

What's the Buzz 1067?

Inside this issue:

Help Fix	2
Readiness Project	2
Latest on ERIP	2
Group Classification	3
Criteria	3
Criteria	3
Thanks...	4

AFSCME Local 1067

Table Officers:

- President Lisa Field (Fitchburg State)
- Vice President Denise Brown (MCLA)
- Treasurer Marzi Carlopoli (Berkshire CC)
- Secretary Tommie Corbett (Northern Essex CC)
- Trustee Jim Klim (Massasoit CC)
- Parliamentarian Dave Charbonneau (Greenfield CC)

From the Prez... 2007 in Review....

As public employees, 2007 was an exciting year as we saw our first Democratic governor in 16 years sworn in! The Labor Relations Commission, the third-party to which we appeal to regarding cases of unfair labor practices and clarification petitions, is being streamlined to provide a fairer and more efficient forum for public employees seeking redress on certain issues. The Governor also signed into law the Majority Authorization Bill which provides public employees the ability to form a union by simply getting a majority of workers to sign and date cards.

This is also an exciting time in public higher education. A new grass-roots organization was formed in February 2007, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM). PHENOM is hard at work mobilizing the 500,000 people who make up the Massachusetts public higher education system including staff, faculty, parents,

students, and alumni. PHE-NOM's campaign for 2008 is FIX IT! Pass the Capital Bond Bill. FUND IT! Increase appropriations for our campuses. AFFORD IT! Dramatically increase need-based financial aid. I've enjoyed the opportunity to serve on PHE-NOM's Steering Committee representing AFSCME.

The MASS AFL-CIO has been very busy as well. Check out the 2007 photo gallery on their website at www.massafclcio.org. In December, a ceremony was held in the State house marking the 100th anniversary of the death of former AFL President Edward Cohen. Cohen was killed by a gunman as he waited to meet with the Governor. In the Spring of 2008, a plaque will be permanently on display recognizing the struggles and achievements of our brothers and sisters in the Massachusetts labor movement.

The AFL-CIO will be holding its first "Futures" Convention in

February of 2008. The goal is to create a community of young members in the Massachusetts Labor Movement to encourage the next generation of labor leaders. Interested? Let me know!

2007 was a year of change for 1067 with new table officers. We also implemented a new panel of Local representatives for Step IV's. Since February 2007, we have had 15 full days of Step IV hearings: 57 grievances and 9 reallocations.

In an effort to re-engage our members, we re-launched the Buzz newsletter, had the membership vote on proposed language changes to the contract, distributed a survey regarding the contract negotiations, and opened the negotiation team to any 1067 member. We've also implemented training workshops at the monthly E-Boards.

Thanks for the opportunity to represent you and we look forward to a productive 2008!

Spotlight on Brother Brad Mellen By Carol Coakley, Steward at Framingham

Brad Mellen, an AFSCME member in the Facilities Department at Framingham State College, was honored at by the President of FSC on December 18, 2007 at the College's holiday party.

Brad was praised for his car-

ing nature and quick thinking. Recently Mellen saved a coworker from disaster. The coworker was on the verge of a heart attack. Mellen called for help. The ambulance got the coworker to the hospital in time for the angioplasty he needed. Way to go Brad!



Help Fix Our Campuses! From www.phenomonline.org

In the beginning of October, with the encouragement of PHENOM, Governor Patrick submitted a historic bond bill to the House and Senate that would provide \$2 billion to the public colleges, community colleges, and universities for capital projects— primarily fixing old buildings and constructing new ones. Each of the 29 public colleges and universities will benefit from this bond bill. The bulk of the investment will be directed towards the first priority building project on each of our campuses. Since the passage of the last bond bill in 1995, each college and university has had to rely on ever growing student fees to pay for such projects, which has

made college less affordable and obtainable for many Massachusetts residents. One purpose of this bill is to lessen the reliance on these fees.

The Joint Committee on Higher Education and the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets held a hearing on this bill, and have so far not taken any further action.

Please contact your legisla-



tors and ask them to do what they can do to have the bill reported out favorably and passed by the entire House and Senate.

Readiness Project

In June, Governor Patrick announced the formation of the Readiness Project Leadership Council, a council that will develop a 10-year strategic plan to continuously improve public education in the Commonwealth. The Council has various subcommittees. One subcommittee focuses on Public and Private Higher Education. It is co-chaired by

Jean McCormack, Chancellor at UMASS Dartmouth, and Joseph Aoun, President at Northeastern University. Worcester State President Janelle Ashley also serves on the subcommittee.

Another subcommittee focuses on UMASS and Public Higher Education and is chaired by Bob Antonucci, President of Fitchburg State

College. Fred Clark, Chair of the Board of Higher Education also serves on this subcommittee.

At a recent public hearing at Bridgewater State College, BSC Chief Steward Carolyn Anderson testified on behalf of PHENOM and AFSCME Local 1067. Thanks and great job, Carolyn!

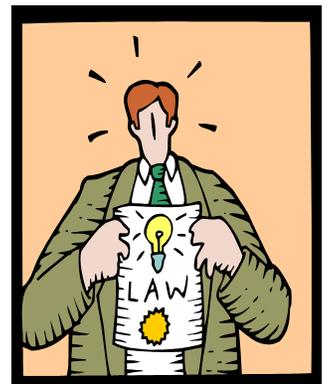
Save the date! Help kick off PHENOM's spring campaign at the Statehouse on Valentine's Day 2008

Latest on Early Retirement Bill

There are two Early Retirement Bills which are before the Joint Committee on Public Service.

One is sponsored by Senator Tolman (Senate 1658) and it adds five years. The second is sponsored by Representative Vallee (House 2775) and it adds up to ten years.

Please call your respective state representatives and senators and ask them to contact the co-chairs of the Committee on Public Service (Representative Jay Kaufman and Senator Benjamin Downing) and ask for a favorable recommendation.



Group Classification Criteria Rules of the Joint Committee on Public Service

In May of 2006, a Blue Ribbon Panel of the Massachusetts Public Employees Classification System was assigned the task of reviewing the current State's Retirement Group Classification System and come to a decision on how it can be approved. The panel reported a set of criteria was needed to bring objectivity and accountability to the group reclassification system.

Proposed group classification bills are referred to the Joint Committee on Public Service. In order to be favorably recommended by the Committee, the proposed bill must meet the nine aspects of criteria as outlined by the Blue Ribbon

Commission Panel. The following criteria must be met:

1. All requests should be accompanied by a cost estimate that shows the impact of the reclassification on the retirement system's unfunded liability. Bill sponsors will be responsible for contacting the retirement board directly and acquiring such an estimate. The estimate should be submitted as written testimony prior to or during the hearing in which the bill is scheduled.
2. All requests must include an opinion of the affected retirement board as to the appropriate

classification and a justification for the change based on the criteria set out for each group.



Criteria

3. Any reclassification bill that is not accompanied by a cost estimate and written opinion of the affected retirement board will not be considered during executive session, until the estimate and opinion are received by the Committee.
4. The criteria for move-

ment to a higher group is based on job responsibilities-not job title.

5. The criteria for movement to a higher group is based on an argument that the current position is too demanding to be sustained until a given age and that sufficient suitable alternative jobs do not exist for workers

with the skills that are exercised in the current jobs.

6. The basis for classification for Group 2 is that the daily physical exertion of the job makes it impossible to safely and effectively carry out the functions beyond age 60.

Criteria

7. The basis for classification for Group 4 is that the daily physical exertion of the job makes it impossible to safely and effectively carry out the functions beyond age 55.
8. Training, certification, and exposure to hazardous substances are not justifications for movement for Group 2 or Group 4.

9. The fact that employees doing similar work happen to currently be in a higher group does not justify reclassification.

Currently, there is a bill before the Joint Committee on Public Service (House Bill 2551) which, if successful, would move all campus police officers at public higher education institutions from retirement group 1 to retirement

group 4.



Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for you and your family.

AFSCME LOCAL 1067

PO Box 414
Templeton, MA 01468

Phone: 978-665-3065
E-mail: lfield@fsc.edu

We're on the Web
www.afscme1067.org



AFSCME Local 1067
Serving Public Higher Education

AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, is the largest union for workers in the public service with 1.4 million members nationwide. AFSCME organizes for social and economic justice in the workplace and through political action and legislative advocacy. AFSCME represents a diverse group of service and health care workers in the public and private sectors including nurses, EMTs, bus drivers, child care providers, custodians, and librarians. Local 1067 represents over 3,000 clerical, technical, maintenance, trades, storekeepers, and public safety employees at the 9 state colleges and the 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thanks to the Chief Stewards....

Many thanks to the hard work and dedication of the following members who have stepped down in 2007 from the position of Chief Stewards:

Bridgewater State College:

Tony Chaves (Unit II)

Mount Wachusett Community College:

William Lands

Northern Essex Community College:

Donna Evers (Unit 1)

Westfield State College:

Sharon Wiley (Unit I)

Denise Page (Unit II)

Other members have been elected to the position of Chief Steward. Congratula-



tions:

Bridgewater State College:

Jonathan Crites (Unit II)

Bunker Hill Community College

Kevin Hanley (Unit I)

Christopher Wilkins (Unit II)

Fitchburg State College:

Gail Feckley (Unit I)

Steve Aker (Unit II)

Mass College of Liberal Arts

Paul Guest (Unit II)

Westfield State College is in the process of holding elections for both Unit I and Unit II

Our Chief Stewards selflessly represent the members every day! They are on the front-line of the labor movement and many times are not recognized for their efforts. It takes a special person to volunteer to serve our members as a Chief Steward. One who is passionate and dedicated. One who believes in social justice. Join us in thanking the past and present Chief Stewards for all that they do for our members!