

Proud To Be Union

“The AFL-CIO has done more good for more people than any [other] group in America in its legislative efforts. It doesn't just try to do something about wages and hours for its own people. No group in the country works harder in the interests of everyone.”

President Lyndon Johnson, 1965



Proud To Be Union

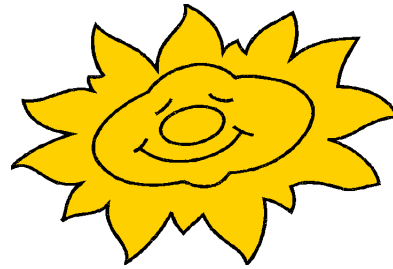
“What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more constant work and less crime, more leisure and less greed, more justice and less revenge.”

Samuel Gompers,
First AFL President

Federation News

Billerica Federation Of Teachers #1677

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Calendar

Billerica Town Election.... Saturday, Apr. 4
AFT-MA Convention...Fri./Sat. May 1/ 2
Labor Legislative Dinner...Friday, May 8
BFT Year-End Social.....Monday, June 8

Who's my building rep?

B.M.H.S.....Shirley Granfield
.....Sandi Lanteigne
Project Support..... Linda Kemski
Marshall Middle.... Jean Goldsmith
..... Tom Severo
Locke Middle.....Dick Donnelly
..... David Lucia
Ditson..... Charlene Mullen
.....Denise Roach
Dutile.....Danielle Sullivan
Hajjar..... Brenda Mogé
..... Barbara Shea
Kennedy.....Julie Dougrey
.....Jeanne Stanley
Parker.....Fay Iennaco
Vining.....Jennifer Naylor
.....Ilona Sewell
Paraprofessionals.....Linda Alpers
Nurses.....Gail Sprangers

Federation News



A Union of Professionals

American Federation of Teachers – Massachusetts
AFL-CIO

Billerica Federation of Teachers #1677

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April 2009

Nominations For BFT Leaders for 2009-2010

Nominations for 1 (one) BFT Officer and various delegate positions for 2009-2010 will take place at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, April 14th. The election is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th.

The office of Treasurer has been filled by appointment during the past year; the elected nominee will serve a 1-year term to complete the 2-year election cycle which began with the 2008 elections.

The High School mentoring committee position is a 1-year commitment to complete
(cont'd on p. 2)



Year-End Social Mon. June 8th

The BFT is beginning a new “tradition” this year with a Member Social to celebrate the year's accomplishments and to thank our June retirees. With the sunset of the town-wide retirement dinner, the BFT Executive Board has created this opportunity to insure that our members receive recognition as they retire.

Please save the date, and plan to join your colleagues for a year-end party. ☐

Mark Your Calendar

***N.B. New dates for May & June**

Member meetings at 3:15 pm

*(First 15 minutes for COPE agenda;
Regular business at 3:30 pm)*

location: BMHS lecture hall

Tues.Apr. 14th
[nominations for elected positions]

*Wed..May 13th
[elections 2:00 – 4:00 pm]

*Mon. June 8th
[installation of officers]

(nominations — cont'd from p. 1)

the current term. The Elementary mentoring position is a regular 3-year term.

Finally, there are several opportunities for representatives to various meetings. The Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council meets monthly to promote solidarity across the various union locals in our area. The Futures Convention needs 2 “younger” BFT delegates to promote unionism across the State. These 2 elected members will become *ex officio* members of the BFT Board.

The BFT Executive Board is also asking for volunteers to serve as tellers (ballot counters) on election day, May 13th. Please contact a Committee member if you are willing.

BALLOT POSITIONS for 2009 BFT ELECTIONS:

Executive Board Officer
Treasurer..... \$3,000.00 stipend

Mentoring Committee (2 positions)
(Elem. rep.).....for 3-year term
(H.S. rep.)..... for 1-year term

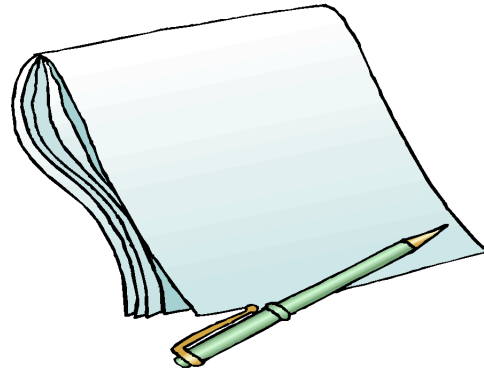
| <i>Union Event</i> | <i>No. of delegates</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2010 AFT Convention [Seattle,WA]..... | 6 |
| 2010 AFT-MA Convention [Quincy]..... | 12 |
| Merrimack Valley C.L.Council..... | 5 |
| MA AFL-CIO Convention..... | 3 |
| MA AFL-CIO Futures Convention..... | 2 |

If you wish to place your name in nomination, please contact Nominating Committee members (Don DeFeo, Paul Gaudet, and Gail Sprangers)

Attention, Billerica Voters

Candidates Kim Conway and Jim O'Donnell have received the endorsement of the Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council in their bids for School Committee and Selectman, respectively.

Please consider them when you vote this Saturday, April 4th.



ACTION ALERT #1

..... from Tom Gosnell, AFT-MA

There are growing threats to our collective bargaining rights around the issues of health insurance plans and the deductibles and co-pays in various plans. Many city and town officials are seeking to have sole control over which plans are offered, and what rates are paid by the employees. Some want to force employees, without negotiations, to join the GIC (Group Insurance Commission).

Please contact your state reps and state senators, and request that health insurance matters REMAIN as subjects of collective bargaining. Tell them you are OPPOSED to any proposal to change health insurance terms unilaterally, without contract negotiations.

ACTION ALERT #2

..... from Marie Ardito

Legislative Bill HR 1413 in Washington has been filed by Rep. Joseph Crowley (NY) to allow all who retired with a public pension to be able to subtract up to \$3,000 of their health care premiums from their pension before it is federally taxed. The bill is known as HELPS II, since it is an extension of an earlier bill that benefitted police and fire personnel years earlier. Teachers and other public employees had been overlooked until now.

As active employees, Billerica teachers and paras can subtract these premiums before their salaries are taxed, but currently this benefit is lost once one retires. As the bill's sponsor stated on introducing the legislation, "The average monthly pension benefit of a retired public servant is \$1,725, and many do not have Social Security benefits. A significant portion of a retired public servant's monthly pension check is going towards health or Long Term Care insurance premiums. In many cases, the retired public servant is using the entire pension benefit to pay for health insurance premiums."

Contact your congressperson and request that he/she co-sponsor HR 1413.

ACTION ALERT #3

..... from Marie Ardito

The GPO (Government Pension Offset) and WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) are Social Security regulations that discriminate against individuals who have chosen to serve their communities or country in public jobs by reducing retired public employees' Social Security or survivor benefits. Non-public employees with private pensions get to keep their entire pension AND receive their full Social Security or survivor benefits.

Legislative Bill S 484 in the U.S. Senate has been filed to repeal these unjust laws that punish public employees. Both Massachusetts senators have co-sponsored the bill, but the two NH senators have yet to sign on.

Legislative Bill HR 235 is the companion bill in the House, and it has been co-sponsored by the entire Massachusetts delegation. The New Hampshire U.S. Representatives need convincing to co-sponsor the legislation.

If you live in NH please contact your congresspersons and senators, and request that they co-sponsor S 484 and HR 235.