

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's report	1
Vice President's report	2
Chief Steward's report	2
Get with the program	3
Winter clothes donation for SIETA	4

## President's Report

### President's report for September 2009 newsletter

Hello again brothers and sisters. I hope this month's newsletter finds you all happy, healthy, and proud to be an AFSCME member!

As I'm sure you all know, we are still actively engaged in contract negotiations. We continue to make progress and are meeting regularly to achieve the best possible contract for you. Just a reminder about negotiations though, there is no detailed information discussed away from the table, so anything you hear is just a rumor so please treat it as just that and don't feed the rumor mill by spreading misinformation amongst our members.

As I write this, the AFL-CIO national convention is taking place in Pittsburgh. In case you ever wondered what you get out of being a union member besides our contract, President Obama addressed the convention attendees. According to the AFL-CIO website, he spoke powerfully about the importance of unions, and our

urgent need to rein in insurance company abuses and for real health insurance reform. Also, during the legislative conference I attended in Washington DC with Council 25, Vice President Biden and Speaker of the House Pelosi came to talk with us, and that was an AFSCME specific event. My point is, AFSCME and the AFL both warrant the attention of our nation's leaders. I think that is some pretty good bang for your dues buck! When you are a part of one of the largest organized labor unions in the country, they pay attention. This also shows how important it is to vote for those candidates that are going to address our needs and be labor friendly. You sure didn't hear of the previous administration taking the time to talk to AFSCME. We need to make sure that we continue to vote for those that will support our cause and act accordingly to maintain all the things that we, and all those that came before us, fought long and hard to acquire. We need to maintain a solid front and stick together for the better-

ment of us all, both at the national level and here at WMU.

Finally, with all the news recently being about health care reform, which is hugely important, don't forget about the other issues out there. Now is the time for us to contact our elected officials and let them know what we want. We want reasonable reform to the health insurance industry so that all can afford and obtain the medical attention they deserve as an American. But we also need to remind them that we haven't forgotten about the Employee Free Choice Act! Let's not allow that to be swept under the political rug and just disappear because of the other issues grabbing the headlines.

Thanks for all that you do each and every day to make WMU a better place and to make AFSCME Local 1668 such a great union!

In solidarity,  
Dennis

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Employee free choice act*
- *One-to-one wellness*
- *Helping our Sieta Kids during the winter days and nights with donation*

## Vice President's Report

### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

The best opportunity for working men and women to get ahead economically is by uniting with coworkers to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits. These are tough economic times – soaring gas and food prices, home foreclosures, unaffordable health care, and shattered retirement security. Wages for working men and women have stagnated while pay and bonuses for CEOs have sky-rocketed.

The Employee Free Choice Act is the most important legislative proposal in seventy years because it will remove unfair barriers to union representation and collective bargaining so that workers can get their fair share and improve jobs and benefits for everyone. It will help workers achieve the American Dream by giving them the freedom to choose a union and bargain collectively. It will mean that the economy can work for everyone again.

Current federal labor law – the National Labor Relations Act – has become a barrier to workers' rights. Companies intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire people who try to organize unions. Workers are fired in a quarter of private-sector union organizing campaigns and most workers who try to form unions are subjected to repeated, coercive one-on-one anti-union meetings with their supervisors. Even after workers successfully form unions, 44 percent of the time they can't get a first contract. This is an urgent crisis for workers, blocking their free will and their ability to bargain for a better future.

## Chief Steward's Report

There back! Welcome back to our Friends in Dining Services who had the summer off! Welcome Back Students! Hopefully you all had a great summer and are refreshed and ready to get back to it. We had a very successful summer once again. Many projects were completed by every division. Thank you everyone who had a hand in getting it done!

The grievances dealing with "return to work physicals" and "drug testing" have been awarded. Those people who had lost time will be made whole. I have turned in a list of the people who were affected. It will take some time for the University to research and make people whole. I am still in need of information from these people, of their time between being returned to work by their physician and actually being returned by the

Health Center. If you think you should be included in this list please give me a call ASAP. I need information from you. Leave me a message at the Union Hall including your name and a contact number.

Making Strides against Breast Cancer walk and fundraiser is on Oct. 10, 2009. Registration is at 7:30am at the Arcadia Festival site in downtown Kalamazoo. Several of us are fundraising! Juanita Snell and Judy Rozek in BCSS; Victoria Kennedy, Trudy Carr and John Boss in Trades; Carla Joyner, Jan Prange and myself from Landscape; and Carolyn Wiley from Dining Services. If you would like to make a donation to this event, please see one of these people. If you would like to sign up to walk and fundraise, then please contact me

ASAP. We will T-shirts for all the people from Local 1668 who walk and fundraise. They will be our Long Sleeve Blue t-shirts with the Breast Cancer awareness logo on the sleeve.

Negotiation talks continue. We are making progress. I know just what you wanted to hear, right! But that's good. NO rumors! We will however be getting in touch with the Stewards soon to put together the informational meetings and setting up the ratification vote. We usually pull from our steward structure for these two activities. When the time comes, we will be calling on you.

In Solidarity,  
Kathleen Cantley

## GET WITH THE PROGRAM

*Holtyn & Associates, LLC and Western Wellness invite you to the*

### One-to-One Wellness Program

*If you would like to have more energy and peace of mind, and move toward optimal health, this program is for you. There is no cost to you. Your privacy and confidentiality are our top priority. It is easy to participate and your registration in the program paves the way to a wealth of resources that will help you take charge of your health in new and exciting ways.*

#### Here's how it works:

One-to-One begins with an appointment with a wellness professional who will help you complete an online health assessment and a biometric assessment that includes measurements of your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (blood sugar) levels, as well as body mass index, waist and fitness. No fasting is required and you will leave the assessment with all your results. Your wellness coach will also be taking the time to help you set a personal wellness goal that fits into your life and takes you where you want to go as you work to improve/maintain your health. Your personal wellness data will be available to you at your own secured personal website where it can be updated at any time. Please bring your Blue Cross/Blue Shield member card to your appointment so that you can access the online assessment.

Depending on your interest and needs, your personal wellness coach will periodically contact you to provide support, encouragement and assist you in meeting your goals. All participants in the program will have access to tools, events and support from the One-to-One website and a variety of Western Wellness programs and services.

More program details are available at [www.holtynhpc.com](http://www.holtynhpc.com) and [www.wmich.edu/wellness](http://www.wmich.edu/wellness)

#### Here's how to get started:

Go to: **www.holtynhpc.com**

Click: **Login**

Click: **Enroll yourself**

ID: **32**

Account Password: **bronco**

Follow directions from there.

#### Questions?

Holtyn One-to-One Wellness Program: Contact Danna Downing at 269/779-5453 or [ddowning@holtynhpc.com](mailto:ddowning@holtynhpc.com)

Western Wellness Program: Contact Jen Bailey at 269/3873762 or [jen.bailey@wmich.edu](mailto:jen.bailey@wmich.edu)

**LOCAL 1668**

**PLEASE HELP OUR 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](mailto: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.

In solidarity,

Bryan Sutton



*WAY TO GO LOCAL OVER THE SUMMER YOU REALLY KEPT  
THINGS ON TRACK*