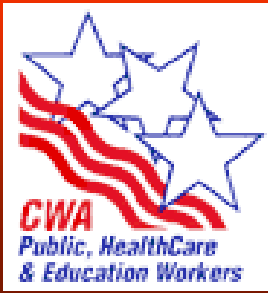


Communications Workers of America



Local 4501 Communicator

June, July 2011 Current through July

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Local 4501 Officers

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Local 4501 Communicator

Michael Secrest msecrest@cwa4501.org Editor/Contributor. Writes all articles not specifically attributed to others.
President Richard Murray contributes a quarterly message and oversight
Dennis Woodson keeps our Facebook account current, with Sheila Collins, and they both serve with **Lolita Thomas**, and co-chairs **Mae Adams**, and Michael Secrest on the Communications Committee,
Treasurer Cynthia Stewart cstewart@cwa4501.org writes political and voter empowerment articles, and more
Website maintained by **Rescue Computer**



Tricky John and all his pals

SB 5 update

"Sen. Stewart must have seen the writing on the wall and decided he would rather leave the Senate than face the wrath of the voters next year," said Ohio Democratic Party Communications Director

President Murray

Seth Bringman. "His district's widespread, bipartisan opposition to Senate Bill 5 was a clear indication that he would not be re-elected." This was written of State Senator Jimmy Stewart, who cast the deciding SB 5 vote. His resignation is referred to as the first casualty of SB 5, but it surely won't be the last. This is the most hated bill the state of Ohio has seen in my memory, and it's passage has been a great gift to the liberal movement. We need 230,000 signatures to get it on the ballot and we are well on our way to getting at least 800,000.

Remember in November!! Get out and vote. When I prodded all of you to get out and vote last November, I did not see this poison. My concern was the redistricting of Ohio by the Conservatives. That is something we must watch out for every ten years, and something for which we will pay for the next ten years.

Senate Bill 3 Changes retirement and

disability benefit eligibility criteria for PERS members but exempts from the new criteria members who under current law will be eligible to retire not later than ten years after the bill's effective date or who on that date have 20 or more years of total service credit.

- For members subject to the new criteria, generally requires an additional two years of service credit or of age to be eligible to retire, and requires members retiring based on 32 or more years of service credit to be at least age 55.

- For members subject to the new eligibility criteria, changes to five (from three) the number of years used to determine final average salary that is used to calculate a retirement allowance or disability benefit.

- Changes the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), not exceeding 3% (from an automatic 3%) for benefits granted five years after the bill's effective date.

The Conservative estate tax repeal will cost Ohio local governments \$230.8 million a year, Rep. Mike Foley, a Democrat from Cleveland said, "Without it, local governments will be forced to cut services and further contemplate raising taxes on their own citizens to make up for the shortfall," This

all sounds so much like Wisconsin, where the Conservative government gave the wealthy \$142 million in tax credits and then eliminated the right to bargain to try to eliminate a projected \$130 million deficit. Do the math. And eliminating collective bargaining in his state will have no effect on the deficit, as Wisconsin Governor Walker actually admitted. And then there are: **HB 159 a regressive voting rights bill requiring government issued photo ids from all**; proposing an **educational plan that jeopardizes \$400,000,000** in federal Race to the Top money; **returning \$400,000,000 to the federal government for the 3C rail, along with all of the jobs it would have created**; appointing a lawmaker **to head the Agricultural Department who supported legislation to eliminate the Agricultural Department; calls for "stupid" public records and ethics laws to be repealed; renting our parks to oil companies.** And **his budget:** It aids the wealthy and hurts us all by creating a 50% cutback in aid to municipalities over the next two years. These are **some** of his sins against Ohio's working class and all citizens. **Can anyone tell me why John Kasich should remain as governor? Why he shouldn't be "Gone John" !?**



Give them rest with the devout and the just, in the place of the pasture of rest and refreshment, of waters in the paradise of delight; whence grief and pain and sighing have fled away.

Local 4501, CWA, lost a couple of giants in April and May. They affected us in a positive way and we will miss them.



Audee Caldwell, retiree from *OSUMC*, served as Lead Chief Steward for third shift. I had the privilege of serving with Audi during negotiations and was impressed with his wisdom and his quiet strength and good nature. President Murráy worked with Audee at OSU and at CWA and says that he constantly learned from Audee.



Charles P. (Bob) Farley also came to us from *OSUMC*, where he served as a Steward and as our Local Secretary, and a member of our negotiations committees. Bob was always seen in a hat, preferring a black cowboy hat. And he always wore the silver and turquoise jewelry he made. I knew Bob to be an extraordinary secretary.

Both were young men. Audee was only 62, and Bob was only 55. Both men earned our appreciation and respect.

Communications Committee Formed

In early March, Local 4501 CWA President Richard Murráy formed the Communications Committee to **completely saturate our membership with information**. We are well on our way.

We have devised and implemented new mobilization forms collecting information for email blasts and text broadcasting. We constantly update our website and our Facebook page, and we are identifying

areas on campus where communication is weak and strengthening it.

Things we are yet working toward include archiving old newsletters and photos, getting more contact people for information distribution, photographing workers on the job, getting our information on the OSU electronic bulletin board, and steward identification, so all of our members know who they should be dealing with. And new ideas crop up at every meeting.

The committee includes co chairs Michael Secrest, our newsletter editor and Mae Adams, our Local Secretary. Mae is from our Secretary of State unit. Other members are Lolita Thomas, Local 4501 office manager and Sheila Collins, our secretary, Lee Paul, an FOD Custodial Worker in the Maintenance Building, and Dennis Woodson, a Stationary Engineer in the Power Plant. President Murráy participates and contributes, as does Vice President Mogan. **See more below.**

Electronically yours, Local 4501, CWA

You noticed that there were fewer copies of your most recent newsletter delivered to all areas. About half, in fact.

We think it's better to cut down on paper usage than to cut down more trees so we hope to influence you to go online, read the articles and come in to work the next day fired up to swap ideas and opinions. Add to this the immediacy of electronic delivery, the ability to better reach our members-only people who are often flung far and wide, and the ease with which you can respond and it seems the best way to go.

It is our intention to stay as current as anyone could. Now we are under the website

maintenance of **Rescue Computer**, and they are so responsive I can't get stuff to them quickly enough. Our most recent newsletter went on line days before the various carriers got them to you on your jobsite; and we don't have to worry about any one holding up delivery once they reach your area.

And follow us on **Facebook!** **Dennis Woodson** and **Sheila Collins** keep our Facebook page current. **Go on and "like" us** and you will be alerted to all updates. Part of the duties of the communications committee was to design and distribute new information forms for our members to fill out. Lolita Thomas, our office man

ager, with the help of Sheila Collins, our secretary, has been working on that with help from others for distribution. We have gotten information back from about 10% of you, but our goal is 100%.

Through these forms, we are collecting email addresses for blasts and cell phones for texting, if that is your preferred form of communication. We are also updating home addresses so we can do bulk mailings when paper communication is essential.

Get involved, stay involved, let no one walk over you. Union is about shared strength, and like any organization, we are only as strong as our average member. Some pull us up; some pull us down.

Free shirts for Local 4501 CWA members



Local 4501 CWA members! You have a tee shirt in your hall waiting for you. You have your choice of red or black. They are 100% cotton and union made in the USA. Just come in and show your current membership card and the shirt is yours, assuming you haven't already picked one up.

No current card? No problem. We have those in here for you as well. Just show your work ID and we will confirm that you are a member, and then you can pick up your card, and when we confirm you don't already have a shirt, you can pick that up too. Seriously, we need your help in picking up these items.