



**Take a STAND
this President's
Day for what is
right and fair!
Legislators need
to hear from
YOU.**

Every workday, WV public employees give their all to our employer and citizens. This February 18 on 'President's Day'...give YOURSELF 3 hours.



Public Employee Lobby Day

AFSCME WV Council 77 ~ AFL-CIO



**AFSCME WV Council 77 ~
AFL-CIO**

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WHAT: Public Employee Lobby Day

WHEN: Monday, Feb. 18, 2008 ~ 9:30 AM

WHERE: WV State Capitol ~ Charleston

Lobby Day is a one day event beginning with a morning briefing on our issues with coffee and continental breakfast provided as the Legislative leadership in the House and Senate talk with us and concluding with visits to Legislator's offices and to watch the legislative session in progress. Attendees are encouraged to car pool and arrive on Monday the 18th by 9:30 AM.

Directions and Meeting Location: Treasurer's Office east wing conference and training room (EB-54) on the basement floor under the Treasurer's main offices at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston.

Signs will be placed around the Capitol pointing to this meeting room and if you need directions to the Capitol from anywhere in the state, email us at Council77@aol.com or call 1-800-642-1983. On February 18 (Lobby Day) if you have any problems, call 304-552-2581 an AFSCME Staff cell phone.

Plenty of FREE holiday parking at the meters on Capitol grounds.

AFSCME ~ Public Employees Legislative Bills and Issues 2008

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, West Virginia State Employee's salaries are at the bottom of all fifty states and are significantly underpaid in all divisions for the work performed and services provided. West Virginia State Employees are paid over \$1000 below the monthly national average. An excerpt from U.S. Census Bureau's study is below.

We hope to increase the Governor's proposed 3% salary increase to a higher number. Additionally, we have proposed placing a floor on the 3 % salary increase of \$1,000, to **ensure that no Public Employee receives a raise less than \$1000.**

H.B. 2995 / S.B. ____: Incremental Salary Raises. Revises W.Va. Code § 5-5-2, increasing incremental salary benefits (longevity) from \$50.00 to **\$100.00** per year of service. Additionally, this bill removes the three-year waiting period to be eligible for the incremental increase. By eliminating the three-year waiting period, Public Employees with one year of service will be able to benefit from the annual pay.

H.B. 4328 / S.B. 463: Permits State Employees to Serve as Poll Workers. Revises W.Va. Code § 29-6-20, excluding serving as a Poll Worker from being considered a prohibited political activity. This allows State Employees to serve West Virginia **as Poll Workers** on Election Day. This bill passed the House on February 6, 2008, and was made effective on passage. The Senate has yet to take action on this Bill.

Additionally, we are working on a bill that allows the PEIA Finance Board to offer Dental and Optical coverage as part of employees' regular benefits, rather than as a cafeteria plan. As a cafeteria plan, the participants have to pay 100% of the cost. However, by offering **Dental and Optical coverage as regular benefits**, employees would only be responsible for 20% of the premiums. This bill is waiting introduction.

STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE / PAYROLL DATA: MARCH 2006 RANKED BY AVERAGE MONTH EARNINGS

State Name	Employees	Payroll	Average Earnings
45 South Carolina	68,192	225,877,252	3,312
46 New Mexico	43,645	144,010,662	3,300
47 Mississippi	49,488	158,234,659	3,197
48 Arkansas	53,335	167,339,672	3,138
49 Missouri	79,838	250,445,592	3,137
50 West Virginia	34,190	105,701,678	3,092



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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