

Solidarity Update

December 2006

Alaskans Working for Alaska!

A publication of the Alaska State Employees Association—AFSCME Local 52, AFL-CIO



New Sitka CBS Chapter Elects Officers

From Sam Rhodes

The newest addition to ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 elected its first edition of Chapter Officers at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka on November 30th.

According to Sitka member and newly elected Vice-President Chuck Hackett, participating in the union has meant witnessing some changes. "It's been a long road. I've been pretty involved from the beginning. We've made steady progress. But having our Executive Board elected establishes real governance for our organization and concrete commitment to our members."

The seven member Executive Board was elected after a founding meeting on November 15th when members voted for acceptance of their Chapter By-laws.

Sitka's next steps: formulating a negotiation committee and negotiating the first contract. "For us, negotiating with the City of Sitka is where the rubber really starts to meet the road," Hackett said.

Sitka CBS Chapter Executive Board

President - Kim Elliot

Term: December 2006 - November 2007

Vice-President - Charles Hackett

Term: December 2006 - November 2007

Secretary - Gail Roderick

Term: December 2006 - November 2007

Treasurer - Mary Majeski

Term: December 2006 - November 2007

Member - Rich Dangel

Term: December 2006 - November 2008

Member - Shawn McLeod

Term: December 2006 - November 2007

Member - Bob Reid

Term: December 2006 - November 2009

Holiday Celebrations

The EBoard of Local 52, Midnight Sun Chapter received a letter from Jaylene Day, Children's Services Specialist II, asking for a donation to help with Christmas presents for the children in OCS custody placed in foster homes. There are about 150 children in foster care who would not have anything for Christmas if it wasn't for the hard work and time that their workers put in; asking for donations, getting sponsors for the foster children, sorting out the gifts that are either donated or bought and delivering those gifts to the foster home to make sure that Santa visits the children Christmas morning. This year the Midnight Sun Chapter EBoard members were proud to help, they decided to purchase movie tickets for the older harder to buy children.

Happy Holidays!

The Juneau Chapter hosted a holiday open house Thursday evening, Dec. 21 at the chapter office. This has become a custom for the Chapter. The event was well attended, as the meeting room in the Teamsters' building was packed! Santa even stopped by and stayed for quite a while. He seemed to feel right at home.

2006 Election Victory for Labor

From Fate Putman

The 2006 legislative elections were a great victory for organized labor and ASEA in particular. With the help of many volunteer members, ASEA was successful in electing many pro-labor candidates whose support of public employees was a large part of their campaigns. These candidates will replace legislators who had a proven record of voting against the interest of working families.

In Fairbanks Senator Ralph Seekins will be replaced by Joe Thomas. Senator elect Thomas is a life-long resident of Fairbanks who worked his way up through the laborers union. Thomas led the union for many years and retired as business manager. Organized labor could not have hoped for a better replacement for Seekins than Joe Thomas. ASEA is extremely pleased that Joe Thomas will be the Alaska State Senate protecting your rights and benefits.

Also in Fairbanks Representative Jim Holm will be replaced by Scott Kawasaki. Representative elect Kawasaki ran against Holm two years ago and narrowly lost. This time the tides turned and Kawasaki will be coming to Juneau instead of Jim Holm. (In 2005, Jim Holm cast the deciding vote in the final passage of SB 141.) ASEA is pleased that this time around the voters of House District 9, including many members of ASEA, selected Scott Kawasaki as the Representative to replace Holm.

In addition, in Anchorage, retiring Senator Gretchen Guess will be replaced by Bill Weilechowski. Although ASEA is sorry to see Senator Guess leave the senate, we could not have asked for a better replacement than Senator Elect Weilechowski.

Weilechowski is a former member and steward of ASEA, who served as a member of the ASEA/AFSCME Political Action Committee and as chair of the ASEA/AFSCME Election Committee. He knows our issues and understands the protections provided through collective bargaining. ASEA could not have asked for a better replacement for Guess to represent East Anchorage in the Senate than Bill Weilechowski.

Even though ASEA was not successful in electing Tony Knowles and Ethan Berkowitz, our endorsed candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, many other close races favored ASEA candidates. Those close races that went our way include Andrea Doll in Juneau, Woodie Salmon from rural Alaska and Harry Crawford, Max Gruenberg, Berta Gardner and Bob Buch from Anchorage. ASEA also supported winners and familiar candidates for the Senate Kim Elton, Lyman Hoffman, Lesil McGuire and Johnny Ellis. In the House successful candidates include David Guttenberg, Nancy Dahlsrom, Bob Lynn, Gabrielle LeDoux, Mike Hawker, Beth Kerttula, Reggie Joule, Sharon Cissna, and Les Gara.

Many of the legislators that will be sworn in next year will be new to Juneau. Four more members of the freshmen class that were supported by ASEA will hit the ground running. Those new legislators include Mike Doogan and Lindsay Holmes of West Anchorage, Bob Roses of East Anchorage and Bryce Edgmon of Southwestern Alaska. With this level of experience and high caliber of intellect within the new class of legislators, ASEA members can expect great things to happen.

News In Brief

Contract Negotiating Committee Meets

Your Contract Negotiating Committee (CNC) has met three times in Anchorage to prepare for negotiations with the state. To stay up to date with the negotiations you can register to join a member forum on contract issues by going to the CNC website that can be accessed through the following link <http://www.afscmelocal52.org>

The members of the CNC are:

Central Region:

Toya Winton - Negotiator
Sue Layton - Alternate

Rural:

Jerry Farrington - Negotiator
Pam Chatham - Alternate

Class I:

Chris Lyou - Negotiator
Mike Reed - Alternate

Seasonal:

Steve Thomsen - Negotiator
John Winters - Alternate

Northern Region:

Vicki Spear-Shipley - Negotiator
Shawn Alexander - Alternate

Southeast Region:

Chris Pace - Negotiator
Sheila Fowlkes - Alternate

How You Can Get Involved

Become a VMO - Volunteer Member Organizer training teaches members how to become organizers in one-on-one outreach campaigns (See website for details)

Become a Steward - Contact your Chapter's Chief Steward (See website-Stewards)

Join the Member Action Program - (See website Forms & Files - Admin. Forms)

Join P.E.O.P.L.E. -Public Employees Organized to promote Legislative Equality (See website - ASEA PAC - PAC Forms)

News In Brief

Election Schedule: Officer and Judicial Panel Election Critical Dates

1. DECEMBER 20, 2006

Notice of Nominations mailed out to members.

2. JANUARY 25, 2007, NOON

Deadline for receipt of Nomination Petition Forms and Official Candidate Statement Forms.

3. FEBRUARY 16, 2007

Ballots mailed to members

4. MARCH 29, 2007

THIS IS THE "ELECTION DATE" (Ballots Counted) Ballots MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8:30 a.m. on this date. Only ballots returned through the U.S. Mail will be counted. Counting will commence following receipt of the ballots by the Election Committee.

APRIL 16, 2007

Officer Run-off election ballots mailed out, if needed.

MAY 17, 2007

This is the "ELECTION DATE" Officer Run-off.

The same procedures will be repeated as for the Election Date, if a second run-off election is necessary.

Anchorage Chapter Elects New President

The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA) unanimously elected Chief Steward Rosemary Foster to be president. Foster fills the vacancy left by Wyatt Wheeler who took a position out of the bargaining unit in October. She will serve until the next regular election in December 2007.

Organizing: It's Not a Location on a Growth Chart, It's a State of Mind

Organizing; just what does the term mean? It depends on who you ask. However, some general principles apply to the term. Organizing isn't a high-tech activity wrapped in a magic formula that adds membership numbers to any organization. Organizing is nearly as old as mankind itself and few, if any new or fancy mythical tricks produce results.

Members are most frequently added to union organizations through a methodical approach, one member at a time. Successful campaigns generally tend to focus on implementation of a one-on-one outreach strategy by utilizing a cynical systematic approach that is part simple research, part committee-building, part communication, part persistence, part trust, and patience. Moreover, maybe the last parts -- trust and patience -- holds the keys. Without trust in the research, there can be no success in the committees or communication. Without trust in the communication, persistence will never be realized. Without persistence, you're back to square one --no trust. Without trust and patience from the union leadership, none of it is possible. It's not rocket science, just hard work and a lot of leadership patience.

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 had a recent campaign success in Sitka on a long, sometimes difficult campaign to organize the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) employees. Throughout the Sitka campaign, Business Manager Jim Duncan stood strong with the organizers, showing trust and patience throughout. Trust in well-laid plans and hard work and commitment to growing this local union. Patience demonstrated by managing those efforts and working to create an organizing culture where once none existed. Other worthy organizing endeavors lie just ahead on the nearby horizon.

As organizers, we continue our commitment to look not only on the external organizing horizon for opportunity to grow and improve. We will continue looking internally in the ASEA mirror. Strong steward training programs, committee consensus building, and political action will grow and improve on our watch.

Remember: early to bed, early to rise. Work like hell and Organize!
Fraternally,
George Zuke and Sam Rhodes

Staff Transitions,

Karen Hamilton was hired in the Anchorage office of ASEA as an Administrative Assistant I - in charge of Collections. Karen comes to her new position with union experience from AFT in Austin, Texas.

Sharon Dart has been hired to fill the PR/Communication Specialist position in Anchorage. She has been involved in a variety of positions in the Advertising/Marketing field in Anchorage for many years.

Bobbie Holmes-Carter has retired from the Anchorage office. However, she is not leaving us. She'll be returning to work part-time for the Retired Chapter in January.

A Grim Fairy Tale

From Karen Hamilton & Sam Rhodes

Once upon a time in a land called Alaska, a group of state employees enjoyed workplace rights by simply signing an ASEA/GGU authorization for payroll deduction form upon their employment. All they had to do was come to the union office to attend a meeting with their new colleagues. All was well for most in their new state jobs.

However, for some of the new state employees, darkness fell. They neglected to contact the union office within the first thirty days of their employment as required by their collective bargaining agreement. Horror of horrors! Many of these state employees now owed back dues. What would they do? Who would they turn to in their time of need to save them?

Alas, fear not. ASEA is ALWAYS willing to work with its members in their time of need. Therefore, the friendly collections department worked out affordable payment plans that fit everyone's pocketbook in the good kingdom of ASEA. All things were once again bright and beautiful in a land called Alaska.

Moral of the story: Make sure ALL ASEA members promptly contact the union office upon their employment to live happily ever after.
THE END

| Solidarity Calendar | |
|---------------------|---|
| Jan 1 Monday | New Year's Day |
| Jan 3 Wednesday | AARC Meeting |
| Jan 9 Tuesday | Steward Monthly Meeting Anch |
| Jan 9 Tuesday | Worksite Visits & Issues |
| Jan 10 Wednesday | Anch GGU Meeting |
| Jan 15 Monday | Martin Luther King Day |
| Jan 16 Tuesday | TPAC TCF |
| Jan 31 Wednesday | Class I Meeting |
| Feb 7 Wednesday | AARC Meeting |
| Feb 7 Wednesday | Anchorage E Board Meeting |
| Feb 13 Tuesday | Women in the Workplace International Women's Day |
| Feb 13 Tuesday | Steward Monthly Meeting Anch |
| Feb 14 Wednesday | Anch GGU Meeting/Valentine's Day |
| Feb 20 Tuesday | PAC TCF |
| Feb 28 Wednesday | Class I Meeting |

Member — to — Member

Annual and personal leave can be donated to Local 52 members for use as "sick leave" after sick, annual or personal leave has been exhausted. Recipients must use all accrued sick and annual leave before using donated leave, and unused donated leave cannot be returned to donors. Members can donate leave by filling out a leave slip in the name of the person receiving the donation and delivering, or mailing it, to:

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52
1577 C St., Ste. 201
Anchorage, AK 99501

Leave donations can also be delivered to ASEA offices in Fairbanks and Juneau.

Note: leave donation slips must be received in the Anchorage, Fairbanks or Juneau union offices no later than two (2) days prior to the end of a pay period to be credited.

The following members need leave donations

[Sheryl Glasen](#) Public Safety Cordova

[Wendy Souza](#) Health & Social Services Fairbanks

[Daniel Roberts](#) Corrections Juneau

[Dawn Bandic](#) Community & Economic Dev. Anchorage

[Susan Donovan](#) Community & Economic Dev. Anchorage

[Molly Dyar](#) Community & Economic Dev. Juneau

[Patrick Nobilio](#) Transportation & PF Ketchikan

[Rochelle Zimin](#) Health & Social Services Wasilla

[Vickie Cleveland](#) Natural Resources Kenai

[Shera Hickman](#) Environmental Conservation Anchorage

[Annette Worthey](#) Labor & Workforce Dev. Fairbanks

[Marnell Steiner](#) Health & Social Services Juneau

[Sue Nichols](#) Labor & Workforce Dev. Anchorage

If your Chapter has news or event items that you would like to have included in the newsletter please send these item to: sharond@afscmelocal52.org .