



### **June Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 4  
7:00 p.m.  
Ridgedale Library**

**Special order of business:  
Election of delegates to the  
AFSCME International Convention**

**July Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, July 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Brookdale Library**

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

## **Election of delegates to International Convention**

The membership voted at the May membership meeting to table the election of delegates to the AFSCME International Convention in July until all of the nominees had the opportunity to write a paragraph in this newsletter saying why they want to attend. Eight names were put into nomination.

The membership also approved the Executive Board's recommendation to send five delegates, pay transportation, lodging, and per diem, BUT no lost time. Local 2822 is allowed to send five delegates. The Executive

Board voted to not pay lost time as a way of saving money for the local. They also debated not paying for all delegates and other variations. They felt this would be the best way to allow the most people to attend and also be sure those attending are willing to invest their own time—a commitment to the local.

The convention will be held in San Francisco, July 27 through August 1.

The nominees' statements can be read on page 2.

## **Notes from the President**

**By Lynn Stetler**

Local 2822 Executive Board and stewards held a retreat at the Golden Valley Library on April 30. The purpose was to get to know each other and to deal with business issues that we do not have time to cover in our one-hour monthly meetings.

We began with the audit of our books by our trustees, Nancy Crouse and Dawn Klingman. The audit covered 5 years and found that our books showed legitimate union business and that there were no problems with monies.

After some getting to know you exercises, our discussion turned to the state of our local and what we each hoped to accomplish in our leadership roles. Currently we have about 1400 members, and 400 of those folks are fee-paying members, meaning that they are not full dues paying members and do not have the benefit of voting and other privileges of full membership. We want to dwindle that number considerably: The stronger our membership, the stronger our union. Janna Carlson, our new Membership Secretary has plans for organizing. We will be joining local 34 to host a picnic at Century Plaza in May, and we are beginning to plan an ice cream social at MHP.

We also reviewed and approved a revision of our Standing rules. They are posted on our website.

I'll end with an update on the "Annual Hennepin County AFSCME Picnic", which this year will include members of Minneapolis Local 9. It will be at French Regional Park on Sunday, July 20. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

In my opinion we have a very capable group of leaders on the E-Board and among our stewards. I am encouraged that we can handle the important business going on in the county and in our local.

# International delegate nominee statements

## ★ Lynn Stetler:

The reasons I want to attend the International convention in San Francisco are quite simple. First, I have never gone to an International convention and as the current President, I feel I should attend and bring back as much information as I can to the membership. And two, it's an election year and I am a political junkie, so I would love to see and hear all the candidates that will be courting the important Labor vote in 2008. We do matter. Plus I would love to see the really big WE of AFSCME. It would truly be an honor to represent Local 2822.

## ★ Tammy Richert:

It would be an incredible trip, offering accommodations, food and roundtrip airfare. In addition to five action packed days of political speeches, classes, union lectures and important legislative information.

Just a few months before the 2008 Presidential election, oh yeah, all taking place in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

I have many reasons why I have considered this working vacation.

Here are my top three:

1. I would bring a fresh, enthusiastic new voice to the delegation.
2. I enjoy meeting new people and do well in spirited conversation.
3. I am fun and an adventurous travel companion.

If chosen as a delegate to attend this convention, I will do my best to represent and report on behalf of my AFSCME Local 2822, Minnesota Council.

## ★ Bruce Scroggins:

My reasons for wanting to go to the National Meeting are: I got involved in my Union, first to serve and do as much as I could to uplift, my fellow co-workers.

The National Meeting is a chance to see our leadership and attend work shops, which will have real world tools and experience; I can then apply at HCLIB, in organizing for the future workers and have a lasting impact on the well being of labor in this continuing season of attacks on Unions.

To always be, organizing and too serve is what a Union is about for me, they're more thoughtful statements, written and spoken somewhere, but having smooth sounding words, is not why I serve, but when you speak, it doesn't hurt to speak as well as possible.

## ★ O'Dell Sumpter:

Meeting union people from different unions and mainly see if they are moving in a direction I think unions should be moving us. We have been pushed to the side by politics and law. Just what are they doing to get good union results?

## ★ Theresa Smith:

I have been active in Local 2822 for four years, two of those years I have been Chief Steward. Local 2822 has a membership of approximately 1400 members. I attend roughly 4-6 investigations per week, with grievances filed on half of those investigations. I am proud to say that I am able to resolve, with favorable results half of the grievances that are filed.

I believe attending this convention will be an asset to me as an attendee repre-

senting a diverse membership. It will enhance my understanding and skills for working with the members of local 2822.

## ★ Bev Sweet:

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters, I have belonged to Unions throughout my work life. A few years ago, I came to realize the importance of active involvement in our Union, rather than the passive membership I had been doing. I began attending meetings as often as I could, learning about the purpose and power of our Union. Last year, I was a delegate to the State Convention, increasing my understanding and participation skills.

I would like to attend this Year's International Convention because there will be representatives of many other Unions beyond those of Minnesota. I hope to bring many fresh ideas back to our group, to strengthen it, and to help my Union Brothers and Sisters face the challenges of our future.

## ★ Molly Malecki:

Although I have attended other International Conventions, I am eager to attend this one to bring back to the local the vision of our Union and how we are going to engage other workers who don't have the benefits that we have. This is an election year for the President and Secretary-Treasurer, and it is so important that the right individuals are elected who will carry us forward into the 21st Century. In the past I have returned with immense enthusiasm and the motivation to continue to grow the Union. That has carried me over to be an Executive Board member of Council 5. I have left the Conventions knowing that AFSCME is more than Hennepin County—that we are a national union that can depend on each other to help all working people.

## Dates of Membership Meetings for 2008

**June 4, 2008** Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Ridgedale Library

**July 2, 2008** Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Brookdale Library

**August 6, 2008** Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Southdale Library

**September 3, 2008** Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Ridgedale Library

**September 25 - 27, 2008**, Thursday – Saturday – AFSCME Council 5 Annual Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, MN

**October 1, 2008**, 7:00 PM, Central Library

**November 5, 2008**, Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Golden Valley Library

**December 3, 2008**, Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Southdale Library

These dates are usually published in the two issues prior to the meetings in this News Letter. The dates can also be found on our website: <http://www.afscme2822.org>. If anyone is interested in being sent a personal reminder, please contact President Lynn Stetler at [lstetler@hclib.org](mailto:lstetler@hclib.org) and give her your personal e-mail address.

## Meet two new E-Board members

Each month we will meet some Local 2822 Executive Board members. Last month you met Lynn Stetler, president of the local and Molly Malecki, vice-president. This month we introduce two At Large Members.

First is **Bruce Scroggins**:

**Title:** PSA/ Circulation Desk  
Sumner Branch Community Library

**Hobbies:** Music, Golf

**Previous Jobs:** Community Organizer, Clerk Forms Management, Husband

**What's your dream job:** Being independently wealthy?

**How did you become active in the union?** Had little interest, until I spent 6 years working with a fair share co-worker, great guy, but it all left me wanting.

**What's something that most people are surprised to learn about you?** I am an Ordained Deacon and Minister.

**Goals for the year:** To get training for Union Steward.

**Advice:** I don't like giving advice, but my not liking it, has not stopped me from giving it, so here goes; **Never, ever buy a television set from anyone on the street, who is out of breath,** (smile)

And now **Dirk J. Schot**:

**Title:** AFSCME Local 2822 Executive Board Member/ Steward

**Job:** Public Service Assistant

**Hobbies:** Reading sci-fi, PC Game Collecting

**Previous Jobs:** Post Office Clerk, Soccer Referee, Minnesota State Fair worker

**Dream Job:** NASA space walker

**How I became active:** Was elected to executive board of Local 99 during crisis of 2003 when many employees of MPL

were about to be laid off.

**Something surprising:** I get teary eyed during sad sappy movies.

**Goals for the year:** Learn about Hennepin County and local 2822 and to take a hot air balloon ride!

**Advice:** Don't let work run your life. There is much more out there to enjoy!

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## The 5% Solution

By Janna Carlson

My first encounter with the concept of a **5% Solution** for affordable, quality health care was at the Minnesota State Fair AFSCME booth last summer. I didn't know what it was but knew that if AFSCME was promoting this concept it had to be cutting edge.

Now and then I see "Heal Sicko 5% Solution" buttons. What is this thing and how does it work? Then I saw the movie "Sicko". I became horrified.

I've never been seriously ill so "the health care system" was somewhere I had never ventured. I had health insurance because my boss provide if for me through my union contract. My first awakening came during the last round of contract negotiations. I witnessed first hand the strong emotions the topic of health insurance produced among the members of our bargaining unit. I became angrily aware of the control our health insurance company cast over our ability to bargain for our wages. I became totally ticked upon witnessing the concessions families are making to be able to pay for this necessary evil and how much working Americans have to sacrifice in all other benefits to keep *status quo* health insurance.

**The 5% Solution means affordable, quality health care.** It is the **opposite** of what much of health care is today. Today's health care is **not** affordable. It is **not** about preventing disease. It is **not** about curing disease. It is **not** even about alleviating misery. Too much of today's health care is about making money. Today's health care system is a **business for profit**. There are no incentives to cure illness, only to make more profit. The

HMO was originally created to provide medical treatment that was necessary, appropriate and preventive. The huge amounts of money the members pay for premiums go to administration and profit (in some cases 21%).

Americans no longer receive appropriate or necessary care at affordable rates. Since HMOs can be sued we also have to pay for the additional malpractice insurance that the HMO has to carry for their doctors' not properly treating us.

This is only one aspect of this crisis. It is time to speak up about this catastrophically broken system.

We have a voice through AFSCME. Let it be heard. We need our legislators to understand that this crisis cannot be cured by the doctors. This is the duty of the politician, your legislator. Let the politicians know:

- We Americans are sick and getting sicker
- We need to remove the greed from health care
- We need to make it a right for every American to get affordable/quality health care
- We need doctors to profit from cures and prevention of illness
- We need greed to be regulated like a public utility
- We need cures. We need to put an end to our illnesses lining the pockets of the greedy with money.
- We need to operate from "the we" not "the me"
- We need to quit having to give up our wages and benefits at the bargaining table to meet the demands of the health care industry
- We need affordable, quality health care for every American.

Let our legislators know the **5% Solution** is our concept. It is their duty to come up with the plan. Let our legislators know we are depending on them to create an affordable, universal, quality health care solution that only costs each of us no more than 5% of our wages. We need the courage of their convictions to truly represent each and every one of us.

## Local 2822 Officers

<b>President</b> Lynn Stetler <i>lstetler@hclib.org</i>	952-847-8569 Urgent: 763-245-8285
<b>Vice president</b> Molly Malecki <i>molly.malecki@co.hennepin.mn.us</i>	612-543-0272
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<b>Delta Dental Trustee</b> Ann Baird <i>Ann.baird@co.hennepin.mn.us</i>	763-549-3498
<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b> Heather Clark <i>hclark@hclib.org</i>	952-847-8523

## 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:

**Janna Carlson**  
**Maple Grove Service Center**

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.

# Bulletin Board

**The New Voice deadline is June 4.** 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.

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

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