

LOCAL 443 News

May 2006 Local 443, Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME Olympia, WA

Local 443 Officers And Executive Board:

President:

John Geppert
President@WFSE443.org

1st Vice-President:

Don Vaughan
VicePres@WFSE443.org

2nd Vice-President:

Tee Hall
VicePres2@WFSE443.org

Secretary:

Shellie Savage
Secretary443@aol.com

Treasurer:

Susie Rathke
Treasurer@WFSE443.org

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Vacant
Sergeant@WFSE443.org

Organizing Chair:

Joe Nilsson
OrgChair@WFSE443.org

Members-At-Large:

Alanna Gehr
BmaL1@WFSE443.org

Del Jensen
BmaL2@WFSE443.org

Sarah C. Wilson
BmaL3@WFSE443.org

Agency Reps:

Laura Bradley, BIA
Bill Longnecker, DIS

Notice of Election of Delegates to AFSCME International Convention
AFSCME International's 37th Convention will be held at McCormick Place, 2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL, on August 7 – 11, 2006. Local 443 will be electing 11 Delegates and 10 Alternates at the June 20, 2006 Local 443 General Membership Meeting. You must be present or have a proxy letter submitted at the June 20, 2006, Local 443 General Membership Meeting, stating your consent to be nominated and elected. You must also be a member in good standing.

Future Newsletters will be Posted on the Website – www.WFSE443.org
Starting in **June** Local 443 Newsletters will be posted on the website by the **10th** of each **month**. In order to save expenses they will no longer be printed. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter you can contact the Secretary at Secretary443.aol.com or call the Local's phone at (360) 754-8437.

Upcoming Events

May 26-27, 2006 – Republican State Convention, Yakima
June 2-3, 2006 – Democratic State Convention, Yakima
June 10, 2006 – WFSE/AFSCME Policy Committee, SeaTac DoubleTree
June 28-July 2, 2006 – Summer School for Union Women, Evergreen State College, Olympia

Sergeant-at-Arms

Nominations are being accepted for the Sergeant-At-Arms position on the Local 443 Executive Board. If you are interested in this position you are invited to speak at the June 2006, Executive Board meeting, to be held at the WFSE office on 1212 Jefferson Street, SE at 6:30 pm, first floor conference room. Please let the President or Secretary, Secretary443@aol.com, know you are interested. You must be a member in good standing for 12 months to be eligible to hold a seat on the Executive Board.

Taken from the Federation Hotline of Tuesday, May 2.

IN NEED OF SHARED LEAVE: Robyn Wells, a program coordinator with the Employment Security Department in Olympia and a member of Local 443, is off work waiting for back surgery. If you can assist Robyn with a donation of eligible unused annual leave or sick leave or all or part of your personal holiday, contact Cheryl Harper at (360) 902-9313.

RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL

- R - Retired, able to do what you want, when you want
- P - Public, faithful to the people of Washington
- E - Employees, staff keeping the government working
- C - Council of your peers, working to protect your benefits

OUR STRENGTH IS YOUR SECURITY

1-800-462-6097

**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TECH MEMBER WINS
Taken from the Federation Hotline of Tuesday, May 9, 2006**

An Eastern Washington University member has won an important grievance over getting the appropriate pay for the kind of work she did.

Dixie Heyer, an information technology systems specialist 1 and Local 931 member, performed higher level duties during the four-week absence of an ITSS 4.

Under the first-step grievance decision, Heyer will receive the difference in pay for the period from Feb. 13 to March 10 of this year-about \$560.

Local 931 stewards Tom McArthur and Pat Terrell assisted Heyer.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Local 443 General Meeting</h2> <p style="text-align: right;">4/18/06 6:15 PM to 8:30 PM GA Building</p>
	<i>Draft</i>

The meeting of Local 443 was called to order by President Geppert at 6:15 pm at the auditorium of the General Administration building in Olympia.

Roll call of officers was taken by Recording Secretary Shellie Savage. All Officers were present with the following exceptions: Susie Rathke, Laura Bradley. Absent: Stan Leja

The membership performed the flag salute.

M/S/C (Motion/Seconded/Carried) to adopt agenda.

OBLIGATION OF NEW MEMBERS

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

M/SC Move to adopt March 2006 general membership meeting minutes as corrected.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Wendy Carbonel was present. Notify the president at the beginning of the meeting if you wish to have her stay past 7:00 pm.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

GUEST SPEAKER

John O'Brien, WA State Employee Retirees

M/S/C June meeting of the Southwest Locals of WFSE on Collective Bargaining

Date: Saturday in June 2006

Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Place: Longview Red Lion, Longview, Washington
Attendees: SW Regional Local Members (approximately 200 to 250)
Costs authorized by Our Local: Up to \$3,000
(Current Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget Item status – Collective Bargaining has \$14,000)

ROOM RENTAL FOR EVENT	\$1,500
Food for Lunch	\$1,500

Proposed Agenda Items:
WFSE: Contract Negotiations Overview and Update

POLITICAL ACTION: Presentation related to Collective Bargaining and getting a good contract given by Joe Nilsson, Organizing Chair & Don Hall, Local 1466.

Lunch will be provided

BARBECUE after the meeting at a nearby park to meet local legislators to lobby for a good contract.

Local 443 Constitution Draft Revisions
Waiting input from Council 28 and AFSCME.

EVENTS

Election to COPE Endorsing Convention, May 13, 2006 – 7 Delegates
Hilton Seattle Airport, 9:00 am, registration starts at 7:30 am.

Election Committee – Lynn Crowley and Laura Bradley

DELEGATES

Joe Nilsson, L&I
Joe Crossland, Ecology
Joan Gallagher, Staff

Steve Pointec, Employment Security
Zach Smith, Staff
Gail Richardson, L&I

ALTERNATE

Alanna Gehr, South Puget Sound

M/S/C to accept Election Committee Report

Thurston, Lewis, Mason Central Labor Council presents “Evening With The Candidates”
Saturday, April 29, 2006, Social 6 pm to 7 pm, 7 pm Candidate Interviews at the Lucky Eagle Casino

Summer School for Union Women, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, June 28 – July 2, 2006. We have only received one request for a scholarship, we have 5 spots.

STAFF REPORTS

Debbie Brookman, Field Representative -- currently covering DSHS, Dept of Corrections and Dept of Transportation, Evergreen and South Puget Sound

Joan Gallagher, Field Representative – working hard on increasing Shop Stewards, educating members. Shop Steward hotline starts in May from 8 am to 5 pm at the Olympia Field Office.

Tana Gann, Field Representative – training new Shop Stewards

JoAnne, Senior Field Representative – working with discrimination issues, people with disabilities, would like to hear of any issues going on regarding these topics.

CORRESPONDENCE

Routed around the room.

TREASURER'S REPORT

M/S to place the proposed budget on the floor, to be discussed at next month's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organizing – will be meeting at 5:30 on April 20 at WFSE Headquarters, 1212 Jefferson, first floor.

Shop Steward Committee – will be meeting quarterly with the first meeting Saturday, April 29, 12:30 at the Tumwater Valley Bar and Grill.

OLD BUSINESS

M/S/F Local 443 direct Council 28 to set customer service standards for all union staff that place much more emphasis on member services and member satisfaction. (Council 28 should hire a private third party consultant to assess the weakness of WFSE employees, their customer service skills, as well as develop model processes, procedures, and best practices that will assure all WFSE members the highest quality services from WFSE employees in order to provide high quality standards or performance measures for member customer service. These standards and the actual services and member satisfaction should be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

NEW BUSINESS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

M/S to move the customer service motion to the next meeting for discussion.

Whereas the union has grown in size

Whereas every member should feel good about interacting or communicating with the Union

Whereas most large companies hire private consultants to assist in customer service delivery

Therefore Local 443 respectfully requests that the Executive Board direct Council 28 to hire a customer service consultation company to assess and provide guidance for improving the WFSE Union customer serviced practice and standards. Guidance should be in the form of a comprehensive report of suggested practice(s) to improve and the ways to measure (metrics) successful implementation of customer service improvements.

M/S/C Letters of Solidarity to French Unions

Whereas the State, Country, and the world have seen aggressive attacks against unions.

Whereas recently France has successfully overcome an anti worker law through a series of strikes Union organized and publicly supported.

Therefore, Local 443 requests that President Geppert send a letter of congratulations to the Unions of France from Local 443.

Therefore it is also suggested that Council 28, WFSE and AFLCIO also send letters of congratulations and support.

M/S/C move proposed budget consideration for 2006-07 443 Organizing Committee Budget Line Items

PROPOSED 2006-07 443 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE BUDGET LINE ITEMS

Bargaining Unit Grants (\$300 maximum per grant)	\$15,000
Unions 101 Sessions x 12	\$ 6,000
Materials (shirts, promotional items, buttons)	\$ 6,000
Printing and copying expenses	\$ 3,000
Meeting expenses	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$31,000

Door Prize: Wendy Palms

PEOPLE: \$21.28

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

SPECIAL NEEDS?

If you or anyone interested in attending a Local 443 meeting should need any ADA accommodations in order to attend please contact the Sergeant At Arms, Robyn Steacy or email Secretary443@aol.com or call the local message phone at (360) 754-8437.

Committee Contacts



Finance – **Susie Rathke** Treasurer@wfse443.org
Grievance – : **Don Vaughan** GrievChair@wfse443.org
Political Action -- : **Bruce Zeller**
Shop Steward – **Alanna Gehr**
Organizing – **Joe Nilsson** OrgChair@wfse443.org

Diversity -- **Open**
Media – **Shellie Savage** Secretary443@aol.com
Contracts – **Open**
Scholarship : **Michele Elhardt**
Women's & Family Issues – **Open**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11 June 14	Executive Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. @ WFSE Conference Room, 1212 Jefferson Street, Olympia
May 16 June 20	General Meeting @ GA Building, Capitol Campus @ 6:00 p.m. (3rd Tuesday each month)
May 17 June 21	Thurston-Lewis County Labor Council Meeting at the Labor Temple in 6:00 p.m. -- 119 ½ N Capitol Thurston-Lewis County Labor Council Meeting at Carpenter Hall In Centralia, 417 N Pearl at 7:00 pm
Check out Local 443's website at: www.wfse443.org Local 443's Phone Number: (360) 754-8437	



It's important what you think, do and say. Please write YOUR newsletter with your comments, reports, and/or articles. Be sure to include your name a phone number where our Editor can reach you for article verification. We will do what we can to put them in print. We look forward to hearing from YOU!!

YOUR COMMENTS, FEEDBACK AND/OR SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Please send to: PO BOX 105, Olympia WA 98507-0105