

AFSCME LOCAL 1668

Volume 4 issue 4

April 2012

President's Report

Happy Birthday AFSCME Local 1668!

Wow, it has been a half century since our predecessors joined together and formed our local union! In case you didn't know, on April 2, 1962, our local was chartered by AFSCME International and we became "Western Michigan University Employees, Local 1668." We should all be proud! For fifty years, we have been making the lives of the students at WMU better in all areas of their college experience. We make a difference where they live, learn, eat and play. No other group can say that. Way to go AFSCME!

We should all take a moment to reflect on just what it means to have been around for fifty years. WMU is only 109 years old. We have been around for almost half of that time. We should also take a moment to reflect on those who came before us. Our retired members, former officers, stewards and bargaining teams made everything we enjoy today possible. We didn't just blindly wander to where we are today; many people dedicated large parts of their lives so that we could have the things we do today. Nothing was given to us, these people went to great lengths for us, and we should not forget it! We have so much to be thankful for: paid vacation, paid sick leave, paid holidays, fair wages and working conditions, equal and just treatment, 40 hour work week, 8 hour work day, overtime... the list

could go on and on. We should never take any of these things for granted, especially in these economic and political times. There are people out there that would take all of these things and more away from us. We should pause for a moment, and thank those who fought for us when they didn't even know us. They stood tall and did the things they did not just for themselves, but for those of us who came after them. They brought us together in 1962, and they kept us together until 2012. We owe them, and we owe it to those that will come after us the same thing. If we stand together in solidarity, think not only of ourselves but also of our current union sisters and brothers, and those that will come after us, we can insure that AFSCME Local 1668 will be around for another 50 years.

I want to thank everyone that came out to celebrate this milestone a few days ago at the Bernhard Center. What a great time that was! I especially want to thank our brothers and sisters that prepared the food, and the ones that set the room for us. Everything was outstanding! Just another shining example of why AFSCME is such an asset to the university. The food was delicious, the room was stunning, and a great time was had by all. Thank you AFSCME!

I also want to thank your bargaining team. As you know, we are deep into contract negotiations right now. We have been

meeting very regularly up to now, and have many more meetings scheduled. I want you all to know that your team is doing a great job! The level of professionalism and dedication that your representatives are displaying is something you can all be proud of. It is never an easy task, and we are lucky to have these people who are willing to take on this huge task on our behalf. Please take a moment when you have a chance and say thanks! Thanks for representing me, and all the future members of AFSCME Local 1668!

Finally, our 8th Annual AFSCME Local 1668 Golf Outing is fast approaching. It is on Saturday, June 16 at States Golf Course in Vicksburg. If you haven't before, come on out and join us, you won't regret it. You don't need to be a great golfer; you don't even need to be a good golfer. You just need to be willing to have fun and enjoy some solidarity with your union brothers and sisters. You can contact me in the office, or Bryan Sutton in Maint Reg 4 to get more information and a registration form. See you on the course!

In solidarity,

Dennis

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Union Meetings are every first Thursday of the month. Next meeting will be **May 3rd 2012 at 4:00p.m.**

E-board meetings are every third Thursday of the month. Next meeting will be **May 17th 2012 at 4:p.m.**



www.afscme1668.org and
[facebook.com/afscme1668](https://www.facebook.com/afscme1668)

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Vice President's Report

Hello Everyone:

It has been a n amazing winter, I hope it will be a great summer as well.

Changes in the BC&&SS Department

There are many changes going on in the Custodial Department. As I reported at the Union Meeting, we have a few Supervisor Re-assignments a temporary promotion from supervisor to Manager a supervisors posting for second shift.

Committee reports

I am encouraging committee members to sometimes write a report about your committee and maybe some up-dates on what's going on. One of the ways to get people involved in the Union is through committees, and no one can join a committee if they don't know anything about the committees. So please, e-mail me, tell me, or write me about the committee (s) you're on.

Well that's all I have this month, it's getting chilly out there, now

would be a good time to buy a sweatshirt they're only 8 dollars.

In solidarity,

Val Armstrong, VP

Grievance Up-Dates/Committee Up-Dates/Motions Made

Grievance Up-Dates:

There has been no Arbitration meetings this month.

We have a few 2nd step Grievances answers.

We have a third step hearing date For April 23 2012.

Committee Up-Dates:

Membership Committee: there are new members in parking services Pat needs to get to.

Good and Welfare: there was a resignation from the committee. We are trying to see if anyone from Maintenance is willing to step up and join. That way we can even out the committee. Having someone from each division.

Women's Committee: There next state-wide meeting will be in May and Vice-chair Slumkoski will be making a motion to go.

Motions Made:

Motions made for March 2012 membership meeting

- Motion to send up to four delegates to the AFSCME International convention
- Motion in the event a representative could not attend other than an unforeseen catastrophic event, the member shall reimburse the local any additional expenses incurred in sending as alternate.
- Motion to appoint four volunteers to serve as alternates. With a friendly amendment naming Val Armstrong, Carol Wiley, Tom Penar, and Bryan Sutton as volunteers.

Chief Stewards Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters

Just want to say I had a wonderful time at the Anniversary dinner I enjoyed seeing all of you there. For those that couldn't make it we missed you. We had some great speakers including Secretary-Treasurer Larry Roehrig. And our own President Dennis Moore gave a wonderful speech. Followed by an awesome dinner made by our own awesome Dining Service Workers great job people.

Our dining service summer work positions have been assigned and all the physicals have been completed. So everybody will be moving into their positions by next week. Please be careful this summer everyone.

Negotiations: We are continuing to make progress and will continue to move forward.

This was short and sweet.

In solidarity,

Kathi Cain-Babbitt

8th Annual AFSCME Local 1668 Golf
Outing is fast approaching.

AFSCME 1668

Things we can do to save ourselves some money and help lower the cost of our health care plan.

Brother and Sisters:

At the March CUCC meeting, we were reminded of things we can do to save ourselves some money and help lower the cost of our health care plan. One of the main ones I found that worked for me was to take a look at any prescriptions that you take every day, or maintenance drugs. You can obtain a printout on the Sindecuse website that shows where all prescription drugs are priced, so take a look to see which tier your drug is in. If it is in either of the top 2 tiers, ask your doctor if there is an equivalent in the lower tier that you can switch to, or even a generic. This will lower your out of pocket expense on each refill, as well as lower the plan cost, something that can benefit each one of us. It might not seem like much, but if everyone who is currently taking a maintenance drug was in the lowest tier possible, the savings would add up quickly. Thank you again for allowing me to attend this very special conference on behalf of our Local.

In solidarity,

Bryan Sutton

Seita Scholars Moving Day

On [April 28th](#) from 12-5:00pm, many of the Seita Scholars who are staying on campus for the summer will have to move, and they once again would like our help. If you are interested and available for even part of this time, please contact me ASAP at 873-0249. These students are always extremely grateful for any help we can provide, and the more help we get, the faster and smoother this process can run. Also, if you are coming and have access to a pickup or other vehicle that can be helpful for moving, please bring it. We usually are able to secure a couple of trucks from Facilities Management, but there is no such thing as too much help or too many vehicles. Thank you in advance for your continued support of these students, and for proudly displaying the level of commitment that AFSCME has for the students at WMU.