

AFSCME 1668

Volume 3 Issue 3

March 2011

Special points of interest:

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President's Report

Hello again brothers and sisters. Finally, it seems that spring may be just around the corner, but the season is not the only thing changing here in Michigan. Our Democratic system of government is melting away, just like the snow. On March 9 our Michigan legislature took the next step towards dictatorship when the Senate passed the Emergency Financial Manager bills. In case you don't know, which is possible because of the worthless local news media we have, let me tell you about this legislation. The bill changes the authority an Emergency Financial Manager (EFM) to a great extent. Rather than having authority to handle only the financial aspects of a local government that is in financial trouble, but this person would have 100% authority over everything. Let me cite just a couple details of the bill, and this is right from the Senate Fiscal Agency, not just my opinion. The legislation would:

--Authorize the emergency manager to reject, modify, or terminate the terms of an existing contract or a collective bargaining agreement.

--Authorize the emergency manager for a municipal government to **disincorporate or dissolve** the municipal government, and recommend that it consolidate with another municipal government.

This EFM would answer only to

the governor, not the voters of the local municipality. This EFM would "serve at the pleasure of the State Treasurer" and could only be removed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Now factor in the Governor Snyder's budget proposal greatly reduces if not totally eliminates revenue sharing with local governments, and you can see the plan. Take away funding for local governments, thus creating a financial crisis, and force the need for an emergency manager, just created by this legislation, and poof! Governor Snyder has total control of your local government.

Where have I heard of this type of authority before? Let me see, Webster dictionary defines dictatorship as follows: "a government or country in which absolute power is held by a dictator or a small clique." I knew I had heard that before. Webster also defines a dictator as "a person ruling absolutely and often brutally and oppressively. Sure seems to fit what Snyder and the Republican controlled legislature is doing if you ask me!

This is not happening in Egypt or Libya. This is not going on in Wisconsin. This has happened right here in Michigan. Are we going to sit back and allow Snyder to become the dictator of

the State of Michigan? Do we not care that our voices are going to be silenced by the firing of our democratically elected local officials? If having our fundamental rights as an American tossed aside does not stir us to action, then what will? Now is the time we need to be yelling, not talking, at any of our respective state legislators that voted in favor of this atrocity. This goes way beyond the attack on public employees or unions for that matter. This is an attempt to destroy the rights of ALL Americans! We wouldn't stand for the federal government taking control of our state government, why should we allow the state to take control of our local government?

Sisters and Brothers, now more than ever we need to stand united. We need to get off our couches and get on our feet. Let's show how much we matter by speaking up as loud as necessary to defend our rights. Contact your elected officials, write to the editor, speak out on Facebook, whatever means you are most comfortable with. Let's make sure they know, we are not going to take this any more!

In Solidarity, Dennis

Vice President's Report

Hello Everyone

What can I say that our President hasn't, well here's something-how about this. Try "AFSCME PEOPLE". If you don't have the time to get up and fight for your rights as a union worker, if you don't have energy to fight for your job. What about if you don't have the guts? Then at least give to PEOPLE so they can. That is

what they do. That is what we have been trying to tell you for I don't know how long.

IF you have been watching the news lately and you see what's going on in Wisconsin? Well guess what? It's about to get real ugly here in Michigan. Hey they're after us folks they want to cut our benefits our wages, everything. If we don't stand up for ourselves we will pay one way or another.

Which way will you want to pay?

On March 18th we went to Battle Creek and Rallied right outside the City Hall. We made enough noise to get a lot of attention. But it's not enough what will you do when it time to rally in your town?

Please come support your local

In Solidarity

Val Armstrong

Chief Stewards Report

Thank goodness it officially Spring! Can't wait to see our University looking beautiful again with vibrate flowers. Then it will feel like summer is getting here. This also means that Summer Dining Assignments are just around the corner as well. We are not expecting more than the 30 jobs, but we are always hopeful for more. The process is moving along nicely and we should have the top 30 posted shortly. I would like to thank Mark Robinson for taking on the Summer Dining liaison team challenge again this year. If you get a chance, please be sure to thank him yourself. This is really no easy task and he really goes above the call of duty to make sure that this process is as smooth as possible for everyone involved. If you have questions, feel free to contact either Mark or myself and we will try to answer them.

The Governor signed the Emergency Financial Manager package into law on March

16. This law is absolutely horrible for the State of Michigan. Please go to one or more of these websites and stay connected and take action when asked too. We need more voices. We are in for the fight of our lives across this state and across the country. We need your help. There has been an all out war declared against unions and the working class people. The Governor has proposed serious cuts that will affect our livelihood and make it extremely easy to appoint these emergency managers to local government and boards. Your voting rights are under attack. 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.miaficio.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 Communication is the best way to stay informed of the real issues that are affecting you in the work place.

We voted to send 7 more grievances to arbitration and filed 7 more grievances last week. It has been very very busy. Not that these are all discipline related as most are unit wide grievances dealing with contract language and policies, we need to be extremely mindful of what we are doing out there in regards to drawing attention to yourself in the case of discipline. We need to be the very best we can be and should be always the very best. I am not trying to preach but seriously, come to work, and do your job the very best you can! We (the State of Michigan, working class and the poor) have a huge fight on our hands! Now is not the time to be ignorant of the rules.

In Solidarity,
Kathi Babbitt

RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITAL

Michigan AFSCME Council 25 is requesting that all UNIONS and or ASSOCIATIONS across AMERICA/Michigan stand together on Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Rally at your state capitol

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

12:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

Bring your Banners and your Signs

Let your voices Be Heard

See back for Registration form

LET'S MAKE PEOPLE HAPPEN

Fighting for Candidates Who Will Fight for Us

For public employees, the people we elect determine the quality of our lives and our livelihood. Our wages, benefits, working conditions, health and safety, and even whether we have jobs at all, are in the hands of officials who influence our future. Unless, that is, we hold them accountable. Our activism in politics is incredibly important.

Through PEOPLE we help elect candidates who stand for what matters to AFSCME members:

- Strong contracts
- No contracting out
- Affordable health care
- Retirement security
- No cuts to vital public services

Politics is part of AFSCME's DNA. Federal election law and some state laws prohibit using dues for campaign contributions and other political activities. AFSCME PEOPLE enables our union to be strong politically and help enact legislative programs that protect our jobs.

We're on the Web
Afscme1668.org

Rally at the state Capitol

April 13, 2011 Registration form

Prior registration for this event is preferred

Registration for transportation is required

Registration deadline for Transportation is March 31, 2011

(space is limited, so get your registration in early)

You may register by email to snahas56@hotmail.com or afscmelocal1851@hotmail.com or by calling Stephanie Nahas @ 248-318-6873 or Bill McGlynn @ 586-864-2894

Or you may fax to: 586-864-4313 Att. Stephanie Nahas

Note: We also need volunteers to drive. We can meet at the Council 25 Regional offices (Detroit, Warren, Flint, Kalamazoo, and Marquette) and car-pool!

Contact us: let us know you can drive, and how many passengers you can take!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Local Union Name: _____ Local No. _____

E-Mail: _____

Are you in need of transportation: _____