



Iowa Unionist

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2012 Legislative Session Ends

Election Season Begins

Des Moines, IA— The 2012 Session ended with no changes to Iowa's collective bargaining laws or state worker insurance. The Iowa Senate led by Senator Mike Gronstal held the line on employee rights. We owe the Democrats in the Iowa Senate everything!

The session ended with status quo state budgets, scaled down mental health reform and no property tax reform (aka corporate tax cuts). Republicans would not agree to the Senate property tax bill which would have established tax credits instead of tax cuts. Republicans were especially opposed to backfilling local government losses associated with proposed property tax changes. AFSCME opposed the House Republican bill and was undecided



Senator Mike Gronstal Fights for Our Jobs and Our Rights
ed but leery of the Senate bill.

This legislature did little to create jobs as Senate proposals to expand training for workers and re-open Iowa Workforce Development offices were tossed aside by Republicans and the Governor.

Allowable growth for schools for 2013 was left out of the final budget

negotiations as the Governor said he would not sign any school allowable growth bill. House and Senate Republicans expressed the same views.

You will hear the Governor and Republican leaders claim they did many things to strengthen the economy

- beware - these claims may be exaggerated. Local governments and public employees are still on the top of their list today and still will be after the November election. Please volunteer for worker-friendly candidates - things will get better when friends of public employees and working families are in a better position to govern.

Thanks for all your help this Session.

We Are Your Neighbors: Local 2990 (Woodward) Nurses



Local 2990 Members Susan Rowe, Jenice Barton, Dawn Mollie, Christie Sherrard, and Karla Williams prepare for the clinic.

WOODWARD, IA— Woodward is a small community of just over a thousand people in Dallas County. It is also home to the Woodward Resource Center and AFSCME Local 2990. Susan Rowe, a Registered Nurse at the Woodward Resource Center, and her fellow nurses came up with a great way to help their community. Realizing that the people of Woodward have to travel out of town to have even the simplest of medical checks performed, Susan and her AFSCME sisters held their first Community Nurse Health Check Clinic in February.

About forty people from the area attended the clinic.

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Local 2990 Members Help Out Their Neighbors

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ic. Everyone that attended was sent home with a copy of their vital signs and weight, informational health flyers, a healthy snack, and bottled water.

“We know there are a lot of people in Woodward and the surrounding communities that only go to the doctor when they absolutely have to, whether it is because there are no clinics in Woodward, lack of insurance, or just having a busy schedule. We are really glad to help out our friends and neighbors,” said Rowe.

February's nurse checks were the first time Local 2990 held the clinic and they are currently planning the next clinic for some time in June. The next clinic will still offer blood pressure and vital sign checks but the Local 2990 nurses plan to include information and tips for staying healthy during the summer months as well as information about how to protect yourself from the damage Iowa summer time sun can cause.

Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser For Labor Park

On June 9th at 9 AM, the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor will hold a Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser to raise funds for a new shelter at the Union Labor Park (located at 4640 NW Morningstar Dr. in Des Moines).



The fundraiser will include a continental breakfast, a 50/50 drawing, and more prize drawings. The cost is \$25 per bike single and \$30 per bike double. Checks should be made payable to S.C.I.F.L Charity, Inc. To RSVP call Gary Anderson at (515) 321-0831.

“We have made our union a driving force for economic and social justice throughout the nation. When we pull together and are united in a fight, nobody can defeat us. When we fight, we win. And when we win, the lives of working people in this country improve.”
-Gerald McEntee

AFSCME Iowa Members Salute Gerald McEntee

Gerald “Jerry” McEntee, AFSCME’s International President and long-time friend of AFSCME Iowa Council 61, will retire in June after leading AFSCME since 1981. His upcoming retirement led several members to reflect on Jerry’s leadership.

“Jerry was both a father figure and fun. I remember one PEOPLE Conference when Mindy Kemper and I decided to model our new PEOPLE jackets for everyone. He quickly caught on and played runway announcer. He truly has the gift of gab.

“He was also always one to listen to grassroots members. In 1998, none of the so-called experts thought Tom Vilsack could win. I was among the group that met with President McEntee and told him that AFSCME Iowa members wanted Vilsack. President McEntee backed us all the way and we made history with

Tom Vilsack.

“He really is an amazing Irish-man that we all love.”

-Bonnie Eggers, Local 3018



AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee addresses the 2009 AFSCME Iowa Convention

“I’ve known Jerry for over 30 years and I’ve never met someone who is more of a leader of the people.”

- Marty Hathaway, Local 2985

and Council 61 Executive Board

“Being named Jerry, I smiled when I saw the ‘AFSCME ♥ Jerry’ signs at the San Francisco Convention. We really do love him. AFSCME will have big shoes to fill.”

-Jerry Jones, Local 451 and Council 61 Secretary-Treasurer

“I remember how much he put me at ease when we first met after I was elected Council President. He is a mentor and a friend.”

- Danny Homan, Locals 3289 and 2840 and Council 61 President

“He is one of the greatest leaders in the history of the American labor movement.”

-Susie Baker, Local 2659 and Council 61 Executive Vice President



Branstad wants to be Iowa's Scott Walker

Members of AFSCME know that Terry Branstad is dead set on destroying our jobs, our benefits, and our right to collectively bargain. To further his anti-worker mission, Branstad is now raising campaign money for the union busting, equal pay for women repealing, and extreme Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

The *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* reported that Branstad and Walker recently held a fundraiser in Dubuque for Walker's campaign. Since it was a private fundraiser, we don't know what was said but we can imagine the two Governors shared their mutual love of union busting and cutting public employee jobs and benefits in order to pay for tax cuts for corporations like Wal-Mart. AFSCME is standing up to Scott Walker in Wisconsin and AFSCME Iowa Council 61 will continue to fight for your rights here in Iowa.

Remember to Vote in the Primary

Iowa's Primary Election is Tuesday, June 5th. AFSCME Iowa Council 61 encourages members to vote. AFSCME Iowa Council 61 PEOPLE Committee has endorsed the following candidates in this year's contested legislative primaries:

- ◆ Rich Taylor—Iowa Senate District 42—Democratic Primary
- ◆ Kasey Friedrichsen—Iowa House District 18—Democratic Primary
- ◆ Rita Hart—Iowa Senate District 49—Democratic Primary
- ◆ Kevin Ericson—Iowa House District 49—Democratic Primary

May Stewards Conference



DES MOINES— On May 12th dozens of new AFSCME stewards met in Des Moines for a Stewards Conference. The conference focused on learning how to become an effective steward for your brothers and sisters. New stewards discussed strategies for collective action, the rights of union members and how stewards uphold those rights, and how the grievance process works.



Tanya Bates, President of Local 2051 (Prairie Meadows) signed up a member during her break, kept the card in her back pocket for the rest of her shift, and then brought the card to the Stewards Conference.

Join PEOPLE Today!



Every day you can go to a statehouse, a county courthouse, a school board meeting, or a city hall in Iowa and find one or two types of elected officials: those who are champions for working families and public employees and those who are dead set on destroying your wages, benefits, union rights, and jobs. AFSCME PEOPLE is the way we work to elect friends of public employees. With increasing attacks on public employees, it has never been more important to join PEOPLE. To join most members simply have to complete a PEOPLE card and PEOPLE funds will be automatically deducted from their paycheck. If you join PEOPLE and contribute \$4.18 per two-week pay period you will get a AFSCME PEOPLE Jacket and the right to vote for PEOPLE officers and endorsements at PEOPLE Conferences. If you are interested in joining PEOPLE, please see any union staff or call the AFSCME Iowa Council 61 office at (515) 246-1517.

Luann Smith Receives Victim Advocate Award

DES MOINES— Luann Smith, an AFSCME Member (Local 3289-5) and Community Treatment Coordinator at 5th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services, received one of the first annual Victim Advocate Awards in recognition of her work on behalf of victims of crime. Over a decade ago, Luann helped establish Victim Impact Classes where victims



Luann Smith is congratulated on her award by Former Chapter Chair Sara Brookhart and AFSCME Iowa Council 61 President Danny Homan

have a chance to tell offenders about the impact of crime and offenders have the opportunity to recognize the pain caused by their actions. Luann also helped develop and coordinate the first five annual Victim Recognition Ceremonies, which honor crime victims. When other staff took over planning the ceremony this year, they chose to recognize Luann. "Luann is a true champion for victims and a dedicated team member," said Emma Dedic, a longtime coworker who nominated Luann for the award.

Ask AFSCME's Attorney: Workers' Compensation By Mark Hedberg, AFSCME's Attorney



Q: What is Workers' Compensation?

A: A system of laws outlining the benefits for injured employees and the procedures for obtaining such benefits. Workers' Compensation compensates work-related injuries.

Q: Who is covered?

A: Almost all Iowa workers are covered by workers' compensation laws. Employers are required to carry workers' compensation insurance or verify self-insured qualifications. IT IS A CLASS D FELONY TO FAIL TO PROVIDE WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

Q: Does the employee have to prove negligence?

A: No.

Q: What type of injuries are covered?

A: Incident Injuries, Cumulative Injuries, Occupational Diseases, and Occupational Hearing Loss.

To learn more, read the full column at afscmeiowa.org. Visit the website and click on "Ask AFSCME's Attorney."





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Upcoming AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Events and Meetings

AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 2012 (9 am)
 Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines, IA)

Primary Election Day

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 (7 am—9 pm)
 Your Local Polling Place

Cedar Rapids Stewards Conference

Saturday, August 18, 2012 (9 am)
 IBEW Local 405 Union Hall—East Entrance (Cedar Rapids, IA)

AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Executive Board Meeting

Friday, September 14, 2012 (9 am)
 Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines, IA)

Joint Policy Committee Conference

Saturday, September 15, 2012 (9 am)
 Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines, IA)

Des Moines Stewards Conference

Saturday, October 13, 2012 (9 am)
 AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Office (Des Moines, IA)

General Election Day

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 (7 am—9 pm)
 Your Local Polling Place

AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Executive Board Meeting

Friday, December 14, 2012 (9 am)
 Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines, IA)

AFSCME Iowa Council 61 Holiday Party

Friday, December 14, 2012 (4 pm)
 Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines, IA)

Conventions and Conferences

The **40th International Convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO** will be held in Los Angeles, CA at the Los Angeles Convention Center from June 18th—June 22nd. This historic convention will elect the first new International President in over thirty years.

The **AFSCME Iowa Council 61 PEOPLE Endorsement Conference** will be held June 24th at 11 am at The Meadows at Prairie Meadows. Anyone can attend; only PEOPLE members can vote.

New Staff at AFSCME Iowa Council 61



Brian Jennings started as the new Communications Specialist at AFSCME Iowa Council 61 in April. Prior to joining AFSCME Iowa Council 61 staff, Brian worked at Iowa Workforce Development and joined AFSCME Local 3450. He also worked in a variety of policy and political capacities for Governor Culver and the Iowa Democratic Party from 2006 to 2010. As Communications Specialist, Brian helps spread our union's message of respect for our members and the services they provide. Brian can be reached at (515) 246-2637 or bjennings@afscmeiowa.org.

