

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Week of October 4, 2010

Volume #31, Issue #27

NEW COUNCIL 40 VP... Congratulations to **Christine Kistner** for being selected by the Council 40 Executive Board to serve as the Council's interim vice president. Notice will be sent to all District 6 secretaries and presidents announcing a special election to be held on October 20 to fill the seat vacated by Kistner.

Please note that the membership will have the opportunity to vote for all Executive Board Officers and Board Members next spring at the April 2011 Council 40 Convention.

NEW DISTRICT 3 BOARD MEMBER... Congratulations to Local 1889's **Fluffy Aerts** for winning the recent special election to fill a vacant District 3 seat on the Council's Executive Board.

BOARD MINUTES... Enclosed for secretaries are copies of the approved minutes of the June Executive Board meeting held in Siren.

GREEN SHEET... Please read this week's Green Sheet which is enclosed with this mailing and can be found on our website. On November 2, voters in over 50 counties will be asked to weigh in on the question of whether to amend the Wisconsin Constitution to prohibit the transfer or use of money in the transportation fund for purposes not related to transportation.

The questions may be worded slightly differently in different counties, but AFSCME opposes the referendum push for several reasons.

Restricting the transfer of funds in a difficult economy smacks of TABOR (the ill-advised "Tax Payers Bill of Rights") that AFSCME helped stop. Other critical services such as health care and education also face devastating budget cuts. The referendum diverts attention from the bigger problem, which is the lack of revenue for transportation services. Remember, we are all in this together.

ANALYZE THIS!... This month's edition of *Analyze This!* again focuses on property taxes, this time explaining the impact of the tax levy on a municipality's budgeting process. Simply stated, the tax levy directly affects the bargaining process and litigation surrounding the collective bargaining agreement. Our research department examined arguments raised in interest arbitration regarding property taxes and how arbitrators responded. While it doesn't guarantee a union win, if property taxes are not being raised to the maximum allowable (which is actually quite limited under Wisconsin law), **arbitrators have generally found that the employer has the ability to meet the financial demand of the union offer.**

AFL-CIO ELECTIONS... The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO met this past week and elected new officers. **Phil Neuenfeldt** replaced the retiring **David Newby** and **Stephanie Bloomingdale** replaced Phil as Secretary-Treasurer. AFSCME's representatives on the executive board include **Marty Beil** from Council 24, **Rich Abelson** from Council 48 and **Rick Badger** from Council 40.