



AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | May 2023



May Week of Action: Sharing Our Wins

In the first week of May, AFSCME members visited hundreds of worksites to share the raises and wins our union has had. We signed up nearly 300 new members and met current members who were interested in getting involved in advocating for the workplaces we all deserve.

More than 30 member activists volunteered to come out during this week, and together, we visited worksites across Maryland, welcoming new members, participating in worksite actions, & more.



Access Your Digital Membership Card

Did you know that you can access a digital version of your AFSCME membership card? If you are an Apple user, you can find the "AFSCME eCards" app on the App Store, and if you are an Android user, you can find the "AFSCME eCards" app on the Google Play Store.

Learn more at: bit.ly/afscme-ecard








Upcoming Events

Union Night at Camden Yards
Friday, July 14 at 7:05 PM
More details at www.afscmemd.org

AFSCME Maryland Special Convention
Saturday, July 8
Hanover, Maryland

AFSCME Members in Action

-  At the end of April, members of our AFSCME Maryland legislative committee came together to debrief this year's legislative session and discuss what we're hoping to do next year.
-  AFSCME Local 3399 president Brendan Smith gave powerful testimony at a Takoma Park city council meeting at the beginning of May. He spoke about the impacts of insufficient pay and shared that most of Takoma Park's workers can't actually afford to live in the city they keep running.
-  At the beginning of May, AFSCME Local 434 received a generous donation from the Coty Beauty Company in recognition of their hard work in Baltimore County Public Schools.
-  On May 10, we held a virtual Higher Education Bargaining Forum on Zoom. Nearly 50 members from different University System of Maryland (USM) schools discussed what kinds of pay increases, telework policies, and other workplace improvements that we'd like to see.
-  AFSCME Local 1693 ratified a new contract on Saturday, May 13! Starting July 1, 2023 all Unit III employees in Local 1693 will advance 1 step on the salary scale and receive a 6% cost of living adjustment (COLA).



Member Spotlight: Bill Chenowith

Bill Chenowith, a member of AFSCME Local 3888, the union for supervisors in Howard County, has worked for the county for nearly 15 years and is now a Safety Supervisor. In this role, Bill works to ensure the county maintains compliance with health & safety regulations and performs regular job safety trainings & worksite inspections.



What made Bill become active in his union was seeing how the county treated its workers at the time. "When I first came to the county, I thought there would be no problems, but it felt like I had stepped back into the 1940s in terms of how they were treating people," says Bill. A few weeks into the job, he met AFSCME Local 3085 leader Dale Chase who showed him "the power of the pen" and the importance of knowing your rights at work. **"I saw how our union treated everyone with respect and dignity, and I saw our union as an organization that actually cares about each and every one of us as humans instead of just another number."**

Since becoming an AFSCME member, Bill has worked tirelessly to make sure county workplaces are safe, whether it's giving trainings or filing grievances. **"Knowing that I belong to an organization that helps workers every day is the best part about being a member," says Bill.**

Lately, his proudest win has been being part of the bargaining team that secured over 19% in raises in the next 22 months for Howard County workers, but he knows that this wouldn't have happened without the teamwork, collaboration, and contributions of every AFSCME member. "I encourage everyone who has not joined to think about being a part of the movement because where else can you negotiate your wages, your benefits, and your working conditions and make your voice count?"