

# \$38 million reduction

The following is an excerpt of an e-mail sent to all Human Services Public Health Department staff by Rex Holzemer, Area Director Administrative Services Human Services and Public Health Department:

"I sent an e-mail on January 17 indicating that the 2006 Federal Budget Conference Agreement was scheduled to return to the House of Representatives on February 1st for final passage. The House passed this Bill 216-214 on Wednesday, despite concerted lobbying efforts on the part of Hennepin County and counties and organizations in the state and across the country. As you know, this bill places at risk somewhere in the neighborhood of \$22 to \$38 million in Targeted and Waivered Case Management funding and Child Support funding in Hennepin County.

The department-wide Coordinating Committee that was formed by the Executive Committee to conduct an initial assessment of the impact of this bill on Hennepin County has completed its work. The detailed assessment was distributed and discussed at a department managers meeting this morning and has also been distributed to County Administration and the County Board. This assessment, based on a "worst case" scenario, identified the following funding amounts that are at risk in our current 2006 budget due to the passage of this bill:

## *Targeted Case Management*

Child Protection	– \$14 - \$15 million
Children's Mental Health	– \$2.5 - \$3 million
Adult Mental Health	– \$3.5 - \$4 million
Elderly/Disabled	– \$1 - \$1.5 million (includes Nursing Home Relocation)
Developmental Disabilities	– \$.9 - \$1.5 million

## *Waivered Case Management*

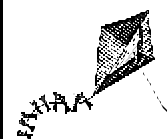
– \$6 - \$8 million

## *Contracted Case Management*

– \$6 - \$10 million

In addition to the above funds at risk in our current 2006 budget, approximately \$4.3 million in Child Support revenue is at risk effective October of 2007. More definitive assessments will not be possible until the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the State of Minnesota issue rules and direction regarding how this legislation will be implemented. This could take several months."

As you can see, there was only a two-vote difference in passing this bill that will impact the most vulnerable people in our society. These are the people that the majority of Local 2822 members



## March Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 14  
7:00 p.m.  
Ridgedale Library

Special order of business:  
Election of officers

April Membership Meeting  
April 7, 2006 7:00 p.m.  
Ridgedale Library

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

serve everyday. These are the issues we need to be talking to our legislators about.

One of the first strategies that HSPHD plans to implement is a hiring freeze on sixteen job classes that "are funded by the revenue sources targeted by Congress." So far none of these are in Local 2822. But according to Mr. Holzemer, "Additional classifications may be impacted in the future if decisions are made to shift resources within the department..."

This should be a wake up call for AF-SCME members to become involved in what is happening in the legislature. Bring this information to your precinct caucuses on March 7. Let other citizens know how these cuts will affect their community. Call your city hall to find out where **your** caucus will be held.

## Nomination of officers continues to March meeting

Nomination and election of officers will continue to the March 14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Ridgedale Library.

The following nominations were made at the February Meeting: president, Molly Malecki; vice president, Lynn Stetler; recording secretary, Jeanne Whetstone; treasurer, Walter Hanson; membership secretary, Bridget Walker; co-chief steward, Jennifer McNair; executive members at large: Merry Bringham, Neng Lor, and Karen Dicosimo.

To be eligible to be an officer, a person must have been a member in good standing for one year.

## AFSCME's political rebate procedure

AFSCME's Constitution includes a rebate procedure to protect the rights of members. This is a procedure for members who object to how the union spends money for partisan political or ideological purposes. It is not open to those who are fair share members.

The timing of the steps in the procedure is tied to the International's fiscal year. The procedure, including the requirements for submitting a proper rebate request are spelled out in Article IX, Section 14 of the International Constitution. **THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

Here is how it works: members who object to the expenditure of a portion of their dues for partisan political or ideological purposes and want to request a rebate must do so **individually** in writing **between April 1 and April 17, 2006.**

The entire procedure is described in the January/February issue of *Public Employee* on page 31. You may also access this information by going to

<http://www.afscme.org/>, clicking on "Publications", clicking on *Public Employee*, clicking on *January/February 2006*, clicking on *AFSCME's Political Rebate Procedure*.

## Get ready for the next contract

By Walter Hanson

Folks, with our contract being approved for 2006, it's not time to let up. Unfortunately our work for the next contract is going to get rougher. Why? When we sat down to look at the things we did wrong in 2003 to cause zeros for both 2004 and 2005, we realized we made a major mistake. We failed to put any pressure on the county commissioners to pass the proposed maximum property tax levy in 2002 and 2003. In 2003 Sandy Vargas, Hennepin County Administrator, proposed a 4% property tax levy, and the county commissioners reduced that to 2%. What that 2% cut did was deny the county the funds to pay for even a 1% pay increase for us.

So in 2005, one of the negotiation strategies of the Union was to get members to make phone calls, send post cards and show up at hearings to encourage the commissioners to vote for the proposed maximum property tax levy. If we want to insure our getting pay raises in 2008 and 2009, we have to continue to encourage the commissioners to increase the property tax levy so that funds will be available.

And that is why our work is going to get harder. I attended the Truth in Taxation Hearing where citizens came and complained about their property taxes. And, boy, did they complain.

Taxes are going up because the market value of homes is going up. Property taxes are going up because, while Jesse Ventura was governor he succeeded in passing a property tax relief bill for businesses.

This is an election year. In 2004 two of the candidates the AFSCME supported for commissioner were willing to do what they thought was a reasonable

property tax levy. There are four commissioner seats up for reelection in 2006. You can imagine how difficult it will be for incumbents to support an increased levy in August when the first vote is taken.

So, if we don't want zeros in 2008 and 2009, we have to start working now! And, unfortunately, the work is going to be harder.

## Vacation donation

We have received a request for vacation donations from our member Ursula Davis. She is a mother of three who has no time accumulated but needs surgery to remove a tumor. She has worked for the county since 2000 and would appreciate any help she can get.

We have also received a request from Council 5 for HCMC **Local 977 leader Anita Penn**, whose son was tragically murdered recently. Anita is a single mother who was among those who spearheaded the drive to organize clerical workers at Hennepin County Medical Center. Often Council 5 "passes the hat" at conventions for members in need. Since there is no such opportunity in the immediate future, the Council is collecting donations to help Anita through this terrible time. Checks should be made payable to "Anita Penn", and sent directly to the Council 5 office, 300 Hardman Avenue South, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

The way to make vacation donations is very simple and only takes a few minutes. On the Hennepin County Intranet site, click Employee Services, Forms, Human Resources Forms, under Vacation Donation Authorization click see interactive version, click Vacation Waiver Donation and Authorization form, enter your I-Notes sign on, fill out form. When you click "Select Recipient" enter the name. Sign and submit.

The details of how Vacation Donations work are listed at the end.

## **FLYER**

## Local 2822 Officers

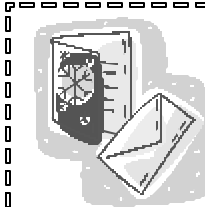
<b>President</b> Molly Malecki <i>Mmafscme2822@aol.com</i>	763-549-3498 Urgent: 763-569-3686
<b>Vice-president</b> Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569
<b>Treasurer</b> Walter Hanson	763-549-3498 Urgent: 763-569-3686
<b>Recording Sec.</b> Jeanne Whetstone	952-847-5455
<b>Co-chief Steward</b> Jennifer McNair	763-245-8308 612-596-8000
<b>Co-chief Steward</b> Vacant	
<b>Membership Sec.</b> Bridget Walker	612-596-8080
<b>E-Board at Large</b>	
Nichelle DeCora	612-348-8841
Merry Brigham	612-348-9358
Vacant	
Vacant	
<b>Delta Dental Trustee</b> Ann Baird	763-549-3498
<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b> Heather Clark <i>hclark@hclib.org</i>	952-847-8523

# Bulletin Board

**The New Voice deadline is March 14.** 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 952-847-8523 or by e-mail: [hclark@hclib.org](mailto: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 or 1-800-862-6042.  
Always refer to your group number 538.

Council 5 Contact person:  
Cindy Pince, 651-287-0564

### Editors

Molly Malecki & Lynn Stetler

### Circulation & distribution

Annette Tiedens

## New to Hennepin County?

If you haven't been approached by a union representative yet, please fill out this form and send to our membership secretary.

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:

**Bridgette Walker**  
Jail, Mail Code 901

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location \_\_\_\_\_

Mailcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I'm especially interested in:

I want to sign up as a full member.

## Steward's List

Steward	Phone	Department	Location
Jennifer McNair	763-245-8308 612-596-8000	Sheriff	Jail
Nichelle DeCora	612-348-8841	CFASD	Planning and Development 23 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Gov't Center
Jody Goers	612-596-8080	Sheriff	Jail
Walter Hanson	763-569-3683	Service Center	Brookdale Service Center
Janet Keefe	612-348-2564	EA/FAD	Century Plaza - 3rd Floor
Angela Hallquist Mangen	612-596-2100	Service Center	Eden Prairie Service Center
Theresa Smith	612-879-3494	HSPHD	1800 Chicago
Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569	Library	Ridgedale Library/CTS, Collection Management
Bridget Walker	612-596-8080	Sheriff	Jail
Julie Yakin	612-348-6186	Service Center	Gov't Ctr. Service Ctr.