

Precinct caucuses and training



February Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 3
7:00 p.m.
Ridgedale Library

Special order of business:

- › Nomination of officers
- › Selection of delegates to Council 14 Convention, March 12 & 13, in Bloomington, MN
- › Selection of attendees to AFSCME Day on the Hill, March 11 at the State Capitol

March Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 3
7:00 p.m.
Ridgedale Library

Note: Due to March 2nd precinct caucuses the meeting is on Wednesday instead of Tuesday

Special order of business:

- › Selection of attendees to the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner, March 25, Radisson Hotel and Plaza, Bloomington, MN

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

March 2, 2004 is the day that all Minnesotans can make their political voices heard at the grassroots level at their precinct party caucuses. Caucus meetings will take place in every precinct at 7:00 p.m. People attending these meetings can vote for their presidential candidate preference and also discuss and vote on resolutions on issues.

Public service and health care employees must be powerfully represented on March 2 to defend our rights and our jobs.

Elected officials determine the size of our budgets, and that impacts our ability to bargain with management over improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions. We need to have a say in the political process.

The AFSCME Take Back Minnesota campaign has arranged non-partisan caucus workshops to familiarize participants in the process of caucuses. People who have never attended a caucus might want to attend one of these brief meetings so they will feel more comfortable attending a caucus.

You can get more and updated information from www.afscmemn.org or contact Ellen Goedtel at 651-287-0531 or at egoedtel@afscmecouncil6.org.

Feel free to bring family, friends or co-workers to these training sessions.

Caucus workshops will be held:

Tuesday, 1-27
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Mpls. Public Library, Nokomis
5100 34th Av. S., Minneapolis

Thursday, 1-29
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Hennepin Cty Library, Rockford Rd.
6401 42nd Av. N, Crystal

Saturday, 1-31
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
AFSCME Bldg.
300 Hardman Av. S, So. St. Paul

Wednesday, 2-18
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Health Services Bldg., Rm. 110
525 Portland Av., Minneapolis

Nomination of officers at February meeting

All positions on the Local 2822 Executive Board will be open for nominations at the February 3rd Membership Meeting at the Ridgedale Library at 7:00 p.m.

The Executive Board positions are president, vice president, recording secretary, treasurer, membership secretary, two co-chief stewards and four at-large members.

Nominations will also be taken for one trustee position that will end in 2007.
(Nominations continued on page 2)

Organizing for Power Conference

By Molly Malecki

Nearly one hundred Council 14 members attended the daylong Organizing for Power Conference on Saturday January 10. Those attending from Local 2822 were Shawneise Sudduth, Ann Baird, Walter Hanson and I.

The morning session was a fascinating presentation by Meizhu Lui, Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy, from Boston. She presented how unionism has changed in the last fifty years. She explained that after World War II there was a sense of "shared sacrifice". The country had been through a great ordeal. Employers were willing to share their profits with their workers. At that time income was earned. Now income comes from stocks and property assets. In the 1980's the CEO's salary was forty-two times that of the average worker. Now it is 531 times that of the average worker.

There were two presentations on successful fighting of privatization. At The Lake Owasso Home and at HCMC the union in coalition with community groups were able to stop privatization of the facility in the case of Lake Owasso and to at least stall it in the case of HCMC.

Chris Cowan, the Political Action Director of AFSME Minnesota, talked about the complex issue of Health Care in 2004. Who pays? We all are paying, either through taxes or through the price of goods we buy. How does General Motors pay for their employee's health care? Through the price of the car. We are all paying in so many ways. It is getting more and more costly and we have to find a better way of providing health care to everyone.

The Conference ended with a discussion of the Take Back Minnesota Campaign. Legislative District Action Teams (LDAT) are being formed.

These are groups composed of Minnesota AFSCME members who live within a legislative district. There are four AFSCME Councils in Minnesota, and they will be working together on this endeavor. Several LDAT's are already set up. To find out if there is one in your district or to get involved in one contact Ellen Goedel at 651-287-0531 or at egoedel@afscmecouncil6.org.

Vacation donation

Zanona Anderson is requesting vacation donations. She has had surgery and has used all her vacation and sick time. Please contact benefits or go on line to get a form to make the donation. This is always appreciated. If each of us gave an hour or two it would get Zanona back on her feet without the stress of having to come back to work too soon.

(Nominations continued from page 1)

There are three trustees, who serve three-year terms, and their duty is to audit the local's books at least once a year.

Our local is entitled to five delegates and five alternates to the Central Labor Union, which meets in Minneapolis on the first Wednesday of the month. Nominations for these positions will take place at the membership meeting.

To be eligible for office a person must be a member in good standing for one year prior to the election. Anyone interested in any of these positions and/or has questions, should contact any board member. Their phone numbers are on the back page of this newsletter.

If more than one member is nominated for any position, an election will be held in March. Notice will be sent to announce the time and place of the election

Chief Steward moving up

LaToya Wilson, our chief steward, has accepted a position on the 24th floor of the Government Center. This promotion makes her a confidential employee, which means she will no longer be a member of our local.

LaToya has done a wonderful job as chief steward in the short time that she held the position. We are extremely sorry to have her leave. But we wish her the best in her new endeavor

Good and welfare changes

Jane Byrne, our Good and Welfare coordinator for the past few years has decided to pass the baton to another member. Jane has served her position very well, and we thank her for her diligent work in helping those in need of good thoughts with cards from our local. She is the first person to fill this position within the local.

Our new Good and Welfare coordinator is Heather Clark. Heather, who works at the Ridgedale Library, graciously agreed to assume these duties.

Please contact Heather at 952-847-8650 or via e-mail at: hclark@hclib.org when you would like us to send a card to one of our members in sympathy, get well, new baby, congratulations, etc. Please include the person's home address when you contact Heather.

Our congratulations go to Jane Byrne who recently graduated from Metro State with a degree in Psychology.





AFSCME Council 14 Convention

Hear ye, hear ye, the 23rd Annual Convention of Council 14 will be held on March 12 and 13, 2004 at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Local 2822 is part of Council 14, which encompasses the entire metro area. We are entitled to 31 delegates. Anyone interested in how we intend to “Take Back Minnesota” or why AFSCME endorsed Howard Dean or what we can do to get a better contract next time, should plan to attend.

Registration begins at 11:30 on Friday, March 12, and the Convention convenes at 12:30. There will be workshops to answer some of the above questions on Friday afternoon. There will be a dinner and dance on Friday night. The convention will continue on Saturday until about 3:00 in the afternoon.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact an E-board member, or should come to the Membership Meeting on February 3rd. Anyone with questions about this should also contact an E-board member. Childcare will be available.

Most first time attendees find the Convention helpful in understanding how our Union works. It usually inspires people to become more involved and shows them ways that they can help get a better deal for our members.

Patterson Scholarship

The Richard E. Patterson Scholarship will be awarded at the Council 14 Convention on Saturday, March 13. The deadline for applications is February 27, 2004. The winner will be drawn by lot at the Council 14 executive board meeting on March 1.

The applicant must be a graduating senior in the year 2004. The applicant, parent or legal guardian must be a member of a local affiliated with Council 14. The scholarship recipient must plan to attend an accredited post-secondary Minnesota or Wisconsin school (college or T.V.I.).

To receive an application contact Michelle at the Council office at 651-455-0773.

Day on the Hill

On Thursday, March 11 we will be heading to the state capitol to carry out the key part of our Political Action mission: To talk to legislators about enacting bills and programs of importance to public employees and the services we provide.

We need to tell’ em what they cut!

Last session legislators carried out service cuts that devastated not only AFSCME members but also severely cut the services we provide.

Real cuts are meaning real pain to real people. We need to “share the pain” by letting legislators know what happened where we work. Legislators need to be held accountable at the ballot box in November. And right now we need to tell ‘em what they cut!

The day starts at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel on Kellogg Boulevard in

St. Paul with a session to give you information on how, what, where, and to whom to lobby. We then head to the Capitol with other folks from our own legislative districts to talk to **OUR** legislators. They listen to us because we can vote them in or out of office in November. The day ends with a reception at the Radisson.

If you want to start the ball rolling to get us a better contract next time and to get the legislators’ attention, please contact an E-board member. Request Special Leave Without Pay for union business from your supervisor. The local will pay lost time for those attending Day on the Hill.



America needs unions

Editor’s note: the following was taken from a hand out from the Organizing for Power Conference

Collective bargaining is a public good

- › Raises wages for all working people
- › Stimulates economy
- › Reduces inequality and poverty
- › Narrows race and gender wage gaps
- › Strengthens our social safety net
- › Promotes civic and political participation
- › Counters excessive corporate power

Local 2822 Officers

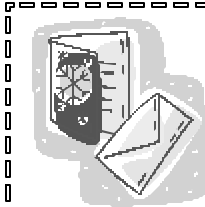
President	
Molly Malecki	763-569-3683
Vice-president	
Donovan Swain	763-420-8308
Treasurer	
Walter Hanson	763-569-3683
Recording Sec.	
Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569
Co-chief Steward	
Vacant	
Co-chief Steward	
Vacant	
Membership Sec.	
Shawneise Sudduth	612-821-4512
E-Board at Large	
Merry Brigham	612-348-9358
Terry Roddy	612-728-5941
Vacant	
Vacant	
Delta Dental Trustee	
Ann Baird	763-569-3683
Good & Welfare	
Heather Clark	952-847-8650 <i>jhclark@hclib.org</i>

Bulletin Board

The New Voice deadline is February 3. 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.

With Delta Access, you can find out about your Delta coverage without even opening your mouth. Delta Access
651-406-5900,
1-800-862-6042.
Always refer to your group number 538.

Editors
Molly Malecki & Lynn Stetler
Circulation & distribution
Annette Tiedens

I want to support the union

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:

**Shawneise Sudduth
Sabathani, mc637**

Name _____

Job Title _____

Work _____

Location _____

Mailcode _____

Phone _____

I'm especially interested in:

I want to sign up as a full member.

I want to sign up for Delta Dental.

Steward's List

Steward	Phone	Representing	Location
Zanona Anderson	612-347-5356	MHP	A.Y. McDonald Bldg.
Julie Axtell	612-348-6186	Taxpayer Services	Gov't Ctr. Service Ctr.
Sheryn Cartlidge	612-879-1904	EA/Call Center	Ramar Building/Call Center
Nichelle DeCora	612-348-9162	CFASD	Health Services Building
Kerin Fahland	612-596-8000	Sheriff	Jail
Jodi Goers	612-596-8080	Sheriff	Jail
Angela Hallquist	952-830-4985	Service Center	Southdale Service Center
Walter Hanson	763-569-3683	Service Center	Brookdale Service Center
Pat Humphreys	612-596-6596	Corrections	Juvenile Justice Center
Janet Keefe	612-348-9446	EA/FAD	Century Plaza
Jennifer McNair	612-596-8000	Sheriff	Jail
Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569	Library	Ridgedale Lib./CAB/ Cataloging
Shawneise Sudduth	612-821-4512	CFASD	Sabathani
Bennie Wilson	612-596-8025 (evenings)	Sheriff	Jail