and it seems that the more politicians try to "fix the problem" the more we as public workers have problems. Each proposal is worse than the other. So what do we, as state employees do to help? We get the right people in office who will fight for us and how do we get them in office we vote for them. How will you know which one to vote for? This is where AFSCME PEOPLE come in they are the a dedicated program to not only lobby for the right Politian to get in office but will stay on top of them to make sure the job they promised to do gets done.

Local 1668



*We Make WMU Happen*

Date: 06-19-10

Time: 7am Register 8am Shotgun Start

4 person teams, must include at least one Local 1668 member per team

\$40.00/person includes 18 holes golf, cart, and lunch

Payment due by June 1, sorry-no refunds due to course commitment

STATES GOLF COURSE  
20 EAST W AVENUE  
VICKSBURG MI

Register by May 15 for A chance to win entry fee back!!!!

## 6TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE



Cash Drawings

50/50 Draw-

Door Prizes



Come on out and enjoy a fun day of golf and games with your union brothers and sisters. Golf skill optional as games and prizes not totally dependant upon ability with the clubs.

Games on Course



List Team members and return to Dennis (Maint Reg 3) or Bryan (Maint Reg 4)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_