

Messages From Your Officers

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From Mary

First, thank you to those that voted for me for president this past April. I hope to earn the support of those who did not vote for me in the coming two years. I am honored and privileged to be able to represent Council 40 in all the work that we need to do in support of YOU the members. I am also looking forward to working with the newly elected Council 40 Executive Board as we have our first meeting on August 6-7, 2009. On May 18, the newly Vice President, Treasurer and myself met to talk about how we want to work as a team in meeting the goals of Council 40.

One of my personal goals is to have more communication at all levels of our Council. At the Board meeting I will be making a proposal for a means for the members to be able to talk to the officers and receive a response within 24 hours. I believe a majority of our members need a method by which they can easily ask questions and obtain answers to them at no cost. We will also look at ways to use our website to provide information, education and feedback more effectively. ***This fall look for a NEW and Expanded AFSCME, Council 40 Website.***

The present economic downturn has and will result in difficult bargaining issues, the possible loss of members through loss of jobs, as well as other problems that are of no fault of ours. Even though our work does not often get recognized by many taxpayers you should take satisfaction in knowing what you do matters for a better quality of life for all citizens. Continue to do the excellent work that you do and feel confident that no one could do it better.

I will continue to be in touch with YOU the members via email, telephone and by attending membership meetings. I am here always to serve you and your needs.

From Jim – News and View

Since the April election, I've been off and running . . . the week after convention, April 28-30, I went to Washington DC for a NASHTU conference. I handdelivered your letters regarding the unfairness and changes needed on the CDL License to our Congressional Delegation and lobbied on transportation issues.

Mary, Diane and I met in May to discuss goals for Council 40 and how we can help YOU.

June was a busy month. I took off of my "normal" work for a week to work on a Childcare Provider blitz. We brought in International Staff and VMO's from all over the country to work on this blitz and successfully signed over 200 new AFSCME members.

I was privileged to represent AFSCME Council 40 at the groundbreaking ceremony in Racine County for the I-94 project, which was funded through federal stimulus monies. Also in attendance were the Obama Administration's Under Secretary of Transportation and Governor Doyle.

I attended the Racine County Retiree's Chapter local breakfast/meeting.

On June 15, I attended meetings of the committees in charge of our 2009 Education Conference.

On June 29, I represented Council 40 for signing of the budget bill by Governor Doyle at the Governor's Mansion.

Work In Progress:

I have been attending many county board meetings to help in the preventing of the sale of Jefferson County Nursing Home.

I have been working with the newly organized members of the Paraprofessionals of Palmyra-Eagle School District.

I continue in my work as the President of the Jefferson County Chapter and Executive board member of the South Central Federation of Labor.

I view the position of Vice President of Council 40 with great respect and will continue to work hard for our union. ***Do something for your union, do something for yourself.***

From Diane

I am so proud and honored to serve as Council 40 Treasurer. This will truly be one of those unforgettable moments in my life, not only because you placed your confidence in me to serve in this capacity but because you demonstrated an unprecedented level of interest in the future of Council 40 through your participation in this past election. You have demonstrated what the union can do and be when members step forward, participate and work together to build a new and better union. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

When I took the oath of office at the Council 40 Convention this past April, my thoughts turned to my grandfather, a letter carrier for many years with the United States Postal Service and my dad, past President of the Milwaukee Machinist's Lodge. My husband has been a union steward for the UAW at the Kohler Company where he has worked for 36 years. I recalled how deep my union roots run and how the union has given me so many opportunities and blessings throughout my life. Mary, Jim and I want the same opportunities and blessings for each and every one of you.

I want to thank my friends, Scott Sharp and Anne Arndt, who ran alongside me for the offices of President and Vice-President. The three of us entered the race because of an old-fashioned conviction that union activism is about helping people solve their problems and live their dreams. Even though Scott and Anne were not successful in their bids, I know you join me in wishing them well and share in my belief that you will always find them on the front lines of democracy – fighting for the future of Council 40 members.

I also want to extend my congratulations to President, Mary Goulding, Vice-President Jim Garity and the entire Council 40 Executive Board on their victories. We may have started on separate journeys – but our paths became one on April 25. We are all heading toward the same destination, united and more ready than ever to protect the members and grow our great union in our most challenging times. The way to continue our fight now – to accomplish the goals for which we stand – is to throw our collective energy, passion and strength behind our new Council 40 Executive Board. Let us begin that work together and unite in a common effort to chart a new course for the Union because we believe in the value of these five words, ***“Council 40 Makes Wisconsin Happen”***.

Solidarity Always

If you have any ideas on how we can help YOU and/or your local in better serving the Council, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.