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Union Election Ballots Mailed; Members Urged to Vote

Ballots for one position, Union President, being contested between Faye Moore and Johnnie Wertz in Local 371's General Officer Election, were mailed to the membership on April 8, and are due back by 9:00 a.m. on April 30 to be eligible for counting by the American Arbitration Association (A.A.A.), the independent organization that is conducting the election. All other positions were uncontested and won by Moore Team Slate candidates. Read the instructions on the front and the back of the ballots carefully. If you do not receive a ballot, call the A.A.A. at (800) 529-5218, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The A.A.A. will only accept requests from the person who did not receive the ballot.

Nominations for most Union elections were held on Monday, March 10 at a General Membership Meeting at the School of the Future in Manhattan. Seven out of eight Moore Team Slate candidates in the General Officer Election were nominated and elected unopposed as were all Moore Team Slate candidates in the elections for Trustee of the Local, Trustee of the Welfare and

Educational Funds, DC 37 Delegate, and New York City Central Labor Council Delegate. (See March 2008 Unionist for detailed results.) The Moore Team Slate was also victorious in the nomination and election of 20 positions as AFSCME Convention Delegate and 21 positions as Alternate Delegate. That election was held on April 16 at a combined Membership Meeting/Delegate Assembly at the School of the Future.

General Officer Election

The contested election is for Union President, and the candidates for that position are: Faye Moore (Moore Team Slate, Row A) and Johnnie Wertz (Independent, Row B).

Union officers nominated and elected unopposed to three-year terms from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2011 are Executive Vice President Yolanda Pumarejo, Secretary Treasurer Joe Nazario, Vice President of Negotiations and Research Anthony Wells, Vice President of Organization and Education Beverly Mallory Brown, Vice President of Grievances and Legal Services

Lloyd Permaul, Vice President of Publicity and Community Relations Michelle Conklin, and Vice President of Legislative and Political Action Michelle Akyempong.

AFSCME Convention Delegate/Alternate

The following Moore Team Slate candidates for AFSCME Convention Delegate and Alternate were nominated and elected: **Delegate** — Michelle Akyempong, Michelle Artis, Michael Ballesteros, Bonnie Bufford, Mark Casner, Michelle Conklin, Susan Flanzraich, Maria Jimenez, Beverly Mallory-Brown, Margareta Morman, Joe Myrick, Joseph Nazario, Emanuel Nwanko, Pearl Toombs, Avon Pinckney, Yolanda Pumarejo, Lloyd Permaul, Randall Stevens, Robert Triplett, Anthony Wells; **Alternate** — Lonnie Artis, Theodore Baker, Denise Barr, Geraldine Bryant, Sheryl Calderon, Cathy Camacho, Yolanda DeJesus, Basil Ebong, Michelle Gaskin, James Geer, Richard Gross, Butch Hayles, Carmen Jones, Kirby Lindell, Stephanie Meyer, John E. Owens, Sylvia Quinones, Hector Rodriguez, Sadie Saunders, Diane Silver, Awilda Tingling.

Observers for each candidate are welcome during all stages of the election process. Contact a member of the General Election Committee at the Union office, (212) 677-3900. The elections are being conducted by the five members of the General Election Committee: Saundra Galloway, Manuela Garrett, Trevor Gibbs, Charlena Lowery, and Mary Rosario.

Union Opposes City's Plan to Reclassify Thousands of Workers to Non-Competitive Titles

The Union has announced its opposition to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services' (DCAS) five-year plan that would eliminate 96 percent of the current 36,500 provisional workers and would reclassify thousands of competitive titles to non-competitive or exempt status titles. Among the Local 371 titles the City wants to reclassify to non-competitive status – those filled by managerial prerogative - are Child Protective Specialist and CPS Supervisor, Fraud Investigator and Associate Fraud Investigator, and the Community Liaison title series.

The plan, which must be approved by the New York State Civil Service Commission within four months, is a response to a State Court of Appeals ruling, now called "The Long Beach Decision," that the City must be in compliance

with the New York State Civil Service Law stating that provisionals cannot serve more than nine months.

The City came up with its plan after the State

Legislature, in response to the State Court of Appeals ruling, mandated that a plan must be submitted within 60 days to address the elimination of

most provisionals. The legislation gives the City up to six years to accomplish its plan, which also includes an increase in holding exams, a collapse of series titles into one title, and broadbanding titles that do similar work into one title. Provisional employees will not be removed during this six-year period.

"The DCAS plan is a travesty that would put a dagger into the heart of the civil service system and destroy the principle of merit and fitness on

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—Charles Ensley

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what's INSIDE

Ensley's Farewell Message

Charles Ensley, president of SSEU Local 371, is retiring May 1 after 26 years in office. His farewell message appears on page 2 of this issue.

Union Celebrates Social Work Month

The Union hosted its 24th Annual Social Work Month Celebration on April 11 at DC 37.

(See story and photos on page 5.)

Keeping Our Common Ground Green

Unions can play an important role in educating their members about environmental problems and in advocating for sustainable living in local communities. (See story on page 12.)