

Council 77 Executive Board

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AFSCME Around the Nation

This has been an eventful year for the country and unions in particular. With the attacks on public employees and public employee union rights in states across the country AFSCME has been in the forefront of the fight to protect our members and all public employees who have been targeted by Governors like Scott Walker of Wisconsin and John Kasich of Ohio. Several **We Are One Rallies** have been held around the country and in West Virginia. The rallies in WV have been attended by state AFSCME members who have advocated not only for those in Ohio and

Wisconsin but for our AFSCME members here at home. The state legislature even voted on a resolution supporting the public employees of Wisconsin. AFSCME members were there and involved in getting the measure passed.

Statistics have shown that public employees are not overcompensated nor are the benefits they receive over the top. Contrary to how public employees have been portrayed by those who wish to destroy unions and government services, public employees are not overpaid under worked bureaucrats whose best skill is getting

out of work. Public employees are actually a bargain. Taxpayers contribute less than 26 cents for every dollar paid out in pension benefits. Privatization has been shown to be more expensive and less efficient than public service. The rallying cry of Tea Party activists has been to downsize and get rid of government and government employees. These same people don't have an answer for what will replace the necessary services that public employees provide, they simply want to get rid of them. AFSCME has been fighting back to get out the facts and protect their members from vicious and untrue characterizations. AFSCME scored a huge victory in

Ohio with the defeat of Governor Kasich's union stripping legislation. The tide is turning and we need all members to be active in the fight to keep our benefits, improve our pay and make our workplaces safe and good to work in.

Our State Council with the help of our membership must continue to recruit more members to strengthen our organization in order to improve working conditions and benefits for all. Be sure to attend your local union meetings. If you have any questions or concerns or want to become more active and do not know where to start, contact the Council office. **Proactive is much better than Reactive!**

AFSCME WV Council 77 Convention Elects New Officers

Convention Highlights -

AFSCME WV Council 77 held their Seventh Bi-annual Convention on Sept. 30 through October 2 with a renewed vigor and excitement for the coming year. Delegates from all over the state and representing all facets of state, county and municipal government came to Charleston to "map out" a new way forward for our

union. AFSCME members learned how to survey and map our workplaces for our 411. Surveying and mapping helps us find potential new members, spot problems and workplace issues, as well as develop viable locals that work for all AFSCME members. Delegates worked on how to look for trends and how they affect us. These training sessions will help us when we are organizing and

getting new members to join. Learning how to get what members want will make a stronger more representative union. This is **YOUR** union and **your voice needs to be heard!!**

Delegates worked on a new legislative agenda by reviewing resolutions and discussing workplace issues. There were eleven resolutions in all that will guide the path we will take to

make our union stronger, our workplaces safer and provide fairness in the workplace. Resolutions were passed concerning organizing, collective bargaining, safety, and on call pay for workers. There were resolutions that called for recruiting and utilizing younger members in the hierarchy of leadership, get out the vote and Hatch Act Reform.

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Council 77 Convention (continued)

Resolutions were also passed concerning coalition building and member surveying. You can find out more about these resolutions and other issues at your local meetings.

Elections were also held during the convention for the following Executive Board positions: one (1) Trustee and four (4) Conference Board positions. The delegates elected Janie Stafford to the position of Trustee. For the Conference Board, delegates elected Keith Woodruff (Local 3359) - DOH Board position, Stacy North (Local 3261) - DHHR Board position, Marty Shelton (Local 2531) - Cities & Counties Board position and Christine Stephens (Local 3248) - All Others Board position. With the new members of the Ex-

ecutive Board in place we will be working towards revitalizing our local boards so that we may grow and improve with member input and involvement. Remember to contact your local and your state council members with ideas, needs and concerns. Member input is essential to our continued growth and to serve you the member in the best possible way.

The Conference Boards plan on developing a strategy of finding out what members want and how to go after it. State, city and county employment is so wide and varied that Conference Boards can hone in on the specific agency or entity and deliver a more comprehensive plan to the full Board for consideration and action. Be sure to be on the look out for informa-



Swearing in of new officers

Left to right : Marty Shelton (Huntington) Local 598 - Cities & Counties, Christine Stephens (Cabin Creek) Local 3248 - All Other Agencies, Keith Woodruff (Littleton) Local 3359 - DOH and Stacy North (Morgantown) Local 3261 - DHHR.
Absent when picture was taken - Janie Stafford (Clendenin) Local 3248 - Trustee.

tion from your Conference Board chairs or get in touch with them yourself!

The convention ended on a high note for all who at-

tended. We look forward to fanning out across the state and getting our union back on the path to success!!

Regional Meetings

Our Acting Director Pam Ray has begun a campaign to bring our locals closer together and working more harmoniously to better utilize our talents and time. We have regionalized our locals so that we can get together and get to know each other and our issues. With these meetings we can begin to formulate plans to help each other. Meetings have been

held in Keyser for District One, which includes Locals 3250, 3257 and 3249; in Wheeling for District Two which includes Locals 3207, 3359 and 3569; Bridgeport for District Three which includes Locals 3261, 3252, 3332, 743, 352, and 3598, and for District Four which includes Locals 3219 and 3264; Charleston for District Five which includes Locals 3268, 3248, 3244, 3243, 598, 2531, and 3868; and Oak Hill for District 6 which in-

cludes Locals 3226, 3240, 3224, 3221 and 3229. Ways to improve involvement of local members, communicate more effectively with our local members and each other, and increase our membership, particularly among younger employees, was on the table. Plans were developed in each region to get the ball rolling.

If you have ideas, concerns or issues that you think your local should know about be sure to get

them to your local officers. Discuss what would make attendance at meetings more beneficial or easier for you. Would internet meetings work? What about times, places or content of meetings? How would it benefit you the member? What do you need from your local to make it a more viable and useful tool to improve your workplace? Let us know what we need to do to make your local work for you!!

Lobby Day 2012

SAVE THE DATE

Lobby Day is coming up soon and we want you to be there! Be sure to mark your

calendars for February 20, 2012. Our success on Lobby Day depends on YOU the member. The more members we have in attendance, the more effective we will be in

getting our agenda through the legislature. Quite frankly it can be a lot of fun too! Bring your kids and show them how government operates, bring a friend who

wants to know what unions do, bring a co-worker, or just bring yourself!! Save the date - February 20, 2012. More details will be forthcoming.

DOH Grievance Update

Randy Hammond, et. al vs. Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and Division of Personnel. The grievance has been appealed to the West Virginia State Supreme Court. Legal briefs have been filed from all parties and we are awaiting a decision from the WV State Supreme Court.

Retiring?

Thinking of retiring and want to stay active with issues that affect State retirees? Know someone that is retired and wants to be active? Join AFSCME retirees. Dues for retirees are \$1.25 per month which can be deducted from your retirement check, or \$15.00 per year if you prefer to pay by personal check. Retiree President Ernest "Spud" Terry lobbies on behalf of the retirees and their issues during the Legislative session and also attends PEIA finance meetings and public hearings around the state regarding retiree issues. Contact the WV Council 77 office for more information and an

Steward Training

Council 77 hosted a Steward Training in Charleston on June 4 and 5.

An AFSCME International educator along with two volunteer member educators were on hand to train and educate our new stewards with new materials and methods, which included role playing (for practice in a grievance hearing), video clips on how to handle situations and how some situations can be changed without the need to file a griev-

application to join the AFSCME WV Retiree Chapter 77.

Keep in Touch with Text Messages

We occasionally send out emails on updates/issues that we feel are important to our members. If you prefer to receive text messages to your phone with these updates/issues, send a text message to the Council cell phone at 304-561-5509 with your name, local and the agency you work for and we will add you to our text message list.



Above - Karen Dyer-Hill, Doris Irwin, Barbara Spradling & Dave Stuart.

ance, and steps to take and questions to ask to find out if you have a grievable issue. The stewards in training separated into groups throughout the 2 day training to play various roles, such as a grievant, a witness at a hearing, and a union steward.

Everyone in attendance had a great time and the Stew-



Above - Pat Jack presenting Nettie Goan with her Steward certificate.

ard Training ended on a high note. As a result of the training a "Steward Committee" was formed by our new Stewards.

If you are interested in attending Steward Training contact the Council 77 office and you will be contacted when our next training is scheduled.

Municipal Report

AFSCME Local 598 and the City of Huntington are currently working on getting back to the bargaining table to continue contract negotiations. We are waiting on some financial information and updates on policy changes from the City and plan to schedule new bargaining dates in the next couple of weeks. Since members have been without an agreement for four years now, we would like to reach

an agreement with the city as soon as possible so we can reinstate rights contained in their contract.

Local 2531 and the Huntington Sanitary Board are exchanging possible dates for the next bargaining session on their wage re-opener. We are also waiting on current financial information so that we can accurately assess their financial condition and ability to pay for possible raises.

Other municipal reports were not available as this story was being put together.

Check out the AFSCME Advantage Program - Below is a partial list of available benefits.

Auto Advantage

- Auto Buying Services
- Motor Club
- Goodyear Discount Tires
- Auto Insurance
- A Guide to Union Made Vehicles

Education

- Powell's Books
- Scholarships
- College Savings Grants

Health Services

- Medical Bill Negotiating Service
- Health Savings

House & Home

- Home Mortgages
- Home Mortgage Refinancing
- Save My Home Hotline
- Home Heating Oil Discounts

Insurance

- Insurance Programs
- Supplemental Insurance

Legal

- Legal Services
- Legal Services Program: Q & A
- Public Safety Protection Program

Money & Credit

- AFSCME Advantage Credit Card
- AFSCME Debit Card
- Consumer Reports
- Credit Counseling
- Energy Efficient Rebates
- Retirement Planning Center
- Union Plus Debt Help

Travel

- Travel Center
- Car Rental Discounts

Union Shopping

- AT&T Wireless Discounts
- Checks & Address Labels
- Clothing
- Computer
- Flowers
- Pet Services

KEEP IN TOUCH - UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Keep up to date with AFSCME and your Local news and events. When changes occur please inform the Council 77 office. Council 77 carries a free \$3,000 accidental death/dismemberment policy on each of it's members and we need to have updated contact information.

Please complete the information form below and return it to the Council 77 office to update your records. It is important that you receive your newsletter and other union information. Mail, fax or email completed form to AFSCME WV Council 77, 501 Leon Sullivan Way, 1st Floor, Charleston, WV 25301; fax to 304-342-2441; or scan and email to Council77@afscmewv.org

_____		_____	
Name	Beneficiary & relationship to member		
_____		_____	
Address	State	Zip	
_____		_____	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone	
_____		_____	
Home Email address	Work Email address		
_____		_____	
Agency	Physical work address		



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Other ways to contact us

Office - 304-342-2114

Fax - 304-342-2441

Cell - 304-561-5509 (call or text)

Email - Council77@afscmewv.org

We're on the WEB!
www.afscmewv.org