**GAA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

All GAA Collective Bargaining Agreements are available in PDF format on the Associations web site: GovernmentAdministratorsAssociation.com. Go to your Chapter’s web page and there will be a link in the left hand corner of the page. Should you not have internet access, you may request a paper copy from the Association office as well (313-224-5076). Please take the time to review your contract. It is important that we remain aware of our benefits.

If you haven’t already done so, send us your name, Chapter and e-mail address to gaawayne@comcast.net, and request to be added to our e-mail list to receive Association News and Chapter updates via e-mail.

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS**

Regular chapter elections were held in the month of November for GAA General Fund Chapter, the Airport Authority Chapter and for certain offices in the Wayne County Professional Nurses Chapter. Following are the chapter results:

**GENERAL FUND CHAPTER**

The following results are from the General Fund Chapter election held Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

**President**
April Siebert* 48 Votes
Barbara Pettway 33 Votes
Alzono McCann 15 Votes

**Vice President**
No Nominees

**Secretary**
D'Angela Murray* (Won by acclamation)

**WAYNE COUNTY MANDATES LAY-OFFS CONTINUES FURLOUGH DAYS, PAY CUTS**

Wayne County Administration embarked on a new wave of layoffs of 700 rank-and-file workers by curtailing some services to the public every Friday, beginning February 5th. Employees affected by the layoffs are represented by four AFSCME locals, who have yet to agree on any wage concessions in contract talks. Employees represented by the Government Administrators Association as well as AFSCME supervisory and certain other bargaining units, which have agreed to furlough days or 10% wage cuts are not affected by the current mandated layoffs, it's reported. Details of services that will be limited to the public every Friday have yet to be published at the time of this writing.

**FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

**Airport Authority**

The new year is upon us and Spring is just around the corner. Nobody told us it was a corner with a "Michigan Left" though. Things do seem to be flying (no Airport pun intended) around here lately. There are projects going forward to help us in upgrading our technology. It’s a constant battle to try to keep up with ever changing industries, governmental organizations and the technology necessary.

The Airport has had a GAA contract for awhile now but other groups here continue to seek settlements for lingering issues. Meanwhile the State Legislature is looking at State constitutional amendments to reduce all public employee pay and increase health costs. There isn’t a high probability of getting these through, but public perception continues to look suspiciously at government. We have had a share of reduced budgets, unfilled positions, layoffs and all the other surroundings of the tight economy. Let us hope things will change for the better in our airline supported business before our new contract negotiations start in 2011.

Meanwhile, take a "Michigan Left", watch for the traffic to clear before you go forward.

James Osborn, Chapter President

**Engineering Professionals Chapter**

Greetings! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season.

I have heard that the move out of 600 Randolph went okay. There were some glitches, which were to be expected. Very, very few things go as smoothly as planned. I hope those that have moved are enjoying their new spaces.

I was hoping that this year would be quiet and uneventful for our group at Wayne County. We reluctantly agreed to 24 furlough days in our last contract and although the days off are great, the paychecks are not so great. However, this agreement has prevented any of the engineering chapter members from being put out on the street as of this date.

I guess the short-lived quiet and uneventful part of the year has come to an abrupt end. As I was at home Friday, January 22, 2010, for my furlough day, low and behold who appears on the TV screen but our very own Wayne County Executive, Mr. Robert Ficano with a message for county employees. Mr. Ficano states that he intends to lay off certain county workers every Friday, indefinitely. As far as I know, the folks that are receiving the lay off notices are from unions that...
Each New Year generates a purpose of hope for the future. Our hope for this year is hope for the poor and tragically unfortunate people of Haiti; hope for those also in our own Country who fall below the poverty level; hope for the unemployed; hope for the homeless; hope of the afflicted; hope for those among our own ranks who suffer from the loss of job, pay, etc. We pray for relief for all that as we begin the new year.

It's times like this that remind us of the ancestral history of our still great nation. The first pilgrims who landed on these shores had nothing, no shelter, no food, just the clothes they wore on their backs practically. Only by the grace of God, hard work, effort and dogged determination, have we been able to reach the standard of living we have been enjoying. It is true that many are suffering more during these difficult times. We as a people have endured them before, particularly, in times of war, the Great Depression, and peaks and valleys of recessions. But we have endured and we will endure. Keep the faith; hope is alive!

Jimmie L. Bettis, President
Government Administrators Association

FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

have not agreed to take 10% cuts, namely AFSCME, non-supervisory.

The latest information is that the County will close down certain services extensively every Friday in order to realize savings in the budget deficit. How that will affect our members remains to be seen, but we understand we are not included in the layoffs.

We will continue to work in your best interest in this matter and all other matters that may rear their ugly heads in the coming year. We will be watching to see how this pans out and will keep an eye peeled and an ear to the ground to see what the Ficano administration plans in the coming year. We hope times will get better.

Amy Miller, Chapter President

36th District
Court Chapter

Happy New Year to all!

We enter another year with uncertainty about the economy and jobs. Currently we are able to sustain our membership but even with retirements we are not able to regain those numbers.

Falisa Holt, who was recently promoted to Supervisor I in the Civil Division, was promoted into an exempt position within our HR Department. We wish her well in her new endeavors. I have asked court management about filling this position, but due to budget cuts they stated we will have to make due with what we have.

I polled members late last year about issues and concerns regarding the membership and our interactions with Court management. A host of questions and concerns came out of that and we did forward three items to be discussed in a special conference with Court management.

With more and more furloughs for City, County and State agencies coming, we will continue to negotiate sustainability for our members. As many of you know, Lansing is attempting to put a ballot issue before citizens to attempt to cut State employees pay. I believe this is a direct violation of bargaining agreements and that they as we did in the past succeed with overturning this effort.

Stay strong in Union Solidarity and fight for the rights, freedoms, and benefits we have gained through proper negotiations and agreements.

Dwayne Anderson, Chapter President

General Fund
Chapter

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. Time spent among family and friends is always wonderful.

I was very pleased to see the number of GAA members in attendance at the GAA Annual Meeting/Holiday Party at the Roostertail. It was a wonderful evening full of great people and great food.

With ringing in of the New Year, I recognize the big and difficult challenges we face in these uncertain times in our economy. We have finished a very difficult year. We have agreed to a difficult contract. But it is times like this that remind us that we must remain ever united and strong. Please keep the faith and know that we will as leaders restore the standard of living in which we have earned and grown accustomed.

I welcome new members to the Chapter as well as congratulate all recent retirees. My deepest condolences to members that lost loved ones.

Again, I wish to thank the membership for re-electing me as the Chapter President. Remember together we can make a difference and stay encouraged. Feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns at (313) 833-2255.

April Siebert, Chapter President

Wayne County Professional Nurse Council

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone enjoyed the annual Christmas party. Special thanks to Patty and Shemika for their dedicated effort in the
preparation and organization of the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party. The party is always enjoyable and a great success. I would like to personally thank the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, the Area representatives, Directors at Large and any other member that has assisted the Chapter in its endeavors over the past year. Your dedication is invaluable.

I am still in need of Area Representatives in the correctional settings. Training will be scheduled soon, so please hurry to notify me of your interest. Area Representatives are much more effective in representing members when they know the particulars how the department and facility operates.

The county move to the Guardian Building has already begun. If you are trying to reach the employees and or departments, be patient. I understand that they are experiencing some telephone problems, which should be resolved soon.

Regrettably, the furlough days and the ten percent pay cut have begun. Fortunately, we were successful in the recent arbitration regarding 2004-2008 contractual pay raises for correctional nurses. These nurses can look forward to a long awaited, albeit small pay increase—which is the negotiated 2%-1%-1% pay increases for 2006, 2007, and 2008. This does in some way lighten the burden of the ten percent pay cut in effect until November 2011.

Thank you to all the nurses who are stepping up their game and doing their best to do “more with less.” It is difficult when you work with lives, as opposed to working with paper; nevertheless, GAA greatly appreciates your continued effort.

I have received many calls regarding impending layoff days for certain AFSCME members. WCPCN members are unsure of how business can continue to operate effectively in their respective departments without these much-needed employees. Members are also concerned that the increased work load will fall on employees who remain working while taking the ten percent pay cut or furlough days. I just ask that we wait to see how administration plans to work this out.

Please feel free to notify me of any concerns. I am here because of you, and for you.

Elizabeth Patterson, Chapter President
Cell: 313-598-1898
Office: 313-224-0708

**Do not look at how difficult the road ahead looks—how high the pitch of the mountains, how hot the desert sun, or how long the race, before rest. You cannot see every part of the path, and unseen gifts are ahead along the way. Hold on. **

**Probate Court Chapter**

A meeting of the GAA Probate Court membership is being scheduled for the near future. As you may know, the membership is now directly represented by the Association.

Cynthia Camilleri continues to serve as the unit’s Area Representative. She also serves in this capacity as the liaison between the membership and the Association. Both, Cindy and the undersigned, are here to serve you and address your concerns.

Lawrence N. Verbiest
Association Executive

**3rd Judicial Circuit Court Chapter**

Greeting to all members and a belated Happy New Year! I hope you are enduring the winter weather and continue your outstanding contribution to the Circuit Court.

Every member should have received a copy of the CBA. If not, contact the GAA office. Yes, these are difficult times! However, each member has had to make adjustments in terms of paying partial premiums for medical health care and prescription coverage. Those members in the County Retirement Plan have the option to transfer from Plan 4 to Plan 5. Make a decision that is suitable for you and your family’s needs. Nothing has been done regarding House Bill 5449 yet. This bill would affect GAA members still in the State Retirement Plan. Stay vigilant and persistent in communicating your desires to Governor Granholm or your state representative regarding retirement options. Plans are changing; constantly check the Office of Retirement Services Web site at www.michigan.gov/ors.

Well it has materialized; the Guardian Building is the new home for Wayne County Commission, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Personnel and Labor Relations. The County occupies 16 of the Guardian’s 40 floors. The process of reorganizing its facilities and operations is complete. However, it will take some time to learn where all county departments are as not all will be located at the Guardian. The rumors are rampant regarding the Old County Building as to who will occupy that building. It is rumored that the Friend of the Court (FOC) and the Family Assessment Mediation and Education Depart-

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FROM YOUR CHAPTER
PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 3

ment (FAME) of the Third Circuit Court will move into the Old County Building soon (April, 2010). Also, it is alleged that Juvenile Court of the Third Circuit Court may occupy the old MGM building. By the way, the County is considering purchasing the MGM complex. I was told Wayne County was broke. The County and Circuit Court both have huge deficits and, thus, I am confused as to exactly where the money is coming from to complete the purpose of purchases and moves! "Inquiring minds want to know!"

A Special Conference with the Third Circuit Court / HR, GAA and two members of the Court’s Information Technology Department (ITSB) was held Friday, January 22, 2010. Nothing was confirmed or denied regarding the status of its ITSB. It is alleged that this department will be eliminated and its functions and operations will be performed by the County. The Association will continue to gather information and work toward appropriate resolution on behalf of our members.

The grievance contesting a member’s displacement and right to arbitration was denied by the Circuit Court. The Association consulted with GAA’s counsel and it was clear that in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement at the time of the displacement, the Association is denied the right to arbitrate any matters. There are no other pending grievances.

The Association is mediating on behalf of a member who has to reimburse the Court for salary overpayment.

The GAA Annual Meeting/Holiday Party, Thursday, December 3, 2009 was a chance to relax, and meet and greet members. Thank you to those who attended and for those who were unable to attend, I am looking forward to seeing you next year. It is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and network with colleagues.

I wish to extend condolences to Niles Reed who lost his mother, Johnnie Bell Reed, a retired employee of the Friend of the Court. Mr. Reed was displaced from GAA to AFSCME in April 2009.

Remember in 2010, we will continue to fight every challenge and win!

Priscilla A. Wells, Chapter President

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

Chapter Representative on the GAA Executive Board (Vote 11)

Rita Whiteley* 72 Votes
Felicia Mack* 71 Votes
Mimi Sullivan* 62 Votes
Samuel Spino* 61 Votes
Charles Bonza* 59 Votes
Mari Stewart* 59 Votes
Paul Zelenak* 59 Votes
Gretta Johnson-Washington* 57 Votes
Anthony Cavalli* 56 Votes
Candace Robinson* 56 Votes
Jackie Szafranski* 53 Votes
Kimberly Martin 40 Votes
Jamil Ferguson 26 Votes

*Elected

PROFESSIONAL NURSES CHAPTER

Elected at a meeting held November 16, 2009, for the only offices up for election were Elizabeth Patterson, President; Joann Wall, Second-Vice President; Constance Joyner, Director at Large-Health Department. All were uncontested. There were no nominations for the second Director at Large at the Health Department. That position remains vacant. Nadine Cunningham continues as 1st Vice-President, Mildred Neal as Secretary, and Margaret Tatum and Virginia Walker as Directors at Large for the Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility, respectively.

AIRPORT CHAPTER

James Osborn was elected President of the GAA Airport Authority Chapter by acclamation at the membership meeting held November 17, 2009. No nominations were received for Vice-President and that position remains vacant. Dianne Sadler was elected to serve as Secretary for the Chapter. She had no opposition.

GAA COUNSEL CITED AMONG METRO DETROIT’S BEST LAWYERS

Gordon Gregory and James Moore, Esquires, added to their list of distinguished service by being named as best lawyers in the field of Labor Relations as listed in Crain’s Detroit Publication in late 2009. Gregory and Moore are principals in the law firm of Gregory, Moore, Jeakle, Heinen and Brooks, P.C. which has represented the Government Administrators Association in all of its affairs for the past 30 years.

What's News

RETIREMENTS, CONTINUED

Suzanne K. Lang, General Fund Chapter
Michael D. Massey, General Fund Chapter
Mary Jane A. O’Neill, General Fund Chapter
Tracine Pickett, General Fund Chapter
Matthew Raferty, General Fund Chapter
Shelia A. Reaves, Probate Court Chapter
David M. Repasky, DDS, General Fund Chapter
Carol A. Scott, General Fund Chapter
Steven A. Showler, General Fund Chapter
Janet S. Smith, General Fund Chapter
Brian J. VanWingerden, Probate Court Chapter
Betty D. Veres, General Fund Chapter
Linda D. Wasson, General Fund Chapter
Mary L. Wilson, General Fund Chapter
Wendy S. Wojtas, General Fund Chapter

CONDOLENCES TO:

Melvin Bailey, whose sister-in-law passed away in October.
Jeffery Callebs, whose son passed away in January.
Paul Holloway, whose father passed away in December.
Cassandra and Stephanie McDonald, whose brother passed away in December.

GAA COUNSEL CITED AMONG METRO DETROIT’S BEST LAWYERS

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1st CLASS MAIL