

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

at least of Local 17, BFHD Chapter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THIS QUICK LETTER IS MY ATTEMPT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF MEETINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES. PLEASE KEEP THIS LETTER ELECTRONIC. IF YOU'D LIKE TO PRINT A COPY, PLEASE USE YOUR HOME PRINTER. JIM

Meeting: BOH Oct 29th

The BOH decided to lease part of the Benton County Building which houses the BFHD to Benton-Franklin Human Services. A new lease was presented to Dr. Jecha at the meeting for the first time. Apart from a potential reduction in operating costs (heating, air, water), the new lease did not reduce BFHD's portion of the rent due Benton County. Dr. Jecha objected stating that BFHD should get a reduction because it will have to share some facilities. The objection was rejected by Councilmen Bowman and Beaver. Bowman indicated that the original plan prior to construction of the building was to include a second tenant and that the lease was not initially based on square footage. Beaver added that these were "hard times" and county and state budgets were being slashed. The new lease agreement was ultimately signed. No confirmed news yet on when our new neighbors will be moving in, but it is anticipated to occur in April.

Meeting: BOH Nov 17th

The BOH members unanimously accepted a \$9.3 million budget for 2011. As part of the budget, three full-time positions in Maternal and Child Health programs may be cut unless other funding is identified. Of the three positions potentially eliminated, two would be layoffs and one of the positions would be vacated by a retiring employee. Other major announcements were that there were no planned fee increases for BFHD services in 2011 and that two candidates for the public health administrator position would be interviewed in December. *[Follow-up: Candidates were interviewed on Dec 7th and neither candidate was hired. BOH members indicated that neither candidate had the proper qualifications. Members indicated that the job qualifications needed to be re-worked and that the position would be re-advertised at a later date.]*



Don't forget: These boxes (located in a break room near you) are ready, eager, and waiting for your ideas.

Meeting: Labor - Management Nov 9th

Chapter Officers met with BFHD Management in early November. The focus of the meeting was to get a "feel" for the upcoming 2011 BFHD budget and how it might affect Union staff. Most of the details regarding the budget were presented in the Nov 17th BOH meeting (see BOH Meeting Nov 17th in this newsletter). Part of the budget discussions had to do with whether or not the Nutrition Aide II job class could be created and if there were funds available in the 2011 for promotion into this job class. Management said that provisions for this job classification **were** included in the 2011 budget. Also on the agenda was a discussion of translation and interpretation services performed by staff. Management agreed to track bilingual usage and a meeting was arranged for Dec 13 to discuss terms of tracking.

"Every advance in this half-century: Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education... one after another- came with the support and leadership of American Labor."-Jimmy Carter

Green Tips from Jim

HAVE A STUDENT GOING TO COLLEGE? CONSIDER RECYCLED TEXTBOOKS

Campusbooks.com buys, sells, rents and downloads new and used textbooks. Visit www.campusbooks.com and learn how you can reduce waste and save money.

CHANGING CAR OIL? CHOOSE REUSED!

According to the EPA, it takes 42 gallons of crude oil, but only 1 gallon of used oil, to produce 2 ½ quarts of high-quality motor oil. For more information, see www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/1007020.pdf.

PAINT STORED IN THE GARAGE? DRY IT, THEN DISPOSE IT.

Water-based latex paint may be safely put in the garbage, *as long as you dry it first*. See <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/latex-paint-disposal.asp> for more info.

Meeting: Translation & Interpretation Dec 13th

It was agreed that oral interpretation and written translation when used to help communicate with a third party would be tracked for six months (March-Aug 2011). How this time will be coded will be announced at the January All Staff Meeting. It must be emphasized that bilingual usage will be tracked, but there will NOT be added compensation. After the six month tracking period, the data will be analyzed by both the union and management to see what further steps will be taken (if any). To read notes taken at the meeting go to http://www.ifpte17.org/units/health/benton-franklin/PDFs/bi-lingual_mtg_12_10.htm.

Local 17 Breaks from IFPTE

On December 6, 2010 Union REC delegates were sent a memorandum from the Executive Director, Joe McGee. In summary, the memo states that the REC "authorizes the disaffiliation with the International Union and authorizes the Executive Board to make Local 17 an independent organization". At this time the situation is "fluid" and it is uncertain how this change will affect us.

I was told by Don Briscoe, our Local Union 17 representative, that the upcoming issue of the *Insight* should have an article covering this topic. If you don't receive a copy of the *Insight* at home you can view a copy on the Union website. http://www.ifpte17.org/member_resources.php

Cost of Living Adjustment

Local 17 members will receive a 2% cost of living adjustment beginning January 1, 2011. For those that are "math-challenged" and want to find out about how much more you will be earning, take your salary from last year and multiply it by 0.02. For an employee making \$30,000 that would be an estimated increase of \$600.

ALL OF THE UNION OFFICERS WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Note: All information in this letter is as accurate as possible, but may accidentally include errors or omissions. This document is for information sharing only and is not to be considered an official or binding document.