

JUNE 2ND, 2020

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Member Spotlight: Debra Thrower

MDTA Telecommunicator II, Fort McHenry Tunnel



I never would have imagined working during a pandemic. Being emergency essential means you're expected to show up no matter what. With positive cases in the other call center, it's not a matter of "if", it's a matter of "when" we will be exposed. We can't telework, social distance or work from home and yet we are not compensated with emergency pay.

We continue to show up to work, despite our concerns because we are committed to helping the State continue to function safely. It's time for those in power to recognize and respect our sacrifice and our union contract by fairly compensating tele-communicators.

**AFSCME COUNCIL 3
EASTERN SHORE CARAVAN**

Join us Thursday (6/4) for our Eastern Shore Caravan to Fund the Frontlines!

**#FundThe
Frontlines**

We will also have a Moment of Remembrance for George Floyd at the Salisbury Courthouse. RSVP: Info@afscmemd.org

June 2nd Primary: Mail In Your Vote!

Tuesday June 2nd is primary election in Maryland and due to COVID19 it will be done entirely by vote-by-mail. All registered voters should have received their ballot from the board of elections to the home address. Simply fill out your ballot and ensure it postmarked by June 2nd for your vote to count. Our allies at Maryland PIRG have a detailed explanation about this process in their recent blog if you would like more information:

<https://marylandpirg.org/blogs/blog/mdp/vote-mail-maryland-what-you-need-know>

AFSCME President Lee Saunders Condemns George Floyd Killing

The killing of George Floyd was a shocking and heinous act of violence that demands accountability. There can be no public safety unless innocent, unarmed African Americans feel safe walking the streets in their communities. As both a union that represents several thousand law enforcement officers and a union that has long been in the vanguard of the struggle for civil rights, AFSCME believes we cannot be forced to choose between racial justice or effective policing. A free, healthy society can and must have both.

JUNE 2ND 2020

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Department of Corrections Labor Management Committee- May 26th, 2020

We had a successful meeting with Public Safety Secretary Green on Tuesday. He confirmed that officers will be tested for the virus in each region, and officers will receive overtime if they are tested outside of their work hours. He also confirmed that officer are free to choose to get tested by their own doctor or testing site, and will be credited with 2 hours of overtime for this visit. He also confirmed that the DOC does not have plans in the foreseeable future to reopen the institutions to outside visitors or allow inmates to congregate in groups larger than 10.

AFSCME 3 Invited to Testify at Joint Senate Finance/House Appropriations Hearing

On Tuesday, June 9 AFSCME Council 3 members will be testifying about the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to providing suitable PPE and safety plans and protocols for state employees and those they serve. State departments being invited to testify include the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services; the Department of Health; the Department of Human Services; and the Department of Juvenile Services. AFSCME members have long called out the state's late and inadequate reaction to the health and safety crisis, and now fear a premature reopening of state operations to "normal" could lead to a spike in virus victims.

AFSCME Council 3 Members Hold Virtual Town Hall with U. S. Senator Chris Van Hollen

Last Wednesday, AFSCME Council 3 members held a Facebook Live Town Hall with Senator Chris Van Hollen. Members asked the Senator about federal legislation, Governor Hogan's decision to cut childcare for Essential Personnel Starting June 8th and other ways to help our communities safely re-open after this pandemic. Watch the full video on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/afscmemd

On Thursday, AFSCME 3 Members held a Caravan to Protect our COVID-19 Hotspot Heroes in Prince George's County

Thank you to the AFSCME 3 members who joined us as well as AFSCME Maryland Council 67, President of the MD/DC AFL CIO Donna Edwards and Senator Joanne Benson. To see video from the event, please visit our twitter : <https://twitter.com/AFSCMEMaryland>



AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Political Action Means Elected Official Engagement

On May 20 leaders from AFSCME Local 1072 virtually sat down with the Senator and Delegates from Maryland District 22 (Prince George's County) to discuss ongoing health and safety issues at the University of Maryland-College Park campus.

Local 1072 Board members Todd Holden, Jeff Fiory, Sally Davies and Celina Sargusingh, activist Rebecca Wilson and staff laid out the concerns, highlighting the lack of safety protocols, PPE and plans for campus staff, faculty and students.

Of immediate concern is the university's decision to have Memorial Day weekend be a "move-out" weekend for students and their families, without ANY guidelines nor input from campus employees that will be engaging with those students and families (whether they want to or not!). In response Local 1072 submitted a "demand to bargain" to the university over the following issues:

- Campus-wide, mandatory screening procedures that match or exceed those used in other State facilities, including temperature checks and denial of entry to those who fail screening
- COVID-19 testing for all AFSCME-represented workers
- An abundant supply of PPE and cleaning supplies COVID-19-specific training on awareness, PPE-usage, cleaning procedures and chemical safety for all AFSCME-represented employees
- Timely, multilingual communications distributed by a variety of media so that all AFSCME-represented employees receive information relevant to their working conditions equitably.

District 22 elected officials heard the concerns of AFSCME members and requested a breakdown of specific ways that they could share with the entire Prince George's County Delegation, to result in a letter from the entire Delegation to the University of Maryland-College Park administration emphasizing these concerns and pushing for meetings with true campus decisionmakers to address the issues raised.

Local 1072 will continue to stand up for their membership, and demand the respect and dignity deserved of every hardworking higher education employee.

