

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Straight from the Contract 2

Dreams of Jobs and Freedom Scholarship 2

Stay Connected to Local 2887 2

Contact Your Legislators 3

AFSCME 101: Get to Know Your Union 3

PEOPLE Gives AFSCME Members Power 5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Staff Senate Meeting - June 6 at 9am
- Executive Board Meeting - June 11 at 5pm
- General Meeting - June 13 at 5:15pm
- Brown Bag Lunch - June 18 at 11:30am



www.afscmelocal2887.com

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MAY 2013

# General Meeting Highlights State Contract Negotiations and Pension Legislation

Ed LaPorte (Staff Representative, Alton Council 31 office) and Eddie Caumiant (Regional Director of Staff for Southern Illinois, Council 31) were on hand at our March General Meeting to discuss the state contract negotiations, the pension fight, and other issues. They also answered several questions from our members.

Our Local was complimented on the new energy, noting that participation and visibility are up which will be beneficial as we go into contract negotiations. Being involved gives us a stronger voice, making Administration slow down and consider the impacts their decisions have on us.

The recently negotiated state contract affects over 35,000 state workers with the exception of University employees. While we have a different contract, the negotiations and provisions in the state contract are indicators of

what we will be looking at as we go into our own negotiations with the University.

The bargaining process for the state contract took 15 months, and a strike was seriously considered. It would have been the first time Illinois state employees would have gone on strike. The threat of a strike allowed AFSCME to get a settlement offer that was reasonable.

In the end, the contract came out about the same as before with nothing extra. Significant concessions had to be made to get there, but the important thing is



that current benefits were retained despite the efforts of the Governor's Office.

Things on the pension front continue to move quickly, and legislation was being considered even as we held our meeting. While nothing has been passed as yet, new bills continue to be introduced. The We Are One coalition, primarily made up of union stakeholders, has advanced a plan that requires the state to pay their share in exchange for a slight increase from employees.

It is vital that our members are making calls and contacting legislators. They need to know that people are paying attention to what they are doing. It is also important to say thank you when they vote to support us.

We were also encouraged to tell our stories, letting others know that most state employees are getting less than \$32,000 and will not qualify for Social Security.

## Calling All Fair Share

With contract negotiations coming up, it has never been more important for our Local to have a strong membership. As the state negotiations showed, we can only protect our benefits and job security through the involvement of our members.

We currently have about 50% membership. This means that of all dues-paying members of Local

2887, only about half are Full Share members. The higher that percentage, the more power we have to keep our existing benefits and to bargain for new ones.

The difference between Fair Share and Full Share dues is less than \$6 a pay period. Your union dues are also tax deductible and go directly to the Union; these funds cannot be used for

campaign contributions or political activities.

We will be conducting a membership drive in the coming weeks to strengthen our position in negotiations. While more information will be forthcoming, you can contact one of the Officers or your Steward to sign a green card and upgrade your membership and union benefits.

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AfscmeLocal2887](http://www.facebook.com/AfscmeLocal2887)

**sen - ior - i - ty**

[seen-yawr-i-tee, -yor-]

priority, precedence, or status obtained as the result of a person's length of service, as in a profession, trade, company, or union: *First choice of vacation time will be given to employees with seniority.*

Source: dictionary.com

## Straight from the Contract: Seniority

**Section 1. Definition.** After completion of the probationary period, the employee's seniority shall date from the original employment at this institution.

**Section 2. Layoffs.** The University shall provide at least 30 calendar days notice to status employees in the bargaining unit prior to the date of the layoff if it is anticipated that the layoff will exceed 30 days. All probationary and temporary employees of the bargaining unit within a classi-

fication will be laid off before a full time bargaining unit member is laid off.

If a full time bargaining unit member is to be laid off, the bargaining unit member having the least seniority within a classification shall be the first laid off, and the laid off bargaining unit member having the greatest seniority within the classification being recalled shall be the first recalled.

The University shall provide the Union with written notice of any pending layoff of a bar-

gaining unit member no later than 15 calendar days prior to the effective date of such layoff.

....Vacations shall be granted based upon seniority.

**Section 3. Shift Assignment.** Shifts and assignment of unit employees to differing shifts shall be determined by the University in accordance with its operational needs.



## 2013 Dreams of Jobs and Freedom Scholarship

via [afscme.com](http://afscme.com)

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, the AFL-CIO and Union Plus are offering scholarships to help graduating high school seniors realize their dreams of a college education.

The one-time \$5,000 scholarships are for study for the academic year beginning in the fall 2013 through summer

2014. Fifty scholarships will be awarded.

Applicants must be dependent children or grandchildren (as defined by IRS regulations) of current or retired members of AFL-CIO unions, of which AFSCME is a part, from the U.S. and its territories. Applicants may also be union members themselves or a spouse of an eligible union member. At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, the applicant's spouse

or legal caregiver. The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by July 1, 2013.

This is a competitive scholarship, and applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need, and appreciation of labor.

Further details and the application packet are available at the AFL-CIO website at [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org).

**Deadline for the  
Dreams of Jobs  
and Freedom  
scholarship is  
July 1, 2013.**

## Stay Connected to Local 2887



It is easy to stay in touch with what is going on within our Local and issues important to us.

The central hub for our Local online is our website at [www.afscmelocal2887.com](http://www.afscmelocal2887.com). From there, you can access our Facebook page and our forums. We also have links to our current contract, SUCSS (which gives detailed infor-

mation on job classifications), SURS, and AFSCME sites.

Our discussion forums are available for members to bring up ideas and concerns in a private setting. Only our members can read and post to these discussion forums. To access, you will need to register.

Our Facebook page is a great way to hear about current and

future events and issues important to our members.

Recently we have shared SIUE job postings, news on pension reform, and event listings for the General Meeting and Brown Bag Lunches.

Finally, Stewards and Officers are there for you to talk to directly if you have questions or ideas. Feel free to call or e-mail if you need them.

# Sequestration Affects Head Start

The Budget Control Act of 2011, more commonly referred to as the sequester or sequestration, went into effect on March 1. Among other programs, the sequestration reduces federal funding provided to Head Start, which the Department of Health and Human Services estimates to be about a 5% reduction to the \$8 billion of funding available to them.

The Office of Head Start has very little flexibility in how to make these reductions as the Head Start Act requires any funding reduction to be taken proportionally across all major activities. Grantees, however, have full flexibility in absorbing the funding reduction, providing they continue to meet performance standards.

On a Local level, our Community

Workers at the East St. Louis Center will continue to work through the summer as planned. While there has not been a reduction in hours, two open



Image courtesy of Stuart Miles / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

positions will not be filled and anyone retiring or not returning will not be replaced. Two programs not covered by the Head Start grant have also been cut due to low attendance.

As is often the case when positions are

not filled, employees are being asked to do more to make up the difference. If you have recently bid and won a position but have not yet started working at that location because you are filling in for an open position, please contact Vanessa King or Dana Dain.

The National Head Start Association has started an online petition and a place to share success stories at [www.supporttheadstart.org](http://www.supporttheadstart.org). NHSA also encourages people to write a letter to their Congress representative and the President showing support for the Head Start programs and the need for funding.

Additional information on the sequestration and how it affects Head Start and other programs, you can find a list of resources at [www.nhsa.org/sequester\\_in\\_the\\_media](http://www.nhsa.org/sequester_in_the_media) which include articles relating to Illinois programs.

**\* A special thank you to Myra Jones for her service to the Executive Board of Local 2887. \***

**\* Best wishes on your retirement! \***

## AFSCME 101: Get to Know Your Union

AFSCME is a 1.6-million member union of public service workers in 48 of the 50 states as well as in Panama and Puerto Rico. Our Local 2887 is one of approximately 300 locals in Council 31, which supports 75,000 members from its headquarters in Springfield, IL.

As union members, we are part of a bargaining unit working under a union contract. There are two AFSCME Locals affiliated with SIUE: our Local 2887 covering Clerical/Kindred employees and Local 2232 representing Building Service Workers.

Employees covered by our contract but who decline to join the union are considered "Fair Share". While they pay a slightly reduced fee to help cover what it costs the union

to represent in bargaining and other matters, they are not members of the union and do not have the full benefits of membership.

All AFSCME leaders are elected, both at the national and local level. Per our constitution, Local 2887 has a President, a Vice-President, a recording Secretary, a Secretary-Treasurer, and three Executive Board Members who make up the governing body of the Local when general meetings are not in session. This Executive Board handles all matters affecting the policies, aims and means of accomplishing the purposes of the local not specifically provided for in the constitution or by action of the membership at a regular or special meeting. In addition to the Executive Board, the

Local also has three elected Trustees who are responsible for auditing the finances of the local.

The political voice of AFSCME is our political action committee Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality, known simply as PEOPLE. Union and fair share dues cannot be used for political purposes, so AFSCME relies on donations to PEOPLE to fight in the political arena at all levels of government.

Our current contract with SIUE runs through June 30, 2013. Members of the Local will be meeting with representatives of SIUE prior to that date to negotiate a new contract for our employees. Information regarding contract negotiations will be sent via the listserv.

**Over 300 SIUE employees are covered under our contract across three campuses.**

**OFFICERS:**

**Dana Dain** President  
ddain@siue.edu 650-5156

**Vanessa King** Vice-President  
vking@siue.edu 874-0160

**Anne Hunter** Secretary  
anhunte@siue.edu 650-3050

**Vickie Sumner** Treasurer  
vsumner@siue.edu 650-3819

**Angela Cotton** Executive Board  
acotton@siue.edu 874-0160

**Myra Jones** Executive Board  
myjones@siue.edu 874-0160

**Lori Huntley** Executive Board  
lohuntl@siue.edu 650-2414

**Vicki Daggett** Trustee  
vdagget@siue.edu 650-9300

**Sherie Gottlob** Trustee  
sgottlo@siue.edu 474-7200

**Diane Schilling** Trustee  
dschill@siue.edu 650-3786



**LOCAL CONTACTS**

**Val Samuels** PEOPLE Chair  
vsamuel@siue.edu 482-6995

**Anne Hunter**  
Solidarity Committee Chair  
anhunte@siue.edu 650-3050

**LOCAL STEWARDS**

**Anne Hunter** Edwardsville  
anhunte@siue.edu 650-3050

**Linda Colombara-Buffo** Edw.  
lcolomb@siue.edu 650-2334

**Lori Huntley** Edwardsville  
lohuntl@siue.edu 650-2414

**Dana Dain** Edwardsville  
ddain@siue.edu 650-5156

**Vanessa King** East St. Louis  
vking@siue.edu 874-0160

**Sherie Gottlob** Alton  
sgottlo@siue.edu 474-7200

**Vicki Kruse** Edwardsville  
vkruse@siue.edu 650-2770

**Diane Schilling** Edwardsville  
dschill@siue.edu 650-3786

**Melanie Stith** East St. Louis  
mstith@siue.edu 482-6958

**Vicki Sumner** Edwardsville  
vsumner@siue.edu 650-3819

**Christine Tartt** Edwardsville  
ctartt@siue.edu 650-3090

# PEOPLE Gives AFSCME Members Power

PEOPLE is AFSCME's legislative and political action arm, funded by voluntary political contributions from AFSCME members. This fund gives our union the resources to work in the political arena to promote the interests of working families. It lets us stand up to governors and mayors, take on corporate interests that run contrary to our own, help elect state representatives and city council members, mobilize grassroots lobbying efforts, and much more.

As public service workers, politics affects every aspect of our work whether we like it or not—including budgets, job security, fair contract negotiations, and legal protections. The people we elect determine the

quality of our livelihood unless we hold them accountable. For this rea-



son, activism is important for all of our members.

It is easy to make a donation to PEOPLE with payroll deduction. You can

join the MVP Rewards program with a \$4.20 per pay period deduction, however donations of any amount can be set up. Payroll deduction cards are available from your local representatives.

By joining at the MVP level you will receive a green AFSCME jacket and will begin earning points that can be spent on rewards. You earn one reward point for every dollar contributed to PEOPLE. These points can be spent on a variety union-made, made in America merchandise available in the online or printed catalog. Points do not expire as long as you are an active MVP participant.

Please return any completed deduction forms to Dana Dain.