AFSCME Local 34 Hennepin County Social Services Unit

May 2018

THE LOCAL 34 BANNER

Who’s in Local 34?
Job Classifications Covered by Our Contract

- Case Management Assistants
- Community Health Specialists
- Chemical Clinical Health Specialists
- Child Protection Social Workers
- Child Support Officers
- Clinical Nursing Specialists
- Community Health Workers
- Corrections Counselors
- Dental Assistants and Hygienists
- Financial Case Aides
- Health Care Assistants
- Health Care Quality Improvement Specialists
- Human Services Representatives
- Interpreters
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Medical Assistants
- Medical Examiner Investigator Assistants
- Medical Examiner Technicians
- MHP Medical Services Coordinator
- Psychiatric Social Workers
- Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists
- Public Health Nurses
- Record Information Specialists
- Sentencing To Serve Crew Leaders
- Social Workers and Senior Social Workers
- Special Programs Counselors
- Sterile Processing Technicians
- Training Specialists
- Veterans Service Representatives
- Volunteer Coordinators
- WIC Public Health Nutritionists

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AFSCME Local 34 Master Negotiations Committee members Karen Anderson, Grace Baltich, Julio Blee Alarcon, Kevin Chavis, Justin Dempsey, Jean Diederich, Catherine Dunaway, Dennis Dyce, Christina Eichorn, Alex Erickson, Kenneth W. Garnier, Sally Hoover, Maggie Keating, Kathy Kelly, Deb Konechne, Paul Madison, Sheila Mattson, Kathleen O’Brien, Brian Olson, David Paurus, Kay Powell, Patrick Regan and Lindsay Schwab have met with members of Local’s 552, 1719, 2822, 2864 and 2938 to present & review possible contract proposals. We will have met between 5 & 6 times to refine our ideas and craft our final proposal to present to the Employer on May 7, 2018. The evenings have been long as we discuss, revise and vote on different proposals. Please thank our members who have been working hard on your behalf to make sure that your concerns from the survey have been represented.

The picture below is of the majority of our joint Master Negotiations Committee members.

The following members have been appointed to serve as your Local 34 Table Team for the negotiations process: Grace Baltich, Justin Dempsey, Jean Diederich, Alex Erickson, Kenneth W. Garnier, Sametta Hill, Paul Madison, Sheila Mattson, Bobbie Miller Thomas, David Paurus and Lindsay Schwab. Wish them luck as they go to the table beginning May 7th!
Final Edition of “If Jean Ran the World” - President’s Report - Jean Diederich
(Note: I really never ran the world! It was always you.)

What do I say after 17 years of serving you as President? I am stepping back and will be a “rank and file” activist of our local as other leaders step forward to serve you.

Folks have asked me what has been the best part of being an officer of our local. The answer is so simple - meeting you, learning what is important to you, where you come from, what your union experience is, where you plan to be in a few years. The conversations have been so delightful. We have fabulous people in our local who care about each other, the clients we serve and the work we do. We have had our ups and downs over those years. Some contracts were not as robust as others but we always stood together as we faced whatever came our way. No matter what happened in our safe space with “discussions” that could be quite heated we walked out of the room united in our goals - a safe work environment, decent wages & health insurance, fabulous stewards to represent our members and a bit of fun along the way.

Thank you to all who mentored me in my union, work and personal life over the years. There are so many of you and I know I will miss some folks (please forgive my memory) but some who stand out are Gloria Lundberg, Lucille Olson, Matt Nelson, Mike Freier, Kay Ahles, John Herzog, Alice McGuigan, Maureen Glover, Nancy Fleming, David Heins, Barry Bloomgren, Doug Boler, Maggie Keating, Chalmers Davis, Audie Lussier, Michelle Stein, Wes Volkenant, Darrell Ray, Margaret Cummings, Jeanne Norrgard, Leslie Randall, Peggy Bennett, Eliot Seide, Cliff Polehler, Bob Velez, Katie Farber, Rollie Toenges, Randy Johnson, Susie Olson, Andrea Lazo-Rice, Darlene Fota, Clifford Robinson, Anita Urvina, Molly McLuckie, Rhonda Griffin, Lynn Stetler, Bill Peters, Dean Enge, Karen Wallin, Laura Floistad and, most recently, Jolene Catudio, Kenneth W. Garnier, Alex Erickson, Ali Marzolf, Paul Madison and Christina Eichorn. A huge thank you to all my supervisors & unit members who supported my ability to be away from my desk to attend meetings during the work day. You folks rock! You, along with all my coworkers, officers and stewards over the years helped to shape my character, integrity, compassion, knowledge and passion as I grew in my role as a County employee, a union activist & officer and a human being. You have all made this worthwhile. I am so grateful to have met you, worked with you and helped you when needed.

THANK YOU! You are the absolute best AFSCME members and friends.

Jean

ATTENTION

The Election of delegates and alternates for the AFSCME International Convention held July 16 - 20, 2018 will be held at the June 6, 2018 General Assembly instead of the May 2, 2018 General Assembly in order to comply with the need, per the terms of both our Local 34 and the International Constitutions, to send out the notice of this election via U.S. Mail at least 15 days prior to said vote.

That meeting will be held at 5:30 PM in HSB 110, 525 Portland Ave (corner of Portland Ave & 6th St).

Any member in good standing is eligible to put their name forward for this election. Look for the notice of the election for complete information.

Thank you.
Thank you Local 34 for giving us the opportunity to attend the 2018 Labor Notes Conference in Chicago from April 6th-8th. Labor Notes can mean many things. It is a magazine, book publisher, conference, and network of union members, leaders and activists. They say they have been the voice of activists putting the movement back into the labor movement.

We had a packed agenda from Friday PM to Sunday PM. Between the 11 of us that went, 9 of us were attending for the FIRST time. Many of us are newer Stewards and on the Member Action Team. There were almost 3000 attendees at this conference. It was great to connect with union members from all over the world! I enjoyed getting to know the other Local 34 attendees better.

We were able to learn new things at the multiple workshops and speakers. To name a few of the workshops, Dealing with Difficult Supervisors, Using FMLA, Black Worker’s Rights, Creative Organizing and Strategic Mischief, The Crisis in Puerto Rico, Going on the Offense to Defend Immigrant Members (DACA), History of Labor, Audio Editing for Beginners, Supercharge your Grievance, Assertive Grievance Handling, Using Social Media In Your Campaigns, Organizing Never Stops, Secrets Of A Successful Organizer, and more.

We could fill the newsletter summarizing all that we learned. Here are some quotes from a few of us:

I really appreciated all unions standing together with teachers and how on fire everyone was to push back on employers to fig fight for what was right. – Sametta Hill

Seeing workers from different industries share tactics they’ve used that have worked and the overall vibe of camaraderie and unity is something I won’t soon forget. This is a conference we should definitely continue to give our members the opportunity to attend. – Shanaya Dungey

We can be doing more. We can do more to organize ourselves. We can increase our community partnerships. Our union consists of a wide variety of people who have families, friends and neighbors. It is likely that issues that our workers are facing will impact their lives beyond the workplace. We need to find a way to build partnerships. This can include making sure people have the resources to get to meetings. Do workers need a ride? Is the language that we are using inclusive to all? Our we supporting events and causes that are important to the communities that we live in? Let’s make sure that our union is as inclusive as possible. – Bobbie Miller Thomas

As frustrating as the crowded or overflowing workshops were on some occasions, it was also very powerful and a good sign of the momentum being built worldwide. – Dave Paurus

I left feeling Empowered and encouraged to continue to educate my fellow co-workers and Union on what should be the platform for us as Laborers. – Iyana Galloway

I had thought it might be boring or tedious, but I was wrong! I had such a blast in each one of the workshops I attended! The energy and commitment of all the people at the conference was astounding! It really fired me up for the Union even more than I already was! – Amorette Robeck

With all the attacks on our union, including the nearing Janus decision from the Supreme Court. We need to build alliances with the laborers we met from all over the world at Labor Notes, but more importantly, we need to build alliances with each and every member of Local 34. We cannot let our differences and this election erode the strength we truly have. I love my brothers and sisters of Local 34. – Lindsay Schwab

In Solidarity, Amorette Robeck, Iyana Galloway, Yunuen Avila, Shanaya Dungey, Bobbie Miller Thomas, Dave Paurus, Jim Edin, Lindsay Schwab, Tamika Hannah, and Deb Konechne (note that Deb attended the event on her own time. All the others were elected by the membership to this event.)

-submitted by Lindsay Schwab
From Brian Olson. One of your Co-chief Stewards

Good day! I am looking at the rain/snow coming down, suspended from Maxis, and wondering about when we will experience 70 degrees again? And pondering the human condition in 2018. SO much has changed in the world, and yet, so little has changed. We are still a Union, we still need one another. I am hearing every day from everyone, the huge importance of relationships in their lives and the workplace. We are all still human, and we all still have social needs and relationships in all aspects of our lives. Oh, and change? Today, 4/24, it is 62 degrees,

One aspect is Social media, I hear more and more people removing Social media from their day to day lives. Social media can be extremely dangerous in the workplace. As a friendly reminder, we must always be mindful of what we share about ourselves, what we do, where we are, as things may detrimental to our character. It can change perspectives about you.

In the past year, I have witnessed so much change in workers’ attitudes and perspectives. Some have shared how much they miss Century Plaza such that there was comradery and an interconnectedness amongst all types of workers there that kept us together. They say change is good, but it seems change is changing faster than an even a younger person can keep up! The good thing about change is, we all have one another to help each other keep up with the times.

In National news – AFSCME awaits the Supreme Court Decision in Janus V. AFSCME. The case brought forward debates about the dues Unions charge workers for the benefits of being in a Union. The picture below depicts Janus, the God of Beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology, and presided over passages, doors, gates and endings, as well as in transitional periods such as from war to peace. He was usually depicted as having two faces looking at opposite ways, one towards the past and the other towards the future, at times, one young face, and one old face. CHANGE. The other symbol is a Union picture with the phrase ‘Don’t tread on me’. Interestingly enough, this seems symbolic of the current status of where things are today with Unions in society. We, the Union, will fight for our way, but will transition, find new beginnings if the ruling opposes AFSCME to whatever results come forward. Your Local 34 AFSCME Union Chapter will never die.

The Janus case represents the fact that employees cannot be given free Union benefits without paying dues. Nowhere can you have a service without paying for it. The Supreme Court heard the case in late February that once again raises the question of whether public employees must pay dues even if they disagree with their union’s position. The case, like two others that have reached the high court in recent years, pits unions, who say mandatory fees are necessary to prevent “free riders” from benefiting from union contracts, against dissenting members, who argue that being forced to pay dues violates their First Amendment rights. Janus and others, though, argue that the kind of issues public employee unions negotiate — things like state employee pay, pensions, or when teachers can be fired — are inherently political. AFSCME argues that the Abood precedent should be maintained, because it prevents “free riders” from getting the benefits of union contracts without paying for them. They also argue that having one representative of employees makes it easier to bargain and “ensure labor peace.” Lastly, political issues aside, the Union stands for Worker Rights.

Thank you to Local 34 Executive Board and to Alex Erickson who did all the legwork on facilitating getting a block of tickets to the Lynx home opener on May 20th. Those tickets were purchased within five minutes of the email sent to the membership.

Members stated that they would like to see this done again for another Lynx game. When asked, members also listed the following teams for future Local 34 games with members & families:

Gophers, Loons, Saints, Twins, United, Vikings, Vixen, Wild & Wolves

The membership will discuss this at a future meeting to see if this is something we can do again.
The Social Workers in Long Term Services and Supports area have been involved over the last 3 years to bring the issue of pay equity between SWs and PHNs to Hennepin County’s attention. At this time SWs in Long Term Services and Supports are now expanding this information to all SWs in HSPHD as we prepare for the next contract negotiations beginning this coming spring of 2018.

To preface this message and make it very clear to SWs & PHNs, the issue of unfair wages was not created by PHNs, but rather evolved over years of the employer offering and approving pay differences for the two job classes.

Social Workers value their working relationships and friendships with their coworker PHNs, and in no way would interfere with the PHN job class. However, SWs feel PHNs are not aware of how Hennepin County compares to other counties in valuing SWs and PHNs equally, and how the wages differ enormously between Hennepin County & other counties.

In the last contract in 2016, Hennepin County Management approved for PHNs a “market rate adjustment” of an additional 5% wage increase in both 2016 and 2017 for those PHNs at the top of the steps, in addition to their 2.5% raise which totaled a 7.5% raise for both 2016 & 2017. Management stated this was necessary due to “recruitment and retention” challenges with PHNs. Meanwhile SWs received no market rate adjustment.

This increase in PHN wage added to the already existing huge pay disparity between SWs and PHNs. Although our Local 34 negotiating team fought for pay equity for Social Workers that are MnCHOICES Certified Assessors until the last hour, Hennepin County management adamantly refused. When Local 34 countered the 5% wage adjustment for PHNs at the top with a proposed split for both job classes (SWs and PHNs), again management refused.

What ensued was widening of the income gap between SWs and PHNs, and heightening of the division between the two job classes. In other words, adding insult to injury for SWs, and promoting divisiveness between fellow workers and union members.

Over the last three years SWs in Long Term Services and Supports gathered statistics, organized meetings, wrote numerous correspondence, conducted job comparisons, and met with Union Representatives, Management, Human Resources, and Labor Relations. SWs gained ground, and Management was in support of our request, but Human Resources and Labor Relations were not. SWs were told by Human Resources that they do not consider the SW job class to have “recruitment and retention” issues (their “indicator” of need for market rate adjustment), and that they believe the pay for SWs in Hennepin County is in line with other counties. Their analysis only looked at SW pay between the counties, and did not compare the wage differences between SWs and PHNs in other counties. And even with their analysis, Hennepin County’s SWs wages were still the lowest among the counties compared. We think their analysis was short-sighted, narrow and flawed. In the end, SWs are asking and deserve to be valued equally for their hard work. SWs are asking for wages to be fair and in line with that of other counties.

The following is a breakdown by counties of how much each county pays their SWs and PHNs (see chart on page 7). As you will see, NO OTHER COUNTIES have such a large pay disparity at the top of the scale between the two job classes as that of Hennepin County. These statistics are evident to how much other counties equally value the work of their SWs and PHNs.

Hennepin County Social Workers are paid the least out of all Metro County comparisons!

The Social Workers struggle is not over! The next contract negotiations between the AFSCME Council 5, AFSCME Union Local 34, and Hennepin County will begin in May 2018, and this is our opportune time to request pay equity between the SW and PHN job classes.

Please note, it is important through this process for AFSCME Union members to be respectful and professional in how we conduct marches, and communicate with Hennepin County Commissioners, Managers, and Labor Relations. Each member’s conduct reflects on all members as a whole.

What can you do?

*Be an ACTIVE UNION MEMBER!

*Attend AFSCME Union Local 34 Meetings and SUPPORT our Union Representatives and Negotiation Table Team as they fight for us with the next contract!

*Attend AFSCME Union Local 34 on-site drop by meetings when they are in your location, and ask to sign a petition asking for pay equity between the SW and PHN job classes!

*Participate in organized Union marches.

*Stay informed! Read Union News Letters. Review proposed contracts. Make your voice known!

*VOTE only for a fair contract!

In solidarity,

Social Workers in Long Term Services & Supports
AFSCME Union Local 34
April GA highlights

We had a special guest speaker, Kaela Berg, from MN Fair Trade Coalition. She spoke about the issues we face with world trade and the ramifications the trade agreements have on our daily lives. She noted that the weakest protections are in the areas of medicine, food, labor and the environment.

M/S/C to renew our dues in the MN Fair Trade Coalition at $300.00.

Four new stewards were sworn in: Delia Dilday, Tasheema Hopson, Sheri Peterson and Amorette Robeck.

We regretfully accepted the resignation of Karen Womack as steward effective April 30, 2018.

Chief Steward Kenneth W. Garnier gave brief overview of content of our correspondence on the county systems and the need to be vigilant as there is no expectation that anything is confidential. This includes email and Skype.

Election of four (4) members to Netroots Nation. Christina Eichorn, Alyssa Saby, Kiya Shafer and Sean Watkins were elected to attend this event. The local will cover registration, roundtrip airfare, three (3) days lost time, lodging for four (4) nights and per diem of $69.00/day for 4.5 days.

Election of ten (10) members to Midwest School for Women Workers. Shanaya Dungey, Tamika Hannah, Nailah Holman, Remy Huerta-Stemper, Amy Kelvie, Kaeli Larson, Elle Meza, Bobbie Miller Thomas, Sheri Peterson and Kay Powell were elected to attend this event. The local will cover registration, four (4) days lost time and mileage (parking and meals are covered by registration).

Vice President Alex Erickson reported on the agreement reached for the Community Health Specialists—a 1.5% across the board wage increase which is effective the 1st full pay period after they joined our bargaining unit. He noted that this success is due to the CHS members, well represented by Justin Dempsey, sticking together during the process. And the tenacity of our Field Representative, Jolene Catudio. Good news for our new members!

One day each lost time approved for our Treasurer and President to use for clearing out the file cabinets with our financial records. They go back a long time. Per financial best practices we only need to have the past seven years same as that is what is needed for tax purposes. Note: we decided to be safe and keep past ten years. From this point forward those records will be cleaned up annually.
Unionized Metro Counties 2018 Annual Wage Comparison between Social Workers & Public Health Nurses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>SW &amp; PHN Difference in pay scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hennepin County:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>$53,400.00 - $66,480.00</td>
<td>$25,080</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Social Worker</td>
<td>$54,288.00 - $78,204.00</td>
<td>$13,708</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHN</td>
<td>$89,900.00 - $92,136.00</td>
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| **Dakota County:** |                                  |          |          |
| Social Worker     | $59,048.00 - $92,262.00          | $0 Difference |          |
| PHN              | $59,048.00 - $92,262.00         | $0 Difference |          |

| **Washington County:** |                                  |          |          |
| Social Worker     | $61,950.00 - $84,886.00         | $0 Difference |          |
| PHN              | $61,950.00 - $84,886.00         | $0 Difference |          |

| **Ramsey County:** |                                  |          |          |
| Social Worker    | $60,269.52 - $89,283.24         | $5,534   |          |
| PHN              | $62,710.88 - $94,757.28         | $0 Difference |          |

| **Carver County:** |                                  |          |          |
| Social Worker    | $70,116.80 - $105,185.60       | $5,468   |          |
| PHN              | $66,456.00 - $99,694.40         | $0 Difference |          |

| **Scott County:** |                                  |          |          |
| Social Worker    | $63,522.00 - $99,253.00        | $11,731  |          |
| PHN              | $58,665.00 - $87,998.00        | $0 Difference |          |

**Hennepin County Social Workers are paid the least out of all Metro County comparisons!**

VP Baltich May newsletter

I would like to personally thank our President Jean Diederich for her decades of Solidarity and Leadership not only within our own AFSCME Local 34 & Council 5, but with the broader Labor movement as a whole. I have known Jean for over a decade, and have known her to be a steadfast and fearless advocate for dignity and respect for ALL Workers. And Jean rarely needed a microphone! I often didn’t need to see her to know she was in the room. As retiring President, Jean will leave a long legacy of Union activism and HUGE Shoes to fill! Thank you President Diederich!

Sisters & Brothers – This is the time for us to UNITE in SOLIDARITY! With the Janus Supreme Court case and our Freedom to join together in Union being attacked, we cannot feed in to the (continued next column)

With Contract Negotiations starting on May 7th, we MUST TAKE ACTION! We have POWER in Numbers! What you can do:

- **Wear GREEN every TUESDAY!!!** (If you don’t already have one, we have new AFSCME local 34 t-shirts ordered)
- **Attend the NEGOTIATIONS KICK-OFF RALLY on May 7th 12noon-1pm at the Gov Cntr Plaza level**
- **Become a MAT (Member Action Team) member!!** (help Educate, Agitate, and Organize!)
- **Watch for ongoing actions and communications throughout Negotiations!**
- **Stand STRONG AFSCME Local 34!!**
- Always In Solidarity,
  Grace Baltich, Vice-President
  763-300-1047 (personal cell)

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**May 2018**

**Wed. the 2nd - Local 34 General Assembly Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building
525 Portland Avenue, Room s L14/L15 Minneapolis 55415

**Fri. the 11th - Application deadline for AFSCME Council 5 scholarships**

http://afscmemn.org/scholarships

**Wed. the 16th - Local 34 Executive Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building
525 Portland Avenue, Room 917, Minneapolis 55415

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**June**

**Fri. the 1st - Application deadline for the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship**

http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program

**Wed. the 6th - Local 34 General Assembly Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building
525 Portland Avenue, Room 110, Minneapolis 55415

**Wed. the 20th - Local 34 Executive Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Human Services Building
525 Portland Avenue, Room 917, Minneapolis 55415
Nuts and Bolts
A brief guide to your Local 34

LOCAL 34 OFFICERS

President—Jean Diederich
First Vice President — Alex Erickson
Second Vice President — Grace Baltich
Treasurer—Paul Madison
Secretary—David Yang
Membership Secretary— Deborah Konechne
Sergeant-At-Arms— Andrea Lazo-Rice
Senior Chief Steward— Brian Olson
Junior Chief Steward — Kenneth W. Garnier
Members-At-Large—
Angel Alexander
Tamika Hannah
Sametta Hill
Brenda Louise
Alexandra Marzolf
Kay Powell

“Trade unions have been an essential force for social change, without which a semblance of a decent and humane society is impossible under capitalism.”
- Pope Francis

May 2018