

THE 411 FORUM



A publication for the hardworking men and women of AFSCME 411

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The PEOPLE Committee has been very busy since last July working on **POLITICS!!!!** I can't tell you how many members have asked why our union needs to be involved in the political arena. I always answer the same way, "If you do your work at the polls, your work is done." More than any other union affiliate throughout the United States, AFSCME is in the most envious position. We have the ability, through the voting process, to pick who our bosses will be. What other union affiliate can boast that claim?? When you go to the polls this November, think about who you want deciding what your salary will be in the next contract or who you want to make decisions about your health care benefits. Ultimately, it will be the members of the Board of Commissioners who have final approval of our union contract and what will or will not be negotiated into those contracts. I want board members who have a proven record of understanding the struggle of workers. As a government worker, you have a far greater stake in who is elected than people in the private sector. Whoever you vote for in November, be sure you VOTE. It's a right many people wish they had !!!!

AFSCME 411 UNION STEWARD JAN WILSON-DAVIS RUNS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

If you live in Chesterfield Township, you will have the opportunity to vote for a fellow AFSCME 411 member on November 7th at the polls. Jan Wilson-Davis, who has been a dedicated union steward in the Sheriff's Department, won the Democratic primary last August. This new district, which was a result of the 2000 Census count, will create a new seat on the Board of Commissioners. Jan could use any help AFSCME 411 members could give her including passing out flyers door to door, monetary contributions and word of mouth to anyone living in this district. Jan's presence on the Board of Commissioners will bring a strong voice for worker's rights throughout the county. Last year, Jan was one of the many members who worked long and hard to obtain the retirement package in our current bargaining agreement. She will bring the same dedication and commitment to the Board of Commissioners in an effort to enhance the quality of life for

all Macomb County employees. Jan has worked for Macomb County for 14 years. She is active in the Boy Scouts of America Pack #82, Troop #211 and Venture Crew #211. She is a member of Grace United Methodist Church. She is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #112. She has been endorsed by local 411, AFSCME Council 25, Macomb County Professional Deputy Sheriffs Association, UAW Region I, Teamsters Local 214 and the Michigan Education MEA/NEA Local I. If you can help Jan in any way with her campaign, please call her at (586) 725-8951.



**AFSCME Local 411 has a new
website. The address is
www.afscme411.org**

EAP: Overlooked Benefit For You and Your Family

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all employees and offers a variety of services. Many employees throughout the county are unaware of this underutilized benefit to all employees. Services included are problems with depression, job stress, the need for child or elder-care assistance, relationship problems, legal or financial difficulties, alcohol and drug use and mental health problems. These services are free to all employees, their spouses and dependents. Employees can call the Employee Assistance Center twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Any involvement in the EAP is confidential and protected by Federal Law. Employees will be seen for up to five sessions with a EAP professional clinician. If the problem cannot be addressed in these five sessions, the EAP clinician will direct the employee or dependent to another avenue for further assistance or treatment. CARE, the agency responsible for administering

the EAP program, has a policy of not scheduling any other Macomb County employee 1 1/2 hours before or 1 1/2 hours after a scheduled appointment to assure confidentiality for all employees in the county. The Employee Assistance Planning Committee meets on a quarterly basis and discusses lunch and learn programs, ideas for improving the program and future planning. The committee consists of representatives from departments throughout the county, management and union leaders. President Cangemi is a member of this committee. If you would like to make suggestions to improve this program or have ideas on topics for a lunch and learn, or just have a question about the program, call President Cangemi at the union office. If you would like to contact the Employee Assistance Center the number is (586) 541-1555. The office is located on Utica Road in Fraser on the southeast corner of Utica Road and Masonic.

ORGANIZING VOTE BEGINS FOR CLERICAL STAFF

It took longer than many of them would have liked, but after many months of informational meetings, fifty-five clerical employees in the mental health department are finally being given the opportunity to vote yes to join AFSCME 411. The fifty-five workers consist of typist clerks and account clerks on the fifth and sixth floor of the county building, the Verkuillen Building and in satellite offices throughout the county. Many of the fifty-five clerical employees realized the benefits of joining AFSCME 411 when they found it next to impossible to get a promotional job. Our local represents almost all the clerical employees throughout the county. The additional benefits negotiated by AFSCME 411 in the current contract illustrated to many of the non-union employees the benefits

the Michigan Employees Relations Committee, will count the mail-in ballots in their Detroit office on October 2nd. Keep your fingers

crossed that a majority votes yes for AFSCME 411. Hopefully, we will be welcoming fifty-five enthusiastic new members to our local.

Special points of interest:

CURRENT BARGAINING AGREEMENT CONTRACTS ARE PRINTED AND READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. PICK UP YOUR CONTRACT ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES:

Verkuillen Bldg

October 2 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

October 3 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Martha T Berry

October 10 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm