



AFSCME LOCAL 1668 NEWS

MARCH 2010

President's Report

Hello again brothers and sisters! Sure is looking like spring out there lately, here's hoping it stays that way and we can put away the snow shovels and window scrapers. Speaking of snow shovels, spring is always a good time to recognize the fine job that our Landscape Services members did with all the snow this past winter! Far too often, the work they do goes unnoticed and unappreciated so I think we should all take the opportunity to say thanks! I know there was at least one time I was wishing I could drive on the sidewalks, they were kept in much better condition than the roads and parking lots. The great job they did again this year is just another example of why AFSCME Local 1668 is such a great union.

There have been a lot of questions regarding the Governor's proposed changes to the MPSERS retirement system recently. The most important thing to remember, for those of you that are in this program, is that at this point, it is still a proposal. I received an email from Richard Schaper the other day asking that I share some information with you. He provided a couple of web sites that have been put up by the MI Office of Retirement Services that may help answer some questions and plan your retirement. The sites are listed at the end of my report. These sites are intended to help you educate yourself about your retirement plan and options. They contain tutorials, publications, newsletters and webinars to help you plan and apply for retirement. If you are in the MPSERS system you may want to check out these sites. Mr. Schaper also told me that if he receives any additional information he will let us know.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the WinterFest party. I hope that if you have nothing

planned that evening, you come out and socialize with many of your union family members. It is a great opportunity for all of us to take our work hats off and get to know some of our fellow workers better. I want to thank all the members that took the initiative and organized this night of fun for us. Having done the same with the golf outing the last few years, I know how much work it can be, so thanks again for volunteering to do this for your union. Speaking of the golf outing, it is fast approaching again, so keep an eye out for more information real soon! Flyers and signup sheets will be hitting the streets in the next few days. Remember, golf skills are optional, so even if you are not a regular golfer, borrow some clubs, grab some friends and join us. The outing is June 19 at States golf course. Every year we have some new folks who said they didn't come out in years prior because they didn't golf, but for whatever reason decided to give a try and had a great time. Let that be you this year! I hope to see some new faces this year!

Thanks again for all that you do to make AFSCME great!

In Solidarity,

Dennis

MPSERS websites:

www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount

www.michigan.gov/ors

Vice President's Report

Light Bulb Pilot Program

Building Custodial & Support Services, in collaboration with Maintenance Services, launched a Light Bulb Pilot Program on Monday January 11, 2010. The Light Bulb Pilot Program employs two, M-4 Project Specialists (Leon Coleman & Valerie Armstrong). Leon and Valerie have over fifty-years of combined service time at W.M.U. They will address all lighting-related issues in nine buildings. The program will run until the end of Spring Semester 2010 (April 30). The following buildings are involved in the Pilot Program: Bill Brown Football Center, John Gill Press Box, Lawson Ice Arena, University (Read) Arena, Sangren Hall, the Seelye Center, the Student Recreation Center, Waldo Library, and Wood Hall.

The BC&SS Light Bulb Crew will respond to specific requests for service received from the Facilities Management Service Center. They will respond to requests received from the Custodians who are assigned to the pilot buildings. The Light Bulb Crew will also address lighting needs

on a survey basis. If the Light Bulb Crew encounters issues that they are unable to resolve, or if the issue requires more than replacing a lamp in a particular fixture, Maintenance Services has assigned an Electrician to the Pilot Program to facilitate.

A dedicated Light Bulb Crew will help the Custodians in the pilot buildings to focus more of their time on cleaning maintenance tasks. Additionally, the Light Bulb Crew will document all work via the Facilities Management work order system, which will create a more specific database of lighting-related issues. The information will be useful to help update lighting catalogs, as well as identify any energy and material trends for the specific Pilot Program buildings.

During the first week of the Pilot Program (1/11 - 1/15), the Light Bulb Crew received more than ninety requests for service. Their first five days were very productive as they were able to address almost thirty requests, replacing close to two-hundred bulbs in the process. Leon and Valerie are licensed lift operators, which allows

them to change lights that are at a height greater than 20'.

The Light Bulb Pilot Program is another opportunity for BC&SS to explore ways to improve service for the university community. Thank you to the Zone crews working in the Pilot Program buildings for your assistance with identifying, documenting, and reporting lighting issues. Stay tuned for more updates on the Light Bulb Pilot Program.

In solidarity,

Val Armstrong VP

Chief Steward's Report

Chief Steward Report:

Happy Spring! Summer is right around the corner and I for one cannot wait. We have our new contracts ready for delivery. By the time you receive this newsletter they should have been distributed. If you have not received your copy, then please contact me at our office. 269-381-1668. Please also be sure to read the new Rules of Conduct which are on the peach paper attached to the back of our contract.

The Summer Dining Liaison Team has begun meeting and we are ready for things to start happening within the process. The Signup sheets have been posted and we are now determining who the top 30 Dining Services Employees are. We will be coming around this week to get the preferences of the top 30. Remember if you have questions; PLEASE be sure

to ask your questions to either Mark Robinson or myself as soon as possible. If you are unsure of how the process works or anything, please ask us.

There may still be opportunities for the FREE TAX PREPARATION Services being offered through the United Way. Call 211 to see if you qualify and to schedule your appointment today.

I have been asked by several people to put together another Computer Training Class. I am still committed to doing this and I will be working to set up another one. As the University continues to move toward utilizing the internet and computer technology, I have been trying to help as many of you as I can to give you some basics. So watch for the flyers and please remember to sign up with me. I had to cancel one in the past due to

weather and I the only way to contact you to cancel is by phone. More info on the class coming soon.

Just a reminder..... PLEASE be sure and let us know when you have questions or concerns. We are your Representatives when it comes to Wages, Hours and Working Conditions. IF we do not hear from you when you have been approached by a Supervisor or other member of the University that tries to tell you something different than what is written in the contract, then we can't help you. You are protected by the CBA and you have rights. We are the ones who are there to enforce it! YOUR UNION!

IN Solidarity,

Kathi

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE UNION'S SECOND ANNUAL WINTERFEST DINNER!!!!



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SECOND ANNUAL WINTERFEST 2010
FOOD!!! FUN!!! PRIZES!!!!



THIS IS IT!

You asked and we answered. Winter fest II is scheduled for Saturday March 27th 2010. it will be an evening of food fun and meeting new people. So call the union hall to reserve a spot for you and a guest. If you have any questions you may call Kathi at the Union Hall 269-381-1668. We hope to see you there!!!!



Contact person: KATHI 269-381-1668

SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010

Time: 7:00PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

MOOSE LODGE 88