

Local 2398

November 2011

Staff & Clerical Federation, AFT, AFT-Wisconsin, AFL-CIO

Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire

<http://wi.aft.org/CVTC2398/>

Convention Update

The 80th AFT-Wisconsin Convention was held on October 27-28 here in Eau Claire. The following are delegate reports:

From Lisa Storms:

One of the highlights of the 80th Annual AFT-Wisconsin Convention was the speech from Randi Weingarten, President, AFT-National. She is soft-spoken, yet very passionate about her beliefs. She helped me refocus on what matters the most: keeping our union together!

She talked about what it means to be a union; how it's like a membership to a gym. If you don't show up to work, you're not going to get anything out of it. You'll never see the changes that can be made. It's about taking small steps, not just big ones.

The message that left the biggest impression on me was this; don't ever lose the vision and hope of what was lost. Keep our union together. And, don't forget how you felt in February! Never forget!

Our world will be different, but we will still have a voice. We are not giving up on our ability to make positive change in our working conditions, or have an impact on issues we feel strongly about. We will keep our union together!

From Janet Goldsmith:

The AFT-WI 2011 convention was very politically charged. It was wonderful to see so many people working together for a common goal. I want to share a thought-provoking statement that I took home from the convention.

Belonging to a union is not like an insurance policy. We pay our premiums and the union will fix it when something devastating happens. Belonging to a union is more like a gym membership. We need to participate and become an active in the organization in order to realize a benefit from our membership.

From Kathy Goodman:

PSRP Council Session Meeting

Jessica Stender was the guest speaker at the PRSP Council Meeting. Jessica is a political organizer for AFT-W. Jessica talked about organizing members, working on the Walker recall, and working on senate recalls. Nationwide our rights are being taken away. We need to organize from the ground up. Nothing is better than people talking to each other. We need to go back to our locals and talk to members about getting engaged,

keeping committed, and staying involved. We decide that we want to keep the union going, not the employer. Jessica will be going around the state to give local leaders strategies for talking to members about how and why to stay involved in the union. To make the recommitment successful, the strongest unions will have a strong steward structure. The organizing committee should have 10% willing to serve as point people. This structure will make the work manageable and effective and there are not one or two people doing everything.

Elections were also held at the session. Beginning this year, there will be a two-year election cycle. Elected to the Council were: Council Chair, Dawn Konze (Local 3605), Council Vice Chair, Richard Seibet (Local 243), and Council Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Goodman (Local 2398). On Friday, Pam Miller (Local 3605) was elected Vice President of PSRP.

From Kim Yoder:

“Who decides? WE DECIDE!”

On October 27 and 28 I attended our AFT-W State Convention and I have to say it was extremely motivating and well worth my time. We focused a lot of our time on what has happened since Scott Walker took office and what impact it has and will have on us and the people around us.

Bryan Kennedy, AFT-W President, spoke to the importance of us, as employees, sticking together and keeping our local unions strong. There is strength in numbers and it will help us have an equal voice in our job as we fight to alter the power struggle to keep things **FAIR**. It is extremely important for us to pull together and speak as a united group. He also stated that WE CAN DO THIS because people before us gave a lot more than we ever will to keep this right.

Jessica Stender, our AFT-W Political Organizer, also met with us and gave a great session on how to keep and grow our local membership, which is where the quote “Who decides? WE DECIDE!” came from. She’s right. Just because Walker took our right to negotiate away doesn’t mean HE CAN take our right to have a union, a common bond, a voice for our co-workers.

We wrapped up with Randi Weingarten, AFT-National President, telling us how motivating we are to people all over the nation as we continue our fight, in Madison, against the attack on working people of Wisconsin. We will and have to recall Scott Walker. He and the tea-party have the working people pitting against each other instead of focusing on the 1% of the wealthy that are not paying their fair-share. The working class, teachers and students are carrying this recession on their backs when they are NOT even the cause of it. Per student cost has dropped \$750/per child and some workers have taken cuts from 8-18% in take home pay. There are so many reasons we should be outraged that Scott Walker is our Governor and should be fired up and motivated enough to GET HIM OUT!

If you would like to meet with me or anyone of our delegates that attended the convention, let us know and we would love to go over more information with you. Thank you for allowing me to be a delegate to represent member of Local 2398.

From Kathy Farley:

The 2011 AFT-Wisconsin Convention was held October 26-28 at the Plaza Hotel & Suites in Eau Claire and began Wednesday night with a delegate and guest reception.

The general session started at 8:30 Thursday morning with a welcome speech and State of the Union address by AFT-Wisconsin President Bryan Kennedy. The session continued with the keynote speaker, Howard Dean, Ex-Governor of Vermont. Howard spoke on how Governor Walker has declared war on Wisconsin Middle Class families, including teachers, secretaries, and many others. Howard also spoke on voter suppression, including the new voter ID bill and legislative redistricting.

Convention attendees went from the general session to their respective council session. There are six councils within AFT-Wisconsin, including: 1) Graduate Employees, 2) Higher Education, 3) PK-12, 4) PSRP (which stands for Paraprofessional and School-Related Personnel, which is our council), 5) State Employees, and 6) WTCS, plus there is a Retiree chapter.

Following the individual council sessions was a joint luncheon meeting. We heard from WEAC President Mary Bell, Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers, and Attorney Tim Hawks.

AFT-W Government Relations Representative Scott Spector spoke next. He reported that we cannot let education play second fiddle to anything in this state. One in three African Americans, one in four American Indians, and one in ten students overall drop out of Wisconsin schools.

He informed us that millions of dollars have been donated for pro-Walker ads, which will increase during the next two weeks. Recall efforts will begin for Governor Walker starting November 15. Pat Kreitlow plans on running against Shawn Duffy for U.S. Congress in 2012.

AFT-National has given a lot of money to Wisconsin's efforts the past nine months. Some union members think of their union as an insurance policy – if I pay my premium (union dues), I will be taken care of. In these tough times, we need to look at it more like a gym membership – just because I pay my membership (union dues) doesn't mean I will get anything out of it; I need to show up and do some work.

Governor Walker wants to outsource and hire investment firms to manage our retirement system, and he wants to pay them big money. There are \$90 billion in the Wisconsin Retirement System, and it is one of the most successful systems in the world!

Separate committee meetings followed the luncheon. Eleven committees comprise the convention, including: 1) Constitution, 2) Credentials, 3) Education (K-12 & Early Childhood), 4) Education (University), 5) Education (WTCS), 6) Elections, 7) Fiscal Policy & Auditing, 8) Retirement, 9) Sergeant-at-Arms, 10) Social Issues, and 11) State Employment.

A COPE (Committee on Political Education) Reception followed the committee meetings, and the reception was followed by entertainment by Comedian Larry Heagle.

The Delegate Session began at 8:30 Friday morning with committee reports and a talk from AFT-National President Randi Weingarten. One amendment and several resolutions were voted on at the Delegate Session.

A couple of dates in the very near future to keep in mind: An AFT-W solidarity social on Tuesday, November 15, at the Labor Temple on Birch Street in Eau Claire. There will also be a rally in Madison on Saturday, November 19.

Our union can accomplish far more together than we ever could separately. **Solidarity!**

From Sue Volkman:

Given the uncertainty of what lies ahead for our Union due to the governor's taking away our collective bargaining rights, I wasn't sure what to expect from this year's AFT-Wisconsin convention. The message I took away from the convention was hope. I realized that there are many people not only across the state, but across the nation that are fighting to help us restore the rights that were taken from us by Walker.

Each of us can by:

- staying united as a local
- recommitting to join the Union
- signing the Walker recall petitions
- asking our relatives and friends to sign the recall petitions
- voting to recall Walker

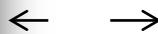
Please remember, if you do nothing, that is what you'll get – nothing.

From Doug Dekan

Bev Hilton and I attended the Retirement Committee. Once again we were reminded about how solid the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) is. It is one of the best in the United States and in the top ten in the world. It has assets of \$80 billion. Walker is talking about privatizing the management of the funds which is a difficult concept to understand. Why mess with something that isn't broken. Another thing he is proposing is making participation in the WRS optional for new hires. If new hires would choose not to participate, it would mean less money going into the fund. Those people currently working as public employees along with retirees receiving WRS benefits need to keep an eye on what Walker wants to do with the retirement fund. Walker has commissioned a "study" of the WRS to be done with the results due by the end of June 2012.



This year's
delegates



AFT-Wisconsin President Bryan
Kennedy



AFT-National President Randi
Weingarten

Lobbying Meeting with Congressman Ron Kind

On Monday, November 7, 2011, Lisa Storms and Kathy Goodman, along with union leaders from the Eau Claire School District and UW-Stout met with Congressman Ron Kind at his Eau Claire Office.

The purpose of the lobbying effort was to discuss the American Jobs Act. This Act is more commonly referred to as "President Obama's Jobs Bill." The U.S. Senate voted down the bill a few weeks ago, however the plan is to break the bill into smaller pieces and try to get separate parts of it passed. Many elements of the bill deal with investing in public infrastructure, protecting teacher and public-sector rights and renovating and modernizing technical colleges and the public K-12.

Please read the [AFT American Jobs Act ACE Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

To see how this bill will affect Wisconsin, go to:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/THE_AMERICAN_JOBS_ACT_Impact_WI.pdf

It is important that we fight for this bill. Please write to your representatives and encourage them to pass the Jobs Act.

Submitted by

Kathy Goodman

From Labor Relations

There are currently no grievances.

The College may ask that employees start using Family Medical Leave (FML) in conjunction with sick leave. It is within their right to do so; however, we want to make sure that this is being done fairly across the board. If you have been asked to do this, please let us know.

Just a reminder that you do not need to get approval to use your personal time. Please notify your supervisor at least 24 hours in advance, if possible, of your intent to use personal time.

Please contact a union officer or a union steward if you have workplace issues or concerns. A current union steward listing is included in this newsletter, along with a list of the current officers/committee chairs and their contact information.

In Solidarity,
Kathy Goodman, Labor Relations Chair

A Special Thank You

CVTC Crew! I want to thank you for your kind words of support. My Dad LOVED CVTC. It means so much to see all the love you had for him. I know he feels it! So thank you all!

Sincerely, Maya Thobaben

FYI Dave Thobaben worked at CVTC as the student activities advisor and passed away in July of this year.

From the Social Committee

Submitted by Kim Vollmer

Eight members plus two family members helped with the highway cleanup on Saturday, October 22. It took one hour and eight bags of garbage were collected. Thank you to those who participated: Carol Bowe and daughter Kayla, Kurt Carlson, Cheryl Dahl and husband Roger, Karen Delaney, Kris Jackson, Sheri James, Judy Schulz, and Kim Vollmer. The next cleanup will be in the spring.



Save the date:

Cabin Ridge Rides in Cadott has been reserved for Saturday, Feb 18, 2012, for Local 2398' winter party. Details to follow.

Baby Report



Iris Genevieve Rogge!
9lbs 6oz
21 inches long
Born Saturday, September 17
Proud mom is Denise Rogge.

Jay Maloney with new granddaughter
Alexis.



Wedding Bells

Sheri Brandstetter is now Sheri James. She and Clark were married on October 8. Best wishes!!



Local 2398 Officers and Committee Chairs

Lisa Storms

Local 2398 President

BEC Room 109, Work: 833-6347, Home: 833-1956, Email: lstorms@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Kim Yoder

Local 2398 Vice President

BEC Room 116, Work: 833-6308, Email: kyoder@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Kathy Farley

Local 2398 Secretary

BEC Room 148, Work: 715-858-1831, Cell: 715-829-5793, Email: kfarley@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Deb Ausman

Local 2398 Treasurer

BEC Room 112, Work: 715-833-6225, Email: dausman@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kathy Goodman

Local 2398 Labor Relations Chair

BEC Room 109, Work: 833-6461, Home: 839-0970, Email: kgoodman@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bev Hilton

Local 2398 Newsletter Chair

BEC Room 148, Work: 858-1832, Email: bhilton@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Raeann Hutchinson

Local 2398 Membership Chair

Local 2398 Negotiations Chair

Chippewa Falls Room 119, Work: 715-738-3840, Email: rhutchinson@cvtc.edu

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Local 2398 Stewards

The Labor Relations Committee is comprised of the Chair, President, Vice President and Union Stewards. The most important aspect of being a union steward is to provide our members a link to the union at all campus locations. A steward is trustworthy and known by co-workers as someone they can go to for information or help. Stewards are there to listen and be an extra pair of eyes to report workplace issues so we can follow-up. Please contact the steward at your work location for issues, questions, or concerns you may have about the union/contract. Stewards have received training and all conversations are strictly confidential.

Pictures of the stewards and contact info are on the following pages.



Kathy Goodman

Local 2398 Labor Relations Chair

BEC Room 109, Work: 715-833-6461, Email: kgoodman@cvtc.edu,
Personal: 715-839-0970, Email: kathleenlg@gmail.com
Work Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Job Title: Curriculum Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since June 11, 1984



Lisa Storms

Local 2398 President

BEC Room 109, Work: 715-833-6347, Email: lstorms@cvtc.edu
Personal: 715-833-1956, Email: stormsli23@yahoo.com
Work Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Job Title: Curriculum Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since August 20, 2001



Kim Yoder

Local 2398 Vice President

BEC Room 116, Work: 715-833-6308, Email: kyoder@cvtc.edu
Personal: Email: zoda@charter.net
Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Job Title: Financial Aid Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since January 3, 2000



Brenda Meinen

Union Steward Business Education Center

BEC Room 159, Work: 715-852-1384, Email: bmeinen@cvtc.edu
Personal: Email: harleymum2002@hotmail.com
Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Job Title: Program Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since January 2, 1990



Sue Sie

Union Steward Health Education Center

HEC Room 100, Work: 715-833-6349, Email: ssie@cvtc.edu
Personal:
Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Job Title: Program Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since September 6, 1988



Jean Alcantar

Union Steward Emergency Service Education Center and West Campus

ESEC Room 118, Work: 715-855-7051, Email: jalcantar@cvtc.edu
Personal:
Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Job Title: Program Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since May 9, 1994



John Creaser

Union Steward Gateway/Nano

MEC Room 136, Work: 715- 874-4634, Email: jcreaser@cvtc.edu
Personal: 715-289-3386, Email: majjac@centurylink.net
Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (hours may vary by semester)
Job Title: Electronic Parts Room Assistant
Member of Local 2398 since August 9, 1984



Raeann Hutchinson

Union Steward Chippewa Campus

Chippewa Falls Room 119, Work: 715-738-3840, Email: rhutchinson@cvtc.edu

Personal: Email: rhutchinson2@gmail.com

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Job Title: Campus/Recruitment Assistant

Member of Local 2398 since May 13, 1993



Jeannie Krig

Union Steward Menomonie Campus

Menomonie Room 100, Work: 715-233-5340, Email: jkrig@cvtc.edu

Personal:

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Job Title: Campus/Program Assistant for Business & Industry Services

Member of Local 2398 since June 11, 1973



Paul Wittrock

Union Steward River Falls Campus

River Falls Room 100, Work: 715-426-8200, Email: pwittrock@cvtc.edu

Personal: 715-308-4887, Email: jpwittrock@charter.net

Work Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Job Title: Office Assistant

Member of Local 2398 since August 12, 1987



Jim Mangan

AFT-W Staff Representative

Phone: 715-505-2835

Email: mangan@aft-wisconsin.org

Recall Info

Note: As information regarding the recall of Scott Walker is made available, it will be posted on the union's website. Visit the website for info on the kickoff scheduled for Saturday, November 12, at Phoenix Park in Eau Claire.

Thanks to all who submitted items and photos for the newsletter.