



The Classifieds

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT CHAIRMAN LuAnne Beintema

Another year over and we are still in the midst of a pandemic. If you are like me, it gets harder and harder to remain positive in the workplace with mask restrictions, testing, vaccinating, and social distancing rules in place, especially when it seems these things that are necessary to curb the virus are not being done District wide.

While it may be difficult to remain positive at times, now is probably the most important time in your career with the District to unite with your fellow Classified members and show solidarity and strength. Attend monthly union meetings, join our Facebook group **USW Classified Staff of FSD145** and stay informed. I have been in meetings with Administration about numerous topics and I always share what I can at union meetings and in our group.

Speaking of sharing, that goes both ways! There are a lot of rumors going around right now, especially about paraeducators, and we need your help to stay informed and on top of things. Things we need to know ASAP:

- Are there open positions in your building for paraeducators that are not posted on the District website or you are being told it's not going to be filled?
- Are you a specialized para and being asked to change your role to include more children in your daily routine?
- Have you heard talk of the District eliminating para positions?

Please everyone, food service, security, and IMT's too, keep your eyes and ears open. If you hear any news about paraeducator positions being changed, contact myself or any GNC member (Cindy Erb, Denise Hayunga, Andrea Misk, or Ricky Robinson) asap.

Let me say I do not want to alarm anyone at this time, and I do not have any knowledge of anything concrete happening to para positions. But to be truthful,

WINTER 2021
Volume 22, Issue 5

In this Issue

A Few Thoughts from the Unit Chairman

Saying Goodbye to Friend and Mentor, Kelly Simler

Know Your Contract

Understanding Your Retirement IMRF Benefits

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

rumors are flying and I have heard enough that it has me concerned. And this is where you, our membership, comes in. Let's band together to keep us strong and all our jobs safe!

Enjoy your well deserved winter break. May your Christmas be blessed and your New Year bring health and happiness to you and your loved ones!

**Saying Goodbye to Friend and Mentor,
Kelly Simler**



On November 4th we said goodbye to long time paraeducator and friend to many, **Kelly Simler**, from cancer.

Kelly was a PACC paraeducator at FHS for many years and also a mentor for that school. She was also a 1979 graduate of FHS where she met and married her husband of 39 years, Mark. Together they had 3 daughters all graduates of FSD, Heather, Katie, and Mary Beth.

I had the pleasure of working with Kelly in the PACC room at FHS for almost 2 years. The care and love she gave daily to the kids in the room is reason why paraeducators are so important to the District and I am proud to call her my friend. One that I will miss very much. RIP Kelly.....

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Want to know where to locate items in your contract? I posted this previously but here is an updated version for our newest contract. Remember, you can also view our contract on the FSD website under HR if you can't find yours.

Here is a guide to a few important items:

- Page 10 is where to find a list of Bargaining Unit classifications. Each Bargaining Unit employee has seniority

rights within one of these classifications listed.

- Page 11 explains the bumping process in the event of a Reduction in Force.
- Page 15 explains the way breaks work and the process to sending out the informational letters every summer.
- Page 16 is about our probationary period
- Page 17 explains sick and personal leaves
- Page 24 tells about the AMRP benefit
- Page 25 is about tuition reimbursement
- Page 26 explains your \$15,000 Life Insurance benefit
- Page 26 explains our grievance procedure
- Page 28 talks about the discipline procedure

Plus many other areas, I can't preach enough the importance of getting to know your contract!

**Understanding Your Retirement
IMRF Benefits**

Pre-Retirement workshops are intended for members within five years of retirement. These web workshops will address the steps you must take before and during the IMRF retirement application process. Workshops for January 2022 are:

- Thursday, January 6th 5-6pm
- Saturday, January 29th 9-10am

If you are planning to retire soon this will help you to understand the process you will need to take.

If you are not yet vested, or are vested but not near retirement age, a web workshop of "Understanding Your IMRF Benefits" is encouraged. The next scheduled one that is not in the middle of a school day is Wednesday, April 13, from 5-6pm.

Questions about your IMRF benefits are one of the most asked about topics. Go to www.imrf.org to register and mark your calendars!

BIRTHDAYS



**Join Us for a
Winter Celebration!**
January 11, 2022
4:30pm
Logan's

Come and celebrate the end of 2021 with fellow members at Logan's!

We will provide some hors d'oeuvres and soda, plus we will have a drawing for gift bags. Come join the fun!!!

Santa's Elves Were Hard at Work!

In November a member from food service became very ill while working, an ambulance needed to be called, and this person ended up staying in the hospital for a few days. Later, on our December 3rd pay day, this member also noticed that two hours were docked from her pay. When she inquired about it, it was noted that her supervisor had docked her those two hours for leaving work early in the ambulance.

I tried to correct this with HR but was unsuccessful. So instead, I contacted the principal at her school hoping we could pass a card around to collect enough money to make up for the two hours missed. To grieve would take too long and Christmas was right around the corner making every penny count. The principal not only agreed but donated money and a turkey to the member!! All in all, staff donated \$200 for her proving that Santa's Elves were hard at work making a very Merry Christmas for this employee!

While we aren't able to right every wrong, hard working classified and certified staff pulled through for us on this. And as for USW, I now realize I need to add this as a proposal for our next negotiations.....

DECEMBER		
Hector Torres-Landeros	FMS	1
Ladrell Holston	Carl Sandburg	1
Jonathan Adams	Empire	11
Karen Richards	FMS	17
Cashonna Cole	Senior High	18
Cecelia Stacy	FMS	22
Estelle Charles-Newton	FMS	23
Jessica Sommers	Center	27
Kathy Reuber	Center	27
JANUARY		
Tim Kleckner	FMS	6
Catherine Cornelius	Center	8
Darlean Brooks	Carl Sandburg	10
Nemesis Garcia-Rodriguez	Blackhawk	15
Angela Poage	Senior High	17
Kyle Larson	FMS	22
Connie Zettle	Carl Sandburg	27
FEBRUARY		
Heather Lassandro	Empire	1
Sheila Fane	Banks-Bergagna	1
Ruth Hattula	Senior High	6
Jodi Langill	Center	7
Traci Heitz	Carl Sandburg	7
Heather Holloway	Senior High	10
Jori Nott	Blackhawk	11
Diane Pfile	Lincoln Douglas	12
Amanda Gempeler	Banks-Bergagna	15

It's been awhile since we have added a recipe. Here is an oldie but delicious goodie for a day you are snowed in over break!

Mom's Crockpot Ham and Potatoes

- 10 medium potatoes, about 3 lbs, peeled and thinly sliced
- 3 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- ½ tsp paprika
- ¼ tsp pepper

1. In a greased slow cooker, layer half of the potatoes, ham, onions and cheese. Repeat layers. Pour soup over top. Sprinkle with paprika and pepper.
2. Cover and cook on low 8-10 hours until potatoes are tender.
3. Enjoy!

WINTER 2021-2022 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
December 12	9:00 a.m.	Union Office	Local 745 Membership Meeting
December 14	4:30 p.m.	Freeport Public Library	District 145 Membership Meeting
January 9	9:00 a.m.	Union Office	Local 745 Membership Meeting
January 11	4:30 p.m.	Logan's	District 145 Winter Celebration
February 8	4:30 p.m.	Freeport Public Library	District 145 Membership Meeting
February 13	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.