



# The Classifieds

## A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN

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**United Steelworkers**

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**2496 E. Maize Road**  
**Freeport, IL 61032**

**815/235-9713**

I would like to take a minute and say welcome to the 2017 – 2018 school year. Hopefully, things are starting to fall in place as we approach our third week in session.

I have been receiving some calls and lots of questions pertaining to our contract. I, too, had hoped that we would have a contract by the time school started but as we started meeting for what it was worth, the GNC team knew this would not be settled. One may be asking, "Why do we have to wait on the State budget; the kids can't wait; school started the 23rd." From day one in spite of our initial purpose for becoming a Freeport School District employee, our purpose became these children and helping them succeed by any means necessary. We have come too far to turn back now, they are depending on us to be their voice, their hands, their feet, their very thought in creating. We will get our just reward if we faint not.

Currently we have some tentative agreements on about half of our proposals to the District and from the District on common areas.

No money proposals have been discussed because the District was waiting on the State Budget to pass which was not necessarily a bad thing. Now that there is a budget, we hopefully will be discussing those concerns at our next meeting to be held September 13, 2017 at the Central Office. As information comes available, I will keep you informed.

When finances are discussed, if membership wants to come together and discuss what is at hand, we can make that happen as we did this summer with the original proposals.

Many of you are asking that we come together and show our unity in standing together for the cause, **a fair contract**. I hear you loud and clear, and I too feel that we need to in one way or another take a unified stand as the Freeport School District Classified Staff.

We will have our first Unit meeting this coming Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. at the Freeport Public Library. I look forward to hearing your ideas as to what you are wanting to do in making this unified statement.

The District has gotten rid of their computers and has gone to chromebooks. We are being told that one is able to print from the chromebooks but I have yet to hear of one member being successful in doing so. Please try and take time by Tuesday to see if you can check emails and print. If you are not able to do so, you should call Technology and if need be, place a work order for Technology to come out and show you how or give you a code if that is needed. I look forward to hearing from you pertaining to this matter on Tuesday.

September 20th is our Homecoming Parade. We need members support in walking and/or riding on our float. We are wanting to hand out candy and freeze pops as we have done in the past to the children as they yell out our names thrilled to see us saying, "She works at my school." It's too much for 3 or 4 people, we need as many that can come and show support. This may be our first opportunity in making a statement by

coming together in numbers again for the same cause.

### **THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM**

As many of you have noticed (per received phone calls), your paycheck appears to be less. Don't forget the increase in Illinois taxes. Under the budget plan, income tax rates rose from 3.75 percent to 4.95 percent, causing a 1.20 percent increase.

Because we did not start the year out with a contract, all Classified members should be paid the same amount they were making last year. When we get our contract, we will have a new pay scale and any increase will be retroactive from the first day of school. Keep a copy of your check stubs, if you have no way of printing them, request a copy from Central Office. When all is said and done, you want to know how many hours you worked so that your increase represents that same number.

## **This Month's Events**

**Date:** September 10  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Union Office  
*Local 745 Membership Meeting*

**Date:** September 12  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Public Library  
*District 145 Membership Meeting*

**Date:** September 12  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

**Date:** September 19  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

**Date:** September 20  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Empire Street  
*Homecoming Parade*

## **Next Month's Events**

**Date:** October 3  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

**Date:** October 10  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Public Library  
*District 145 Membership Meeting*

**Date:** October 15  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Union Office  
*Local 745 Membership Meeting*

**Date:** October 17  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

# Inspirational

People are often unreasonable and self-centered  
 forgive them anyway  
 If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior  
 motives  
 be kind anyway  
 If you are honest, people may cheat you  
 Be honest anyway  
 If you find happiness, people may be jealous  
 Be happy anyway  
 The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow  
 Do good anyway  
 Give the world the best you have and it may never  
 be enough  
 Give your best anyway  
 For you see, in the end, it is between  
 you and God  
 It was never between you and them anyway

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Shelly Ensign	Empire	2
Kelly Brendemuehl	Banks-Bergagna	3
Alexis Mijatovic	Senior High	3
Lorie Arendt	Lincoln Douglas	6
Melody Babcock	Empire	8
Rebecca Jacobs	Empire	8
Matthew Milliken	Senior High	8
Sarah Ognibene	Empire	14
Janna Johnson	FMS	15
Gwendolyn Sanders	Carl Sandburg	16
Malissie Piehn	Lincoln Douglas	17
Kimberly Ellis	Carl Sandburg	20
Diane Kerchmar	FMS	21
Dannie Bland	FMS	22
Chantel White-Crawford	Lincoln Douglas	22
Katilyn Fontana	Blackhawk	26

### Mother Theresa

#### Members Helping Members: Steelworkers Charitable Fund Questions & Answers on Hurricane Relief Effort

With hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and two more possibly in the next weeks, many of us look to where a donation can be made to help. At times like these in the past our Union, the United Steelworkers, has offered assistance to those members who experience the catastrophe first hand and are now in need. One hundred percent of all donations received will be disbursed to members in need.

**Who receives the monetary donations?**

USW members who are impacted by the hurricane are eligible for assistance. The levels of assistance are based on the amount of money collected, the number of members who qualify, and an individual’s level of damage.

**Are contributions tax-deductible?**

The United Steelworkers Charitable and Education Organization is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible. Those contributing \$250 or more via check or online donation will receive a confirmation letter.

**Who do I make a check out to and where do I mail it?**

Checks should be made payable to: *United Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization* and mailed to the following address. Please note “Disaster Relief Fund” in the memo line. Mail to the following address:

United Steelworkers  
 Attn: Steelworkers Charitable Fund  
 60 Blvd. of the Allies  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**Is there a flyer that I can use to promote a collection that will happen at my worksite?**

Yes. Visit [http://images.usw.org/download/rapid/USW\\_Harvey.pdf](http://images.usw.org/download/rapid/USW_Harvey.pdf) to download a flyer.

**To donate online visit:** [www.usw.org/harveyrelief](http://www.usw.org/harveyrelief).

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**Friends and Family Discount Program**

A Friends and Family Program Discount card can be picked up at the Union office at 2496 E. Maize Road or by contacting a G.N.C. member. Area participating businesses include: Butitta Brothers, CarQuest, Brightflower Nursery, Rock Hollow Conservation Club, Dairy Queen, 4 Seasons Bowling, Loescher Heating, Hampton Inn, Cimino's Little Italy, Art Ross Glass, Amsoil, Carlson Canine Camp, Freeport Quiznos, Auto Logic, and TJ's Truck Accessories.

*Coming together is a beginning;  
keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.*