

The new Council 5

By Molly Malecki

The founding convention of the newly created Council 5 was a rousing success by any standard. There were nearly 800 delegates from the previous three councils that joined to form Council 5. The atmosphere at the convention was electric—the enthusiasm couldn't be contained. The commitment to be a united front of nearly 40,000 members was shouted loud and often. The commitment to work together to get public officials elected who share our concerns and who hear our voices was affirmed again and again.

Constitution adopted

The first order of business of the convention was to adopt a constitution. The proposed constitution was the creation of a committee of individuals from the three joining councils. A great deal of work was done by those individuals, using their own constitutions as a starting point. There were a few amendments made, but it was done in good spirit. The only issue that generated a great deal of debate was the article relating to the membership dues. For members from the previous Council 14, it will mean a dues increase in 2005 of \$1.25 per member per month, and in 2006 an increase of \$1.50, and in 2007 an increase of \$.25.

The reason the delegates were willing to approve the dues increase is the same reason delegates voted to merge the three councils. New resources are needed for new organizing, year round political action, education, research and

communications. Eliot Seide, Council 14's executive director has often said that it is insane to think we can do the same thing over and over and expect to get different results. We have to change the way we do business, and for a while that will cost a little more money. There is a plan in place on how this money will be spent. The delegates felt we have to invest to improve our chances in the next round of negotiations—we will have to do things differently to get different results.

Officers elected

The second order of business was the election of four chair officers and thirty-six executive board members. Local 2822's Shawniese Sudduth was elected to the board from the county sector. Shawniese has served on the Council 14 Board and has been doing lost-time work for Take Back Minnesota. She is one of our co-chief stewards.

Cliff Poehler, a Hennepin County Public Defender, who has been the Council 14 President, was elected Treasurer. Other Hennepin County employees who were elected to the board are Jean Diederich, Pat Guernsey, Cate Wagner, and Michelle Atwell-Shoens. The Council 5 Executive Board represents 129 locals including state, county, city U of M, schools K-12 and private/special district workers.

Eliot Seide—Executive Director

The final order of business was for the new Executive Board to appoint a new Executive Director for the new Council

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November Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 9
7:00 p.m.
Brookdale Library

Special order of business:
1st reading of proposed
dues increase

December Membership Meeting
Tuesday, December 7
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Government Center Rm. C2350

Special order of business:
2nd reading and vote on proposed
dues increase

**For our members who are
physically challenged,
please let us know if special
accommodations are needed.**

Election history

On August 31, 1920, five days after the 19th amendment was signed into law, Hannibal, Missouri held a special election to fill the seat of an alderman who had resigned.



At 7:00 a.m., Marie Ruoff Byrum, cast her ballot in the first ward. She thus became the first woman to vote in the state of Missouri and the first women to vote in the United States under the 19th Amendment.

Proposed dues increase

The first reading of a proposed dues increase will take place at the November Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 9 at the Brookdale Library at 7:00 p.m. The second reading and a vote will be at the Membership Meeting on December 7 at the Government Center in room C2350. The meeting is scheduled from 11:30 to 1:00.

As a result of the approval of the new Constitution of Council 5, our dues to the council will be increased, but the Local 2822 Constitution requires a vote by the membership. The proposal is for a maximum \$1.25 increase in 2005, \$1.50 in 2006 and \$.25 in 2007. This is the dues increase that the council requires, but part of this increase is dictated by the international union, and we do not know how much that will decrease these figures. This information should be available by the November meeting.

The reason for the dues increase is explained in the article about the founding convention. Briefly, it is to equalize the dues for all three councils that merged and to make funds available for organizing, political action, research and education. There will be further information in the next newsletter.

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5. Eliot Seide was chosen for this exciting new position. Eliot has worked in many capacities for AFSCME for 26 years. In the couple of years he has been Executive Director of Council 14, he has been enthusiastic, exuberant and passionate about the rights of workers. He called the 40,000 members of Council 5 "everyday heroes who care for and protect Minnesotans."

He reminded us that we are under attack by "opportunistic politicians, the state Chamber of Commerce, and the Taxpayers League." He said, "we will confront their power with truth. We shall agitate, educate, organize and communicate that we are proud of the work we do. Proud to be Minnesota's best, proud to be AFSCME members in Minnesota."

Minnesota Statutes 204C.04 Employees; time off to vote

Subdivision 1. **Right to be absent.** Every employee who is eligible to vote in an election has the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of the day of that election, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages because of the absence. An employer or other person may not directly or indirectly refuse, abridge, or interfere with this right or any other election right of an employee.

Subdivision 3. **Penalty.** A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and the county attorney shall prosecute the violation.

A woman's place is in the voting booth

By Lynn Stetler

The following is not intended to be read by women only. But the reality is that most of our members are women, so that is the focus here. I'm certain that the men in our local know many women with whom they can share this message.

Women are poised to be a pivotal voting group in the 2004 presidential election. Most of the time, it seems that politicians are too busy to listen to working women--the special interest groups have their attention. Working women are struggling to stretch their paychecks--our costs to live continue to rise while our salaries remain stagnant. We have a lot at stake in this election.

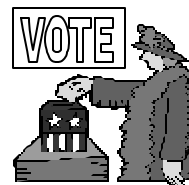
I've been doing a lot of reading lately--everything from daily newspapers, to weekly and monthly magazines and the blogs--even Oprah is writing about this election of 2004. It's hard not to be startled by some of the information within these articles.

The most recent statistics I've read are embarrassing and disrespectful to our female heritage. In the 2000 presidential election, 22 million unmarried women, who were eligible to vote, stayed home from the polls. While 68 percent of married women voted, only 52 percent of unmarried women did so. Millions of women of color did not vote. According to the U.S. census, 40 percent of African-American women did not vote; 54 percent of Latinas did not vote; and 58 percent of

Asian/Pacific women did not vote. Remember that 537 votes decided that last presidential election. You have the chance to make sure the politicians listen to you and not just to special interest groups. Success in 2004 could be determined by how well we reach out to these voters. I want to encourage you to vote--and also to talk to the women you know and encourage them to vote.

Please remember there was a time not that long ago that women did not have the right to vote. Our opinions and choices didn't matter. Now we have that power. Use that power to vote to elect labor-and women-friendly politicians who will protect our rights, and take on issues that are important to working women, who will protect your jobs and our paychecks.

On November 2 -
VOTE!



Donation to commissioners

The members at the October Membership Meeting voted to donate \$200.00 each to the re-election campaigns of Hennepin County Commissioners Randy Johnson and Linda Koblick. Local 2822 has a political action fund that is used for this purpose.

The members felt that a donation would be a positive way to thank the commissioners for their favorable votes on the RESPONSIBLE LEVY. We realize it is hard for politicians to raise taxes, but we appreciate their listening to our stories and choosing to do the right thing.

REMEMBER

- ✓ Wages, benefits and working conditions are set by contracts
 - ✓ Contract negotiations are framed by budgets
 - ✓ Budgets are determined by elected officials
 - ✓ Elected officials are chosen through political action
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Do your part to get a better contract by learning how to participate effectively in political action
 - Getting a better wage and benefit package is up to you!!

Local 2822 Officers

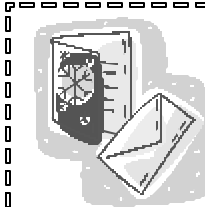
| | |
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| Vacant | |
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| Heather Clark | 952-847-8650 |
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Bulletin Board

The New Voice deadline is November 9. Articles will be accepted up to and including the day of the monthly Membership Meeting for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Send your written contributions to Molly Malecki or Lynn Stetler.

Visit Local 2822 Website

<http://www.afscme2822.org>



Help us remember your co-workers with a card. Let us know to send a sympathy card, get well or congratulations. We will send a card, hand-made by E-board member Lynn Stetler.

Contact Heather Clark, our Good and Welfare Coordinator at 952-847-8650 or by e-mail: hclark@hclib.org. The request should include the name of the member, the reason for the request and home address, if possible."

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I want a paper contract

To sign up as a full union member or for Delta Dental Insurance, or to get answers to questions about AFSCME and membership benefits, please fill out this coupon and send to:

Merry Brigham
CSD—110 Bldg, mc1890

Name _____

Job Title _____

Work _____

Location _____

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I'm especially interested in:

- I want to sign up as a full member.
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