

Weekly Word

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Rally Time Again

In case you've missed all the flyers over the past couple of weeks, we are going to have a contract rally in front of the County Office Building at 5:30pm on Tuesday February 8th. We are looking to have members sign up to speak regarding the impact of not having a contract on their jobs...so call Joyce at the Federation office to let her know you intend to speak. For the rally, we will provide coffee and hot chocolate just like last month.

Membership Meeting

**Weds. February 16
5:30pm**

**Cooperative Extension
249 Highland Avenue**

There will be a presentation from a marketing group regarding doing public relations for the Federation. After the presentation will be discussion and a vote to authorize spending the money.

State of DHS

It's been a little over six months now since our new director, Patricia Stevens, has been in office. I had hoped by now that things might have stabilized a bit by having a formal director in place, but have yet to see that. I knew this was a pretty big job for her to jump in to, so perhaps it will take a bit longer than hoped.

The big question is, "How long can we wait?"

I've been waiting for the past two years of reorganization for the bottom to drop out...for the department to explode...for the community to get up in arms...for Hell to freeze over. The only thing to come close was last week's temperature in Rochester.

The thing I know deep in my heart that has stopped catastrophe from happening is the dedication and resolve of all of you to meet the public's need despite your personal predicament. You have always done that, but unfortunately not everyone knows or appreciates your effort, and that's a message that needs to get out. The only way that will happen is if we take the initiative and get that message out.

You know it won't come from Maggie Brooks. She has taken a hard line on our contract She has ignored our requests to meet.

And recently, we were reminded by our new director at the January "Brown Bag Lunch," when she accused our workers of sabotaging the new triage plan in the Financial Care Path. She believes it's because of the workers that the plan is not working, not that the plan was ill-conceived to begin with. When asked to push for a resolution to the contract, she alleged it is not her place to get involved. All of this she did with a standing room only crowd that overflowed the room and spilled into the hall.

When is it her responsibility to support the workers who, on a daily basis, keep this ship from sinking? When all of the records are stowed away? When she is convinced that workers *aren't* stealing by doing overtime to cover their unfair workload? When Hell really does freeze over?

It's time for these unsubstantiated charges that flagrantly disregard the good work that gets done to stop. You'll never get the effort needed out of a group of people by constantly undermining and demeaning them. While the "Brown Bag Lunch" is your personal time, we need to keep attending them and making Ms. Stevens accountable.