

THE 411 FORUM



A publication for the hardworking men and women of AFSCME 411

afscme411.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This is such an important election year. We have listed our endorsements for Charter Commissioner as well as other local and state and federal offices. Why do you need to vote for Charter Commissioner? The people who are elected to write this new constitution **WILL** have a direct impact on your life. There are many decisions in this new constitution that can be either employee-friendly or detrimental to the current employees. That is why I decided to run for Charter Commissioner. There must be voices who are familiar with the county and the needs of its employees. We have carefully examined and interviewed many of the candidates. Some you know, many you do not. Charles Missig is a member of the union coalition. Cynthia Konal is a former AFSCME 411 member. Rick Flynn is a union official with the MEA. Judy Hartwell has been an activist in the community for many years. These are people you can trust. Make sure you vote on August 5th and make a responsible choice.

AFSCME Endorsements for August

Charter Commissioner Races

District 2 - Mike Scozzari
District 3 - Jim Kelly
District 4 - Louis Burdi
District 6 - John Olekszyk
District 7 - Liz Sierawski
District 8 - Donna Cangemi
District 9 - Michael Gielniak
District 10 - Rick Flynn
District 11 - Carl Territo
District 12 - Ken Reid
District 13 - Mike Labuhn
District 14 - Dan Nixon
District 15 - Richard Onaga
Grace Shore
District 16 - Bill Lakin
District 17 - Alisha Baker
District 18 - Carrie Fuca
District 19 - Ron Robinson
District 21 - Jan Haggerty
District 22 - Judy Hartwell
District 23 - James Maceroni
District 24 - Cynthia Konal
District 25 - Tracy Swager
District 26 - Charles T. Missig

County Commissioner Races

District 1 - Andrey Duzyj
District 3 - Phil DiMaria
District 4 - Toni Mocerri
District 5 - Susan Doherty
District 6 - Joan Flynn and Elizabeth Lenhard
District 8 - Dave Flynn
District 9 - Robert Mijac
District 10 - Ken Lampar
District 14 - Brian Brdak

District 15 - Thomas McVicar
District 16 - Carey Torrice
District 17 - Ed Bruley
District 18 - Dane Camphouse-
Peterson
District 19 - Paul Gieleghem
District 20 - Kathy Tocco
District 22 - Frank Accavitti, Jr. and
Betty Slinde

State and Federal Races

Senator - Carl Levin
10th District, Congress - Robert Denison

or **12th District, Congress** - Sander Levin

State Legislature

24th District - Sarah Roberts
25th District - Jon Switalski
27th District - Mark Richardson
28th District - Lesia Liss
30th District - Grant Hughes
31st District - Fred Miller
32nd District - Jennifer Haase
42nd District - Harold Haugh

Macomb County Offices

Prosecuting Attorney - Eric Smith

Sheriff - Mark Hackel

Clerk/Register of Deeds - Carmella Sabaugh

Public Work Commissioner - An-
Mar- thony

Treas-
B. Wa- rocco

urer - Ted
hby



Updates: Contract Negotiations

The negotiating team met with the county on June 26th for the entire day and gave the county a proposal. The negotiating team's goal has been to develop a proposal that will provide savings to the county on the increasing health care costs with as little harm as possible. The team has also worked from the theory that health care costs are the driving factor when an employee retires, not their monthly benefits. The negotiating team also believes current employees are making retirement plans that are reaching far into their future. It would be unfair to ask those employees to make changes to their plans in mid-stream. As many of you are aware, the county has been seeking concessions in health care and retirement benefits. The negotiating team believes there are many ways the county can save money on health care that will not harm employees. During negotiations, the coalition of unions met in a small work group over the past year. This group consisted of members from the UAW, Teamsters, Environmental Services Association, RN's, Deputies Association and Building Trades. This group's task has been research on effective cost containment measures. The proposal offered to the

county has asked the county to form an on-going committee consisting of this group of unions as well as employer-represented members. This group will have multiple tasks. The group will continue to research effective cost containment measures for health care, but they will also bid-out all health care services including dental, vision and pharmaceutical services. The unions will be directly involved in this process. Macomb County has never participated in a health care bid-out process. The specifications will be very specific to assure plans have the coverage and the ability to service just as the current plans have. These are just some of the ways health care costs can be radically curtailed with minimal harm to employees. The negotiating team has been working very hard to develop viable solutions for the 900 members. When an acceptable tentative agreement is reached, the team will bring it to you and review all changes to the contract. You will have an opportunity to ask all questions before you vote on the tentative agreement. Any dates will be published on the website and all will be posted throughout your worksite. The website address is www.afscme411.org.

I thought some of you overwhelmed by life might enjoy this. I know I did.

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8 year-old again.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant.

I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make a sidewalk with rocks.

I want to think M and Ms are better than money because you can eat them.

I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple; When all you knew were colors, multiplication tables, and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care.

All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or

upset.

I want to think the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good.

I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again.

I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

So . . . here's my checkbook and my car-keys, my credit card bills and my 401K statements. I am officially resigning from adulthood.

And if you want to discuss this further, you'll have to catch me first, cause.....

....."Tag! You're it."

AFSCME Local 411

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Vice President: Jan Wilson
Cell phone contact 321-2380

Secretary: Cindy Donahue

Treasurer: Karen Davenport

Union Stewards and Area

Verkuillen, Emergency Services,

Health Department -Joyce

Compo 469-5492

Sheriff -Jan Wilson 307-9563 or 321-2380

Downtown Mt. Clemens Offices -vacant

Martha T Berry:

Toni Bursey, Elaine Lipsey,

Carolyn Platt, Kim Smith - 469-5633

Facilities and Operations - Albert Shamaly

Community Mental Health - Jennifer Jozwiak 469-5773

Parks and Recreation, Pump Station -vacant

Executive Board - Nancy

Younes, Sue Economides, Karen

Sears, Brenda Sanders, Joyce

Compo, Albert Shamaly, Sandy