



American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees,
West Virginia Council 77, AFL-CIO

AFSCME WV Organizer

www.AFSCMEWV.org

'Meet and Consult' to be extended in DOH

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In house, labor donated



DOH Meet & Consult Committee

L-R: Wade Roy (Dist 5&8) ~ Local 3257, Connie Johnson (Dist 4&6), Donna Palmer (OA's) ~ Local 3359, Jim Phares (Dist 9&10) ~ Local 3224, Jeff Atkins (Dist 1&2) ~ Local 3248, Delbert Bunner (Dist 3&7) and Glenn O'Dell (Storekeepers) ~ Local 3221. To read meeting minutes and other information related to the MACC trial project in DOH, go to www.wvstateemployee.com/macc-doh

While there are still possible discussions regarding expansion of 'Meet and Consult' to other agencies, the current Administration has made it clear that an extension of the current projects beyond the January 1, 2009 deadline is approved.

Highways, regional jails and general services / purchasing were the original state agencies involved in the pilot project in 2007 and 2008.

WV State Senators asked several questions about the MAC process during Legislative Session meetings on Senate Bill 622 which was to provide state employees with collective bargaining rights.

Legislative Session: Beer, Biscuits & Bargaining

Stronger Alcohol Beer, No calorie charts for Biscuits or burgers & NO Bargaining



This years Legislative Session saw the West Virginia economy go from one of the best in the country during this nationwide recession like atmosphere, to one where even one time bonuses for public employees were replaced with talk of worker furloughs. Our AFSCME lobbyists were on the defense most of the session, working to stop bad bills from passing, like the Furlough Bill (SB 519) which DID NOT pass thanks to our

worker friendly friends in the House of Delegates.

The legislature has recessed until May 26th without adopting a budget. This means AFSCME's efforts to rescind the proposed PEIA premium increase remains unresolved for now.

SB 622 was introduced in cooperation with the WV AFL-CIO and affiliated public employee unions including AFSCME. This is the

new version of a collective bargaining bill for public employees. An informational session chaired by the Senate President with a PowerPoint presentation was conducted for 20 of the 34 Senators. The bill did not pass but efforts for a future session are underway. Thanks to all AFSCME members who made calls, e-mailed legislators and attended Lobby Day. For a complete session wrap up, go to www.afscmewv.org.



WV State Senate

Accessing Your Legislature

AFSCME Council 77, AFL-CIO
501 Leon Sullivan Way, 1st FL
Charleston, WV 25302
304-342-2114 www.afscmewv.org



All WV Delegates listed at www.afscmewv.org or call us to get mailed

Legislative bill tracking, committee announcements, public hearing announcements, floor calendars, and daily and weekly floor actions are accessible through the Internet.

Legislative Web Address: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>

Toll-free access: 1-877-56-LEGIS (1-877-565-3447)

Governor Manchin: Phone: 304-558-2000 e-mail: governor@wv.gov

To Send A Letter, Write:

The Honorable (member's name)
Member, WV Senate
Room ___, Bldg. 1
State Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305

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Key Senate Standing Committees

Judiciary Committee:

Senator Kessler - Chair, Senator Oliverio - Vice-Chair, Senator Browning, Senator Chafin, Senator Foster, Senator Jenkins, Senator Laird, Senator Minard, Senator Palumbo, Senator Snyder, Senator Stollings, Senator Williams, Senator Yost, Senator Barnes, Senator Caruth, Senator Deem, Senator Hall

Finance Committee:

Senator Helmick - Chair, Senator McCabe - Vice-Chair, Senator Bowman, Senator Chafin, Senator Edgell, Senator Facemire, Senator Fanning, Senator Plymale, Senator Prezioso, Senator Unger, Senator Wells, Senator White, Senator Boley, Senator Facemyer, Senator Guills, Senator Sypolt

President: Earl Ray Tomblin; Majority Leader: H. Truman Chafin; Minority Leader: Don Caruth

Nothing new on DHHR & DOH pay

grievances appealed to Circuit Court last year. They are all still in the hands of the designated Judges and all we can promise is to let you know when we know. Many of you probably saw the Daily Mail article earlier this month about the health of the DOH Judge - Paul Zakaib. He plans to return soon after being off the bench since September due to illness and surgery. He was quoted in the article saying rumors of his retirement were not true.

"We're American seamen. We're union members. We stuck together and did our jobs."

Corporate leaders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are on a multi-million dollar mission to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act, even as many of them, like Bank of America, take federal bailout money. The Wall Street crowd, with their private jets and huge bonuses, almost destroyed the American economy...

But, if you want to meet real union workers, the people who make the economy function and the people Lewis and his fellow CEOs wants to screw, meet the men from Maersk Alabama over at the AFL-CIO NOW blog:

"We didn't have to retake the ship because we never surrendered it. We're American seaman. We're union members. We stuck together and did our jobs," said John Cronan, third engineer and son of a merchant sailor

The AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department (MTD) salutes the courageous efforts of the all-union crew aboard the Maersk Alabama for maintaining control of their vessel, as well as the heroic efforts of the U.S. Navy in rescuing Capt. Richard Phillips from his Somali captors.

Employee Free Choice Act

Who is this nice woman with a sign you ask? This is Sherry Breedon, Political Director of the WV AFL-CIO and a top expert on the **Employee Free Choice Act**, Labor's #1 legislative effort nationwide as well as WV. Sherry, known as 'Sherry B' works with WV AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue and Sec. Treasurer Larry Matheney. Go to www.wvafclcio.org for more complete information.



Former AFSCME Staffer Jordan Barab Named Acting OSHA Chief

Former AFSCME staffer Jordan Barab was appointed yesterday as the acting head of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Barab is well-known as a strong advocate for health and safety in the workplace. He will lead the agency until a permanent director is chosen and then will become OSHA's deputy assistant secretary on a permanent basis.

He has a deep commitment and dedication to protecting workers.

Barab directed AFSCME's safety and health program for AFSCME from 1982 to 1998. He served as special assistant to the assistant director of labor for OSHA from 1998 to 2001. He was a consultant to the AFL-CIO Safety and Health Department from 2001 to 2002, and from 2003 to 2007, Barab wrote an award-winning blog about workplace health and safety called Confined Space. Before his appointment, Barab was serving as a senior policy adviser for the House Education and Labor Committee.

Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, says Barab "will bring a tremendous amount of valuable health and safety experience to an agency that has been neglected for far too long."

Municipal Report

The City of Huntington and AFSCME Local 598 currently has an ongoing contract dispute with the new Mayor and City Council. Local President Jim Porter is coordinating AFSCME's efforts with the Local Unions for Police and Firefighters.

City of Huntington Sanitary Board Local has a case before Judge Pancake in July regarding the Sanitary Boards action when a tentative agreement was reached at the bargaining table and ratified by the Local 2531 members.

City of Kenova AFSCME members are about to begin bargaining and an information request has been submitted to the Kenova Mayor. The first session is set for April 28. Bill Sloan and David Pulley report the Local is united as they face threats of layoffs.

Local 3598 President Jason Carlson reports that several new stewards in the City of Shinnston are planning to attend the Council 77 Steward training on May 16 (see notice on pg 4).

City of Clarksburg, Clarksburg Water, Wheeling and Charleston reports were not available as this newsletter was being put together.

AFSCME Steward Training

Saturday, May 16, 2009
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WV Building Trades Union Hall

600 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, WV

(next to Capitol Market at Smith St. call 4 more)

- ~ Processing Grievances and Tips
- ~ Organizing New Members
- ~ Legal Issues in Public Employment
- ~ Legislative Strategies

Mark your calendars now and CALL
800-642-1983 to reserve your places.

Training, parking and lunch are all Free!

This AFSCME member gets **JUSTICE** with approx. **\$50,000** in back and future pay as a result of his grievance settlement.

Like many state employee members, Charles had a complaint and knew it did not feel right. However, as 24 year employee (13 in AFSCME) he knew that 'feeling' had to be backed up by facts that proved DOH had violated or misinterpreted a 'rule, procedure or law'. Mark served as steward or representative for several co-workers in the County, so he and Charles did some research.



L-R. Mark Griffith & Charles Kirchner

The guys called the AFSCME Council office with the details of the possible grievance and a couple of questions. Council 77 agreed that a grievance had merit and strategy was discussed. That strategy, the research and being prepared resulted in the settlement above. "I appreciate the job Mark and Council 77 Director Ed Hartman did in representing me at Level 2," Kirchner said "but remember, in order to prevail, you have to file a real grievance with merit." Mark says all state workplaces need a steward and the May 16 AFSCME Steward training at left is the place to start.

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