

ACE-AFSCME

Newsflash

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

December 14, 2011

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On Tuesday, November 8, 2011, voters in Ohio sent a strong message to their Governor and state Legislature by overwhelmingly rejecting an anti-union law passed earlier in the year that would have eliminated collective bargaining for public employees in Ohio. ACE-AFSCME Local 2250, your union, played a small part in this defeat in Ohio.

Union members **Tujuana Bigelow, Patricia Butler, Linda Davison, Michael Dixon, Elizabeth Fowler, Michelle Johnson, Jose Lapira, Naomi Walker and Board Member, James Owens** took time out from their busy personal and professional lives to participate in AFSCME's phone-banking efforts to defeat this anti-union bill.

Further, each of these union members are participants in Local 2250's Member Action Team (MAT). The MAT program is a local activist training program that educates members about how to communicate labor issues to the voting public. To date, Local 2250 have trained over 150 members to become MAT activist. Additional training opportunities will be forthcoming in 2012.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Since June 2011 your union and the school administration have been negotiating over a new collective bargaining agreement. As of July 1, 2011, the union and administration have been operating under an extension of the contract that expired on June 30, 2011. Over the last seven-months the two sides have exchanged proposals, discussed the costs of the proposals, discussed the reason(s) for the proposed changes and discussed the overall financial condition of the school system.

Now that the preliminary issues have been addressed, the two sides will start the process of "defining" what they would like to see as a complete contract settlement. ACE-AFSCME Local 2250, your union, plans on submitting a balance settlement offer which takes into account the financial, non-financial and contract administration needs. The school administration will, no doubt, take the same approach when they submit their settlement offer. From there we will make counter-proposals until we reach an agreement. The agreement will then be presented to the membership for a ratification vote.

ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 is currently the only Prince George's County Public School union in contract negotiations. The remaining school unions are either just beginning negotiations or do not plan on starting negotiations until after the first of the year.

AFSCME JUDICIAL HEARING BOARD

On November 1, 2011, President Shirley Adams formally withdrew her complaint against the Local 2250's Board of Directors over the seating process from the 2010 union's presidential election. In withdrawing the complaint, Shirley Adams stated "This email is to formally address the action that I am withdrawing the former charges that were filed concerning the Judicial Panel Case No. 11004 as of November 1, 2011. I am trusting that Local 2250's Executive Board members and I shall work through these challenges in a professional manner so that we may demonstrate to our membership and assure them what a great leadership team we are. Thanks to all of our AFSCME International brothers and sisters who have worked so diligently with us, under the direction of President Gerald McEntee and Secretary Treasurer Lee Saunders, to assist us in becoming a stronger Local Union. We all may be different but We Are One!"

SUCCESSFUL UNITY RALLY

On December 5, 2011, ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 hosted a Unity Rally prior to the Board of Education electing their Chair and Vice-Chair position. Over 200 members and 20 plus politicians, union officials and community activist groups stood in support with Local 2250 members. President Adams and Executive Director Daniel Besseck presented an oversized "Welcome Card" to school board member Edward Burroughs, III to take into the school board meeting. The Unity Rally was to remind the school board that support employees are an equal partner in educating Prince George's County children and to remember this partnership as they develop their school budget.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the winners of the Executive Board election. The NEC has declared the winners as follows: the Transportation Chapter was: Michael Dixon for the two-year term and Angel Swann for the one-year term. The winner for the Central Garage Chapter was Ron Takamura and last, but not least, the Paraprofessional Educators Chapter was Yvonne Wilson who won back her seat.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND LOCAL 2250 STAFF WISH YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON !!

Shirley Adams, President

Daniel Besseck, Executive Director