

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.

Mark Hanson –1st Vice President (custodial -maintenance), 23 years, steward & executive board member. The reason I am on the Executive Board is to be solid system of checks & balances for our union members.

Sandra Ringler – 2nd Vice President

I work as a Special Education Paraprofessional Sauk Rapids Rice District for 13 years. I serve as a Steward and our local's Ethics Liaison. 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.

Peter Fitzpatrick – Trustee

I am currently the Steward for the Custodians and Drivers in Richfield, and have been a Union Member since 1992. What started as an interest in seeing what the Union was doing outside of Richfield led me to a position on the Executive Board. I believe that a Union needs a strong and diverse Executive Board to represent its members. And as a Trustee, to make sure that all Union funds are accounted for, and invested in the members best interest.

Terri Buttleman – Trustee

I'm a Paraprofessional in West St. Paul ISD197 and member of 10 yrs. I'm active in a variety of roles; steward, bargaining team, Regional Labor Federation delegate, MPO, testifying on behalf of our members to protect our public pension (PERA), have lead a successful levy campaign and taken part in many actions. I have a business degree with a minor in child development and believe my degree will be an asset to the office I seek. I'm committed to growing and strengthening our union so we are prepared for the challenges ahead.

Donna Morris - Trustee

I have been employed by the Anoka-Hennepin school district for the past 12 years. I started in the kitchen as a child nutritionist and am currently a custodian. I serve as a steward and recently was elected to the Executive Board as a member at Trustee.

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.

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 Local 284 member for almost 20 years in the West St Paul school district. I have been employed as a Special Ed Paraprofessional at the middle school for the last 9 years. I started out as a School Bus Driver, a few years later added a Lunchroom/Playground Supervisor position, and then worked as a Hall Supervisor at the high school. I also drove school bus for the Edina School District and began my bus driving career at Ryder Student Transportation Services in 1991 when my unemployment ran out- little did I know at that time it was the start to my career in the education field!

I am also an advocate for a member run union, and looking forward to working with the executive board to creating more opportunities for members to grow within the local. I am currently the chair of the Member Engagement Committee and look forward to building our member strength with that committee.

I am committed to our members; if any member has something they feel needs to be brought before the board or has an idea for growing our local, feel free to contact me.

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.

Ginia Klamecki- Senior Member

I was a dental hygienist for 35 years, beginning in the SF Bay area, then lived and worked 4 years in Albuquerque, New Mexico, also as a dental hygienist. I moved to Minnesota in 1985. I worked here in dental hygiene until 1990. I then joined the Minneapolis Public School system, working in food service; reopened Pratt School, worked at South High, Morris Park, the Nutrition Center, and am in my second year at Harrison Center.