

## AFSCME 48



*"The budget crisis facing all the units of government that employ and affect us are a sober reminder that we must be active in political life to protect our jobs and the services in our communities."*

### Save The Date! Holiday Party Scheduled

The Local 1091 Holiday Party will be held Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 PM. It will be at the Italian Community Center. Mark the date on your calendar now, and stay tuned for more details and the sign up sheets!



## Board Attends AFSCME Leadership Training

Board members **Gloria Williams, Rodney Wilson, Naomi Jenkins, Annie Jones, Alva Goldberg** and **Janet Flowers-Haslem** attended a two-day leadership training offered by AFSCME Council 48 on August 21-22, 2009.

This training was offered to the Executive Boards of city, county and suburban locals, but there was a catch. *Presidents and Vice Presidents couldn't come without their boards.* It's not healthy for locals when only one or two people make decisions and do the work. So the first task for lead officers was to seek the commitment and participation of the rest of their board members.

President **Gloria Williams** feels the retreat was a "smashing success". She says "Everyone that attended this training left with a renewed commitment to the Union and its functions". Board member **Alva Goldberg** stated "I learned more in two days than I have in all the years I have been coming to union meetings".

The sessions covered such subjects as **Roberts Rules of Order** – the protocol for conducting meetings – and how to change a local constitution. The job descriptions for each board office were reviewed.

The attendees were also briefed on AFSCME's political action programs – PEOPLE and Take Back America. The budget crises facing all the units of government that employ and affect us are a sober reminder that we must be active in political life to protect our jobs and the services in our communities.

Participants discussed ways to build member activism and attendance at meetings. Each local left the training with goals such as better meeting attendance, or starting a newsletter. Our board has already taken steps to strengthen our Good & Welfare Committee, and hopes to accomplish much more.

## Attendance at Meetings

At long last, our contract is settled. The road to this contract was a long one, with lots of twists, turns and difficult decisions. At the **September 2** membership meeting, Council 48 Director **Rich Abelson** spoke to us at length and in detail about the negotiations that led to the current settlement. He explained the budget situation that forced us back to the bargaining table after so much time and effort had gone into arbitration.

Unfortunately, only **16** of our more than **160** members were present to listen. Over 140 members chose not to come. Of those, many spent the two weeks between the meeting and the ratification vote pumping Executive Board members with questions and phone calls, or spreading information, misinformation and rumors picked up from friends and acquaintances throughout the city.

Of course, not everyone can attend every meeting. But every member should keep in

mind that the union meeting is **our time**, and the union hall is **our place**. There we can discuss what we need to, say what we want to and take our time. Every board member has their regular job to do when they're at work. They do not have time to fill you in and satisfy your curiosity about what's going on.

If you want to stay updated, but have to miss a meeting, work out a buddy system – have someone in your area go so they can bring back the news. But make an effort to come yourself as well. There's always food. Our hall now has an elevator and accessible restrooms for those with limited mobility. It's smoke free.

Your dues pay for the knowledge and effort of Council staff, and they make themselves available at our meetings. So resolve to attend **AT LEAST ONE**, if not all Local 1091 meetings this year.

**AFSCME Local 1091**  
3427 West St. Paul Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

***"We make America happen"***

*- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

## Good & Welfare Committee

Good & Welfare Committees are a labor union tradition. Local 1091 has followed the custom of recognizing major events in the lives of our members; and the 2009-2011 Executive Board has moved to strengthen this system so no one is left out.

In 2003, the board decided to send a \$25 dollar check to members who've lost a parent, spouse or child. Retiring members also receive a check. At the 8/26/09 Executive Board meeting, it was decided to also commemorate the birth

of children to our members with a card. In addition, members out for a long time due to illness or hospitalization will receive cards. Checks will not be issued for births or illnesses, but we still want to share the occasion, and offer get well messages.

## Rep. Kessler Wants New Law to Ban Sale or Lease of Milwaukee's Water Works

*From DC48's website:*

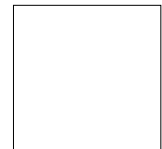
State Rep. Fred Kessler (D-Milwaukee) recently introduced legislation that would ban the sale or lease of Milwaukee's Water Works: Assembly Bill 475, which has been referred to

the Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Jim Soletski (D-Green Bay).

AFSCME strongly supports this legislation. So: Please contact Rep. Soletski's office at 608-266-0485 and

ask him to hold a hearing on the proposal. Or: Call the toll-free Legislative Hotline at 800-362-9472 during regular business hours and ask to leave a message for Rep. Soletski.

**AFSCME Local 1091**  
3427 West St. Paul Avenue  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53208



**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.afscme48.org](http://www.afscme48.org)  
[www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org)