

Member Dues '08-'09

Esther Chamberlain, Asst. Treasurer

For the 2008-2009 school year, the BFT dues for full-time teachers and nurses will be \$553.32. This represents an increase of \$11.80 from the previous year. The AFT increased the yearly per caps of full-time members by \$7.80 for the upcoming year, and this represents the majority of the increase.

There was also a small increase in our affiliate dues to the MA AFL-CIO, and a decrease of \$1.20 per year per member in our Occupational Liability per caps. The local dues are .003% of the first step of the Bachelor's Scale and, as this has increased, so have our dues.

Paraprofessionals' dues are \$285.84 a year, while paraprofessionals earning less than \$12,000 a year will have union dues of \$152.16.

For full-time members receiving 21 checks, the per check deduction will be \$26.35, and members receiving 26 checks, the per check deduction will be \$21.28.

For members paying \$285.84, the per check deduction for 21 checks will be \$13.61 and those receiving 26 checks, the per check deduction will be \$10.99.

For members paying \$152.16, per check deduction for those receiving 21 checks will be \$7.24 and for those receiving 26 checks, it will be \$5.85 per check.



Federation News

Billerica Federation Of Teachers #1677

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Proud To Be Union

“The labor movement’s political activity is aimed at encouraging the greatest possible participation in elections. Democracy cannot succeed if only the rich and powerful have and use the votes.”

George Meany, 1978
President AFL-CIO
(1955 - 1979)

Calendar

AFT Day in NH..... Saturday, Oct. 4
MA voter deadline..... Wednesday Oct. 15
Fall BFT Social..... Thursday, Oct. 16
National Election..... Tuesday, Nov. 4

Who's my building rep?

B.M.H.S..... Shirley Granfield
..... Sandi Lanteigne
Proj. Support/BEAM.. 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..... Carey Ann Castine
Vining..... Ilona Sewell
Paraprofessionals..... Linda Alpers
Nurses..... Gail Sprangers

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A Union of Professionals

American Federation of Teachers – Massachusetts
AFL-CIO

Billerica Federation of Teachers #1677

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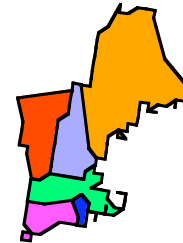
October 2008

Members Heading to NH; AFT Needs You Oct. 4th

by Cathy Dwyer

AFT Massachusetts members are going to Concord NH on Saturday, October 4th to help our AFT brothers and sisters turn their state “blue” for the upcoming national elections.

Your help is urgently needed to work toward reaching this goal, as we did in 2004.



We will be meeting at 9:00 am to hear AFT President Randi Weingarten address the volunteers about the importance of this election for the fate of public education. Members will then fan out to do door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, or visibility (sign holding at intersections) throughout the morning, concluding with lunch provided by AFT-NH.

(cont'd on p. 3 – Election '08)

Fall BFT Social, October 16

Please save THURSDAY afternoon, Oct. 16th to spend some time over drinks and food with your colleagues at the Fall BFT Social.

Tentative plans:

Time: 2:00 – 6:00 pm

Site: VFW Hall, Phiney Street

Mark Your Calendar

Member meetings at 3:15 pm

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

location: BMHS lecture hall

Tues. Nov. 25th

Tues..... Jan. 13th

Tues..... Mar. 10th

Tues..... Apr. 14th

[nominations for elections]

Tues..... May 12th

[elections 2:00 – 4:00 pm]

Tues..... Jun. 9th

[installation of officers]

Executive Board Meetings

Tues. Oct. 14th

Tues..... Dec. 9th

Tues..... Feb. 10th

President's Message..... Don DeFeo

We are now into the school year and important issues are starting to become evident.

Election 2008

On a national scale, we have the Presidential election, and your vote is imperative. There is still time to register to vote for Massachusetts residents (deadline: Oct. 15) and our New Hampshire members have two options: until 10 days before the election or, on Election Day itself, with proper qualifying documents.

No on #1

Statewide in Massachusetts, there is nothing more important than defeating Question #1. If this referendum passes, it will cause an upheaval of disastrous proportions. Eliminating the state income tax may sound great, but where will the moneys come from to keep the schools fully staffed and to keep other essential public services at present levels? BILLIONS of dollars in the state budget will be lost if this passes.

Remind your family and friends also to vote "NO" on this question, which will keep the status quo regarding state income tax.

The AFT-MA and the BFT are not the only ones concerned with this issue. I have spoken with Dr. Serio and both he and the School

Committee realize how important the "NO" vote is to our school district.

Your help is needed.
Please record your opposition at
www.votenoquestion1.com,
and click on the "TAKE ACTION" link.

Contract Negotiations

Closer to home, we are again in the negotiating season. The Billerica Federation of Teachers individual units (Paraprofessionals, Nurses and Teachers) have begun the process and soon will be meeting face-to-face with the Administrative team.

Please remember, even if your particular school does not have a staff member on the Negotiating Team, all members are treated with equal concern. As this process begins, we on the Team will not be able to speak about anything that is said at the meeting. So, please disregard all of the rumors that may be passed around. We haven't even started, and already I have heard that certain issues are resolved. We must be good (!)

Paraprofessionals Team:

Linda Alpers, VP Paraprofessionals
Christine Hill
Patricia Schneider

Nurses Team:

Gail Sprangers, VP Nurses
Helene Beckford
Cynthia Tomlin

Teachers Team:

Don DeFeo, President
Marion DePierro, VP Secondary
John Infanger
Debra Mondello
Charlene Mullen
Judy Spano-Davis

We will also have our AFT-MA field representative Dianne Heeley assisting us at every meeting. She is a veteran negotiator with 34 years of experience.

A Few Reminders:

- If you are the parent of a BMHS senior, check out the AFT website: Click "AFT+ member benefits", then "scholarship opportunities".
- Send in your intended course forms to the Administration office soon, so that you can be reimbursed for courses.
- We are still looking for two more Building Reps to lighten the load at BMHS.
- VOTE, VOTE, VOTE !

Have a great fall season,
Don DeFeo

Keep In Touch

To receive timely information about union matters, your home email address needs to be in the BFT Database. If you've not yet done so, please send that information to:

bfteditor@comcast.net
so that you'll receive union updates, especially as we go through contract negotiations this year.

(Election '08 – cont'd from p. 1)

Right now, this is the only AFT event being planned prior to the election, so we really need members to support this effort. I realize it is an early morning start, but the stakes are high as we work for our AFT-endorsed candidate, Barack Obama, and for Senate and House candidates that will fight for our issues.

Transportation will be provided, beginning from the Boston Teachers Union at 7:00 am, then heading up Route 93 with a stop (to be decided) in the Lawrence area. We will gather at the IBEW Hall, located at 48 Airport Drive in Concord, NH.*

If you want to ride the bus, you **MUST MAKE A RESERVATION** with me at: **cdwyer@aftma.net** or call 617-423-3342 as soon as possible.

If you choose to take your own vehicle, please contact me so that we can include you in the count for meals and campaign activities. ☐

* Directions: Take Route 93 North in NH. Take Exit 14 and turn right onto Loudon Road. After 0.7 of a mile, turn a slight right onto Airport Road. Go 0.4 of a mile. The IBEW Hall is on the right.

Are you registered to vote!?!

The Massachusetts deadline to register for the Nov. 4th Presidential Election is:

OCTOBER 15th
www.votinginfo.info