



# AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | April 2023

## A United and Strong AFSCME Maryland!

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRESIDENT PATRICK MORAN

For years, there have been talks of the members of AFSCME Council 67 who work for local governments and the members of AFSCME Council 3 who work for the State and in higher education combining forces to create one AFSCME Maryland. I'm excited to say that the time has come! The executive boards of AFSCME Council 67, AFSCME Council 3, and our national Union unanimously voted to move forward together, and we are on our way.

Now, we will have the power of AFSCME members in every legislative district, every county, and across the state working to build member power for all AFSCME members who work in Maryland. From the mountains in Garrett County to the shores of Worcester County, AFSCME will be a unified, statewide force for public service workers.

It is incredibly exciting to bring our resources, voices, and member power together to advocate for the strong contracts and fair working conditions that AFSCME members have earned and deserve. We've received many requests from public service workers who currently do not have a union but want to organize with AFSCME; our unification makes it even more clear why they should organize with AFSCME Maryland.

This July, we will be holding a special convention to formalize our unification and begin our journey towards building greater power for all of Maryland's public service workers. **We have tremendous opportunities ahead, and I look forward to working with all of you to build a UNITED and STRONG AFSCME Maryland!**



*Pictured: Past photos featuring Council 3 and Council 67*










*Pictured: AFSCME members with Governor Moore at the bill signing for PERA*

### 2023 Legislative Session Wrap-up

Shout out to everyone who made this 2023 legislative session a great one! You can read our full legislative update on our website at: [bit.ly/2023-leg-wrapup](https://bit.ly/2023-leg-wrapup).



## AFSCME Members in Action

-  Workers at the Walters Museum of Art signed a union election agreement at the end of March after nearly two years of organizing. They'll be holding a union election later this spring to certify their wall to wall unit!
-  Local 239 members at Frostburg State University visited their coworkers throughout campus at the beginning of April to ask them to join our union and get more involved.
-  Local 434 members Vance Scovens and Engr Johnson received awards recognizing their service with Baltimore County Public Schools on Wednesday, April 19. Congratulations & thank you for everything you do!
-  Local 558, representing community health nurses in Baltimore, held an in-service event on Friday, April 21. Members gathered together to discuss topics ranging from healthcare to their union and more.
-  AFSCME members who work in our state correctional facilities met together in Hagerstown on Saturday, April 22 for our first Corrections Summit. This comes after the release of the AFSCME Staffing Analysis report, which shows that more than 3,400 additional officers need to be hired to safely staff state correctional facilities.
-  Anne Arundel County workers in Local 2563 and Local 582 both ratified new contracts containing COLA and merit increases this month. Howard County workers in Local 1810, Local 3080, Local 3085, and Local 3888 also won pay increases and will be voting on their tentative agreement in the coming weeks.
-  The Maryland Defenders Union/AFSCME Local 423 organized 10 different core staff appreciation events around the state to celebrate National Administrative Professionals Day.



*Pictured: Local 558 members*

### Member Spotlight: Dorothy Bryant

This past month, Dorothy Bryant reached an important milestone — she celebrated her 55th work anniversary with Baltimore City! Now the president of AFSCME Local 44 representing Baltimore City workers, Ms. Bryant first started working for the city as a phlebotomist with the health department.

**"I got involved in our union because I felt that my coworkers and I needed a voice at work. I attended all of our meetings because I wanted to make sure my coworkers knew what their rights were. I knew that being a union member meant that we would have the ability to negotiate our wages and benefits and to fight back if needed."**

For Ms. Bryant, what motivates her to stay involved in her union is the enjoyment she receives from being able to help her fellow union members. "I want them to know that our union will have their back when the need arises and that we will speak up for you if you are being treated unfairly in some way."

Looking back at everything she and her local have accomplished, Ms. Bryant reflects, "The other day I was going through our old contracts, and I saw where our pay was at the time and where we are now. Without our union, there's no way we would be where we are now. There's no way we would have had a voice, to speak out and say we deserve better pay. The city would have just told us to take it or leave it."

