

2019 Merit Negotiating Team – North Candidates (vote for up to 2)

(all Merit members can vote for North Merit Candidates)

Name: Adam Hancock

Nominated for: Merit / North

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work in PHHS in Adult Human Services Division, and I am currently an Adult Foster Care Licensor

How long have you worked for the County?

I have worked for the county for 2 years

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I was part of the union since day one. Since joining, I became a Union Steward, a member of the Member Action Team (MAT), went down as a delegate from Local 66 to the State Union Convention in 2018, Attended local 66 union meetings, Union Steward and MAT trainings, member of the Union Sick Leave Bank Committee, and hopeful next Negotiating Team Member.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

Since I started at the county, I have seen hard working county staff become concerned with outsourcing to lower caseloads, our ever revolving employee turnover/burnout rate, healthcare funding issues....- just to name a few.

Why me? My 20 plus years of experience working in non-profits and for profit organizations, in Sales/Marketing, being Self-Employed, Management/leadership, as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and in Medical Family Therapy - have helped me become well acquainted with the systems involved in having successful outcomes for individuals, families, and institutions. These experiences have developed an ability to negotiate to achieve successful outcomes and I feel prepared to represent you and the union at the negotiation table.



Name: Alicia Carrillo

Nominated for: Merit / North

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work in the Northland Building in Virginia and can't wait for the new building to be done! I am a MNChoices Assessor in the Adults with Disabilities and Aging Unit.

How long have you worked for the County? 5 years

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I am on the current negotiating committee from the 2016 elections. I have attended AFSCME's Local Union Leadership Academy (LULA) training. And I am a member of St Louis County's Health Insurance Committee since September 2017 representing Merit.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I am calm, patient and do my homework on the issues we bring forward. I also listen to others and work with the team to bring employees' needs forward. I work with my team on developing the best approaches during negotiations and take steps to communicate our needs to get the best contract possible.



Name: Denise Allan

Nominated for: Merit / North

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work at the Hibbing Office as an Adult Mental Health Social Worker. I also fill in for pre-commitment screenings and court hearings as needed. Other positions that I have held at the agency include working as a social worker for 10 years in the Children Family Services Division in Initial Intervention Unit, Intensive Family Based Services, Family Outreach, Adoptions and Ongoing Child Protection Case Management. I then switched to Adult Services and worked in Adult Foster Care Licensing for about a year and then spent nearly two years as a case manager for children in the intellectual disabilities unit.



How long have you worked for the County? I have worked here since almost 14 years.

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I have been a union member for nearly 14 years. I am the Chairman of the Basic Merit Organizing Committee and recently became a Union Steward representing my fellow coworkers in grievable or discipline matters.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I strongly believe in the importance of a union and the protection of a contract. I have been employed with companies that did not have a union and I stand firm in protecting my past, present and future workers during contract negotiations. Over time, I have seen a tendency for the agency to want to chip away at the benefits we currently have. These are benefits that my predecessors fought long and hard for. I believe in standing strong in representing our members at the negotiating table. I also believe in the importance of strong and consistent communication with our members as the negotiating process proceeds. I have an extensive knowledge of the work in both the Children and Family Services Division as well as several years of experience in the Adult Services Division and believe that with the relationships that have been built over time in both divisions, I can effectively represent my fellow employees.

Name: Lori J Ilminen

Nominated for: Merit / North

Where do you work and what do you do?

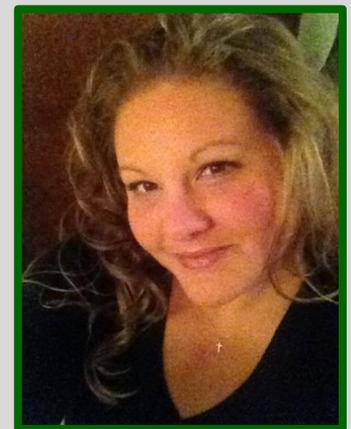
I work out of the Northland Building in Virginia as an Adult Mental Health Case Manager in Adult Services

How long have you worked for the County?

I started for the county in February of 2015

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

My experience with the union is minimal, I attend informational meetings and have marched along with my co-workers. My goal is to get more involved as decisions made will continue to impact me for years to come.



Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I tend to be level-headed in most situations and feel this could be beneficial in being a part of the negotiating committee. I try to keep an open-mind and feel I am approachable. I understand negotiating can be stressful and frustrating and feel I can maintain respect for others throughout the process. I am very open to learning and understand the impact of contracts to all of us who work at St. Louis County.

Name: Sasha Lehto

Nominated for: Merit / North

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work out of SLC Virginia with Elderly Waivers / Alternative Care programs. I am an advocate for our elderly, to ensure they are getting the services they need—servicing a large portion of Northern SLC.

I have a Masters level Social Worker for Adult Aging and Disabilities Unit and B.S. in Business Admin w/ minor in Accounting; M.A. in Psychology

How long have you worked for the County? 1.5 years with St. Louis County

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

Fall 2018, St Louis County agreed to contract out these cases / our jobs, to an agency that is owned, located, and primarily operates out of MPLS. I took a stand and have been fighting fearlessly to keep these cases in county ever since. I have worked closely with our Union, and the fight is not over.

In my free time, I am an Elected Township Clerk, in which I work to negotiate for our board, and advocate on behalf of my constituents on a county and state level, to get the services they need.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I think I would be an assist to the negotiating team in that I am a fearless advocate that is not afraid to take a stand, work well with others, and possess knowledge in processes of government negotiations & business, and patience to seek resolve.



2019 Merit Negotiating Team – South Candidates Declared Elected

There are 3 spots for Merit/South on the negotiating team and only 3 candidates were nominated so they are declared elected.

Name: Amy Sylvester

Nominated for: Merit / South

Where do you work and what do you do?

I am a case manager/MSW social worker in the DD unit south. Previously, I was in the Children's Mental Health unit.

How long have you worked for the County?

I have worked for the county for 14 years.

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I was on the negotiating team for AFSCME Council 5, Local 66 the last two rounds of negotiations. Previously, I was on the negotiating team when I worked in Douglas County for AFSCME Local 2375. I am also an auxiliary member for the National Association of Letter Carriers, and a Member Action Team (MAT) leader for Council 5 of AFSCME Local 66.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I bring experience from being on the past negotiating teams.



Name: John Sundell

Nominated for: Merit / South

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work for the Initial Intervention Unit as a Child Protection Social Worker. I investigate/assess screened in reports of child maltreatment throughout Southern St. Louis County. I strive daily to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for the child and families I work with.

How long have you worked for the County?

I have worked for St. Louis County for nearly 7 years.

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

- For the last four years I have been a member of the Union Negotiating Team.
- I have been involved as a Floor Leader regarding the MAT team.
- I spoke/presented at the Governor's Task Force hearings at the St. Paul on two occasions on behalf of Social Workers from AFSCME. Additionally, I met with several elected officials as well as leaders of other programs educating about the unintended consequences of the Governor's Task Force, barriers for child protection workers, and seeking increased support/funding.

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I believe I will be a great team member on the Negotiating team because I worked well with the last two negotiating teams by communicating effectively, brainstorming ideas, digging into and figuring out issues/solution, and understanding history of the contracts as well as the current contracts.

I firmly believe everyone on a team has unique skills, perspectives, and experiences which provide opportunities for the team to have the best results possible.



Name: Kim Hoffmockel

Nominated for: Merit / South

Where do you work and what do you do?

I have been an adult foster care licensor since April 2004 as a Merit System social worker at the GSC. Prior to my social worker position I was an Info Spec I for 4 years in the Land Department.

How long have you worked for the County?

In April this year I will have worked for SLC for 19 years.

What experience do you have with being involved in our Union?

I've been a member of the Negotiating Team for the past 2 contracts, a MAT leader since it began and a Union Steward for the past 3-4 years.

I became involved when I found I needed to learn more of what I could do to make our Union stronger!

Why do you feel you would be a good team member on the Negotiating Team?

I believe I'd be a good team member because I care what happens to each of our members in our bargaining units (Civil and Merit). We have strength in our Union if we stay together and face any problems together. I have work experience in both bargaining units and understand how the Contract can benefit and impact the numerous levels within these units. From my experience in the last two contracts I encourage discussion and information from the different work areas and enjoy determining what action steps are needed to meet these when possible. It's a priority for me to ensure that all members are included and no one is compromised so other's gain. New employees are just as important as employee's with longevity in my opinion.

