



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | October 27, 2022



Pictured: Attendees of AFSCME Council 3's 5th Biennial Convention

A Great Time: Building our Union at our 2022 Council 3 Convention

Last week, over 150 members came together in Silver Spring, MD for our first in-person AFSCME Council 3 Convention in nearly 4 years. We had a great time celebrating our wins and accomplishments, seeing old friends and making new ones, and finding inspiration in one another as we work together to build the workplaces we all deserve.

Over the course of two days, we participated in a variety of panels, workshops, and activities, re-elected AFSCME Local 1072 member Jeff Fiory as a trustee, and passed several resolutions ranging from prioritizing workplace health and safety to investing in New Employee Orientations (NEOs). We even had guest appearances from AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride as well as our endorsed candidates Wes Moore, Aruna Miller, Anthony Brown, and Brooke Lierman.

AFSCME Local 423 (Maryland Defenders Union) filed for their union election!

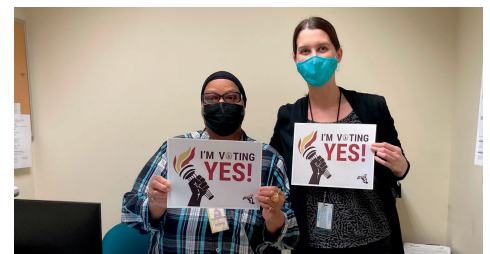
At the beginning of October, our union siblings in AFSCME Local 423, Maryland Defenders Union (MDU) filed for their union at the State Labor Board! As MDU gets ready to vote YES to certify their union, you can show your support by visiting bit.ly/mdu-support. Take a photo with the support sign and send your photo to MDU@afscmemd.org!

AFSCME Maryland Council 3
www.afscmemd.org

Check out photos from both days of Convention on our **Facebook page!** Go ahead and tag yourselves and your fellow members!



Pictured: Attendees in the Great Hall at the AFSCME Council 3 Convention



Pictured: MDU members Diane Frisby and Casi O'Neill pose with their Vote Yes signs



Pictured: AFSCME members pose together with Wes Moore, Democratic candidate for governor

We're ALL IN and ready to vote!

Election Day (Tuesday, November 8) is just around the corner! This year, we have a number of statewide races, and whoever wins these races will have an enormous impact on the pay, benefits, and working conditions we have as state and higher education employees.

Do you have a plan to vote?

Early voting starts Thursday, October 27, 2022 and runs through Thursday, November 3, 2022. Early voting centers will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

If you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax, your request must be received by Tuesday, November 1. If you want to receive your ballot via email, your request must be received by Friday, November 4. Once you've completed your ballot, we highly recommend you take your completed ballot to a dropbox near you to ensure it's received in time.

Make a plan to vote: afscme.org/vote

Join fellow union members for virtual phone banking sessions on Tuesday/Thursday evenings or door knocking shifts on Saturday mornings! Sign up at: bit.ly/afscme-md-gotv.

Member Spotlight: Jenny Reese



Pictured: AFSCME Local 539 member Jenny Reese

Last Monday, Jenny Reese, an LPN at the Springfield Hospital Center and a member of AFSCME Local 539, walked into her first ever AFSCME Council 3 Convention as a guest attendee. She attended a workshop about how to build member action teams (MATs), heard from a variety of speakers, and connected with other AFSCME members across the state. "It was awesome and uplifting to see so many motivated and special individuals all coming together for the greater good."

She's taking all of the lessons she's learned back to her own local and workplace, where safety issues exacerbated by lack of staffing are constantly being ignored by the administration. After a coworker suffered serious injuries because of decisions to cut costs without regards to safety, the administration tried to dismiss what happened. It was only after she and her coworkers distributed a petition, attended a labor management committee (LMC) meeting, and were on the verge of a larger workplace action did the administration finally address the safety issue. "The louder we are, the more response we get, the more serious we are taken," says Jenny, and it's now a message she tells all of her coworkers so they can win the workplace improvements they deserve.

When it comes to this upcoming election, Jenny is looking forward to electing someone who upholds their promises. "I want to see change. I want people to be able to go to work and feel safe. I don't want people to be struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. I want to see respect for the jobs that we are doing because without us, Maryland wouldn't run."