



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | September 2023



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland local presidents take a group photo together during the September Presidents' Meeting.

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRESIDENT MORAN

Building Power Together

On Friday, September 22, over 50 local presidents came together from across Maryland for our first ever biannual presidents' meeting as a united AFSCME Maryland. During our meeting, I had a great time sharing ideas and goals, learning how we can work together, and discussing what resources are needed from our Council to help all of you build power in workplaces across Maryland.

It's clear from this meeting that we have a solid foundation that we are working with, and we will continue to work together to build the strongest union for public service workers in Maryland. We are already starting to see the results in our organizing and negotiations as a result of the strength and power of our united AFSCME Maryland. We only have one direction to go, and I'm hopeful to move our union FORWARD with all of you.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Recap: Staff the Front Lines

Earlier this month, we welcomed AFSCME International Union President Lee Saunders, along with Governor Wes Moore and Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott, to our AFSCME Maryland office in Baltimore for our Staff the Front Lines event. Over 100 members from across Maryland attended to help highlight public service job opportunities with our State and cities.

Baltimore was the last stop of a nationwide tour put on by our AFSCME national union that visited over 20 states and highlighted careers in public service and the job opportunities available.





Right now, every city, county, school district, college or university, and the State of Maryland is looking to fill thousands of jobs, from social workers to correctional officers to transportation workers and more. If you know someone who is looking for a job, encourage them to pursue a career in public service.

Upcoming Events

State Bargaining Town Hall
Wednesday, October 11 | Zoom
RSVP: bit.ly/state-barg-townhall

Statewide Week of Action
Monday, October 23 - Friday, October 27

AFSCME Members in Action

-  AFSCME Local 1459 members from UMBC held their annual member appreciation picnic on September 14. It was a great opportunity for the local to brag about their wins, answer questions, and sign up new members.
-  New AFSCME members from around the state joined us in Baltimore on a Saturday morning for our September Introduction to Our Union training. We had a great time learning about how our union works and how to get more involved.
-  Congratulations to our newly certified stewards who completed our Stewards in Action training! Thank you for stepping up to protect the rights of you and your coworkers on the job and to ensure our contracts are followed!
-  AFSCME Local 3655 members who work at the Glen Burnie MVA had a meeting with MVA Administrator Christine Nizer to discuss the disrespectful and toxic treatment they've been experiencing from branch managers. All workers deserve to be treated with respect at work. A special thanks to all members who showed up and spoke out!



Holding the USM Accountable

In our last two bargaining sessions with the University System of Maryland, we had surprise visits from Senator Ben Kramer and Delegate Jared Solomon. As longtime supporters of AFSCME members, they both wanted to see how SB9, the consolidated bargaining law, has been working. We're grateful for their commitment to ensure that our voices are heard & respected at the bargaining table.

Member Spotlight: Mike Hill

For over 17 years, Mike Hill has worked to protect our community waterways and to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe. A Collection Technician for WSSC Water (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission), Mike keeps sewer mains in Prince George's County and Montgomery County flowing and free of blockages. "I'm basically there to protect our environment and our houses, to help keep our sewers flowing so no one has to experience a basement backup. People have mailed letters in thanking me and my partner for responding to an emergency job and clearing sewage from their basements, and when we're out in our communities working, people come up to us and express their appreciation," says Mike.

As an executive board member and shop steward for AFSCME Local 2898, Mike ensures that he and his fellow coworkers have the support they need at work in order to safely do their jobs. **"I became involved in my union because I wanted to be more proactive instead of reactive. I like talking to people and educating my coworkers on their contract and their rights at work that they might not know about."**

Last week, Mike spent two days in our Stewards in Action training learning alongside 20 of his other fellow AFSCME Maryland members about how to engage our coworkers, encourage them to sign a union card, and ultimately get them active and involved. Mike says, "I try to preach the importance of solidarity. That basically, if management doesn't see the solidarity in our local, then they'll try to dictate what they can and leverage their power over us in our contract negotiations. **We all have a common goal, and it's getting better wages, better benefits, and better contract language in our collective bargaining agreement.** We have the luxury of having a voice on the job, and joining our union and getting involved is the first step."



Pictured: AFSCME Local 2898 Shop Steward Mike Hill in the center, with AFSCME Local 631 leaders Kenny Nugent on the left and Wynton Johnson on the right