



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | January 2026



Pictured: AFSCME Maryland President Patrick Moran speaking at the Stand Up For Public Services Rally

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

AFSCME In Annapolis

The legislative session began with AFSCME members taking action in Annapolis on January 14. Together, we kicked off the legislative session by calling on lawmakers to invest in the people behind the services Marylanders depend on.

Strong services don't happen by accident. They require real investment — in working people, infrastructure, and in long-term solutions. When we underfund public services, communities pay the price. For example, when the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services budgets a 12% vacancy rate, that puts our communities, our members, and the people they oversee in danger.

That's why this legislative session matters. It's our chance to speak directly to lawmakers, to share our lived experiences, and to make sure the realities of public service are heard. No one understands what it takes to serve Maryland better than the workers who show up and clock in every day.

Our participation this session is critical. We can't afford to sit on the sidelines while decisions are made about our jobs, our benefits, and our rights at work. The bills introduced this session will shape our future and we need to be ready to fight for the respect and investment Maryland's public workers deserve.

Join us this legislative session for our weekly lobby nights in Annapolis, happening every Monday @ 5:30PM.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Pictured: AFSCME members attending the the Stand Up For Public Services Rally

AFSCME Maryland
www.afscmemd.org



Monday, February 9

Local 2898 WSSC/Local 44 Baltimore City Convention Center Night

Monday, February 16

Higher Ed, Community Colleges, & Local Presidents Night

Monday, February 23

K-12 and Libraries Night

Monday, March 2

Local Government Night

Monday, March 9

AFL-CIO Union Night - All AFSCME Locals

Monday, March 16

All AFSCME Locals

Monday, March 23

Crossover Lobby Night

Monday, March 30

TBD Lobby Night

RSVP today at
bit.ly/2026-Lobby-nights
or scan the QR code!



Pictured: AFSCME members attending the the ALF-CIO 2026 MLK Conference

AFSCME Members in Action



AFSCME members from DPSCS, DJS, and DOL spoke at the Committee on Fair Practices & State Personnel Oversight meeting to highlight how chronic understaffing harms public service workers and the services they provide.



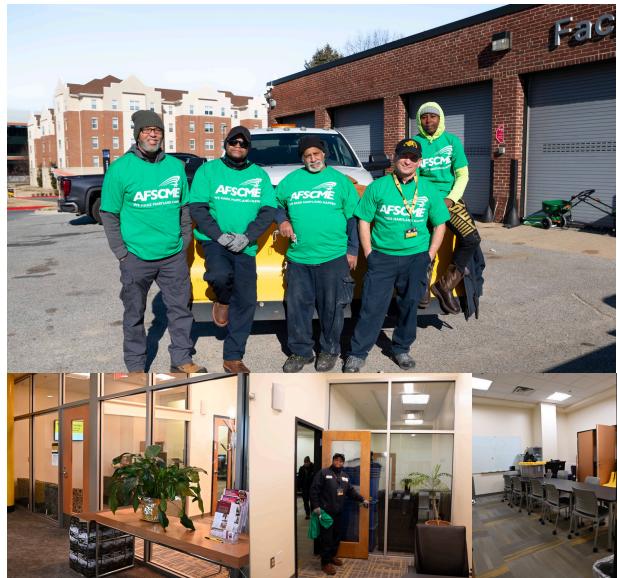
Local 6359, Pratt Workers United (PWU) are back at the bargaining table, fighting for FY26 and FY27 Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs).



AFSCME members across higher education gathered at the University of Maryland College Park for a stewards training.



Local 3162 President Jamekica MacKall spoke up about the importance of a living wage, so no Marylander gets left behind.



Spotlight: Local 1297 Saves Bowie State University Over \$100K In Renovation Costs

This month, we are spotlighting Local 1297, made up of Bowie State University employees, for their dedication and commitment to their students and campus.

When Bowie State University faced a stalled renovation project due to budget cuts back in September, Local 1297 facilities members stepped up to get the job done. Instead of relying on costly contractors, members took on the renovation work themselves. From demolishing walls, painting, building the furniture and completing the project from start to finish.

Their efforts ultimately saved Bowie State University more than \$100,000, demonstrating the value of skilled union labor and the importance of keeping jobs in-house.

Member Spotlight: Keith Westbrook

Local 921 Vice President Keith Westbrook is a Public Workers Technician for Baltimore County and one of the many essential workers who keep our roads moving. From salting the roads, removing snow, to installing utility pipes, he and his crew are always on the job.

Keith has been a proud AFSCME member for over 19 years. **"I signed up for my union on my first day on the job. I've worked jobs with and without a union and I saw the difference,"** he says. **"In my line of work, without a union, safety regulations get ignored and lives get put at risk."**

Alongside Local 921's executive board, Keith works to ensure everyone is safe on the job and that management is held accountable to their union contract.

Recently, Keith and other members of the bargaining team took Baltimore County to arbitration after the County attempted to withhold retention bonuses negotiated in their latest contract. The team prevailed, securing more than \$500,000 over the life of the current contract.

"This was my first time being apart of the arbitration process," Keith explains. **"Both sides agreed on a mediator, got to select a jury and make their own case. Waiting was the hard part but in 30 days I got to inform over 300 members that we were receiving our retention bonus."**

Reflecting on that experience, Keith adds, **"Binding arbitration levels the playing field and give workers a real way to enforce the contracts we fight for."**



Pictured: AFSCME Local 921 Vice President Keith Westbrook