

AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | August 2025





A Labor Day Message

With Labor Day just around the corner, our movement for fair and safe working conditions, a voice in our workplaces, and quality public services is more important than ever.

Out-of-touch politicians, the wealthy few, and large corporations are increasingly making decisions that chip away at our livelihoods and endanger our communities. But as working people, we're joining together to defend our rights, protect our public services, and look out for our coworkers and communities.

So this Labor Day weekend, as we fight the good fight, we should also be proud of everything that our union has accomplished. This year, AFSCME members have ratified historic union contracts with record raises and important improvements to working conditions. Over 1,000 members joined us at a regional meeting (either inperson or virtually) this summer to make a game plan to take action and fight back. And thousands of members have joined our union since January.

In the face of rising attacks on working people, we're going to continue to do what we do best: organize, speak up, and fight for our fundamental freedoms as working people. Have a great and safe Labor Day weekend, and I hope you have a chance to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Pictured: Members of the AFSCME Maryland Unit S Bargaining Team

State Supervisors in Unit S Reach Tentative Interim Agreement

At the end of July, the AFSCME Maryland bargaining team for Unit S State Supervisors signed a Tentative Interim Agreement (TIA) with the State of Maryland.

This historic milestone means that, for the first time ever, state supervisors across Maryland now have immediate access to the rights and protections outlined in the agreement.

If you are a state supervisor in Unit S, you can always access bargaining updates with the password that is included in our email updates. And if you are a state employee in Units A, B, C, D, F, or H, stay tuned for our annual wage negotiations this fall!



View the full tentative interim agreement for Unit S on our website.

Join the AFSCME Maryland Activist Challenge!

Get ready to take action and build our union power across Maryland. **Sign up** for 6 weeks of action ideas sent straight to your email inbox!



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: IMMIGRATION

Everyone deserves to feel safe at work and in our communities regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. There are a number of great resources about your rights and how to protect yourself, your coworkers, and loved ones in the case of a workplace or community raid.



Immigration Resources from the AFL-CIO



Know Your Rights Toolkit from CASA



Virtual Trainings from AFSCME

AFSCME Members in Action

- At the beginning of August, workers at the Enoch Pratt Free Library ratified their first union contract.
- Local 1081 hosted a Lunch and Learn at Deer's Head Hospital Center to keep members informed about how federal actions are impacting our jobs and our communities.
- Local 3399 held a stewards training in Takoma Park, shaping the next generation of union leaders. And members who work in higher education came together at College Park for a two-day stewards training to strengthen their skills and learn how to effectively enforce their union contracts on campus.
- Howard County Library workers launched a letter campaign calling for long-overdue wage increases. If you live in Howard County, take a few minutes to send your own letter to the library system's leaders and county council at: **bit.ly/hclwu-wages**

Member Spotlight: Adam Franchino

Local 930 member Adam Franchino is a Lead Art Handler and Mount Maker at the Walters Art Museum, located in the heart of Baltimore City. As a mount maker, Adam is often one of the last people to handle artwork before it's displayed. Using brass, steel, and other materials, he creates custom mounts that hold and support the museum's collection, making it possible for the public to enjoy the art safely.

"I really do believe I have the best job in the city," Adam says. "I get to work with our conservation team and so many talented designers. I love being able to problem-solve and bring new visions to life."



Pictured: AFSCME Local 930 and Walters Workers United member Adam Franchino

Adam joined the Walters team six years ago, looking for a more stable schedule that would better fit the needs of his growing family and still allow him to continue his craft. "But like many museum workers, I took a pay cut to do the work I love," he says. "Before we unionized, I was working side jobs and selling things just to make ends meet and support my family."

After nearly two years of contract negotiations, workers at the Walters Art Museum secured their first historic union contract this past July. "I was blown away by what we won," Adam says. "We secured meaningful wage increases and parental leave — two things my coworkers and I had been fighting for over the years. In 2022, when my daughter was born, I took six weeks of unpaid leave to be there for my family. I still remember how hard that time was for us. Thanks to our union, no one else will have to go through that again."

Adam and his coworkers experienced firsthand the power of organizing together for a better workplace. "If I could give advice to anyone thinking about starting a union, I'd tell them: don't underestimate the power of a collective voice. Organizing your workplace gives you a real say in how decisions get made."