

CHALLENGE

M E A - N E A L O C A L 1

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One of Our Own Jennifer Hasse . . .

& Our UniServ Rick Flynn

All of Local 1 is proud of UniServ director Rick Flynn. Rick has not only won his election to be part of the Charter Commission for Macomb County, he has been named by Governor Jennifer Granholm, and confirmed by the Michigan Senate, for an eight year term as a member of the Board of Trustees for Oakland University. This is a very significant honor, and we are delighted that a union activist will sit on this university board and make decisions that will impact an important part of higher education in Michigan.



NEWLY ELECTED LOCAL 1 CANDIDATES
JENNIFER HAASE AND RICK FLYNN

Rick has had just about every job in MEA you could imagine. He was president of Fraser Education Association, president of MEA-NEA Local 1, on the MEA Board of Directors, on the NEA Board of Directors, and a candidate for MEA President and Vice-President. He has been on the MEA staff as a Local 1 Executive Director for 9 years (serving Chippewa Valley, Lakeview, Harper Woods, and New Haven), and is president of MEDA, the staff's union. Wherever his penchant for public service takes him, he seems to rise to a position of leadership.

Rick has also been the Local 1 PAC guru for years and has been very involved with the Democratic Party on the state and local levels. He has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times. Because of Rick's leadership, Local 1 sets the standard for PAC involvement. No one works harder or with more determination on elections than Rick Flynn. He is a firm believer that political action is of paramount importance for MEA because of the impact on education and educators of political decisions made in Lansing. Rick knows success in bargaining is a reflection of what's happening in Lansing. He also knows that true leadership means not asking others to do things that you don't do yourself. As a result, Rick spends untold hours with phone banks, literature drops, canvassing, labeling, stuffing envelopes, and doing all of the small tasks that can add up to a big election victory.

When Rick relaxes, which is rare, he loves to golf, take care of his home, watch Bill Maher, and spend time with his family. All of the Flynns are political activists. Besides Rick, the Flynn family includes Linda (a long time teacher and union representative at Royal Oak HS), and two sons - Andy (currently working for the Macomb County Democrats), and Macomb County's youngest ever County Commissioner, David Flynn.

Congratulations on the richly deserved honors, Rick, and thank you from all of Local 1 for what you continue to do in every election cycle, and every day, to empower all of us as public school employees.

Anchor Bay ☐ Armada ☐ Center Line ☐ Chippewa Valley ☐ Clintondale ☐ Fraser ☐ Grosse Pointe ☐ Harper Woods
Lakeview ☐ L'Anse Creuse ☐ Mt. Clemens ☐ New Haven ☐ Richmond ☐ Romeo ☐ South Lake ☐ Warren Woods

THERE IS A TEACHER IN THE HOUSE!

Warren Woods elementary teacher and Democrat, Jennifer Haase, was elected State Representative in the traditionally Republican 32nd district. Jennifer has worked hard to make this happen and educators will have no better friend in the Michigan legislature than Jennifer Haase. We all wish her luck and strength in this incredible adventure.

What's Happening at Local 1?

- *Mike LaBuhn, President*

LOCAL WON!!!

Some election results are better than others and this one, the election of November 4, 2008, was just about as good as it gets for 6-E/Local 1 members. After the weeks of contributing money, walking house to house distributing literature, phone calling, collecting PAC money, talking to friends, family, and colleagues, and working the polls, we saw great rewards for all the time spent.

From the Macomb County PAC coalition of Local 1, Utica EA, and Warren EA (Region 6) 93% of the MEA recommended candidates were elected. This included:

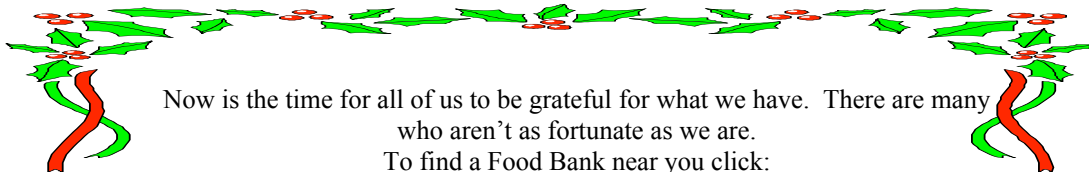
1. The first **Local 1 teacher to be elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives. Jennifer Haase, 5th grade teacher in Warren Woods**, was elected to the Michigan House, from the 32nd district. Jennifer takes the oath of office in January.
2. **Rick Flynn**, MEA Local 1 Uniserv Director, was elected to the Macomb County Charter Commission. The Commission's job is to write a new Macomb County Charter establishing an Executive within nine months.
3. School employees from both Romeo and Grosse Pointe got a recommended candidate elected to the school board.
4. **Sarah Roberts** was elected to the Michigan House from St. Clair Shores

5. **Tim Bledsoe** was elected to the Michigan House from Grosse Pointe.
6. Eight of ten Michigan House candidates recommended won.
Nineteen of twenty Macomb County Commissioner candidates recommended won
7. Thirteen of sixteen Macomb County Charter Commission candidates won..

Thanks again to all of our members and leaders who worked so hard to make this the most successful election ever.

IRS Changes in 403(b) Accounts may Affect You

You may have heard some buzz about changes in 403(b) regulations. This is the voluntary deduction through payroll with pre-tax dollars that many of us have chosen to save money for our retirements. In fact, the IRS has changed some regulations that will affect how things are done as of January 1, 2009. Your union has been working with your district business managers to try to assure a smooth transition with all of your rights protected. All of the districts now have to sign with a Third Party Administrator to coordinate the program and each district also has to write and approve a Plan Document. We are working to insure that no fees are passed on to you and to the extent possible, that the vendors you have chosen will remain. However, each individual vendor must also sign an "information sharing" agreement with the TPA, and unfortunately not all companies currently investing your money are willing to do so. It is possible that you may have to choose another vendor to keep your same programs. You might want to contact your own agent to find out if that affects you. According to one business manager of a Local 1 district, some companies that have already signed such documents are MEA Financial Services (Paradigm), Ameriprise Financial, Annuity Consultants, VALIC, and Oppenheimer. Some which have apparently not yet signed are Northwestern Mutual, Kemper Life, and SAFECO. Again, to be sure about your own program, contact your agent.



Now is the time for all of us to be grateful for what we have. There are many who aren't as fortunate as we are.

To find a Food Bank near you click:

<http://www.pantrynet.org/ZipCalc.asp>

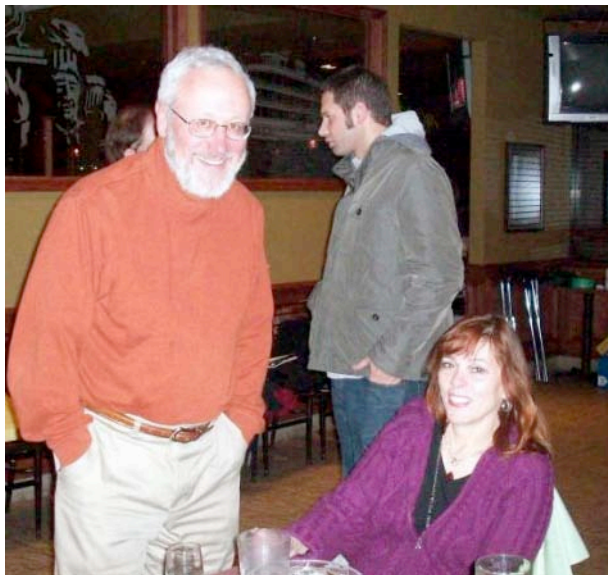
WORKING TOGETHER ON THE GREATEST ELECTION EVER !



Dennis Bruck, 6-E/Local 1 Vice President, PAC



Warren Woods EA President Barb McDowell, Norma Macklin and Local 1 President Mike LaBuhn.



Former Local 1 President, Rich Deneweth, along with Local 1 Treasurer, Joe Vukich, and Local 1 VP Bargaining and L'Anse Creuse EA President Michele Curtis.



Fraser EA President Martha Pichla and new Supreme Court Justice Diane Marie Hathaway.



Individual unit PAC chairs, like Ann Gallagher-Durst of Richmond EA, worked tirelessly to get volunteers, as well as, volunteering themselves.



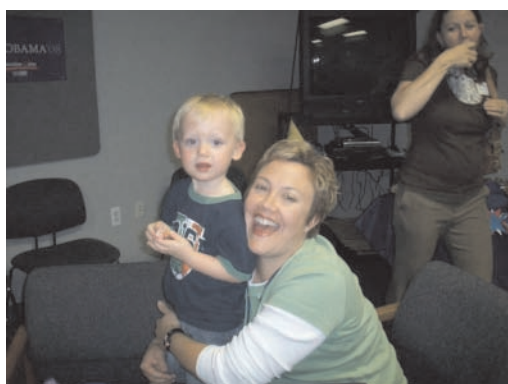
Enthusiasm! It makes the difference. Ask Martha Tesich of Center Line EA.



Someone needed to keep it all under control and in order. Someone like Local 1 Field Assistant Sharon Bullock, toasting our victories !!!



Phone banks were buzzing every day, thanks to members like Tina Carlton of Lakeview EA.



Starting them young! Lakeview EA's Shannon Tierney and son Finn get ready to distribute campaign literature.

