Local 434 Executive Council Members

President—Curt Caswell
Vice President—Norm Dahn
Past President—Carol Harms
President-Elect—Cindy Oberle-Dahm
President of Aides—Mike Chase
President of Secretaries—Joy Mueller
Secretary—Tammy Hettenhausen
Treasurer—Brenda Kelley
Parliamentarian—Mary Barteau
East Building Rep—Brad Schmidt
West Building Rep—Brett Patterson
Calendar—Lee Meyer
Constitution—Kristin Demond
District Budget & Finance—Matt Casper-Geitzler
Grievance—Jeff Boyles
Health and Safety—Taree McGee and Cindy Thompson
Insurance—Rich Hodson
Legislative/COPE—Pat Watkins
Membership—Cindy Thompson
Nominating and Elections—Jen Stenger
Public Relations—Lucas Spriings
Professional Issues—Mike Anderson and Lisa Quinn
Technology (ad hoc)—Christina Rodd
SWAC—Paul Fraser
SWKLC—Paul Fraser

Inside this issue:

2 Union Members Help Rebuild a Local Theater
3 Our Union Dues Making a Difference in the Community
3 Dinner Night with Legends
3 The New Evaluation Process
4 The Edge Hosts This Year’s Holiday Party
4 Faculty Health Screenings Return This Year

There are no “in your face” changes.

In 2011 and 2012 we donated $3500 to East and West’s Health Clubs.

Our dues making a difference.

While it is accurate that the “Danielson Model” does reserve a rating of excellent for those teachers who are truly exceptional, what is not true is that this model is being used as the basis for this year’s evaluations. In fact, the Danielson model, if it is used at all in our District, and it may not be, will not be used until the 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 school year. The District is not required to implement a new evaluation system until that time, and neither the administration nor the Union is in any rush to speed up the process.

For those familiar with the PERA timeline, more alarming than the District’s requirement to adopt a new evaluation system by 2016, at the latest, is the stipulation that this new model include student growth as a measure of teacher performance. Just how this will happen is the subject of much debate, but certainly the implications of tying student test scores to teacher evaluations is a frightening concept for educators across the state.

For now, members of Local 434 can relax about pending evaluations. As Dr. Dosier has repeatedly assured us, the majority of our teachers have consistently been rated as Excellent, and they can expect to continue to be rated as Excellent until the District adopts new criteria for evaluating them. If the world does come to an end in 2012, as many prognosticators have predicted, it will not be the result of District 201’s teacher evaluations.

Our Dues Making a Difference

To help honor our retirees at East’s retirement dinner, and West’s retirement luncheon.

We’ve donated $2500 to East and West’s Health Clubs.

In 2011 and 2012 we donated $3500 to East and West’s athletic departments to help purchase banners for the gymnasium.

We will continue to use a small portion of our dues to give back to the community every year. Look for updates in subsequent issues of The Union Messenger to see how our dues continue to make a difference.

The Belleville East Health Club will again be conducting faculty health screenings on January 2.

The New Evaluation Process

(Continued from page 2)

started to spread that the vast majority of teachers in our District would no longer be rated as excellent, that most could only expect to get a rating of proficient, and they can expect to get a rating of proficient, a rating of three on our new four point scale.

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The New Evaluation Process

(Continued from page 2)
Union Members Join Together to Help Rebuild The Village Theater

By Cyndi Oberle-Dahm

The Illinois Federation of Teachers created a contest last year titled The Ultimate Makeover. The Village Theatre won this award for the entire state of Illinois.

The goal is to use the IFT and community resources to rebuild something that benefits the disadvantaged. Local 434 (our local), as well as the locals from East St. Louis and Cahokia are working with the IFT to rebuild the theatre. Several workdays have occurred this fall, including one on October 28th where Curt and myself were able to meet with the IFT President Dan Montgomery. James Clayborne and Jay Hoffman also came to help that day, as well as local media.

"When we help by giving our time, it improves our image in the community. It also feels good to know that working together, we can make a difference! On another note, I am happy to be your President Elect, and I look forward to serving on my first negotiating committee. It is important for all of us to stick together, and it is important to remember that we are here for you as friends, as well as for union representation. Hope to see you at The Edge on December 7th for our holiday party!"

We would like to urge you to volunteer some of your time as there will be workdays in the near future. This is a worthy endeavor as The Village Theatre holds 96 workshops and 12 live stage productions each year. It also gives many youth a place to go where they can learn and flourish in a nurturing, safe environment.

When we help by giving our time, it improves our image in the community. It also feels good to know that working together, we can make a difference! We would like to urge you to volunteer some of your time as there will be workdays in the near future. This is a worthy endeavor as The Village Theatre holds 96 workshops and 12 live stage productions each year. It also gives many youth a place to go where they can learn and flourish in a nurturing, safe environment. When we help by giving our time, it improves our image in the community. It also feels good to know that working together, we can make a difference!

Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

Cyndi Oberle-Dahm and I are on the Committee by virtue of our offices. I thank the eight candidates for their interest and look forward to working with the five winners. As soon as the new Negotiating Committee is established and situated, we will be in touch.

Fourth, I refer you to the Our Dues Making A Difference section. It should be of interest to all of you because it is your money! The Executive Council diligently deliberates over the use of this money. We attempt to distribute it for discretionary purposes, on your behalf, to support worthy causes. We don’t do this to gain recognition, but we are mounting a new initiative to get recognition as reciprocation, and publicize our efforts. We want other stakeholders to view us as partners in the education of our students, not just "selfish/greedy" teachers. Putting our “money where our mouth is” goes a long way to this end.

Fifth, beyond the use of your money, we have a project entitled the "Ultimate Makeover" which has here-tofore been nonmonetary. This is a State-wide IFT program whereby we and other local education unions along with local trade unions give time, work, and maybe money.

Sixth (and last), note that the Christ-