

SEPTEMBER 30TH 2020

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

Join AFSCME MARYLAND'S GOTV Battleground Election 2020 Program

The election for President of the United States and our Congressional representatives makes a huge difference in Maryland's ability to get needed federal aid for state-funded jobs and ensuring that benefits are preserved. It's not a time to sit on the sidelines - Council 3 has to get in the game and do its part. Through AFSCME International and the Maryland State Federation, Council 3 locals will have the ability to participate in phonebanking other union members in the states where the election will be won or lost: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, and Arizona. Because we have members that live in Pennsylvania, our focus will be providing support there. But that doesn't mean it's the only state to engage.

As Council 3 leaders, we are asking you to commit to help bring success this November 3. How to make this happen? First, we will hold a virtual training for all AFSCME Council 3 interested phone-bankers on Saturday, October 3 from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Register for the training by going here:

<https://afscmemd.formstack.com/forms/register2020phonebankafscme3>

From there beginning on October 6, every Tuesday evening and Saturday morning will be Council 3 phonebank days. As leaders in our union who understand that elections have real consequences for our members, we hope that you will commit to signing up for one or more of these phonebanking shifts. RSVP to attend by emailing Lance at lkilpatrick@afscmemd.org or Denise at dgilmore@afscmemd.org.

AFSCME MARYLAND Know Your Rights: Immunocompromised Workers

AFSCME Maryland is leading the fight for health and safety in the workplace. Recently, our field director, Denise Gilmore hosted a Question and Answer session with Attorney Heather Heilman on the COVID-19 protections available for immunocompromised workers.

In the era of COVID-19, it's critical to know your rights and the options available to you. You can also download a written version of this FAQ to share in your workplace by visiting our website: afscmemd.org

Watch the video today to learn about the rights and protections you have access to in your workplace. FAQ Conversation on YouTube Now: https://youtu.be/clcBVf_ihTg

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A Message from AFSCME Maryland President Patrick Moran

This fall, public schools across Maryland have resumed online and slowly we are beginning to see the state resume normal functioning. With talks looming of re-opening schools as early as the second quarter, it's clear Maryland is on track to continue opening sooner rather than later. We are seeing more people gain confidence being out and about, more restaurants with people inside, and grocery stores are bustling with more people every day. After almost 8 months of the pandemic, each day continues to bring new positive cases and more uncertainty of the future ahead. However not much has changed for Maryland's state and higher education employees who have been working throughout the pandemic.

When the Governor made the decision to close down schools, many public settings, and businesses in March of this year many citizens were stuck at home looking after kids and trying to figure out how to cope with the unprecedented crisis of the pandemic. This quarantine time was not afforded to the majority of AFSCME's members who had a job to do to help the state of Maryland fight the virus and keep the state moving forward. You rose to the call and continued to keep our State running through this time of unprecedented crisis.

Across the country, we have seen the horrific results in other states, in particular prisons and nursing homes, hundreds of people falling victim to the pandemic. Some never to recover. In Maryland in the most vulnerable state facilities such as state hospitals and DPSCS prisons where we saw the largest amount of cases, we have been fortunate enough to have a minimal of catastrophe. Why? Because people stood up and spoke out ensuring people received some forms of PPE to protect themselves and the wards of the state they oversee and where they provide care.

But now we are facing even a more daunting task. We must continue the work while our children are back in school. This is often leaving young school age children alone or minimally overseen when attempting to attend school online. This is affecting millions of Maryland families every day; and there seems to be no plan by the administration to remedy it. The administration has taken the stance of "send them back into the classroom," all the while we are seeing their attempt to institute this at the universities and colleges as an abject failure as hundreds of students at UMCP have contracted the virus in a couple of days and are quarantined to dormitories. And who is cleaning up and maintaining the dorms and the campuses, with no willingness by the administration to negotiate safe working conditions for the employees, of course AFSCME members.

So, while the state continues to move forward and the campuses continue to allow students to congregate, our brothers and sisters are keeping it together to put our society in a better place. It is never said enough, THANK YOU. Save the date for an important forum on Wednesday, October 14th on our struggle to adapt to the reality of the pandemic!

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AFSCME Maryland Stands with Healthcare for All Coalition

AFSCME Council 3 is proud to join a coalition formed by our friends at the Maryland Citizens Health Initiative to address health inequities. All Marylanders deserve access to high-quality, affordable health care. However, health inequities based on race, ethnicity, disability, and place of residence persist throughout the state, as shown in maternal and infant mortality rates and other measures. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed these health inequities and highlighted the need to address them and otherwise improve health outcomes in our state. In underserved areas of the state, people with chronic conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and substance and mental health disorders have worse health outcomes and are less able to get the care and treatment they need. The coalition proposes to create and fund Health Equity Resource Communities to help reduce health inequities. The Communities will provide grants, tax incentives, and health care provider loan repayment assistance to locations in the state with poor health outcomes that contribute to health inequities. For more information, go to <http://healthcareforall.com/get-involved/equitycommunities/>



Congratulations to our newest chartered local, AFSCME Local 423, the Maryland Defender's Union.

Make sure to check out their facebook page and show support for AFSCME Maryland's newest local!

Check out their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/marylanddefendersunion>



As always, don't hesitate to reach out to our Member Resource Center at mrc@afscmemd.org or 410-547-1515 if you have any questions or need help connecting with your shop steward or local leader!