



The Classifieds

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN LuAnne Beintema

Hello and welcome to the 2021/22 school year! This year, because our secretary at our USW hall is only working on Fridays (and is the mastermind who puts these together for me) we will have 4 newsletters; fall, winter, spring, and summer. Look for our next newsletter to come out sometime in December.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is LuAnne Beintema and I am a specialized paraeducator working in 6th grade at Carl Sandburg. Over the years I have worked in every building at one time or another except for Center, Site, and BH. This year marks my 17th school year with the District and my 2nd term as your Unit Chair. I have previously held the positions of USW Unit Secretary, and have also been a USW Steward for 14 years.

My husband, Craig, is the administrator for the Stephenson Co. and Carroll Co. Health Departments. My son, Matthew,

graduated this past May with his masters from Moody Bible Institute, and my daughter Mollie is a graduate from NIU and excitedly preparing for her November 13th wedding!

Myself, along with Ricky Robinson, Denise Hayunga, Andrea Misek, and Cindy Erb make up the GNC or Grievance and Negotiating Committee. On the inside is a write up from each of my team members so you can become familiar with them if you aren't already.

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, at 4:30, we hold our monthly union meetings at the Freeport Public Library, in the big conference room on the main floor. Meetings are important to attend for a lot of reasons. They give you a chance to voice your opinion, to help make things better with your job and the District, meet other Classified Staff from different schools, and learn what your contract means and can do for you. I truly hope you will make an effort to attend our meetings this year!

Over the summer I met with Chris Shockey and Dan

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In this Issue

A Few Thoughts from the Unit Chairman

Meet Your Other GNC Members

Mentors

AMRP Benefits

5 Ways to Contact your Union

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Local Union No. 745

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Holder, who has taken over for Jack Code. I want to fill you in on a decision made by the District in regards to Resource Room paraeducators. If you belong to our Facebook group “**USW Classified Staff of FSD 145**” you heard about this as it happened. They informed us that HR will be closing any postings for vacant Resource Room paraeducators at this time. It is their intent to fill all Specialized Paraeducator positions before revisiting reopening Resource Room paraeducator positions.

What does this mean if you are a Resource Room paraeducator? Nothing, really. All current RR para positions are safe and in no danger of being rified. That position is yours until you quit or retire, and then it would just not be posted after you leave.

This is where being a union member comes into play. If we weren't unionized, RR para positions could have been rified this school year and those paras forced into Specialized Para positions. There would not be anything you could do to stop it. By being union, we were able to sit down with the District, work together, and keep your jobs safe. It was mutually agreed that all current RR para positions are safe for as long as you want you remain in that

position, so do not worry if you hear otherwise.

And speaking of our Facebook group, if you are on Facebook join our group **USW Classified Staff of FSD 145** to receive news and information regarding your job firsthand.

Here's hoping all Classified Staff have a safe, healthy, and wonderful 2021/22 school year!

Meet your other GNC members:

Andrea Misek- Andrea is starting her 10th year with the District and is currently splitting her time between Carl Sandburg and FMS as an IMT. Andrea enjoys working with the kids at school and is also a mom of three with her youngest being a 6th grader at JF. Her older two are both graduates of FSD and her daughter recently began her freshman year at Grand Canyon Univ. in Arizona. Andrea is also beginning her 2nd term as USW Unit Secretary and her 4th year as a union steward.

Denise Hayunga- Denise just started her 9th year with the District working six years in food service and these last three as a specialized paraeducator. She is currently working at Jones Farrar. Denise has one daughter who lives in Colorado, and enjoys her family of 5 cats and 4

rabbits at home. Denise is currently serving her second term as a GNC member and is starting her 4th year as a steward.

Cindy Erb- Cindy started working for the District in 2007 and is currently working at Center as a Pre-K classroom paraeducator. She is starting her 2nd term as a GNC member and her 4th year as a steward. Cindy and her husband Mark (also a USW member working at Titan) are set to celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary this year.

Ricky Robinson- Ricky is starting his 12th year with the District and is a Security Monitor at FHS. He is also starting his 2nd term as a GNC member and this is his 4th year as a steward. Ricky said he joined the GNC because he wants to educate employees of their rights, which will in turn make them better employees.



MENTORS

Mentors for the 2021/22 school year:

Remember to utilize these wonderful ladies at your school if you have questions about your position or building, they are here to help!

- Shelly Ensign and Brenda Schaefer - Empire
- Kalen Spengler - Lincoln Douglas
- Bobbie Trost - JFELC
- Jodi Langill - Center
- Alisha Ditsworth - Blackhawk
- Tracy Heitz and Ginger Holbert- CSS
- Estelle Charles and Lorraine Williams - FMS
- Kelly Simler and Lakinda Brown - FHS
- Amanda Gempeler - Banks

AMRP BENEFIT

This is a topic I bring up frequently and it always surprises me how many members do not utilize this benefit. If you work 5 or more hours each school day, do not receive District offered health insurance, and have been working at least six months you are eligible to be reimbursed for medical care (health, dental, vision, chiro, etc.) of \$1000 per plan year. Our plan year runs September-August, and this month \$1000 was put in an account for you through Northern Illinois Health Plan. Also, any portion of the unused \$1000 by the employee **does** roll over to the following year. Some of you may have quite the accumulation of funds in your account!

Something new with this benefit is the "FSA Store." This is an online store you can shop at to purchase things using your AMRP money. This would be used the same way as other claims. You would purchase items from the store and then submit it for reimbursement. The website to check out the store is <https://fsastore.com>

If you are unsure of your available balance, contact Northern Illinois Health Plan at 815-599-7050. Also, if your school does not have the forms needed to submit claims for

reimbursement, email me and I will send you the form. Remember this is a benefit you lose if you quit or retire so utilize the store to use up any extra money if you are thinking of retiring or leaving the District, and turn in receipts for reimbursement. This is your money and your benefit, utilize it and don't lose it!

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS		
Dannie Bland	Empire	2
Shelley Ensign	Empire	8
Katilyn Fontana	Senior High	8
Janna Johnson	FMS	15
Rebecca Lieber-Jacobs	Carl Sandburg	16
Matthew Milliken	Senior High	22
LaVern Sanders	Empire	22
Gwendolyn Sanders	Empire	25
Shaley Schnierla	Center	26
Tabatha Sherrer	Banks-Bergagna	30
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS		
Denise Blum	Lincoln Douglas	5
Jennifer Casson	Lincoln Douglas	9
Jessica Daniels	Carl Sandburg	9
Demonte Davis	FMS	10
Alisha Ditsworth	Empire	15
Debra Hamilton	Senior High	15
Deborah Knipschield	Lincoln Douglas	15
Sarah Snobl	Senior High	18
Jennifer Whitson	Blackhawk	19
Tina Wilkens	Lincoln Douglas	22
Kathleen Williams	Blackhawk	24
Amy Wise	Senior High	30
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		
Marcia Colby	Center	6
Lisa Crawford	Empire	7
Cynthia Erb	JFELC	8
Alelie Green	Empire	11
Denise Hayunga	Banks-Bergagna	14
Brenda Schaefer	Blackhawk	23
Jacklyn Warfield	Carl Sandburg	25

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FALL 2021 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
September 12	9:00 a.m.	Union Office	Local 745 Membership Meeting
September 14	4:30 p.m.	Freeport Public Library	District 145 Membership Meeting
October 10	9:00 a.m.	Union Office	Local 745 Membership Meeting
October 12	4:30 p.m.	Freeport Public Library	District 145 Membership Meeting
November 9	4:30 p.m.	Freeport Public Library	District 145 Membership Meeting
November 14	9:00 a.m.	Union Office	Local 745 Membership Meeting



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

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.