

# Weekly Word



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John Vasko

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## Picnic Cancelled

The picnic scheduled for this coming Sunday has been cancelled. It appears that this weekend was not a good time for folks to get together. The Membership committee is evaluating other events for the future and will be coming out with a survey to see what events/time periods might be of interest.

The joint effort to support the Scott Spino Foundation will go ahead as planned. The foundation supports school needs of underprivileged children at School #22 where Scott Spino was a teacher before his death.

There will be collection barrels at Westfall Road and St Paul Street from 7/26 through 8/1 where you can place supplies. Any other locations that want to have a collection place can contact Michelle Alaimo at 753-6374. If you prefer to present a check, checks can be made out to the Scott Spino Foundation and sent to the Federation office or given to Michelle Alaimo in Room 270 at Westfall Road or to Millie Key on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at St Paul St CPSI Team 4.

Any money raised from 50/50 raffles will go directly to the foundation. Members who have already purchased picnic tickets will have their money reimbursed unless they want it to be a donation to the foundation.

## Golf Tournament

The first annual Ed Grabowski Memorial Golf Tournament being held on August 13<sup>th</sup> is still in full swing. Money raised from this event will benefit the Federation's college scholarship program and Christopher's Challenge, part of the National Donor Marrow program. During the tournament, there will bone marrow screening available and encouraged.

The deadline for registering for the event is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact the Ed Thomas (753-6528) or Ginny Baggs (753-6302) or Federation office if you need a brochure and application.

## Labor Day Parade

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Labor Day Parade on September 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be assembling around 10am and should be finished with the parade by around noon. I don't have any of the details, but I believe there

will be a picnic immediately following the parade at Cobb's Hill Park.

I hope your Zinnia plants are doing well so we can decorate our float. Next week I will announce further details on the building of the float and what you can do if you can devote some time to building it.

## Pay Day Nightmare

For some, last Friday was quite a shocker when they opened their paychecks. Imagine seeing a \$1400 Union dues deduction leaving a net pay of about \$70! There were other issues that members found when they looked at their checks.

Fortunately, I was able to speak with Human Resource Manager Brayton Connard soon after discovery of the problems, with some of them getting resolved very quickly, especially the poor worker with a \$70 paycheck.

Most of the problems were fairly isolated and easily resolved. The widest spread issue related to workers in paygroup 52 and higher with the confusion related to an incorrect pay schedule that the County had provided to the Union. This schedule had a pay increase of 3% versus the agreed on 2% raise. The corrected schedule is now available for CONNECTIONS users on the "I" drive of their computers.

If you still believe that your check was incorrect, please send an email to Bev Williams (if you work at DHS) or your departmental contact.

My thanks go out to Bev who has fielded these emails and has worked to make everyone whole, to Brayton for responding so quickly to our urgent matter with all of the other urgent County matters happening, and especially to Peg Capuano, who had continuous lines at her desk last Friday as well as 70 plus emails.

## Arbitration Win

Congratulations to Marcia Hood for success in getting reinstated as a senior examiner as a result of an arbitration award. While some may not view this as a "win" by the Union, I certainly do since she will be reinstated to a position the County wanted her fired from.. The arbitrator believed that there was enough blame to sustain a one year demotion, but not the permanent demotion the County had implemented. Marcia's reinstatement is effective September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.