

AFSCME LOCAL 1668

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Hey did you know? We're on the web and Facebook:
Afscme.org and facebook.com/afscme1668

Thought for the Month:
 It's good to have a job

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President's Report

I know this sounds extreme, I know it makes me sound like Chicken Little saying the sky is falling. But it is reality. There are very powerful people with boat-loads of money that want to change this country, and think there is nothing we, the people, can do about it.

Hello again AFSCME Local 1668!

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer so far. By the time you are reading this, we will have had our 7th Annual AFSCME Local 1668 Golf Outing. I'm sure you will be hearing tales of the fun and camaraderie that was had. The weather is looking great and I'm looking forward to a day of fun with my union sisters and brothers.

Also by the time you get this, there will be petitions on the streets regarding Public Act 4, which is the emergency manager legislation that was recently passed by the Michigan legislature. Your union, AFSCME Council 25, is coordinating the petition to put the bill to a referendum vote. What does that mean? It means that if we are successful in collecting approximately 167,000 signatures, the law will be stayed until the people of the state have their voices heard. In case you don't already know, PA 4 took existing law that gave the state authority to appoint an emergency financial manager to a school or municipality that was in financial trouble. The new law vastly expanded the authority of this person, and made them an emergency manager. They changed it so that the person no longer has authority over the financial aspects of the city, but **total** control over everything. This person is not elected, they are appointed by the state Treasurer, who is appointed by the

Governor. They now have complete control over every aspect of the town, or school. They can sell assets, fire employees, subcontract work, and toss out any and all collective bargaining agreements held with any union. This is a big deal folks! This is not democracy! It doesn't matter your views this is un-American! The



country is a government of the people, for the people. The democratic process of electing leaders is what this country is all about. It is how we got to be such a great world leader. It is what we have fought wars over for decades. And now our "leaders" have voted to pull the rug out from under it all. We need to stop it! This is not simply a Michigan thing, it's an American issue. If we allow this to stand, Michigan will simply be the first to fall in a line of dominos until our democratic process is eroded nationwide.

I know this sounds extreme, I know it makes me sound like Chicken Little saying the sky is falling. But it is reality. There are very powerful people with boat-loads of money that want to change this country, and think there is nothing we, the people, can do about it. They are wrong. We will do something about it, and the first step is the petition. We need

to reach our goal and stop this new law. Not only will it be freezing a terrible law here in Michigan, but it will send a message across the country that we have had enough! We will fight! We will win! This is where we come in. We need to mobilize. Not only do we need to sign the petitions ourselves, but we need to get active and volunteer to take petitions out into our community and solicit signatures. You can take the petition anywhere; the signers need only be a registered voter. So what do you say Local 1668? Are you willing to defend your way of life? If so, please contact the union office and I will get you everything you need to support this attempt to defend democracy in our state. We should all be willing to spend a little time to ward off an attack of this magnitude. If not now, when?

The petitions will be available after June 18, so please call me and join the good fight. Together we can stop this unjust law and any more they try to cram down our throats.

In solidarity,

Dennis

Michigan AFSCME council 25, AFL-CIO
 Region 7 & 8 Basic Steward training
 Saturday, June 25, 2011
 Class 9:00am-4:00pm
 Where: At the Union hall
 any questions please call the union hall



Vice President's Report

Hello Everyone

I have just finished my orientation s with custodial and I am proud to say I have had a great turnout for the PEOPLE PROGRAM

ALMOST EVERYONE OF OUR NEW HIRES HAVE JOINED THE PEOPLE PROGRAM!!!!

For those who joined up, Thank you very much for your participation.

There are a lot of people retiring this year if you know of anyone who is retiring soon please let your good and welfare represen-

tative know. They will be able to get the information to our financial secretary and she will be able to give out the correct funds.

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer so far. I know a few of you will be going on vacation or just taking time off of work. Please be safe and careful so you can come back and give us details on how much fun you had.

We are half way through the 1st annual Dipes and Wipes Drive to help benefit the

Family and Children's Service please contact Carol Case, Juanita Snell, Carol Wiley and Tory Kennedy by June 30th if you would like to donate any money or wipes & Diapers

That's all for this month

Valerie Armstrong VP

Chief Steward's Report

Hope you are all enjoying your summers so far.

Good News this Week

I will start my report by saying that we had some good news this week. We have some extra work opportunities for our summer dining program, and those who are on summer layoff. For at least four weeks, we will have an additional 6 people working. We are also expecting some vacancies to be filled. This is great news, as we worried about losing these positions due to budget cuts. Most of them will be filled, though some will not. Currently, the University has given approval to fill 5 custodial positions, 3 electricians, 2 more painters, and some various landscape positions. There should still be NO Temps working past Friday, April 29, 2011. Students should only be working 20 hours per week. We still have Dining Service employees on summer lay off.

We have not received a grievance answer for the Health Care changes as of yet. WE have a few outstanding grievances that need to be heard, due to scheduling conflicts. Everything has been pretty low key lately, on the discipline and grievance front. This is great and I am proud of every effort that has been made to pay closer attention to what we are doing and how we portraying ourselves. We have to always put our best foot forward to make

"good" lasting impressions. IT only takes one little thing, to make us all look bad. That is not the lasting impression, I want to leave. Public employees (that's us) are under attack and we have a huge fight on our hands! Now is not the time to be ignorant of the rules.

(I am including this information again, it's that important!) **Please** go to one or more of these websites and stay connected and take action when asked too. Many have sign ups available so they can keep in contact with you via email. If you text, Text the word AFSCME to 237263. Check out some of these websites for more information.

www.moveon.org www.afscme.org
www.miafscme.org www.aflcio.org
www.miafscme.org (this site has a legislative update linked to it which is updated almost daily and it has a "take action" link as well)
www.facebook.com/afscme1668 join our facebook page for quick and easy information.

www.afscme1668.org is our website, here you can request for a free email account and then be sure to share your email address by emailing: chiefsteward@afscme1668.org. Other sites to visit are <http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Central-Michigan-Community-Action-Team/195190330521090> Join the We are the People: www.wrongformichigan.org Join

Working Michigan on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Working-Michigan/206372732710668>

Communication is the best way to stay informed of the real issues that are affecting you in the work place.

Social Networking Classes

I am considering holding a Social Networking Training session. IF this is something that might interest you, let me know. Also, fell free to let me know if you are interested in another computer/ internet training class.

One last thing, I know Dennis mentioned the Public Act 4/ Emergency Financial Manager petition in article. I would also like to mention that there are Gov. Snyder recall petitions available in Kalamazoo, Calhoun, VanBuren and Allegan Counties. Actually, they are available just about everywhere. IF you are interested in either signing one of these petitions or circulating either of these, contact us and we can try to direct you to the information you need. One very important thing to remember, if you intend to sign any petition, make sure you are signing the correct petition for your county, city, and/or township. You can't just sign any petition that someone has, it must be the correct petition. You MUST also be a registered voter! Speaking of voter registration, if you are not a registered voter, NOW is the time to get that taken care of too.

In Solidarity,

Kathi Babbitt

A letter From Laura Moss

Labor

Noun

1. **Work, esp. hard physical work**

- **Workers, esp. manual workers, considered collectively.**
- **Such workers considered as a social class or political force.**

Union;

Noun

1. **the action of joining or being joined, esp. in a political context.**
2. **An organized association of workers formed to protect and further their rights and interests; a labor union.**

Fellow union members; I am writing today to express my concern for the future of our AFSCME jobs at WMU. I would like to remind everyone of what a blessing these jobs are. I feel there has been some complacency and use of the union as a shield.. A shield from doing the right thing, doing the jobs we were hired to do without shirking from our responsibilities. Don't get me wrong, I am thankful for all that the union has done for us. But I feel that in these politically hostile times, we are offering own heads up on a platter. It is not the unions responsibility to protect us from being lazy, dishonest, or uncooperative. It is not the union's job to make sure we have time in our banks, are punctual and prepared to work when we get here,. It is not the union's job to prevent gossip and divisiveness. We are all adults. These are our choices. In the short run, the union can protect us even when we are wrong. In the long run, this gives our employer and anyone else observing ammunition. " look, that union employee got their job back after sleeping or other inappropriate behavior while at work". Much cheaper sub-standard workers could replace us. But we are not sub-standard workers. Most of us pour ourselves in to these positions. Some have been doing so for decades. I know it gets easy to slide by with the minimum effort. But we have to domor3e.

What I am saying is that it is time to step up. Be proud of your union. Don't take advantage of it. Be grateful to have such an awesome job, don't blow it off. go the extra mile. Pour your love in to that food you are cooking. Make that campus shine. Help direct someone who looks lost. Greet those kids with a smile. Because they are your bread and butter. And help each other out. We are a union we are AFSCME; let's represent. "it's not my job" should not be in our vocabulary. We must work together and show our unity. When you read the definitions at the top of the page, have pride; because we do work hard, we are a political force and we are united. Those who would like to see AFSCME fade away from WMU would like nothing more than to see us divided. I don't know about you, but I need this living wage job. I will fight for is.

This letter may not win me any popularity contests, but I feel like this is the elephant in the room. None of us can ignore it anymore.

Thanks for your time,

Laura Moss

"it is time to step up. Be proud of your union. Don't take advantage of it".

News From the "Battle ground Bulletin"

MI Gov. Snyder Attacks Public Workers, Sees Poll Numbers Crash

Public school employees, first responders, corrections officers and other public service workers and retirees are fighting back against Governor Rick Snyder's efforts [to strip away hard earned and long standing rights and benefits](#). Although Snyder says he is not going after collective bargaining rights, [he and his allies in the state legislature](#) are working on bills that would raise health-care costs on public workers, limit teachers' ability to collectively bargain, and establish right-to-work-for-less in parts of the state.

All of these proposals come on the heels of [Michigan's "local dictators" law](#), which allows the state to appoint emergency managers who would have the ability to suspend democratically-elected local leaders and throw out collectively bargained contracts, all without any public accountability whatsoever. AFSCME members, elected officials and Michigan voters have all spoken out against Snyder's statewide power grab and his efforts to balance Michigan's budget on the backs of working families. Snyder has combined upper-income and corporate tax cuts with tax increases for retirees and low-income workers and seen his approval ratings bottom out, particularly among independent voters. Snyder is the second least-popular governor in the nation, with an overall [approval rating of only 33 percent and a disapproval rating of a whopping 60 percent](#).

AFSCME members and our allies are fighting to overturn Snyder's power grab and establish a pro-jobs, pro-worker agenda in Michigan.

Quote of the Day *"One of the things Congress should do immediately is defund the National Labor Relations Board." -- former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, apparently speaking out against due process for labor-management disputes during [the June 13 Republican Presidential debate on CNN](#)*