



Pictured: Workers' Memorial Day event honoring the workers who lost their lives on the Key Bridge

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

Mourn for the Dead, Fight Like Hell for the Living

This past weekend, on Sunday, April 28, was Workers' Memorial Day – a day we remember those that did not make it home from their job, back to their loved ones and family.

This year, Workers' Memorial Day is even more important than ever. While we have had some recent victories, we have also seen shocking tragedies that should and could have been avoided.

Just last month, we lost six workers on the Francis Scott Key Bridge. And last year, we lost six workers in a construction zone on I-695. The jobs they did are essential but dangerous, and as we look to the future, we must recommit ourselves to fighting for safer working conditions, stronger workplace rights, and union protections for all.

Let's keep all of the families in mind that have lost their loved ones on the job, and let's work together to push for laws that keep workplaces safe for everyone.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Celebrating a Momentous Legislative Session

Monday, April 8 was the last day of this year's legislative session in Maryland. Thanks to the incredible work of hundreds of AFSCME members who showed up in Annapolis every week, we expanded collective bargaining rights to over 7,000 workers, fought for the resources our agencies and public services need, and more.

You can read the full End of Session Report on our website at www.afscmemd.org.



CALLING ALL STATE SUPERVISORS (UNIT S):








VOTE YES FOR AFSCME!

Vote YES today, so we can start working towards a contract that gives us the respect and dignity we deserve!

Vote YES: bit.ly/sups-yes



AFSCME Members in Action

-  On Friday, April 26, we commemorated **Workers' Memorial Day** with the Central Maryland Labor Council in Hagerstown.
-  On Earth Day, AFSCME Local 1072 member Rhonda Leneski spoke at the **AFL-CIO Climate, Equity, and Jobs Convening Kickoff** to discuss how climate change and a lack of adequate heat protections affect her and her coworkers at the University of Maryland, College Park, where there are dorms without any AC.
-  This past weekend, we held our annual **Corrections Summit** that brought together member leaders who work in correctional facilities across the state. Over the two days, we got to know and learn from one another, celebrated recent union victories, and made plans to keep growing our union and fighting for safer working conditions.
-  Thank you to all of the local presidents who came to our **April Presidents' Meeting!** It was a great day getting inspired by one another and gearing up for a packed summer and fall!
-  We  library workers! Check out our Facebook page for our **National Library Workers Day** video featuring members of HoCo Library Workers United who are currently bargaining their first contract!
-  At the beginning of April, workers for the **Town of Elkton** showed up to the Mayor and Commissioners meeting to urge them to stand with their employees and to amend an unjust labor code.

Let's Get Out the Vote!

From now until May 14 (Primary Election Day), we will be hosting numerous phonebanking and canvassing opportunities to help elect pro-worker candidates.

Learn more at
www.afscmemd.org/vote/



Member Spotlight: Elisha Mack

Two years ago, Elisha Mack took a job at the Spring Grove Hospital Center as a Security Attendant Supervisor, seeing the opportunity as a promotion and the chance to be in a new environment after nearly two decades with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

The 2024 Legislative Session was an important one for Elisha, since she was directly impacted by not just one, but two, major pieces of legislation: a bill granting collective bargaining rights to state supervisors (HB 260/SB 192) and a bill correcting a decades-long mistake that left certain Maryland Department of Health (MDH) employees out of the Correctional Officers Retirement System (CORS) twenty-year retirement plan (HB 1005/SB 972). When it comes to the former, Elisha says, "I'm happy to be able to have a seat at the table again and to advocate for both the employees that we supervise and my fellow supervisors that are also on the front lines." And when it comes to the latter, Elisha is grateful that the bill brings everything full circle and has brought a lot of relief when she thinks about her retirement plans. "If we hadn't passed this bill, I was contemplating going back to my old position just to avoid starting over in terms of my years of service and eligibility."

Reflecting on this year's legislative session, Elisha says she initially had some hesitation about what she could do to help win these important changes. But the more she thought about it, the more she realized that she could be the one to deliver the message to her legislators. **"I realized, 'Why not me? Who else can communicate how important these pieces of legislation are to myself but me?' I was honored to be a part of this process, to share my story, and to help us win."** Elisha's story just goes to show that without the tireless organizing of AFSCME members, a 20 year retirement and a voice on the job wouldn't have happened.



Pictured: Elisha Mack