

# AFSCME IN ACTION Member Newsletter | May 2025



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland President Patrick Moran speaking at a stewards training with state supervisor members

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

### **Education is Key: Know Your Rights**

This month, our union held a number of educational opportunities focused on building our knowledge when it comes to our rights in the workplace. From trainings for new stewards and activists to two webinars on heat safety, we covered everything from what's in a union contract to your rights under Maryland's heat safety standards.

The best way you can protect yourself at work is to stay informed and know your rights. Understanding what's in your union contract means being able to hold your management accountable and ensuring you and your coworkers are treated fairly. And as temperatures rise this summer, it will be more important than ever to know what your rights are and how to stay safe when the heat index reaches over 80 degrees under Maryland's heat standard.

Stay tuned for more educational opportunities in the future. In the meantime, you can always access a copy of your union contract on our website.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran





Governor Wes Moore signing the Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act into law.



Local 44 and Local 558 enjoying their Annual Nursing and Healthcare Workers Education In-Service.



State supervisors in Unit S after their first stewards training.



## **ICYMI: Resources to Protect Yourself from Heat Stress**

On May 27, we hosted two Zoom webinars focused on Maryland's new heat safety standards. The sessions featured guest speakers from our national union and Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) and covered what employers must provide to prevent heat stress and protect workers when the heat index reaches a certain point.

#### SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS RESOURCES





## **AFSCME Members in Action**

- At the end of April, AFSCME Local 1081 visited worksites across the Eastern Shore. They met with current members and welcomed new ones too.
- *C* State supervisors in Unit S held their first stewards training this month. Our new stewards are ready to enforce their union contract and stand up for their co-workers.
- For National Public Service Week, Locals 354, 112 & 3167 brought a 4-day food truck festival to worksites across Frederick and Washington counties.
- During National Law Enforcement Week, AFSCME members attended a candlelight vigil in Washington, DC to honor and remember those who were killed in the line of duty this past year. This year, AFSCME Local 3661 member and Parole and Probation Agent Davis Martinez was added to the memorial.
- On Tuesday, May 20, AFSCME members attended a bill signing ceremony in Annapolis and witnessed Governor Wes Moore sign the Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act into law. This historic legislation would hold all public employers accountable to keeping workers safe on the job.
- AFSCME members spoke at the Baltimore City Council's annual Taxpayer Night & a recent Baltimore City Public Schools board meeting to call for more funding, resources, & support for the city's frontline workers.
- This month, AFSCME members in Howard County showed up strong and united at their County Council meeting.
- Members of Anne Arundel Library Workers United testified at recent Anne Arundel County Council meetings to advocate for fair wages and anti-discrimination protections in their first contract.
- Local 44 President Dorothy Bryant was a guest speaker at the Baltimore City Department of Public Works annual employee recognition ceremony, where two AFSCME members, Donald Comegys and Gordon Thompson, were honored for 55 years of service!

## **Member Spotlight: Teresa Fleming**

Local 44 member Teresa Fleming is a custodian at Excel Academy High School in Baltimore City, where she has worked for over thirty years. She also serves as a member of the Local 44 bargaining team, advocating for safe working conditions and fair wages for her coworkers.

During the day, she keeps the city's classrooms clean and gives students an environment where they can learn and thrive. "I love working with my kids, and I know having a clean school makes a difference for them. Coming to a clean space can truly change someone's whole mood," says Teresa.



Pictured: Teresa Fleming (second from left) at a Baltimore City Public Schools board meeting

Teresa knows the power of education and reminds her students every day how important it is that they show up and learn. "I always tell my students, no matter what you do, make sure you graduate," says Teresa. "You've come too far to stop now." In fact, you can often find Teresa giving her students pep talks, bringing them donuts for showing up to school, and checking in with them throughout the week.

She doesn't just go above and beyond for her students; she also shows up for her coworkers. During the last few months, Teresa has been diligently going to worksites across Baltimore, informing workers about their rights in the workplace and the importance of being involved in our union. **"My dad used to be a long-time union member when he worked for Domino Sugar, and he always told me, 'Join a union and go to the meetings because unions are important."** In light of federal funding cuts that are harming our public schools, she feels more urgency than ever to follow in her father's footsteps, advocating for her coworkers and all AFSCME members who work for Baltimore City Public Schools.

