



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | March 2026



Pictured: Photos from this year's AFL-CIO Union Night Rally

MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

Making our voice heard in Annapolis

This legislative session, we are on our way to deliver real wins for public sector workers across Maryland, raising the bar for working families and proving what's possible when we stand together.

Thanks to your mobilizing, attending lobby nights, writing letters, making calls, and sharing powerful testimony, the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026 (SB 28 / HB 604) has advanced with bipartisan support. This brings us closer to securing a fair impasse process for negotiations for more than 40,000 state employees.

We also strengthened support for the dedicated workers who keep our schools running every day. Bill SB 764 moves us closer to fair wages for Education Support Professionals by launching a critical study on what it will take to raise the minimum wage to \$25 per hour, laying the groundwork for real investment in our schools and the workers who support students

At the same time, we made meaningful progress in expanding workers' rights across higher education. Bill SB 6, once passed, will extend collective bargaining rights to thousands of nontenure-track faculty, ensuring more workers have a seat at the table and a say in their working conditions.

These milestones reflect the power of collective action and the impact of making our voices heard in Annapolis. While we're not across the finish line yet, the progress so far shows what's possible when we stand together.

Together, we are shaping a stronger future and we're not done yet.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Register: New Member Meetings On Wednesday, May 13th

New to AFSCME or know someone who is? Join us for a Virtual New Member Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, with sessions at 12-1 PM or 6-7 PM. Learn what AFSCME is, the issues members are working on, get your questions answered and how you can get involved!













Scan the QR code to RSVP to a new member meeting



Pictured: Photos from the 2026 Legislative Session

AFSCME Members in Action

-  AFSCME Local 112 Vice President Shernae Parker spoke before the Maryland Senate, reminding them that when we invest in state workers we build up our communities.
-  AFSCME Local 112 member Pamela Richardson shared her story with delegates, explaining that year-after-year staff vacancies make her work harder to accomplish.
-  AFSCME Local 1885 Secretary-Treasurer Geron Mackall told legislators that depriving a prized Maryland institution like Morgan State University of the staff it needs not only denies workers dignity, it's a bad strategy.
-  Local 1459 President Debbie Michaels spoke at the UMBC budget hearing urging delegates to fully fund the negotiated raises for USM employees.
-  AFSCME Local 6359 President Megan Royden spoke at the Howard County Library Workers United (HCLWU) rally, calling for budget transparency and permanent funding for on-call staff.
-  AFSCME Maryland Secretary-Treasurer Cherrish Vick spoke at this year's Union Night Rally, urging delegates and legislators to fund raises for state employees that keep pace with inflation and to pass the binding arbitration bill HB 604/SB 28.
-  AFSCME Local 227 member Lisa Thomas talked about how her work saves the State of Maryland hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly— and how essential workers like her deserves fair compensation.
-  AFSCME Local 112 member Stanton Owens shared how him and his coworkers can't keep up with increasing demands, hurting our most vulnerable populations.
-  Several members attended our Central Region Steward Training, learning more about using our contracts to protect our rights in the workplace and keep our union strong.
-  AFSCME Local 1803 President Juan Carter talked about having less than half of their trucks available during a recent snowstorm. Aging equipment and understaffing make it hard or impossible for state highway workers to do their critical jobs.

Member Spotlight: Tunisia Gannon

AFSCME Local 2471 President Tunisia Gannon is a Chief Custodian with over 21 years of service in Harford County Public Schools. In her role, she oversees building operations to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for students and staff.

As a mother of five, her work is deeply personal. "Seeing children happy makes me happy," she says. "School support staff are a fundamental part of a safe learning environment, and we take pride in what we do."

Local 2471 reflects the support system behind Harford County Public Schools, with an executive board made up of bus drivers, facilities staff, mechanics, security officers, custodians, IT technicians, and more. Together, this diverse group brings a united voice to negotiations.

Tunisia and the bargaining team recently secured wage increases ranging from 9% to 12% over the coming year, along with a formal sick leave policy and the establishment of a Health and Safety Committee. These victories reflect the power of collective action and a strong union presence in the workplace.

"Without our local being united, we wouldn't have secured these wins for our members," she says. "Now management knows we are here and we're fighting for our rights."

Whether advocating for fair treatment or strengthening protections on the job, Tunisia is committed to making sure every member is heard.



Pictured: AFSCME Local 2471 President Tunisia Gannon