

# AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE: TESTING, TESTING, TESTING

Brothers and Sisters,

Over three weeks ago today the Governor stood on the runway at BWI declaring victory for the people of Maryland; declaring he and First Lady Yumi Hogan had secured 500,000 coronavirus tests to help fight the pandemic. The "tests" are still sitting, three weeks later as almost 400 state employees have tested positive.

Where are the tests? Over one month ago I sent a letter, to the administration demanding that they take action and provide three things to all employees reporting to work: Testing, proper Personal Protective Equipment, and Written Plans for each worksite that people are reporting to.

While the number of cases continues to increase and the tests are still sitting in the Governor's secret bunker; every single employee reporting to work is in danger of contracting the virus or spreading the virus because the Administration refuses to test the employees who are helping the people of Maryland fight the virus.

There is no cure, there is no vaccine, but it has been proven that TESTING WORKS. Have a measure of respect for your members health and safety Governor, have a measure of respect for their families and those they serve, START TESTING.

In Solidarity,

President Patrick Moran

AFSCME 3

## Make sure you are Signed Up for the Emergency Pay Grievance

Visit our website to find out more information about the Emergency Pay Grievance we are filing against the Department of Budget and Management for violating our AFSCME contract. Find out if you are eligible to participate in the grievance and how to sign up to participate in this grievance.

### AFSCME Council 3 at BPW

Last Wednesday (May 6th), members of the Board of Public Works met via Zoom. The Board of Public Works (BPW) consists of the State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Comptroller Peter Franchot and Governor Larry Hogan and meets regularly to formally approve all state expenditures. The BPW reviews and votes on proposals from state agencies and reviews and approves capital projects, procurement contracts and the use of State assets.

During this time of crisis, the BPW plays a critical role in acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential supplies to combat the spread of the virus. At this week's meeting, where Governor Larry Hogan was represented by Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, State Treasurer Nancy Kopp spoke out on behalf of state employees.

Treasurer Kopp said at the outset of the meeting: "They're frightened and they're right to be frightened. Which is why I stress the importance of communications. Here are the cases...here's when you're going to have the equipment...here's what's going to happen if someone you are working with becomes ill."

In addition, AFSCME 3 President Patrick Moran testified in front of the Board of Public Works about the insufficient supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and lack of testing or planned responses in state facilities. Our union is continuing to fight for safe working conditions for all state employees at every avenue possible.

MAY 12TH, 2020

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When AFSCME fights, we win. We're not afraid to take on tough fights. Last year, we passed a law strengthening our contract and adding more tools we can use to enforce it. Going to work during this crisis is like going into war. We are the frontlines of this pandemic and we deserve the Emergency Pay outlined in our contract. Because we fought in Annapolis, we have a new tool to use. That's why I made sure my whole worksite was signed up for this grievance.

**Jamaal Craddock, Resident Advisor, Dept of Juvenile Services  
Shop Steward BCJJC**

## **Memorandum of Understanding Grievance Procedures Becomes Law**

In an early victory for AFSCME Council 3 during the 2020 Legislative Session, the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto on this bill, which allows employees covered by our collective bargaining agreement (MOU) to file a grievance when denied a right under the MOU. Previously, an employee had to use a similar, but separate, dispute resolution procedure that ended with the State Labor Relations Board after a "non-binding" recommendation by a fact-finder. Now a dispute under the grievance procedure ends with a binding decision made by an administrative law judge. (See HB 891 of 2019 session).

## **ACLU Demands Universal Testing in State Facilities**

Our partners at the ACLU have come out more forcefully on universal testing. They have partnered with Lifer Family Support Network to demand testing for everyone in state facilities. The ACLU has also demanded DOC be more transparent about their efforts to keep state employees and inmates safe by sharing the following information. Read their full letter: <https://www.aclu-md.org/sites/default/files/letter-governorlarryhogan-re-covid-19testing-050620.pdf>

## **AFSCME IN THE NEWS**

### ***State extends pay bump for key Maryland workers during coronavirus crisis; union seeking return to double pay | Baltimore Sun | May 5th, 2020***

AFSCME Maryland, which represents many of the eligible employees, maintains that workers deserve double pay under the terms of their contract. The union also contends that thousands more essential state workers it represents – including those who work in transportation and health – should be receiving enhanced pay.

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