



# AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | August 2023



*Pictured: AFSCME leaders from locals representing K-12 school districts signed up over 150 new members this past week.*

## K-12 Week of Action: Getting Ready for the School Year

Last week, AFSCME members from Charles County (Local 2981), Baltimore County (Local 434), Baltimore City (Local 44), Anne Arundel County (Local 1693), Harford County (Local 2471), and Allegany County (Local 1633) school districts participated in our K-12 Week of Action. Together, we welcomed over 150 new union members!

We visited schools across the state, speaking with AFSCME members in food service, transportation, maintenance, and more, about recent contract wins and opportunities to get more involved. Thank you to everyone who participated in our first-ever K-12 Week of Action and made it a success!

## Forward Together

Since the unification of our two AFSCME councils in Maryland into one strong AFSCME Council 3, we have had a constant wave of organizing and action. Members are engaged at every level – from the city to the county to the state as well as in our school districts and on our higher education campuses. From negotiating contracts to organizing new members into our union, we are a united AFSCME!

We have seen a surge in activity across the state, and people are joining AFSCME to gain more power at their workplaces. Over the last two months, I have had the honor of meeting with over 20 locals and hundreds of current and soon-to-be members at worksites, local meetings, organizing meetings, local picnics, and in negotiation sessions all across Maryland. **One thing is abundantly clear: we make Maryland happen!**

It is incredibly exciting to have so many members engaged in action and standing up for a better future for ourselves and our families. It is an exciting time in our union as we have so many opportunities in front of us. Bringing everyone together will not only make those opportunities greater but will also make any challenges we encounter easier to overcome. This is already proving to be the case at the bargaining table, where bringing together our resources is showing better outcomes for our members and providing much needed raises. **We are definitely STRONGER TOGETHER!**

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



## Upcoming Events

### Staff the Front Lines Bus Tour & Job Fair

Saturday, September 9  
1410 Bush Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

### New Member Meeting

Saturday, September 9 from 10 AM to 12 PM  
RSVP: [bit.ly/0923-newmember-meeting](https://bit.ly/0923-newmember-meeting)



## UMD & USM: Do Better By Your Staff!

On August 16, over 100 AFSCME members and allies gathered on the University of Maryland - College Park campus to call for better pay, safer working conditions, stronger health and safety protocols, fairer telework policies, and more. Thank you to everyone who attended, and stay tuned for more!

## AFSCME Members in Action

- 🍔 AFSCME Local 1678 members and their families had a blast at their annual membership cookout, featuring great food, good conversations, and even back to school supplies!
- 👉 AFSCME Local 1072 leaders Krista Bulley, Dawn Jackson, and Todd Holden met with Congressman Glenn Ivey, whose district includes UMD. It was a great opportunity to share their experiences working for the University System of Maryland as we bargain our first unified contract.
- 🏡 The AFSCME Maryland team had a great time showing off essential work that AFSCME members do at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference.
- 🏥 AFSCME Local 354 celebrated National Health Center Week at the Western Maryland Hospital Center and Potomac Center/ SETT.
- 👤 Members Brian Lanasa, Wynton Johnson, Mildred Womble, Bryan Goodman, and Wiley Rhymer met with MDOT leaders this month to discuss several important topics, including call-in procedures for emergency essential employees and first responder status/pay for certain MDOT jobs.

## Member Spotlight: Delonya Akindoyo

For nearly 14 years, Delonya Akindoyo worked as the Chief Custodian at Rolling Knolls Elementary School in Anne Arundel County. For her, the best part of the job was working with the students, seeing their smiling faces, and being in a workplace that felt like family.

This year, Delonya became the full-time president of AFSCME Local 1693, which represents Anne Arundel County Public Schools workers in food service, maintenance, transportation, and more. She first got involved in her union because of her grandmother, who was a chief shop steward for her local and an executive board member of AFSCME Council 67. "My grandma loves our union. She always says her favorite part was going out, meeting new members, and signing them up and that if it wasn't for our union, we wouldn't have job protections and safe working conditions. I think I have the same spirit as her," says Delonya.

Since becoming president, Delonya has spent much of her time visiting the over 100 schools and worksites in the district. Last week, she and her fellow AFSCME members signed up over 25 new members as part of our K-12 Week of Action before the new school year starts. "I've learned that it's important to consistently show up, to let folks know that they have a union, to get them motivated, and to pique their interest," says Delonya.

When asked about her message to those who haven't joined our union yet, she says, "We work because we have to feed our families and to pay our bills. **When you become part of our union, you're not letting someone else dictate your livelihood and your working conditions. You get to have a voice at work and an avenue to speak up.** By becoming a member, you don't have to accept what those in power have to say about your working conditions."



*Pictured: AFSCME Local 1693 President Delonya Akindoyo*