



Pictured: Photos from in-person regional meetings throughout July

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

The Experts in Our Jobs

This month, I had the honor of speaking with many of you at our regional meetings. From Frostburg to Salisbury, at each of these meetings, it was inspiring to see us all come together to share how we can fight back and build our union in the face of attacks on working people and our public services.

Coming out of the meetings, it's clear that AFSCME members are uniquely qualified in this moment to stand up and join together to protect our jobs, our communities, and our livelihoods — because no one knows our work better than we do. We are the experts in our jobs.

In the coming months, our union will take every chance we get to gear up for the fights that lie ahead. When our employers and elected officials start their budget talks, we will be in the room to ensure that any decisions made do not come at our expense. But it's going to take all of us coming together as one strong AFSCME green machine to fight back and demand the respect that we have earned and deserve.

If you missed any of our in-person regional meetings this month, don't worry. We will be hosting two virtual meetings on Thursday, August 7th — one at 12 PM and one at 6 PM — for anyone who could not make it in-person.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



UNION VICTORIES: Three Unanimous Contract Ratification Votes

On July 23rd, AFSCME members who work for the Baltimore City Public School System, Walters Art Museum, and Anne Arundel County Public Library unanimously ratified their union contracts.

For the members of Walters Workers United and Anne Arundel Library Workers United, this is their first union contract, and for the AFSCME Local 44 members who work for the Baltimore City Public School System, this newly ratified contract contains much-needed wage increases and workplace improvements. Congratulations!



JOIN US: Virtual Regional Meetings On August 7th!

Many of you shared interest in having a virtual option in addition to our in-person regional meetings earlier this month — so we've added two virtual sessions on Thursday, August 7 at 12 PM and 6 PM.



RSVP at
bit.ly/summerregionalmeetings
or scan the QR code.

STAY INFORMED: Union-Won Heat Safety Standards

Maryland's new Heat Standard requires employers to provide a written plan when the heat index is over 80°.

If you haven't received a plan or don't have proper access to water and shade, reach out to your union steward/representative ASAP. You can call our union offices at 410-547-1515 or email info@afscmemd.org.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS RESOURCES



AFSCME Members in Action



Earlier this month, Unit S supervisors completed their stewards training to learn how to enforce their workplace rights on the job



On July 16, Local 44 President Dorothy Bryant spoke on Capitol Hill to call for a national heat standard to protect workers from dangerous working conditions.



Earlier this month, Local 2898 members overwhelmingly voted YES on their new contract. The new agreement contains record wage increases, health and safety improvements, and more.



AFSCME members showed up to the Montgomery County Stewards Training to learn and grow as union activists and leaders.



Throughout the month of July, AFSCME members attended Summer Regional Meetings in six different cities across the state to strategize how we can safeguard our jobs & protect the public services we make happen.

Member Spotlight: Brandon J. Brown Sr.

Local 2898 member Brandon J. Brown Sr. is a Senior Building Maintenance Specialist at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), which provides water and wastewater services to Prince George's County and Montgomery County. He also serves as the Recording Secretary for his local union, advocating for fair pay and safer working conditions for him and his coworkers.

Brandon lives in Prince George's County, one of the communities served by WSSC. For him, keeping water systems safe and running means protecting his neighbors and family.

"This job isn't easy and definitely not for the faint of heart," he says. "You have to know plumbing, HVAC, carpentry, how to operate heavy machinery, and more. Things can get dangerous very quick if you aren't being vigilant."

When he first started at WSSC in 2018, Brandon didn't realize how underpaid he was for the hazardous and essential work he does. That pushed him to get involved with the union. **"Being part of my union gave me a platform to raise the issue of pay equity I was seeing across WSSC — not just for me but for my coworkers too."**

Recently, Brandon attended an AFSCME Maryland Regional Meeting in Bowie, one of several meetings focused on how federal cuts will affect public services and working people across Maryland. He left with a deeper understanding of how decisions made at the top can directly impact workers like him.

"WSSC isn't immune. Many employers, including ours, are looking to cut costs," he says. **"But we're the subject matter experts. We know how the work gets done and where resources are needed. If cuts are coming, we need to be part of that conversation — so we can protect our jobs, maintain safe working conditions, and ensure quality public services are being provided to our communities."**



*Pictured: AFSCME Local 2898 member
Brandon J. Brown Sr.*