



The Classifieds

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN

LuAnne Beintema

Welcome to October and the beginning of fall. Hopefully everyone has settled into their positions whether it be new or existing and are off to a great start of the school year.

A big change for paraeducators this year will be that the district is using a new system for the billing of Medicaid. Paras will no longer be filling out paper forms, asking the special ed teacher to sign, and then turning those forms into the building nurse. This year the district is using a website titled **EmbraceDS** and all Medicaid billing will now be done online. Building mentors were trained on this at the September 10 early release afternoon and the district is planning to utilize mentors and district staff to assist in getting all paraeducators up to speed on this. To get started, follow the "cheat sheet" made by fellow paraeducator and mentor Brenda Schaefer from Empire. This will assist you on how to log into the Embrace website and also

how to fill out and submit the new Medicaid forms. If you would like additional training on this, ask your building mentor to contact Melissa Geiser or Libby Wolfe. They are willing to come to buildings for hands on training for the paras at that school. Remember, if you have filled out the forms from last year for the months of August or September, those forms can no longer be submitted and can be thrown away.

Those members not receiving health insurance and eligible for the AMRP benefit need to be made aware that effective immediately the district is going from a January-January calendar year to a September-September calendar year. What that means for members is because we were given our \$1,000 benefit in January 2019 and the district is going with the new calendar year which started this September, \$667 was put into your account to fulfill the benefit until next September. This amount was determined to prevent "double dipping" for the months already paid with the benefit in January. If you do not know if you

October 3, 2019
Volume 20, Issue 7

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The More You Know

5 Ways to Contact your Union

Phone: (815) 235-9713
Fax: (815) 232-7762
E-Mail: uswlocal745@comcast.net
Mail: 2496 E. Maize Rd.
Freeport, IL 61032
Website: uswlocals.org/local-745-freeport-il

United Steelworkers

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

815/235-9713

qualify for this benefit or if you want to know how much is in your account, call Northern Illinois Health Plan at 815-599-7050. Remember, this benefit also rolls over. Keep track and always be aware of your benefits!

**Highlights of District 145
September 10, 2019
Membership Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. All officers present except Rickey Robinson.

Motion approved to bypass reading of last month's minutes.

Report of Membership Action:

Tire plant was shut down the week of Labor Day.
Talk of new insurance for past GOODYEAR employees
next meeting 9/15/19 @ 9a.m.

GNC

A grievance was filed on behalf of assistant cooks.
Reminder to union members to watch what is said on social media. There is always someone watching. You are representing the school district.
Para shortage/legislation change
Principals are supposed to communicate with Para's to keep open communication.
Sick Bank-none
Health Insurance Committee-continue to us MDLive and mail order insurance changed to ExpressScript.
Classified Advisory Council-1. edays-? what they are and when to use them.

Schools-

Center- no breaks, breakfast in classroom plus lack of food or not ready

Empire- no breaks
Lincoln Douglas- short staff
FMS- classroom issues

New Business:

October 2nd homecoming parade
Staff who receive HRA received \$667 in September. Next payment will be in Sep 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Andrea Misek, Secretary



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

Unfortunately, classified staff have already experienced a few issues this school year, and it is important for all members to keep on top of what is going on pertaining to them. I post news first on our Facebook group. If you are on Facebook, request to join us at **USW Classified Staff of FSD**. Also, I can't stress enough to attend monthly union meetings. Join us Tuesday, October 8, 4:30, at the Freeport Public Library. We are in the library up the stairs in the board room. Come, know your rights, and make your voice heard!

**This Month's
Events**

Date: October 1
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Board Office
Administrative Board Meeting

Date: October 2
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Empire Street
Homecoming Parade

Date: October 8
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: Freeport Public Library
District 145 Membership Meeting

Date: October 15
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Board Office
Administrative Board Meeting

**Next Month's
Events**

Date: November 5
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Board Office
Administrative Board Meeting

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

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

Date: November 19
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Board Office
Administrative Board Meeting



THE MORE YOU KNOW . . .

Did you know that according to our contract you can receive up to \$525 per year for tuition reimbursement? Article IX, Section E of our contract states in part: *"Each employee may submit a request to the District for reimbursement of tuition/fees for pre-approved coursework, workshops, or conferences. Tuition/fee reimbursement shall be available at the annual rate of \$525 per individual. As A condition of reimbursement, the employee must submit the proposed course, workshop, or conference for approval by the Superintendent, or his/her designee, along with a statement of how the course, workshop, or conference will enhance the employee's current or future employment within the District, and receive approval from the Superintendent, or designee. Approval shall be at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or designee. A final grade equivalent to a "B" or better is required for reimbursement for those courses awarding letter grades. If the course is a "Pass/Fail," the employee must receive a "Pass". . . Reimbursements shall be made within 45 days of submission of the employee's grade transcript, evidence of "Pass," or certificate of completion/attendance."*

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Tabatha Sherrer

Tabatha Sherrer is from Freeport. She has lived in Freeport all of her life. Before becoming an FSD 145 employee, she was a certified nursing assistant for 14 years.

She is married and has 3 children and 3 stepchildren and 2 cats. Tabatha is a Cubs fan and as well as a Minnesota Vikings fan.

She had been a recess lunch supervisor from 2014 to 2017. She was a crossing guard from 2015 to 2016 and she became a paraeducator in 2017. She is a paraeducator at Taylor Park School and a crossing guard as well.

Tabatha is also a steward for Taylor Park School and a member of the classified advisory committee.

She loves doing things outdoors, also loves relaxing and watching movies. She likes making a difference in the lives of the children she works with.

Thank you, Tabatha, for being an important part of the student's day and being a member of the USW and Freeport School District.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Katie Buzzell	Lincoln Douglas	1
Kelly Thrumman	Lincoln Douglas	2
Michael Barthel	JFELC	4
Jessica Daniels	Lincoln Douglas	5
Pam Kuper	Carl Sandburg	7
Jennifer Casson	Lincoln Douglas	9
Tina Wilkens	Carl Sandburg	9
Kathleen Williams	FMS	10
Denise Blum	Empire	15
Demonte Davis	Senior High	15
Sarah Snobl	Lincoln Douglas	15
Sandra Verhoef	Center	16
Jennifer Whitson	Senior High	18
Deborah Knipschild	Blackhawk	19
Amy Wise	Lincoln Douglas	22
Alisha Ditsworth	Blackhawk	24
Natalie Edmond	FMS	28
Debra Hamilton	Senior High	30

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.*