



“ASK ME” AFSCME 3993 Newsletter

November 2011

President's Corner

Lots has happened since the last newsletter: we have a new General Manager (looks good so far; time will tell), three new board members (fantastic new additions), and movement in the Class & Comp effort (sorry, no money yet, but we're moving in that direction). We've also seen a lot of turmoil in the economy and in downtown Oakland. What is your Union doing about it? We're beginning preparations for the 2013 negotiations. Yep, starting already, and we need your help. We need to know of any area of our contract that you have found lacking or unclear. This is the time we start building our to-do list . . . our list of what we want to change, and the priority level as-

signed to each item. To many of you it's always about the money. To others, it's about work rules or retirement. To all of you it will most likely be CalPERS benefits or Retiree Medical Vesting. So far, Retiree Medical Vesting is the one item Unions and Management have been working on already - in fact together the Unions have drafted legislative language to create an option for vesting in 15 years instead of the current 5 years, and we're beginning to move it through the Legislature. This would only affect new hires, and only if an individual union chose to agree to such a change at the bargaining table. Why would we consider such a change? Because it's smart to get in

front of the pension reform argument, because 15 year vesting would save the District money, and this may provide a good bargaining chip. In the next year the Executive Board will be holding outreach sessions with different classification/departmental groups to foster conversations about what's important to you, and what you would like to see done by the Union. If you've got a group that's ready to get together and talk give me a call. Let's schedule something soon.

In Solidarity
Jean E. Hamilton
President, AFSCME Local 3993

WE WANT YOUR TALENT !!!

For those interested in broadening your understanding of our Union and participating at a more active level, there are many volunteer opportunities available through Local 3993 and the various organizations that we interact with - we currently have a real need for a member or members to volunteer to liaison with various community groups that are transit supporters on an on-going and consistent basis. By developing networks with the community we will be able to provide real-world, ground-level views of transit issues that face the public, our members and colleagues. If you are interested in working with the Executive Board of Local 3993 and AFSCME staff, please contact AFSCME Local 3993 President Jean Hamilton.

In service,

GREGORY C. RAMIREZ, Business Agent
AFSCME District Council 57, AFL-CIO

AFSCME International Backs the Occupy Wall St. Movement—Statement from AFSCME's Intl President

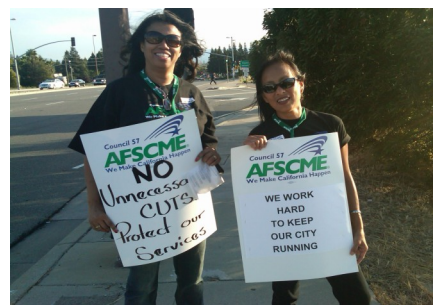
"We stand in solidarity with those protesting Wall Street's greed," AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee said of the blossoming Occupy Wall Street movement that began and continues in Lower Manhattan. "The economy that has wrecked so many lives, obliterated jobs, and left millions of Americans homeless and hopeless is the fault of banks that gamble with our future. Their reckless pursuit of profits, at the expense of working families' pursuit of the American dream, must come to an end."

[Labor Joins Occupy Oakland](#)

[Read more AFSCME District 57 News](#)

Our Executive Board

Jean E. Hamilton—President
Patricia Schuchardt—Vice President
Melissa Miller—Secretary
Vivian Gunderson—Treasurer
Rube Warren—Member at Large
Tonya Holmes—Member at Large
Sal Cruz—Member at Large
Debbie Cravens—Member at Large
Tera Hankins—A-Line, Member at Large
Rodney Evans—C-Line, Member at Large
Helen Lopez—M-Line, Member at Large
Alex Serrano—R-Line, Member at Large



E-Board Members: Tonya Holmes and Vivian Gunderson

AFSCME Activists

During the AFSCME Council 57 Leadership Conference held in Santa Clara, CA on Sept. 23-25, 2011—AFSCME Union leaders from all over CA participated in an action to support San Jose City union workers help fight the Mayor's attack on their pension, wages and collective bargaining rights.

www.DoBetterSJ.com

[More about the conference](#)

[Slideshow of the conference](#)



District Council 57 Contest

Chance to win \$200—Walker/AFSCME History Contest

In 1932, what issue spurred Arnold Zander and his fellow state employees to organize the Wisconsin State Employees Association – which eventually became the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) – and why was that issue important in the history of public service and civil rights in the United States?

Dates of Contest:
Sunday, September 25, 2011 - Closes Friday, January 6, 2012

Award: \$200

[Contest details and entry form \(pdf\)](#)

Questions, comments or ideas? MMiller@bart.gov

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