

AFSCME LOCAL 101 NEWSLETTER

Local and Chapter News • Upcoming Events • Spring 2017

Presidents Letter



(From left to right) Swearing in new Local 101 Officers: President - Carlos Gaona (City of Santa Clara), Vice President - Steve Jobel (VTA), Treasurer - Robyn Zamora (MEF) and Secretary - Astrid Canales (VTA)

Brothers and Sisters,

I am looking forward to the job ahead as the new President of Local 101. While it is going to be a tough year this coming year, I will do my best to strengthen the Local, and get us at the forefront of Labor in the 21st Century. To that end, my insight of what I feel should be our priorities, is as follows:

- We have worked hard to maintain strong finances in the Local, and we have a solid Finance Committee, which we will continue to keep moving forward.
- We have regularly scheduled Executive Boards meetings as a Local. We will be working to set up an additional Chapter Presidents meeting, as well as having the Local Board meeting at other locations. Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings.
- Our plan is to complete the updated Local policies this year.
- We will have a Strategic plan completed by the end of the year.
- I also wish to consider updating the Local Constitution and address this at the 2018 membership meeting in January 2018.

The specifics for these endeavors to be successful will mean that I will be meeting leaders and members. I really hope that we can make this happen and in doing so motivate our Chapter members to become more actively involved in the Union, and showcase the talents and skills that our members possess.

We will need all of us to come together and be active as we face the challenges in the courts and with the various plans the President has conceived (see later in this newsletter). With all your help, we can work to address them, and indeed beat them, but it will take the efforts of all of us in this Union!...

In Solidarity,

Carlos Gaona
President,
AFSCME Local 101



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HAVE YOU MOVED?

We occasionally send mail to our members with important information. If you've moved recently, please update us [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We're Stronger Together!

Maintaining membership in AFSCME Local 101 ensures that your voice is heard when communicating with Employers through

AFSCME Strong - Organizing Report!

The AFSCME-MEF Chapter continues to take the lead in our Local, and has started off the new year in fine fashion by already signing up over 60 new union members! In addition, AFSCME-MEF is already recruiting new Stewards. We plan to continue to sign up people and recruit additional Stewards and Leaders as the year progresses (see election results below).

In addition to leadership recruitment, our major objective for the early part of the year for Local 101 is to continue our efforts in converting fee-payers. We will focus initially on full-timers throughout each of our 14 Chapters, with a view to once again focusing on part-time employees later in the year. We are also planning a mid-year Organizing Blitz like the very successful blitz we had in 2016. Please contact your Union Staff person if you wish to be a part of this.

Signing up members is of great importance, not least with the potential Labor Secretary and especially the Supreme Court Justice nominee.

Trump's scary choice to head up the Department of Labor was Andrew Pudzer who has spent his career opposing minimum wage and worker protections. He would have been a disaster as Labor Secretary. Fortunately, organized labor fought hard and he withdrew his name! We must continue to fight these bad positions and people. Trump is now lining up Alexander Acosta

Judge Gorsuch the nominee for Supreme Court is no better. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has noted that Gorsuch "does not seem to appreciate the issues and challenges facing working families and the importance of upholding and enforcing our rights. His rulings to date raise very serious concerns about where he stands on issues like worker health and safety, equal opportunity in the workplace and the ability of agencies to adopt rules to protect workers' rights."

The sentiment has been echoed throughout Labor with AFSCME President Lee Saunders commenting that "we need a jurist who is open-minded and not ideological, whose respect for the Constitution leads her or him to safeguard the rights of all our people, not just the privileged and powerful. National Nurses Union Co-President Deborah Burger, RN has gone further, saying that Gorsuch should also be "opposed because of a far-right record that is consistently hostile to the rights and protections of working people."

Gorsuch has already written three opinions upholding National Labor Relations Board rulings against both employees, and Unions.

City of San Jose Update

CEO

The CEO MOA expires on June 30th, 2017 and we had expected to go into negotiations in the Spring. We anticipated a tough negotiation, and we would not be jointly negotiating with MEF (the MEF MOA expires in 2018). While the San Jose Police Officers Association (POA) members get a 20% raise phased in over the next three years, starting with a 10% bump in the 2017-18 fiscal year, the City offered CEO the same as the rest of the Federated Unions, namely a 3% increase and a one-year contract extension. Membership decided to accept the City offer and build toward 2018 with a contract campaign. Please get involved in our contract campaign

collective bargaining and policy changes that may affect your wages, your rights, and your safety (just a few examples).

You will have the right to vote on contract ratifications or rejections, who represents you at the bargaining table, and other contract enforcement matters. Let your voice be heard, and make it bigger and stronger.

Get your coworkers to join AFSCME Local 101, TODAY!

newsletter
sign up

click here

Please provide your home email address

CITY OF SAN JOSE MEF CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Robyn Zamora

Vice President
Dan Gibson

Secretary
Dan Earl

Treasurer
My Vuong

Chief Steward
Cindy Harlin

GARDNER FAMILY HEALTH CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Hermelinda Rojas

Vice President
Yolanda Del Rio

Sec/Treas
Norma Gonzales

MEF

Art Aldana



On Monday February 6, 2017, we lost a brother, AFSCME-MEF Treasurer - Art Aldana. He had been in the hospital since the end of December. We all thought he was on a slow road to recovery, but at the beginning of the month he took a turn for the worse and was given days. Union members and friends went to see him before he passed. It was sad, but they were able to meet the family and tell them stories about Art; at times, they even had them laughing. If you knew Art you would know he was smart, witty, caring and so much more. The family knew he was well loved by us all. As information on services becomes available we will pass them on. Right now, please keep Art and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Board Elections

Robyn Zamora is the new MEF President. Dan Gibson is the new MEF Vice-President. The following are the new Executive Board Members: Maxe Cendana, Bryan Barrows, Angela Johnson, Sandy Leffler, Jaime Fonseca and Janice Garcia. All of those elected will serve through November 2018. My Vuong (Finance) was recently sworn in as the new Treasurer.

There are still a couple of vacancies on the Board that we anticipate filling early 2017. MEF Stewards Council and Executive Board meets monthly every 2nd Thursday. There will be a Stewards Training on March 24th.

Membership Meetings

SAVE THE DATE for the MEF Member meeting on Thursday March 2nd at noon. The meeting will be at the Church across from San Jose City Hall. Further details will be forthcoming and you can ask your Steward and/or Officers for more details.



AFSCME Retiree Joan Goddard, AFSCME-MEF Vice President Dan Gibson and AFSCME-MEF Member John Savercool at a recent rally and march.

SCVWD - EA CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Liz Bettencourt

VP of Mgmt Relations
Merna Leal

VP of Membership
Cathy Paramo

VP of Outreach
Lilian Dennis

Director of Grievance
Greg Gibson

VP of Benefits
Jan Ortiz

Sec/Treas
Michele Keefhaver

CITY OF SAN JOSE - CEO CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
LaVerne Washington

Vice President:
Vacant

CITY OF GILROY CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Randy Carpenter

Vice President
Jeff Castro

CITY OF MORGAN HILL CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Osbaldo Esquivel

Vice President
Clint Byrum

Sec/Treas
John Henry

Oak Grove Unified School District Chapter Officers

President
Michael Poynter

Executive Vice President
James Moreno

Custodial Vice President
Cecilio Jaimes

Nutrition Vice President
Angela Isla

Operations Vice President
Kevin Fuller

Transportation Vice President:
Per Sorensen

Sec/Treas

Contract Campaign

We will commence ramping-up for both the AFSCME-MEF negotiations in 2018, through a mid-year surveying of the membership, numerous site meetings, and the formation of both the negotiating team and the Contract Action Team (CAT). This time we hope to have many more part-timers engaged and involved, including the newly-recognized Lifeguards. We anticipate a forceful campaign, again bearing in mind that the POA received (see earlier in newsletter). Part of this will be meeting throughout 2017 with City Council members. Please contact Charles Allen or your Union leaders to be a part of this campaign.

VTA Updates



Jon Maier is our newest elected VTA Board Member. He will be attending our next Steward Training. Jon is a Management Analyst in the Technology Department at VTA, where he has been for the last three years. He is excited about having a career in transit with VTA and especially enthusiastic about having AFSCME representation. When Jon is not keeping busy being a Steward, he is walking his four dogs, or pursuing his avid love of classic cars.

SCVWD EA Updates

Members in the trenches!

The Santa Clara Valley Water District employees have been on alert during these recent storms. The storm that hit on Tuesday, February 7th, was particularly nasty. On that day, SCVWD staff were notified by the San Francisquito Creek JPA of a leak in the levee on San Francisquito Creek near Highway 101 in Palo Alto.

The City of Palo Alto and SCVWD immediately dispatched its respective Operations and Maintenance crews to address the situation. Staff worked into the stormy evening, using approximately 700 sand bags to temporarily repair the outboard side of the levee and protecting the inboard side with plastic sheeting. This stabilized the levee to help us through the next storm—which is on the horizon.

Great work by SCVWD EA members **Jay Lee, Feliciano Aguilera, Ryan Tregoning, Jaime Gonzalez, Ray Van Praag, Andrew Diaz, Reuben Castro, Paul Coronado and Peter Gimenez!**



Photo of high water on SF Creek

Terilyn Richardson

Valley Transportation Authority

President
Steve Jovel

Vice President
Ron Acosta

Secretary:
Sylvia Vazquez

Town of Los Gatos

President
Jerett Blaskey

Vice President
Sherrie Olsen

San Jose Unified School District Chapter Officers

President
Todd Orlando

Executive Vice President
Israel Goins

Transportation Vice President
Holly Salvoktti

Operations/Grounds Vice President
Luis Ruiz

Nutrition Vice President
Maria Godo

Technology VP
Lily Knight

Sec/Treas:
Lilia Valenzuela

AFSCME BUSINESS AGENTS:

Charles Allen
John Tucker
Tina Acree
Jo Bates



SCVWD EA Crew on the levee, building "chimneys" with sandbags.

SHFB Campaign

Once again SCVWD Union members were very active in the District's participation in the SHFB Sorting Nights. Each year, the District kicks off our SHFB Campaign in October with our Halloween festivities and end with our Holiday Gala held in December. The following are our results from our 2016 campaign efforts:

Total pounds: 1,071
 Total financial donations: \$11,097
 Total meals provided: 27,525



Michele Keefauver (EA Member), Lin Moore (EA Member), Katie Blackwell, Evan Blackwell, Megan Keefauver (friends and relative of EA Member, Michelle Keefauver), Mike Duffy, Natalie Dominguez (EA Member)



Michelle Keefauver (EA Member), Mike Duffy & Timothy Ripp (EA Member)

#WHYIMARCH

by LaVerne Washington
 CEO President

Many were disappointed and dejected with the Presidential election results. Despite an overwhelming majority of Californians, and most Americans, voting for Hilary Clinton, Donald Trump and a new conservative Congress was elected.

What this now means for the Country, is for attempts to roll back civil rights, workers' rights, immigrant rights, religious freedom

and equal justice. Already with the inauguration of our new President, there has been a sense of doom amongst women, men, minorities, LGBTQ, immigrants, Christians, Muslims, Jews, disabled, scientists, environmentalist, union members and progressives to name a few. However, in California and throughout the Nation, people have been stepping up and taking Action. On the day after the inauguration,



January 21st, the Women's March occurred throughout the United States

and the World. There were marches in nations' capitals, and in small towns and large cities. Millions of women, men and children of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientation and abilities anticipated. The messages were conveyed with signs, hats, t-shirts, songs, prayers, poetry, call and response, speeches, hugs, kisses and hand holding. This movement was heard loud and clear around the world. It was a shot across the bow of Donald Trump, his cronies and allies, and those who will try to dismantle fundamental rights, to let them know that we will fight and we will win.

The weeks that have followed have had daily actions and plenty of organizing. People have been in the streets, at airports, in Hearings, in Town Hall Meetings, on University campuses, in schools, and anywhere there is a need to raise a voice to resist.

We need to continue to be engaged, and continue to hold ourselves and others accountable. We need to become active and be heard as the true majority of this country. We need to speak with voices that are loud, mighty and powerful. We need to support organizations that are chartered to protect our rights by volunteering and/or contributing. We need to write, phone, email and text Congress and support progressive local, state and federal legislators. We need to identify and campaign to elect new, progressive leaders who support our positions on issues. We need to contact and write letters to the media. We need to peacefully march and protest. And as a last resort, we may need to take legal action.

In short, we need to become a Movement. While one voice is mighty, some are louder and many are powerful.

Get involved!

AFSCME LOCAL 101

Local 101 serves 14 chapters in Santa Clara County and provides a full range of representation services including but not limited to: grievance filing, contract enforcement, and contract negotiation. Local 101 also offers member and officer trainings.

AFSCME Local 101 - San Jose Office
1150 N. First Street, Suite 101
San Jose, CA 95112
(510) 777-7703

Local 101 [Website](#)