

Lee A. Saunders *AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer*



Lee A. Saunders is the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents 1.6 million workers. He was elected at the union's 39th International Convention in July 2010. Prior to his election, he served as Executive Assistant to AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and was responsible for managing what has been called one of the most effective political and legislative operations in the history of the American labor movement.

Saunders grew up in a union household in Cleveland, Ohio. His father was a bus driver and a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union. After raising two sons, his mother returned to college and became a community college professor and a member of the American Association of University Professors. This inspired him to join the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) when he began working for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services in 1974.

Saunders began his career with AFSCME in 1978 as a labor economist. He has served in the capaci-

ties of Assistant Director of Research and Collective Bargaining Services, Director of Community Action and Deputy Director of Organizing and Field Services. He served as administrator of a number of AFSCME councils and large local unions across the country, including AFSCME District Council 37, New York City's largest public employee union.

Building on ideas generated by local unions, Saunders has championed AFSCME's Next Wave initiative to encourage and develop the next generation of union leadership. He has also developed and supported programs that foster diversity and promote increased member participation within the union.

Saunders serves as a vice president of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, which guides the daily work of the labor federation. He is an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee, treasurer of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Committee. He also serves on the Board of the National Action Network.

Saunders and his wife Lynne live in Washington, D.C. and have two sons, Lee, Jr. and Ryan.

Tim Burga *Ohio AFL-CIO President*



Tim Burga, a third generation steelworker, returned to the Ohio AFL-CIO in August 2009 after a nine-year stint working with Congress on workforce training issues. The Ohio AFL-CIO represents over 700,000 workers from 48 affiliated international unions and over 1,600 local unions in Ohio. On Jan. 28, 2011 the Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board unanimously elected Burga as its President.

Tim also serves as President of Ohio AFL-CIO Communications, Inc., which was established as the state federation's outreach arm, the predictive dialer call center.

As Chief of Staff for the federation, Tim oversaw the federation's political and legislative work. As Legislative Director for the federation, Tim led a coalition in a successful effort to place on the

ballot and pass State Issue 2, a Constitutional Amendment to raise Ohio's minimum wage. This initiative is hailed as one of the most progressive wage laws in the country. He also managed a successful legislative campaign in 2004 to develop and pass legislation creating the Ohio's Best Rx – a prescription drug program that is saving uninsured Ohioans an average of 38 percent on their prescription drugs.

From 1981 to 1990, Tim worked for the City of Marion, Ohio, where he assisted in a successful effort to organize city office workers to be represented by the United Steelworkers. Tim went on to become Vice President and President of Steelworkers local union 7856.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. Tim currently resides in Westerville with his wife Myrna and son Roberto.



Guest Speakers

WAC Luncheon Speaker

Tracy Maxwell Heard *State Representative*



State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-26) is a full-time legislator and serves as the Minority Whip in the 129th General Assembly.

With a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a minor in Business, she broke all boundaries by becoming a news anchor with an ABC affiliate in less than six months after graduation. She followed that with a launch into politics, working for the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1996. This experience led her to the State House where she served as a Legislative Aide in the Ohio Senate.

Following this, she developed her own business, Millennium Solutions, Inc., in 1998 as well as a career as a political and

public relations consultant. She also served as Executive Director of the Livingston Avenue Collaborative for Community Development (LACCD) – a non-profit community development corporation.

Rep. Maxwell Heard serves on numerous community and civic boards and is as a member of Deaconess Board at Smyrna Missionary Baptist Church.

She is the proud wife of Howard D. Heard and daughter of Mrs. Annie L. Maxwell and the late Robert S. Maxwell, Jr.

Her life philosophy: “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Matthew 6:33

CMCA Luncheon Speaker

Joe Schiavoni *State Senator*



Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-Canfield) was appointed to serve in the Ohio Senate in December 2009 and was elected for a full term in November 2010. He serves the 33rd District, including Mahoning, Carroll and portions of Stark and Tuscarawas counties.

A graduate of Boardman High School, he earned his Bachelor in Communications degree from Ohio University and Juris Doctorate from Capital University.

As a partner at Schiavoni, Schiavoni, Bush and Muldowney Co., L.P.A, the senator has helped hundreds of workers and their families secure worker’s compensation benefits, recoup lost wages, receive treatment

and return to work after rehabilitation.

As a member of the 129th General Assembly, Senator Schiavoni has worked tirelessly to defend the rights of all workers and is actively involved to defeat Senate Bill 5.

His other legislative priorities include modernizing Ohio’s unemployment insurance to help people with extenuating family circumstances and individuals participating in job training programs receive benefits. Other legislative interests include criminal trespassing on vacant property reform, community school accountability and school bullying.





Michelle Mills *Columbus City Council*

Michelle M. Mills joined Columbus City Council in January 2011. As chair of the Public Safety and Judiciary Committees, Mills actively works to ensure that Columbus' safety officers have the necessary tools at their disposal to reduce crime and keep our streets and homes safe.

In addition to her role on Council, Mills is President/CEO of one of the most diverse, impactful social service agencies in Columbus, nationally accredited St. Stephen's Community

House. A Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio, she has more than 20 years experience in social services and social work. She also has an array of leadership experience at the local, state, national and international levels. Mills earned her Master's degree at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Science.



Nina Turner *State Senator*

Representing Ohio's 25th Senate District in the Greater Cleveland area, State Senator Nina Turner has devoted her career to strengthening Northeast Ohio and improving the lives of those who call it home.

In the Senate, she has promoted collaboration and regionalism in local governance, worked to ensure that our state's workforce is ready to leverage 21st century opportunities and fought to maintain the economic security of the middle class. She has been one of OCSEA's greatest allies as an outspoken opponent of Senate Bill 5, which she voted against in the Senate.

A first generation college graduate, history professor and former Cleveland City Councilwoman, Turner remains deeply invested in the community in which she was raised. She was recently honored with the 2010

Women of Excellence Award by the Corporate Club at Landerhaven and recognized for her work toward expanding educational opportunity with the Distinguished Governmental Service Award from the Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools.

Turner has been named to "The Power 100 – Northeast Ohio's Most Influential People" by Inside Business magazine in both 2010 and 2011.

In addition to serving on multiple Senate committees, Turner is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Great Lakes Science Center, the United Way of Greater Cleveland and the executive board of the Cleveland Police Foundation.

She is married to Jeffery Turner, Sr. with whom she has a grown son, Jeffery Jr.

