



# The Classifieds

## A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN

*by Cecelia Stacy*

### Stronger Together Enforcing our Contract, Fighting for Justice United

Take a leap of faith as you begin this journey by believing. Wishing you Peace, Love and Laughter in the new year.

Tuesday, December 19, I reached out to our School Board Members seeking their help in helping us to reach a fair and just contract in a timely manner. I explained to them how we have not been given the opportunity of meeting two days in a row and how we were lucky to meet twice a month. I also indicated how only two of those meetings exceeded 40 minutes, the shortest being 22 minutes and the longest being 2 hours and 50 minutes. I told them how Schedule "A" being offered a 30 cent raise and Schedule "B" only being offered a 5 cent raise was unacceptable to our members. I stated how this was an attempt to divide and conquer our members against one another and

how when we refused to accept that offer, the next offer was 10 cents only. I also shared with the Board that we had not spoken about not showing up for work, we need our jobs, nor had we talked about taking it to the media. However, just like we need our jobs, and how the children need us to be successful, the District needs us too.

During that board meeting, a financial report had to be given allowing all present access to the end of the year report of 2016-2017 school year. I think it's more than fair to say what we are seeking is reachable.

\$200,000.00 was put into what I will call a "just in case" fund for another department just in case they don't receive their required / deserved funding this year. Upon further conversation, it was determined that the department received their funding last year so why would they not receive it this year ??? Oh, did I state that that \$200,000.00 was taken from the unused monies (\$7,000,000.00) that was left over from the end of the year last year.

I will be sending the Board Members a more detailed account of our meeting

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### 5 Ways to Contact your Union

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Freeport, IL 61032

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**United Steelworkers**

**Local Union No. 745**  
**2496 E. Maize Road**  
**Freeport, IL 61032**

**815/235-9713**

dates and minutes of negotiating per date. It was not our desire to carry this matter into the New Year unsettled however, it was out of our hands. We offered and were more than willing to meet during the winter break in hopes to establish a fair contract but were denied the opportunity. We will be meeting as a committee on Thursday, January 4, 2018, and with the District on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

The response received from the surveys were awesome. We, the Negotiating Committee, were given very little time in seeking the input of our members needs, wants, and desires pertaining to the financial portion of the contract. We desire to be made whole with a contract worthy of our services, your input matters, and has made the difference in us taking a stand. We will continue seeking a contract that is fair and just.

Special Thanks to ALL who donated non perishables in support of the Women of Steel fundraiser. It touched my heart so to be able to be a part of and to deliver goods all the way from little ole Freeport, IL. People need people, there are so many places worse off than we are, and if you don't believe me, just keep living. Thanks Again.



### CHILI BEEF SOUP

- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (14-1/2-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 (16-ounce) can kidney beans, undrained
- 1 (8-ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

In a soup pot over medium heat, brown ground beef and onion 5 to 7 minutes. Add remaining ingredients; mix thoroughly. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes, or until heated through.

## This Month's Events

- Date:** January 9  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Public Library  
*District 145 Membership Meeting*
- Date:** January 14  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Union Office  
*Local 745 Membership Meeting*
- Date:** January 16  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

## Next Month's Events

- Date:** February 6  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*
- Date:** February 11  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Union Office  
*Local 745 Membership Meeting*
- Date:** February 13  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Public Library  
*District 145 Membership Meeting*
- Date:** February 20  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeport Middle School  
*Administrative Board Meeting*

### THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM

**Building Closures:** The District will agree to use its automated telephone notification system to advise employees of school closings using the telephone numbers provided by employees to the Human Resources Department. The District will also publish to the Union a list of the television and radio stations that will be alerted to District closings due to inclement weather or other Act of God. When an employee has not received an automated call and when the radio and television stations have not broadcast a school closing, and the employee remains uncertain about whether school is open, the employee may call his or her supervisor for confirmation.

If students are released early from a building during the school day but the building is not evacuated, employees shall remain and complete their regular workday.

If a building is evacuated during an employee's regular workday, the administrator will assign the employee to another worksite to complete his or her regular workday, or the employee will be released without further obligation or pay for the remainder of the day. In addition, information should then be communicated to staff via the District's telephone tree by 6:00 a.m. Because each inclement weather situation is unique, individual work circumstances will need to be considered by supervisors.

Per Board Policy 500.21

**It is important that you update your contact information (including address and phone) with Human Resources and the Union office.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

Kelly Brendemuehl

Has been married to Eric for 27 years. They have 3 children: Erica 26, Alleah 17, and Evan 12, 2 grandchildren Bentley 5, and Atleigh 6 months.

She has a dog, a parrot, and a guinea pig.

Kelly started working for the school district in November 2008. All 9 years of service has been at Banks Bergagna.

Kelly's hobbies are working in her yard, gardening and drawing.

She spends a lot of time supporting her son and his sporting events. He played football this year and now hockey. Mostly, she enjoys spending quality time with her family.

Kelly loves her job (ED Paraprofessional). Her real reward comes when she sees kids who wanted to quit and give up on themselves become successful. Kelly says, "Giving them daily hope and encouragement builds character and strength causing them to believe in themselves. Every day we start new, I work with some pretty awesome kids believe it or not. I help them see their self worth; they set goals and I give my all in making sure they achieve them. This makes what I do worth it all."

### *Inspirational*

*For I know the plans I have for you,  
"declares the Lord,"  
plans to prosper you  
and not harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 745  
 2496 E MAIZE RD  
 FREEPORT IL 61032

«FIRSTNAME» «LAST\_NAME»  
 «BUILDING»

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dominique Jones	FMS	4
Catherine Cornelius	Center	8
Darlean Brooks	Senior High	10
Ruth Cross	Senior High	13
Patricia Siemens	Center	14
Dara Willison	Lincoln Douglas	17
Kyle Larson	FMS	22
Wayne Cauthen	FMS	25
Connie Zettle	Carl Sandburg	27

### 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.*