



A Real Voice for Quality Public Services

Aug. 21, 2009

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Your Ideas Needed for Fairfax Co. Budget

Beginning in September, the Fairfax Government Employees Union will be hosting meetings with county employees in all agencies to identify savings and preserve jobs. "This is another difficult budget year, and while we were successful last year in reducing layoffs, we want to get the input of all county workers", said Karen Conchar, President of FCGEU. "Saving money means savings jobs and preserving great service to our citizens." By bringing forward front line expertise, these workshops will give employees a strong voice in how the Board addresses the projected \$315 million budget deficit. Look for posters announcing workshops in your area.

FMD Member Survey to Identify Cost & Job Savings

With the full support of department management, members in the majority union Facilities Management Division (FMD) will be distributing a survey to all agency workers to gain their input on ways to save money, preserve jobs, and maintain quality public services. Joe Wilhelm, an Advocate for the union, said, "This represents a major step in promoting cooperation between the union and management in a way that will benefit all of us as we try and get through another tough budget year."



Union President Karen Conchar recently introduced Creigh Deeds, our endorsed candidate for governor, to union members at a rally at SEIU headquarters in Washington DC.

Republican Committee Reaches Out to Candidates



In recognition of the need for a bipartisan political effort, FCGEU members have formed a Republican Members Committee, chaired by FCGEU Board member Charisse Gee. "It's important that the union which gives us a voice in the workplace has all points of view represented," said Gee. Two meetings

have already been held, and the Committee will be making every effort to reach out to Republican candidates. For more information, contact Charisse or email the committee at seiu5.gop@gmail.com.

Learn About Workers Comp August 24

On Monday, August 24, labor attorney Michael Kernbach will present a class to union Advocates and members on how to protect your rights if injured on the job. This important forum will be open to all members. Please plan on attending at 12:00 noon (the time is approximately an hour). The location will be at the Government Center, Rooms 2 & 3. Lunch will be provided. For more information call Dave Lyons on 703-203-7546.

Member Update:

FCGEU Welcomes 41 New Members!

FCGEU continues to grow and become an even more powerful voice for County workers. 41 new members, mostly from Tax Administration and Housing, have joined our union in the last month. Forrest Matthews, an employee in DTA, said, "Unions play a strong role in securing the rights of workers. In order to keep what we have gained and improve, we need to have a united voice."