

CREA Turns 25!

Congressional Research Employees Association Celebrates A Quarter of a Century

By Candace M. Rhett

In March, I had the pleasure of attending the Congressional Research Employees Association (CREA/Local 75) 25th Anniversary celebration. For a quarter of a century, CREA has exclusively represented the interests of the employees of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress.

Rounding the corner, I could hear Dennis Roth (CREA's president) as he addressed the crowd. I entered the room and was pleasantly surprised to see more than 200 people in attendance. Some were seated; some were standing; some were engaged in conversations while others checked out the beverage and food tables.

I could tell CREA intended for the party-goers to mark this day as a special occasion. From the unending stream of homemade dishes and chilled shrimp to the historic photos of CREA's past that bordered the room to the bottles of champagne littering the back table; everyone, even the management officials, seemed to be enjoying themselves.

After I exchanged greetings with some familiar faces, I found an empty seat and struck up a conversation with two ladies at the table.

The first woman introduced herself as Beverly Campbell, a member of CREA's Board of Governors (similar to IFPTE's Executive Council). She's a Legislative Information Assistant who primarily works on the Congressional Record. Beverly has worked for the Library of Congress for 24 years; she's been a member of CREA for 12 years.

I asked her what she thought about CREA. She said, "It's a good organization that addresses the concerns and issues of its members. CREA has a cohesive relationship with other unions in the Library and its officers go one-on-one to work with the membership." Typical answer from an officer of the Local you say—my thoughts exactly!

The other woman introduced herself as



Officers of CREA/Local 75 (top), and (left) Beverly Campbell and Amanda Donaldson.

Amanda Donaldson—CREA member only. Amanda has worked for the Library for 18 years and has been a member of CREA for the last 15 years; she is a Legislative Analyst. I asked her the same question that I asked Beverly. She seemed hesitant to answer at first but then exploded with "let me tell you what I think about CREA."

"I've been a Legislative Analyst for the last 11 years. I was able to get this position because of CREA. CREA helped open the door for non-professionals in CRS to move into professional positions when management wanted to look elsewhere to fill the positions. I felt stigmatized by management but CREA stepped in and negotiated training for us. Shortly after that, I became an Analyst. They're always working with management to assure fairness for all members but they also stand up to management when they try to knock us down. CREA is a great union."

Amanda's comments painted a clear picture for me. CREA has and continues to uphold a central theme behind unionism—advancing the rights of working men and women. From what I could see and what I had just heard, I would have to agree—CREA is a great union. HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY CREA!!

For more information on CREA, visit them on the web at www.crelocal75.org.

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