



Pictured: Attendees at the AFSCME Maryland Special Convention

Special Convention: A Stronger AFSCME Maryland

On Saturday, July 8, we held a Special Convention where more than 200 AFSCME members from across the state came together to expand the representation of our executive board. This was a great opportunity to connect with AFSCME members from other locals and learn about the organizing work that AFSCME member leaders and locals are doing.

The following additional board members were elected:

- Dale Chase, AFSCME Local 3085, Central Region Vice President
- Lori Ulrich, AFSCME Local 2380, Southern Region Vice President
- Wayne Topper, AFSCME Local 2677, Western Region Vice President
- Rhonda Wallace, AFSCME Local 1170, County Unit Vice President
- Anthony Smith, AFSCME Local 3389, County Unit Vice President
- Bryan Epps, AFSCME Local 434, K-12 Unit Vice President
- Dorothy Bryant, AFSCME Local 44, Municipal Unit Vice President
- Wendy Smith, AFSCME Local 558, Municipal Unit Vice President

Congratulations to our new board members, and thank you to everyone who helped make this Special Convention a great one!

Check out photos from the Special Convention on the AFSCME Maryland Facebook page!



Upcoming Events

UMD Do Better Rally
 Wednesday, August 16 at 12:15 PM
 University of Maryland, College Park

New Member Meeting
 Saturday, September 9 from 10 AM to 12 PM
 RSVP: bit.ly/0923-newmember-meeting

Update: DPSCS Wage Theft Investigation





When we fight, we win! Thousands of workers who work for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) will receive a combined total of \$13 million as a result of an investigation by the federal Department of Labor regarding the illegal changing of timecards by the State, violating the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

This settlement only happened because AFSCME members spoke up and filed multiple complaints to call attention to what was happening.



View the full FAQ:
bit.ly/dol-dpscs-faq
 If you have questions,
 please contact DPSCS HR
 Dir. John Flynn:
john.flynn@maryland.gov.

AFSCME Members in Action

-  For nearly 20 years, members of AFSCME Local 1834 in Garrett County have conducted an annual fundraiser to provide scholarships to local high school seniors. This year, AFSCME Local 1834 member James 'JP' Pysell awarded 4 high school seniors each a \$500 scholarship.
-  AFSCME members joined other union members for a Union Night at Camden Yards on the evening of Friday, July 14. The Orioles defeated the Marlins 5-2!
-  Members of AFSCME Local 1427 and Local 1678 participated in a DPSCS hiring fair on Saturday, July 22. They even got a surprise visit from Gov. Wes Moore and Lieutenant Gov. Aruna Miller!
-  In July, AFSCME Maryland members participated in a great storytelling training where we learned how to share our stories, communicate our victories effectively, and use these important skills to build our union. Shout out to Mae Akpabio (Local 1678), Bill Chenowith (Local 3888), Jenny Reese (Local 539), Rayneika Robinson (Local 3661), and Dionne Williams (Local 1072) who attended this training!

Member Spotlight: Rayneika Robinson

As a child, Rayneika Robinson remembers going to family cookouts and spending time with her grandfather. "My grandfather would always tell me that his union is what gave him a voice. He would tell me how his union helped put safety protocols and fair practices in place for him and his fellow truck drivers," says Rayneika, a parole and probation agent and the president of AFSCME Local 3661.

Now, Rayneika and her fellow union members are doing the same. From growing the number of stewards her local has to winning pay increases for her fellow agents and coworkers to establishing a schedule for safety inspections as well as a health and safety committee and so much more, Local 3661 has continued to win workplace improvements for Parole and Probation employees and offices across the state. **"I've seen how absolutely necessary our union is. You can have the same issue in two different workplaces, but the workplace that sticks together and stands up for themselves gets a good outcome, and the workplace where no one stands up continues to face the same status quo."**

Rayneika also recently took part in a storytelling training with fellow AFSCME members from across the Northeast, including Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. The interactive training both challenged and inspired her. **"I don't think there are enough words to describe how our union has impacted me. Being a part of my union has opened doors and new opportunities for me and has provided me with a union family. I encourage any person to become active because being involved sets you up to be an agent of change. Our union is our amplifier."**



Pictured: AFSCME Local 3661 President Rayneika Robinson (top); AFSCME Maryland members at the storytelling training (bottom)