



The Classifieds

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN

LuAnne Beintema

“A rumor goes in one ear, then out of many mouths.”

I have always liked this quote and it immediately came to mind when I heard the rumor going around about “make sure you use up all your sick days because the District will only pay you \$40 apiece when you retire. You lose money that way; use them up now!” That could not be farther from the truth. Article VIII of our contract under Section A states:

“Employees who retire under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), as opposed to those employees who simply resign or are discharged, having at least eight consecutive years of service (10 consecutive years if a Tier II IMRF member) in the District and who are at least 55 years of age, may redeem any sick days not used for retirement service credit at the rate of \$40.00 per day.”

So what does that actually mean? We are allowed to accumulate up to 300 sick days for reimbursement at

retirement. If you had 300 days, you would be paid an extra \$12,000 when you retire! I asked Jenny Heiden from payroll to figure out what you would take home after taxes on \$12,000. Jenny said it is based on what you filled out for tax deductions but for me, my take home on \$12,000 would be \$10,468. Think of it as a bonus for showing up to work! Now, say you used all of your sick days believing the rumor. You would not receive an extra dime at retirement. Protect yourself and your future!

This also brings me to another topic that I touch on frequently--sick days. If you use up all of your sick days and still call off of work, you start using “dock days” or unpaid days. Using 3 dock days in a school year gives the right for administration to terminate you. There are currently a handful of members who are in dock days. Keep in mind I am talking about sick days, not an extended leave. (That is a topic for a different discussion.) Recently I have asked administration to contact me when a member uses all of their sick days. It is the building principal’s or food service director’s job to notify an employee when

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this occurs but I realize it doesn't always happen. By also notifying USW, we can contact the member and make sure they are aware of what could happen in the future if they continue missing days of work. USW and FSD are working together to fix the problem of excessive use of sick days. But the bottom line is, check your paystub on Skyward and keep track of your sick days. Know what you have and do not go over. You are your own best advocate!

**Highlights of District 145
February 12, 2019
Membership Meeting**

The February 12th union meeting was cancelled due to weather, so there won't be any minutes to post in this month's Classified. Join us March 12th, 4:30, at the Freeport Public Library for our next union meeting. Stay involved!



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK at USW Classified Staff of FSD 145.

St. Patrick's Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:
1 pkg chocolate cake mix (regular size)

Frosting:
1/2 cup butter, softened
2 cups confectioner's sugar
1 tablespoon water
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
3 drops green food coloring

Topping:
1 package milk chocolate chips
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract

Directions:
Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using a greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch baking pan. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes. Cool completely. In a large bowl, mix frosting ingredients until smooth. Spread over cooled cake. For topping, in a microwave melt chocolate chips and butter; stir until smooth. Stir in extract and spread over frosting. Refrigerate until set.

This Month's Events

- Date: March 5
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Carl Sandburg
Administrative Board Meeting
- Date: March 10
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Union Office
Local 745 Membership Meeting
- Date: March 12
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Freeport Public Library
District 145 Membership Meeting
- Date: March 19
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Carl Sandburg
Administrative Board Meeting

Next Month's Events

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

THE MORE YOU KNOW . . .

Article V in our contract under “Vacancies” paragraph 4 states:

“All present employees will be given first consideration for appointment. All current employees meeting the minimum qualifications of the vacant position and submitting an application to fill the vacant position will be given an interview. Selection will be based upon the consideration of factors that include without limitation certifications, qualifications, merit and ability, seniority, and relevant experience.”

This means if you are looking to change jobs and apply for an open position online, as an employee of FSD 145 you are guaranteed an interview but not the job. The District will take into consideration seniority and other factors, but they don’t have to offer you the position.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Cindy Erb

Cindy Erb is a Classroom Para at Center School in the Pre Kindergarten Class. This is her 13th year as a para. Cindy is from Cedarville. She and her husband, Mark, just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. She has one granddaughter.

When asked what do you like the most about your job, she stated working with “The Littles. They steal my heart and the staff at Center is amazing.”

Cindy has a background of 18 years as a Licensed Day Care person before joining the Freeport School District. She is a graduate of Freeport High School. She has also completed classes at Highland Community College, including accounting, Business math and Sanitation.

Hobbies include reading, cooking, movies and scrapbooking. She likes to try new recipes, especially cookies.

This is Cindy’s first year on the GNC Committee for the USW and she loves it.

She is always very active. She loves to volunteer where she can. She is also on the Planning Committee for the Relay for Life.

Thank you Cindy for all you do for the students of the Freeport School District 145.

MENTORS

Congratulations to our newly appointed mentors! Chris Shockey and Jack Code were on hand during the early release training on February 14th to pass out certificates and pins to these ladies. The purpose of the mentor program is to help guide newly hired paraeducators. It is also our hope that this program will help retain paras. Thank you to these ladies for agreeing to jump start this program!

- Kelly Simler and Mary Gorham FHS
- Lorraine Williams and Estelle Charles- FMS
- Jill Kuntz and Janet Schubert- CSS
- Amanda Gempeler- BB
- Jane Streicher- JFELC
- Lorie Arendt- LD
- Shelley Ensign and Brenda Schaefer- Empire
- Marcia Colby- TP
- Jodi Langill-Center
- Alisha Ditsworth- BH



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jill Kuntz	Carl Sandburg	3
Lucy Maupin	Senior High	5
Deb Naretto	Lincoln Douglas	6
Beverly Castle	Carl Sandburg	10
Sarah Martin	Taylor Park	10
Paul Mysliwicz	Banks-Bergagna	13
Vicky Losco	Carl Sandburg	14
Kim Sims	Center	15
Lynn Ingram	Senior High	23

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, Big O's, 4 Seasons Bowling, Loescher Heating, Hampton Inn, Cimino's Little Italy, 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.*