



Pictured: AFSCME members, retirees, and leaders at a rally to protect our Social Security data

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

May Day: The People United Will Never Be Defeated

May 1st is May Day, also known as International Workers' Day. With attacks on working people, our communities, and the public services we provide on the rise, our fight for the fair treatment and respect we have earned and deserve has never been more urgent.

Management and employers have never given us a single cent. Everything we have won and everything we have done to change our workplaces and jobs for the better has been through our organizing and hard work. In honor of May Day, let's celebrate our wins and recommit ourselves to fighting the good fight.

Happy May Day, and remember: the people united will never be defeated.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



#AFSCMEinAnnapolis: Recapping the 2025 Legislative Session

On April 7, Maryland's 447th Legislative Session came to a close. In just a few months, AFSCME members made our voices heard — testifying at budget and bill hearings, showing up for Lobby Nights in Annapolis, and calling our legislators to support pro-worker legislation.

Our actions paid off! In the end, we fought back attempts to take away our already-negotiated raises or balance the budget on our backs, and we made progress on key legislation. In just a few weeks, Governor Moore will be signing the Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act into law, a bill that our union championed that will make ALL public employers in Maryland accountable to providing safe workplaces.



Recapping Our Annual Public Safety Summit

On April 24-26, nearly 100 members joined our annual Public Safety Summit, hosted in Salisbury this year! Our Public Safety Summit brings together many of our local unions that keep our communities safe. The summit is a space to navigate challenges, celebrate progress, and strengthen our sense of justice through collaboration and education.

AFSCME Members in Action

- 👉 AFSCME Local 1803 held a day of action in early April to sign up new members at the Department of Agriculture.
- 🌍 At the Kill the Cuts Rally on April 8, AFSCME members made their voices heard in D.C., protesting the Trump administration's cruel efforts to gut our federal workforce, cut vital research funding, and undermine the working class.
- 🏛️ Everyone should have the freedom to organize and join a union. Shout out to the members of HoCo Library Workers United for traveling to Washington, DC earlier this month to speak in support of the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act.
- 💼 We all deserve to retire with dignity. AFSCME members, retirees, and leaders rallied at a Baltimore City courthouse in April to keep our Social Security data safe and secure.
- 🌟 Local 1427 has been rolling up their sleeves and working hard to inform and mobilize our members!
- 🏢 AFSCME members who work for various Maryland Department of Health (MDH) facilities had a great introductory meeting with the new MDH Secretary, Dr. Meena Seshamani. We discussed the biggest challenges and opportunities facing our state hospitals and health departments and how we can work together moving forward.
- 📚 Howard County Library Workers United members unanimously ratified their first union contract in April, paving the way for fair compensation, expanded workplace rights, and more!
- 👏 At the end of April, Local 112 had a great steward meeting focused on keeping the work moving forward and supporting members.
- 🕯️ On Workers' Memorial Day, we mourn for and honor the legacies of the AFSCME members we have lost. Check out AFSCME Local 3661 President Rayneika Robinson's guest commentary in Maryland Matters about what the day means for her.

Member Spotlight: Alonzo Smith

For over a decade, AFSCME Local 1209B member Alonzo Smith has helped make Bowie a great place to live. Alonzo has been an operator at the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant for the last 3 years, but before that, he worked for the Parks and Grounds Division where he maintained the city's parks, sidewalks, buildings, and more. **"I love my job, and I'm doing something different every day. When you find something you enjoy doing, you don't mind doing it,"** says Alonzo.

When Alonzo first started working for the City of Bowie, a supervisor on the Stormwater team in the Public Works Department encouraged him to join his union. Now, 10 years later, Alonzo regularly recruits new members and talks to his coworkers about the value and potential of their union.

This past March, Alonzo and his fellow Local 1209B members attended an AFSCME Lobby Night for the first time in Annapolis to advocate for the passage of HB 1509/SB 976, which would have standardized collective bargaining rights for county and municipal workers across Maryland. Having experienced contract negotiations with the City of Bowie beforehand, Alonzo reflected, "We have a labor agreement in place but we don't have laws in place to honor the process. **Employers shouldn't be dragging things out until the end without us having a fair shot in the process.**" Although the legislation did not pass, Alonzo and other AFSCME members helped generate strong interest in the legislation among senators and delegates for next year.

Ultimately at the end of the day, becoming an active member of his union is personal for Alonzo. **"I don't want my son to work as hard as I do. This is about taking care of future generations, and when someone comes behind us, I want there to be laws in place so our union has fair ground to stand on and a way to speak out."**



Pictured: Alonzo Smith (left) along with other AFSCME members at a Lobby Night in Annapolis