

THE 411 FORUM



A publication for the hardworking men and women of AFSCME 411

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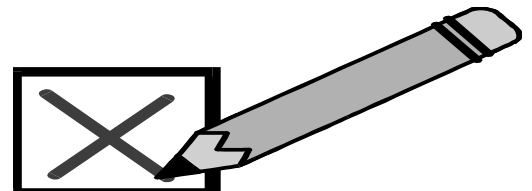
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I attended the Council 25 state convention at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency from October 11 through October 14. This convention is held every two years and decisions and policies at the state level are made. This year, the importance of local union stewards as the backbone of a local was emphasized. A resolution was passed to have all union stewards trained and certified within 180 days of their taking office. As president of Local 411, I wholeheartedly agree with this resolution. Stewards represent the day to day activities of the local and are the heart of a local's effectiveness and skill in handling today's tough administrators. The stewards are the single most important committee in a local and their training and knowledge can prove to be vital to a local membership. As an outcome of this resolution, as well as my own strong feelings on this subject, changes have been implemented in steward training and steward attendance to not only help the local but to also help new stewards learn and grow within the local. This will also create consistency within the local. The next time you see your steward, why not say thanks for a job well done.

RETIREMENT BOARD ELECTIONS

In case you haven't had the honor of meeting **Connie Miller** face-to-face, you certainly would recognize her as one of the leaders who worked hard to obtain the current 70-point retirement. Connie spoke before the Board of Commissioners at every meeting during our fight. Connie spent immeasurable hours researching and compiling data for our fight for equality in the retirement system and has vast knowledge about the Macomb County Retirement system. It is a complicated and difficult subject but Connie's knowledge proved to be irreplaceable during negotiations. Connie is now running for the Retirement Board and needs our sup-

port. Connie spoke to the membership at our November meeting and will be at the December 5th meeting also. Employees will be voting on Tuesday, December 11th at sites designated throughout the county. The Executive Board strongly endorses **Connie Miller** for this position. She has proven to be a great asset to this local and has outstanding qualifications for this position.



Steward Meeting Scheduled

There will be a mandatory steward training meeting schedule on Wednesday, December 5th after the regular membership meeting. It will be held at the Verkuillen Building in the Senior Citizen Auditorium. It will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. and will be no

more than 2 hours. There is also one scheduled the first Saturday in December, December 1st at noon at the union office for those who cannot attend on December 5. The union office is in the Macomb Mews Bldg., 7 N. Main, Suite 208. Call: 465-5292

Christmas Meeting – Please attend the monthly union meeting on December 5th at 5:30 p.m. at the Verkuillen Building Senior Citizen Auditorium and bring a favorite dessert to pass. **MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

MEET YOUR STEWARD

Do you know who your steward is? Unfortunately, many people find out who their steward is in a crisis situation. The stewards of AFSCME Local 411 work hard every day to represent you. Stewards are not compensated for all the work they do. Most stewards spend many hours at home during their leisure time working on union issues. It's a hard job with few rewards. It takes true dedication from a select few. Most stewards get one hour daily on the job to perform their duties. Local 411 would like to take this opportunity to not only recognize our stewards and their areas but also to say we are grateful and very thankful for the good work you do daily to help this membership.

District 1 – Verkuillen Bldg., Central Receiving, Emergency Services and Communications and Microfilm – Joyce Compo from the Health Department – WIC. Joyce is also our Chief Steward and Vice President of the Local. Joyce conducts steward training and credentialing. Thanks, Joyce, for many years of service.

District 2 – Sheriff Department and Health Department including the Animal Shelter – We have a new steward and alternate in this position. Connie Miller held this position for many years

but moved to a new building and handed the torch to Jan Wilson and alternate Eve Catana. Good luck, Jan and Eve.

District 3 – Library. Joann Priester. Joann has been a superb steward for the last few years and is also a three year Trustee. Thanks, Joann.

District 4 – Court Building Clericals. Currently vacant. Anyone interested????

District 5 – County Building Clericals and also the new Administration Building – Jill Lezotte from the Prosecutor's Office. Jill recently did her first grievance with great success. She is off to a wonderful start and we look forward to many more successes. Thanks, Jill.

District 6 – Facilities and Operations, except clericals. Judith Reid has been a long-standing steward and is also on the Executive Board. Thanks, Judith.

District 7 – Warren and St. Clair Shores Satellites – Roxanne Barsotti, who works at the Health Department in Mt. Clemens, has been the steward for this district for many years. Roxanne has done a great job and has dedicated many hours helping health department employees. Thanks, Roxanne.

District 8 – Community Mental Health – Joey Ludwig who works

at First North. Joey is a new steward in a difficult area. Good luck, Joey and thanks.

District 9 and District 10 – Pumping Station, Public Works and Freedom Hill – Kenneth Ahearn has been the steward at the pumping station for many years and done a great job. He recently added Public Works and Freedom Hill to his coverage. Thanks, Ken.
Districts 11A, B, C, D, E and F – Martha T. Berry (all areas)– Includes Vicki Porchia, Lula Gaskin, Loretta Strong and Carolyn Platt. There are currently two vacant positions at MTB, These four women cover the most difficult area in the county and do a great job. Vicki covers day shift, Lula covers afternoon shift and Loretta covers mid-nights. Carolyn covers the dietary department. No steward at Martha T. Berry rests for very long. These ladies work long and hard for our members. Thanks to you all.

All of the AFSCME 411 stewards deserve our praise and admiration. They sit across from management and advocate for you, the members. The union steward is the backbone of the union because they perform the most vital role in a local union, enforcing the contract daily.

THANKS, STEWARDS.



**From the Executive Board of AFSCME Local 411,
have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year. Hope to see you at the Christmas Membership
Meeting on December 5th at 5:30 p.m.**