

From Our Treasurer

MEMBERS! This year, AFSCME has mandated an increase of dues. Since we signed the 2010-2017 economic agreement, these increases have been passed along so that your Union does not lose revenue at the local level.

The struggle continues. Member contributions are the most essential instrument to ensure that we are able to serve you. We need our members (especially new members) to understand what their rights and benefits are, how far we've come and how much is at stake.

Unionized jobs paved the way for minorities and the middle class, because they provide job security, allow for collective bargaining, create the political will to set up pension plans, and success-



fully press for medical insurance partially by the employer -- to name a few of the things we take for granted.

If it weren't for unions, we wouldn't have any of these benefits today. The most important point of all is that they can all be taken away if we continue to sleep and are not proactive. We need to remind our fellow members of how important it is to keep

the movement going and to encourage them to become active and contribute.

The loss of our jobs and our benefits would be a far greater financial shortfall than is the monthly contribution needed to keep the union going. We all need to unify and get involved, we are all the union!

—Adama Paddyfoote
Treasurer

Final Contractual Raise Coming September 3

The last installment of the current five-year contract, settled last year, is due on September 3. Subject to agreement on how to distribute a discretionary payment of .52% of annual wages, members will receive a 3% increase on or about September 3rd. If necessary, the raise effective on that

date will be retroactive. Our contractual raise totaling 10.41% approximated the rate of inflation of the period from the signing of the contract through today's date (10.2%, according to the US Inflation Calculator.) The 3% coming in September will make the value of our raises exceed the rate of inflation.