



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | January 2023




Pictured: AFSCME members participate in the first Lobby Night of the year!

Starting off the Legislative Session Strong!



This month, we held a virtual legislative session kick-off and had our first Lobby Night in Annapolis. At the virtual kick-off on Zoom, we had a chance to hear from AFSCME Maryland president Patrick Moran, secretary-treasurer Cherrish Vick, Delegate Jazz Lewis, and members from across the state who spoke about a variety of important bills that are up for consideration in this legislative session.

During our first Lobby Night, AFSCME members talked with their legislators about different issues they are seeing in their workplaces and shared why state and higher education workers need better pay, safer workplaces, and a more level playing field between workers and management. Thanks to everyone who participated in these events!

Lobby Nights in Annapolis
 Monday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 PM
 RSVP: bit.ly/lobby-nights




REST IN POWER
FLO JONES
 AFSCME Local 112
 Council 3 Secretary-Treasurer,
 2012 - 2020

Bargaining Updates

At the end of 2022, we wrapped up wage negotiations for state workers. All state workers covered by an AFSCME contract eligible for a **step increase** in the upcoming fiscal year will receive one starting July 1, 2023, or Jan. 1, 2024, depending on hire date. This in addition to the previously agreed upon **2% cost of living adjustment (COLA)** that goes into effect July 1, 2023.

We also confirmed with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that all AFSCME bargaining unit members at public colleges and universities will also receive the **2% COLA** as well as **merit pay increase** in July 2023.

Access updates: afscmemdbargaining.org



Pictured: AFSCME staffing analysis team made up of members leaders from across the state who work in correctional facilities

Addressing Staffing and Safety Issues at DPSCS Facilities

After nearly 2 years, a long-delayed analysis of staffing issues at Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) institutions will be wrapping up at the end of January and results should be available shortly after.

The study comes in two parts: an analysis of how many work hours are needed to fill a single 24 hour post and another analysis on what posts are necessary and what their security levels should be.

The AFSCME team that has been working on the staffing analysis is made up of member leaders from across the state who work in correctional facilities. They have been working tirelessly around the clock to get the information we need.

Member Spotlight: Deborah Robinson

When it comes to fundraising at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Deborah Robinson plays an integral role as an Assistant Director of Advancement Services for the school's University Relations Department. In this role, she keeps track of various incoming donations, compiles reports on how fundraising efforts are going, and helps maintain the university's fundraising database.

Deborah has worked for UMES for 22 years and is the vice president of AFSCME Local 1833. Both of her parents were union members, so when she realized she could become a part of her union in her workplace, she jumped at the chance. **"I wanted to be involved because I wanted to help all of us – not only current UMES employees but also future ones – deal with management spreading incorrect information about our workplace and our rights."**

As an active member of AFSCME's higher education bargaining team, Deborah has been involved in the process to negotiate AFSCME's first consolidated contract for University System of Maryland (USM) schools, an important opportunity to set strong workplace standards and protections across the entire university system instead of having to negotiate individual contracts one by one.

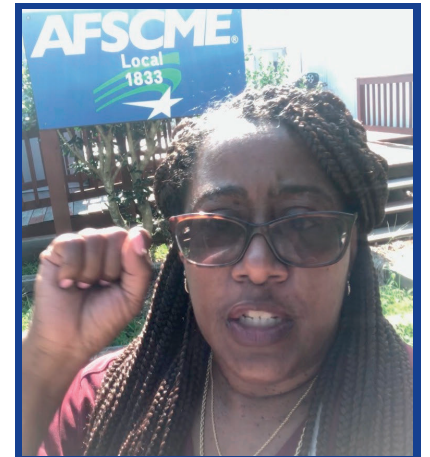
It was talking to her legislators that helped make this happen. The bill that finally made a USM-wide contract possible was first vetoed by Governor Larry Hogan in last year's legislative session before legislators voted to override it.

"Talking to my legislators and going to Lobby Nights is so important because our legislators have the power to change things so that we can have better workplaces and live a better life. My fellow AFSCME members and I have driven together to Annapolis multiple times, and I can really see what a difference all of us AFSCME members can make when we work together in solidarity."

AFSCME Maryland Council 3

www.afscmemd.org

Read more on our website:
bit.ly/staffing-analysis-update



Pictured: Deborah Robinson, vice president of AFSCME Local 1833