

The people have spoken. The following union members will be representing the membership on the upcoming negotiating committee. We'd like thank everyone who was willing to volunteer their time.

- Shawn Coughlin
- Jeff Frerker
- Rich Hodson
- Joe Nesbit
- Cyndi Oberle-Dahm
- Matt Osborn
- Lisa Quandt



This Friday evening is the Union End of the Semester Holiday Party at The E.D.G.E. The Party starts at 4:00!

Come out and join the family friendly party with food, drink, movies and fun!

- Free laser tag from 4-6
- Free movie tickets (check Edge 5 listings)
- Free food!
- Free beverages!

Comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter? Email lspriggs@bths201.org

Local 434 Executive Council Members

- **President**—Cyndi Oberle-Dahm
- **Vice President**—Norm Dahn
- **Past President**—Curt Caswell
- **President-Elect**—Rich Hodson
- **President of Paraprofessionals**—Mike Chace
- **President of Secretaries**—Joy Mueller
- **Secretary**—Tammie Hettenhausen
- **Treasurer**—Brenda Kelley
- **Parliamentarian**—Carol Harms
- **Comptroller**—Julie Siebers
- **East Building Rep**—Jen Stenger
- **West Building Rep**—Curt Caswell
- **Calendar**—Lee Meyer
- **Constitution**—Kristen Demond
- **Cope**—Keith Padgett
- **District Budget & Finance**—Brandon Hentze
- **Grievance**—Matt Casper-Bassler
- **Health and Safety**—Taree McGee and Cindy Thompson
- **Insurance**—Shawn Coughlin and Rich Hodson
- **Legislative/COPE**—Pat Watkins and Ian Hendricks
- **Membership**—Liz Harris and Rebecca Schrader
- **Nominations and Elections**—Sarah Coughlin and Jeremy Witt
- **Professional Issues**—Becky McGarrity and Lisa Quandt
- **Public Relations**—Lucas Spriggs
- **SWAC**—Rusty Rayburn
- **SWICLC**—Rusty Rayburn
- **Technology and Social Networking** (ad hoc)—Christina Roedl



The Union Messenger

Local 434

BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Message from the President

by Cyndi Oberle-Dahm

State of the Union Address (pun intended)

After serving last year as your president, I am still happy and proud to hold this position (believe it or not). We are continuing our process of powering forward, engaging our members and creating a community of activists. Even though we had a disappointment in the recent election, I view last year as a success for many reasons. Below are some of the main accomplishments of your local over the past year.

Young Members Focus Group--We created a Young Members Focus Group last year to be able to give a voice to our younger members.

Union Activism –AFT Convention--We sent four teachers and one paraprofessional to Los Angeles in July for the American Federation of Teachers Convention. At this convention, we were awarded the Pride of the Union Award for having over 90% of our teachers as union members.

New T-shirts---We now have the same color t-shirt at West and East! Having the same color on both campuses (in this case, red, white and blue) helps to show solidarity.

Labor Day Parade—We had a great turnout this year and even went to the picnic afterwards. Next year we will be building a float and hope to have even more of you attend.

PERA—We have sent several teachers to receive training on the new evaluation tool, and we continue to work on a regular basis as a committee to finalize the upcoming evaluation tool.

LEAD—We recently applied for an AFT sponsored program called LEAD—Leadership Education and Development. A team of five union leaders will be receiving training on how to better mobilize our members and engage the community.

Negotiating Committee—We had a record 17 people run

for the negotiating committee, and we have a strong new team with several younger members. We are going to begin meeting before Christmas, so be on the lookout for a survey. **Political activism**—We had an event after St. Clair County Institute to get our members to-

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The Recent Election

By Bob V. Ouslysature

To remain compliant with federal and state law, some information in this message has been redacted or revised. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the union or its membership.

We would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who took the time to help us in our efforts to [not] endorse [any particular candidate] this year [while using publically funded servers or print media].

While [no particular candidate] truly had our best interests at heart as union members, the voters have the ultimate say at the polls. Well, thirty-six percent of the voters that is.

As you are probably aware [no particular candidate] was the best candidate to represent us as Illinois governor, and [no particular candidate] was able to make a strong showing at the polls.

We understand that sometimes choosing between candidates feels like choosing the lesser of two evils, and this year may have felt to some like choosing between a chronic cough and a persistent sore throat.

In the end, the voters decided that [no particular candidate] was best suited for the job. Thirty-six percent of voters decided by heading to the polls, while the

rest decided by exercising their right not to vote. So basically the majority of voters chose no particular candidate at all.

You might want to get something for that creeping sore throat.



These photos do not constitute a political endorsement, not that it matters now anyway.

Other Stuff

- An estimated 36.4 percent of eligible voters managed to tear themselves away from whatever supremely important events happen on an idle Tuesday in November in order to exercise their voting rights in the midterms. For respondents who failed to vote, besides citing voter apathy, some of the more popular excuses included, “Too busy to bother,” and “We vote more than once every four years?”

- Don’t forget to find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and visit our website at iftlocal434.org. Or just wait for the next newsletter.



Happy Holidays!
Happy Holidays!



Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

gether to eat and then go as a group to vote early in the Nov. 4 election. We also have attended several fundraisers for candidates whom we supported.

Parties—We sponsored two successful parties—one in the winter and another in the spring. Both were well-attended.

Community Activism –Turf for the Teams—We are proud to be a major donor for this project, and we will continue to support our members and any improvements that can benefit them.

Fall Social—We sponsored a fall social at Silver Creek a few weeks ago. This was a created to meet the negotiating committee as well as ask

questions about evaluations.

Even though we accomplished much, I still feel we have much work to do. We must be politically vigilant, and

“We must
continue to power
forward together”

we must continue to power forward together. This year, we hope to continue our Young Members Focus Group as well as create professional development workshops for our members. We would like to offer professional development on evaluations as well as

ELIS and finances. We also want to be more transparent as we move forward into negotiating our contract, and we want to help you as much as possible in every way we can. We are all in this together, and don’t ever hesitate in seeking us out when you need something.

Thank you once again for the privilege and honor of being your president,

Yours in Solidarity,
Cyndi Oberle-Dahm

Don’t Forget...

Don’t forget to complete the mandatory online training sessions that seem to keep inexplicably multiplying. Be sure to set plenty of time aside because each session, which could otherwise easily be read by a high school-educated adult in the span of about 5 minutes, will take around twenty minutes as you’re force-read slides by some monotonous drone who reads at the pace of a fifth-grader.

But seriously, we really have to complete them.