



The Communicator

A Publication for SEIU Local 284 Education Workers Across Minnesota

A Message From the Desk of the Executive Director, Carol Nieters

April Leadership Assembly...Spring ...and Changes are in the Air

The April Leadership Assembly demonstrated the member driven direction of our union. After many meetings of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee made up of member volunteers, the proposed Local 284 Bylaws changes were read by SEIU Executive Board member and Edina bus driver, Bob Cook. The Bylaws changes reflect the philosophy that the union should be a member driven organization with opportunities for members to grow and participate. This means members taking on roles, responsibilities and being accountable. Executive Board members will begin chairing committees with a responsibility for creating and moving programs that help our Local achieve its mission - To improve the lives of working people and their families. The Bylaws changes will be voted on at the monthly general member meeting in May.

The Finance Committee made up of member volunteers after, again many meetings, proposed changes to the dues structure and this was voted on at the Leadership Assembly. **Members on the formula structure will see a reduction in the dues factor from 2.5 to 2.4. Also, the minimum dues will change to \$20 per month if working 14 hours per week or more and \$10 per month is working less than 14 hours per week.** The minimum dues will be applicable to all dues payers—those units on the formula structure and the percentage dues structure. If you have questions about how this impacts you or your bargaining unit be sure to contact your contract organizer.



Mpls Food Service employees at the Leadership Assembly.

Members also participated in a workshop around new strategies to increase member engagement with the Union. *"It's exciting to see a new energy and the idea that my union is not only interested in what I am interested in but in helping me achieve my goals,"* said Jodie Belknap Paraprofessional in West St. Paul. **For more information about engaging members in your bargaining unit contact your Contract Organizer and plan to attend our next Leadership Assembly on June 17th.**

Congratulations to the following members that attended the Leadership Assembly and have been members of SEIU 284 for 30 years or more: Steve "Chip" Nelson-*ISD 286*, Howard Klaers-*ISD 332*, Scott Englin-*ISD 13*, Doris Marotzke-*ISD 196*, Dannie Welch-*ISD 277*.

Many members at the Assembly expressed their belief that we as a union are going in the right direction and actions at the Assembly reinforced that belief. I want to thank all those that have taken the time to get involved and have helped make these changes possible.

Included in this issue:

April Leadership Assembly

SEIU Summer!

Legislative Update

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Lobby Day 2010

Moved? Name change? Go to www.seiu284.org and submit your updates.

SEIU MN State Council

www.seiumn.org

Lobby Day 2010

Hundreds of SEIU Members from around the state converged on the State Capitol on March 23, 2010 with a collective message.

It was a busy day as the senators and representatives were in session much of the day. That does not mean we could not talk to them though! Members pulled their elected leaders out of session to make sure they understand what is important to SEIU members, our public schools, and our communities.



2010 Legislative Session Update

By: Matt Toburen, Political Organizer

With a month left before the end of the legislative session, there are a number of bills in the works that will affect public school employees. One of the bills will raise the fees on boiler licenses. The increased cost will hurt our school custodians. This unfair change will lower the cost of licenses for other higher paid professions and businesses but raise the cost for school custodians. Please contact your legislator and ask them to change this provision in SF2510 (Tomassoni)/HF2781 (Obermueller)!

In more positive news, Rep. Marsha Swails from Woodbury worked closely with SEIU to create the “Collaborative Governance Council”, SF2511. This council will come up with recommendations on how government services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively, and SEIU is a voting member on this 12 person council. When this bill was debated on the floor of the House, Republican Rep. Peppin (Rogers, MN) tried to remove SEIU from the council. Rep. Swails stood up and told legislators that SEIU members provide a valuable service in our schools and are an important part of the education system. Thank you Representative Marsha Swails! Please call her office at: 651-296-1147 and thank her for her hard work!

The legislature is facing a \$1 billion dollar budget shortfall that must be fixed by the end of session. The recent Supreme Court ruling against Gov. Pawlenty’s unallotment may significantly increase the current deficit; however, K-12 Education funding looks like it will not receive any more cuts on top of what has happened in the last year.

Last year, Governor Pawlenty shifted K-12 Education funding as a way to balance the budget. Districts receive funding on a two year basis, and the table below shows what happened. You can see for **this year districts are receiving only \$83 out of every \$100 the state promised, leaving them \$17 out of every hundred short !**

Year:	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
State \$:	\$100	\$100	\$100
Rec. Now:	90%	73%	73%
Rec. Later:	10%	10%	27%
Rec’d.:	\$90	\$73	\$73
Rec’d. Later:	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$27</u>
Total Rec’d.	\$100	\$83	\$100

***SHORT** This year **-\$17** per hundred.

Districts have to make up for this \$1.8 billion cut by reducing their budget and borrowing money. More recently this problem has grown as the state has taken the reserves from some districts to pay the state’s bills. **NOTE:** When the state pays this money back, districts will not be made whole for interest they may have paid for short term borrowing. Therefore, their funding would be even further reduced.



SEIU Member Running for PERA Board

Anthony Newman is a member of SEIU Local 63 which represents the Minneapolis Building Engineers. Anthony has been a member of SEIU for 17 years. He has worked in the buildings and is currently serving the members as the business agent.

2010 PERA BOARD ELECTIONS

SEIU Member RETIREE encourages PERA Board participation

“It is crucial school employees have a voice on the PERA Board,” said Lou Olson a member of Local 284 retired from St. Cloud Food Service. Lou served for four years as a retired member on the Board. Lou is not running for re-election, but is encouraging anyone interested to contact Matt Toburen, Political Organizer, at 651-256-9101. Lou says, “We need to keep SEIU represented on the PERA Board.” Thank you, Lou! (Pictured right)



It's an SEIU summer!



SEIU Local 284
Day with the
Saint's & Picnic
Sat. June 12th
at 7:05pm
Saints vs. Sioux Falls
Pheasants



\$10 Package includes (\$23 Value):

- General Admission Ticket
- Hot Dog and Soda Voucher
- Saints Hat (new for '10)

\$11 Package includes (\$25 Value):

- General Admission Ticket
- Hot Dog and Soda Voucher
- Darryl Strawberry Bobblehead

Please join us for a fun night of friends and baseball at the St. Paul Saints Game! Pre-Game SEIU Tailgating in Area C, located along Energy Park Drive.

Order online at SAINTSGROUPS.com (password: *seiu284*)

SEIU Picnic starts at 5:05 (2-hours) before game time, hot dogs, pop and beer will be provided.



**SEIU Member
Day at the
MN Zoo!**

**Sunday
August 8th
4:30-9:00**

**Admission and
Parking free
for members and
their families.**

Food and beverages can be purchased at the zoo or you can bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the picnic area.

Paid by
SEIU MN State
Council



SEIU Summer Member Picnics Around the State

Please plan to attend a picnic in your area.
Bring your family.

Thursday, September 14th, 5:30-8pm
Sturges Park
301 Lake Ave, Buffalo, MN 55313

Tuesday, August 24th, 5:30-8pm
Crosby Memorial Park
2 2nd Street SW, Crosby, MN 56441

Tuesday, August 31st, 5:30- 8pm
Cambridge City Park
899 2nd Ave SW, Cambridge, MN 55008

Saturday, September 11th, 11am- 2pm
Nokomis Park
2401 East Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis 55417

Wednesday, September 15th 5:30-8pm
Lions Park
1st Street N & River Ave, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Congratulations April 2010 Scholarship Winners!

Jessica Paschke – ISD 622 North St Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale

Maureen Johnson - Intermediate District 287

Nick Zurbey – Son of Teri Zurbey -ISD 622 North St Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale



SEIU LOCAL 284

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Calendar of Events

LOCAL 284 OFFICERS

Executive Director: Carol Nieters
President: Keith Niemi
Vice Presidents: Paul Wuethrich
Sandy Ringer
Trustees: Brian Dimberg
Mark Hanson
Marion Conwell
Members at Large: Val Brott
Bob Cook
Sue Kreft
Mark Krey
Valerie Rolstad
Sergeant at Arms: Mark Bolin
Senior Member: **Open Seat**

The Officers of Local 284 make up the Executive Board. Executive Board meetings are open to all members in good standing. Please contact Union headquarters if you would like to attend.

- May 20** SEIU 284 Executive Board Mtg 4:00
SEIU Local 284 General Member Mtg 6:30
IBEW Local 292 Office
103 Doctor's Park Dr. St Cloud 56303
- June 12** SEIU 284 at the St Paul Saints game
(see inside for details)
- June 17** SEIU 284 Executive Board Mtg
8:00 am Carpenter's Hall , St Paul
Steward and Leadership Summit
10:00 am Carpenter's Hall , St Paul
- June 24** SEIU Finance Committee
6:00 SEIU 284 Office
- Aug 8** SEIU Day at the MN Zoo
- Aug 8-11** MSNA Conference
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
- Aug 19** SEIU 284 Executive Board Mtg 4:00
SEIU Local 284 General Member Mtg 6:30
SEIU 284 Office 450 Southview Blvd So St Paul