

President's Report

President's report for October newsletter

Hello again sisters and brothers. Here it is October already, where did the summer go?

Your bargaining team is preparing for mediation on the 27th of this month. We have met since the last membership meeting and stand together to do the best possible job we can for you. You all should be proud of your team! At every step, they have been professional, passionate and dedicated to representing you at the bargaining table. We aren't happy about having to utilize a mediator, but remain committed to upholding the principles of our union and fighting the attempts by the employer to destroy our solidarity. Keep tuned for more updates!

Myself and your other three delegates: Valerie Armstrong, Pat Putman and Bryan Sutton, recently attended the AFSCME Council 25 Constitutional Convention in Dearborn. The convention was a huge success. This was my third convention, first as a delegate, and I can say, it was the best. We all attended training on privatization,

community service, collective bargaining and political action. All of the trainings were very informative and well presented and we all gained a lot from them. There will be more detailed information at the next membership meeting so I hope to see you all there.

Also from convention, I am proud to say that I am once again on of your AFSCME Council 25 Region 7 Vice President. I want to thank you all for your support and pledge that I will do my best to represent you, and all of region 7 to the best of my ability. It is an honor that I do not take lightly.

Finally, we are fast approaching an election year, and now is the time to get involved. How can you get involved you ask? Well, the easiest way is with your wallet. Now is the time to become a PEOPLE contributor. PEOPLE (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) is the legislative action arm of AFSCME. By contributing to PEOPLE, you are providing the funds for our union to lobby for our members. In case you didn't know, it is illegal for a union to use dues monies for political purposes, so the only

way they can fight for us is if we provide the resources. I know that times are tough, and we all need every last dollar, but don't forget to look at the big picture. For the price of a bottle of pop a week, we can help our union promote our agenda in Lansing and Washington DC.

For the price of one trip a week to the fast food joint, we can fund the fight for health care reform. For the cost of one less beer on Friday night, we can help get the Employee Free Choice Act passed, and defeat the Right to Work movement. The point is, if we aren't willing to help the IU and Council 25 help us, then we get what we paid for. So please brothers and sisters, let's make sure our voice is heard loud and clear, and sign up for PEOPLE today!

You will hear of other ways you can get involved as we get closer to next year, and I hope you will all do what you can to promote our democratic agenda both in the state and nationally.

Until next month, keep up the great job you do to make AFSCME Local 1668 proud!

In Solidarity,
Dennis

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Mediation/Convention*
- *AFSCME PEOPLE*
- *Retirees*
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*Congratulations are in order to the following retirees:
Sharon Daughtry and
Robert Lassiter
Enjoy your well earned time
relaxing*

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AFSCME PEOPLE

Fighting for Candidates Who Will Fight for Us

As public service workers, no one has a bigger stake in the election than we do. That's why AFSCME's PEOPLE program is so important. PEOPLE is AFSCME's program to win back the White House and elect candidates in Congress and in state houses across America that support us.

Through PEOPLE we help elect candidates who stand for what matters to AFSCME members:

- Strong contracts
- No contracting out
- Affordable health care
- Retirement security
- No cuts to vital public services

I WILL BE STARTING THE AFSCME PEOPLE COMMITTEE AFTER NEGOTIATIONS. Along with a few other committees in the future.

Valerie Armstrong, Vice President

Chief Steward's Report

Chief Steward Report:

Hope everything is going well for you all. I had a very enjoyable vacation earlier this month. I was able to spend some much needed time away, up north and in the U.P. It was beautiful, even though it rained every day.

We have been busy with negotiations still. This has kept us extremely busy. We had two grievance answers returned from the University, last week. One dealing with discipline and information requests, which was awarded based on the lack of information requested, being provided by the employer. The other was dealing with the hiring practices of the Landscape department. This was denied and we have voted to send it on to arbitration consideration at Council 25.

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and raising money to fight Breast Cancer. I heard it was a great turn out and you all had a really good time. I do not have the totals this year as to how much we raised, so if anyone wants to call and tell how they did on fundraising, I can report some good numbers next month. I do know that we raised over \$600.00.

REMEMBER that on November 3, 2009, there are elections going all over the state. The Kalamazoo and Battle Creek and Portage City Commission seats are all up for election. There are also some really important issues that area going to be placed on the ballots for vote. REMEMBER!!! We vote for our bosses and we vote for the budgets (taxes) that our paychecks ultimately

come from in some round-about way. We have other AFSCME Brothers and Sisters in some of these cities, including Kalamazoo, in which the City Commission is ultimately responsible for the contracts of these employees. Just like our Governor appoints our Board OF Trustees, who have the ultimate control of our contract! PLEASE REMEMBER to vote in these elections!!! We can make the difference. By the way, if you are not registered to vote, NOW would be an excellent time to go register to **VOTE**. It is your voice! Your Vote CAN and WILL make a difference! No more excuses! **VOTE!**

In Solidarity,

Kathi

Please Help the Sieta Kids!!!!!!!

Brothers and Sisters, some of our students need our help. There are a couple of Seita Scholars who have small children that are in need of clothes, especially winter clothes. The following is a list of what is needed, so please check to see if you have any of these items that you would be willing to donate:

Girl- Sizes 3T-4T with size 8 shoes/boots

Boy- 4T with size 12 shoes/boots

Boy- 4T shirts, 3T pants, and size 12 shoes/boots

Girl- Age 5 (whatever size that is) and size 6 shoes/boots

Boy- Size 3T No info on shoe/boot size

Girl- Size 12-18 months No shoe/boot info

If you have any items to donate, please bring them to work, email me at bryan.sutton@wmich.edu, and I will come get them from you. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity, and please know that your assistance is greatly appreciated by these students. As of this date we have not received any winter coats or any shoes and boots and nothing for the 18 month old baby.

In solidarity, Bryan Sutton

ATTENTION HUNTERS

Processing fees have been furnished by a hunting club in Marshall!

For arrangements to drop off deer; contact Beau Jenks
Cell: 269-420-3556
Home: 269-781-4920

OR

Mike Damon
Cell: 269-967-7612

This meat will be processed for the Tri-county Labor Agency Food Bank.

ATTENTION HUNTERS

Please help the hungry. Tri-County Food Bank will process your deer FREE! This meat will be processed for the Tri-County Labor Agency Food Bank. Processing fees have been furnished by a hunting club in Marshall.

Drop off is in Marshall at 13143 A drive South. It's the white barn with white trim on the north side of the road, there's a cement silo by the barn. Contact Beau Jenk (269)420-3556 or Mike Damon (269) 967-7612.