

Carol Nieters, Executive Director

I have been a member for almost 20 years; first as a worker in the St. Cloud School District as a Food Service employee, then hired as a Regional Contract Organizer in 2004 and as Executive Director, elected in November 2009.

I am a strong advocate of a member run union. Within that belief, I will strive for openness and accessibility for our members and will work to develop strong communication systems; which include timeliness in responses and strategic use of technology.

I am committed to our members. I understand the importance of the work you do, and the impact our jobs have on local communities; we, as public employees, offer stability to the community, with jobs that pay a living wage and offer benefits.

As a union, however, we must meet the challenges of these difficult times, and address the issues which would weaken us if left alone. Over the past several years, school district budgets have been stretched to the limit, and now are breaking. If we are to win for our members, we must be more strategic and purposeful in our work. I am committed to developing a plan that moves our Local forward with vision, leadership and accountability as guiding principles. Together we can achieve the mission of our Local, "Improving the Lives of our Members".

We are here to create and maintain strong contracts, provide opportunities for our members, grow our union membership, and shape the political debate over things like public education and health care funding. Together, we can use the POWER of our 8000 members and achieve the mission of our local, to build a stronger union, and improve the lives of our members and their families.

Keith Niemi, President

I have been a member of SEIU since 1985 and have served as a Union Steward beginning in 1991 within SEIU. Since 2001, I have been a Contract Organizer for SEIU Local 284. I have had the honor of serving as President of since 2006. My vision is to continue to provide experienced leadership to our Union as we face the serious challenges before us. We will continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of our members and work to insure adequate funding for public education.

Paul Wuethrich – Vice President

Present: Organizer/staff Local284

2004 Heroes

1979 to 2009 member Local 284 at Robbinsdale District 281 active as;

Negotiation committee from 1982 to 2004;

Assistant steward 1984-1989

Steward 1989-2004

MSC 1994 to present

Local 284 Executive Board 1993? to present

Why am I on the Executive Board?

To Work for unity, representation, and strength for our members.

Sandra Ringler – Vice President

For 11 years I have been a Special Education Paraprofessional for Sauk Rapids District ISD 47. I am a Union Steward, MPO, Dues and Budget Committee member, and Central MN Trades and Labor Council delegate. Being a Board member is important to me because the decisions made at our local have a direct impact on all members, as well as the public which we serve. I believe all individuals are entitled the right to fair treatment and equality. I believe that members having a voice in the decision making process is crucial. I will continue to be proactive in maintaining the focus of SEIU and work hard to build a better future for all.

Brian Dimberg – Trustee

I have been a bus driver in the Eden Prairie school district for over five years. About a year after I started driving, I ran for the position of assistant steward, and was elected after a brief campaign. I have been on our units bargaining team for the last two contracts, and am looking forward to bargaining our unit's first contract as the chief steward. I have been active on the finance committee for several years, as well as assisting with the leadership assemblies. This fall the current executive director of the local was looking for some support in the southwest region of the metro area on the executive board, and I was nominated and elected as a trustee for a three year term.

Mark Hanson –Trustee (custodial -maintenance), 23 years, steward & executive board as trustee. The reason I am on the Executive Board is to be solid system of checks & balances for our union members.

Marion Conwell – Trustee

I'm Marion Conwell and I have been employed by St. Michael-Albertville School District as an office para for almost 17 years and been a member of a union for 26 years. I have served as a co-steward for our members at STMA for three years and wanted to become more knowledgeable in the workings of our union. I have found it very interesting to serve on the eboard and attend the monthly meetings and hear about everything going on at the capitol and with other units.

Valerie Rolstad – Member at Large

Special Ed. Educational Assistant - Level 3 EBD, Columbia Heights

I have been an EA for about 12 years. I have worked in Early Childhood, High School, Elementary, and now Middle School. I work with a teacher in a Level 3 EBD program for the last 3 years. I was asked to be on the Executive Board last Fall. SEIU Local 284 has given me many opportunities to develop my leadership skills, so when asked to be on the Board I felt this was an opportunity for me to give back to the membership. I wanted to make our Local a strong union who works for it members.

Sue Kreft – Member at Large

I work for Special school district #1; I have been here 20 years; I have been involved with the union since about 1992, which is when I was approached to join the union and the Executive Board. I was a steward where I use to work years ago. I'm on the board because I feel it is

important to be involved in what impacts the quality of my life and the life of my family. I also would love to see contracts all done in a more timely fashion.

Bob Cook – Member at Large

I have been a route bus driver for Edina School District #273 for seven years and steward for the drivers for the last two years. I have also been a member of Operating Engineers Local #49 and the International Association of Machinists.

In my previous life I have been a highway construction inspector as well as a software engineer, working as an employee for various companies as well as doing contract and consulting work.

As a board member of Local 284, my objective follows the principle I have tried to live by: Justice and freedom for all people at all times.

I have a particular passion for universal, affordable health care for all and for workers' rights to be organized and recognized. I have worked for these through participation in Lobby Days, contributions to Cope, writing letters and talking with legislators and other leaders and encouraging others to do similar things.

Mark Krey Member at Large

I have been a union member for 16 years and am employed at West St. Paul Schools as a Special Education Paraprofessional and Support Para in the Extended Day Program. Prior to that I drove School Bus for 10 years with both W St. Paul and Edina Schools.

Valerie Brott – Member at Large

Bus Driver with ISD 196 Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan for 19 years. Steward for our unit for 3 terms. Executive Board, 1 term.

I ran for the Executive Board to keep at the pulse of the Union and to be able to make decisions that would better the lives of our members.

Mark Bolin- Sergeant at Arms

I have been a union member and an employee with the Elk River school district for 26 years. Currently I am working at Hassan Elementary as a Head Custodian. I am also on the bargaining team for the custodial group. The reason I want to be on the Executive Board is to help empower all of our union members and contribute to helping protect workers' rights.

Vaughan (Vonnie) Holmes – Senior Member

I was employed by Independent School District 196, Rosemount, MN from 1977 to 2000 the last 16 years as the secretary to the Director of Transportation. Being an SEIU union member, I was able to remain employed after several job eliminations, thanks to the great bumping rights that our union, and dedicated bargaining teams had won for us.

I'm been active in lobbying, helping workers organize and work on retiree issues. I became a Board Member because I believe that unions are the best option we have to improve people's lives.