



AFSCME WV Organizer

“News and updates for Public Employees in West Virginia”

OUR WV LEGISLATIVE GOALS

For your information during this initial 2006 West Virginia legislative session, AFSCME hopes to accomplish these goals with your assistance on behalf of all members and state employees:

1. A change in the current 80/20 PEIA legislation which will stop the unfair premium increases slated for July 1 which will absorb a large portion of last year’s \$900 wage increase (first increase in 3 years).
2. A revised state grievance process which provides a fast and fair resolution to legitimate grievances and complaints.
3. A structured incremental pay increase plan for state employees similar to the one West Virginia teachers have enjoyed for years.
4. A “Meet and Consult” process to afford state employees a real voice in their workplace as recommended by the ‘Governor’s Commission of Public Sector Employment and Employee Relations.’

Finally we would like to invite you to attend our public employee lobby day event on Monday, February 20, 2006 (President’s Day) in the Treasurer’s Office east wing conference and training room (EB-54) on the basement floor under the Treasurer’s main offices. The initial gathering is at 9:30 AM till around 11:30 AM and then AFSCME lobbyists will assist you in meeting with elected representatives (Senators & Delegates) as you move about the capitol later that day. If we can be of assistance to you or answer any questions during this session please let Council 77 or your Local Union officers know. Details on page 3.

Organizing Contest Winner to Disney World

“I didn’t need a trip to Orlando to encourage me to join AFSCME, I wish I had joined sooner because they are truly the only voice speaking out on behalf of state workers in West Virginia,” said contest winner Cheryl Meador. Cheryl, a DHHR member from Cabell County, was the name drawn at the AFSCME

Council 77 Convention last year as a member involved in the big internal organizing drive. That drive has resulted in 600 new members in West Virginia. Cheryl’s parents are both union members and she plans to take her son Adam to Disney World with her grand prize winnings.



Inside this issue:

Grievance Update	2
Leadership Training	2
Howard Dean meet	2
Lobby Day details	3
Membership App.	4
Address, web site, email and numbers	4
Officers & Staff	4

‘Labor Donated’



Coretta Scott King 1927-2006

DHHR pay increase grievance update

The DHHR Level 3 hearing regarding pay increases given only to CPS employees wrapped up today, Friday, February 3, 2006. The grievants presented their case last week, and against AFSCME's objections, the hearing was not continued until today when the agency presented its case before the Level 3 Hearing Examiner.

AFSCME members present, by way of video conferencing, were Richard Ice in the Fairmont office and Mary Preece, Lakawanna Sawyers, and Mike Lucas from the Mingo County DHHR.

Those present on behalf of the Agency were Ron Anderson, Region 3 Director; Louis Palma, Region 1 Director; and Terry McConnel, DHHR Program Manager. Each gave testimony on behalf of the DHHR and was cross-examined by AFSCME's attorney.

Present on behalf of the Division of Personnel was Lowell Basford. Mr Basford offered no testimony today.

It was shown through testimony given by the state that retention and recruitment problems in the DHHR

were not exclusive to CPS positions at the time the pay increase was implemented. AFSCME feels that little was done on the part of the State to show a significant difference in job qualifications, training and duties between CPS workers and others who had grieved the pay increase.

The Hearing Examiner is to give her decision in five working days from the deadline, which will be February 24, 2006. Check our website.

AFSCME is already planning the Level 4 & court appeal.

We would like to hear your suggestions and if at all possible, we will incorporate those into our agenda.

AFSCME Leadership Training 2006

AFSCME WV sponsors a steward/leadership one day training every year with the assistance of our Council staff, WVU's Labor Studies Institute and our law firm. We are planning another one for late spring this year when the weather will be clear and allow DOH members to attend.

We would like to know what issues you would like to be trained on and included in this session as well as the preferred location in WV.

Mail, fax, call or e-mail your thoughts to us at the addresses and numbers on the mailing page of this newsletter. Be as

specific as you can. We generally include servicing (grievances, legal), political and organizing segments. We would like to hear your suggestions and if at all possible, we will incorporate those into our agenda. When you receive notice of this training, all should try to attend.



Check Our Site Often
www.afscmewv.org

Chairman Dean Talks with AFSCME WV

Former Governor of Vermont and Presidential Candidate Dr. Howard Dean, the current National Chairman of the Democratic Party shares a cup of coffee in his AFSCME mug with staffers Robin, Johnnie, Rich and Gary (lobbyist) during his recent visit to West Virginia to discuss his positive outlook for the Democrats in 2006.



SAVE THIS DATE! ALL STATE EMPLOYEES INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND.

AFSCME West Virginia Public Employee 2006 Lobby Day
West Virginia State Capitol, Charleston, WV
February 20th, 2006 (President's Day Holiday) 9:30 A.M.



Lobby Day is AFSCME's premier public legislative event. This one day event is designed to encourage members to become more directly involved in the legislative process, with the goal of shaping public policy affecting public employees in a variety of agencies and workplaces.

In addition to lobbying on behalf of specific legislative issues, Lobby Day is an opportunity to educate members of the Legislature and their staffs on your business and the importance of the services provided by state and public employees in West Virginia. Through Lobby Day, AFSCME has developed and maintained relationships with a number of Delegates, Senators and elected officials.

We strongly encourage all AFSCME Locals to send a good group of members to the 2006 Lobby Day in order to assist in our call to action and help strengthen political advocacy in public employment.

Lobby Day attendees will

Have the opportunity to participate in meetings with Legislators and their staff (Note: We will be happy to arrange meetings with any elected official and groups of members)

Learn about legislative issues affecting WV public employees

Educate policymakers on the importance of public employee services

Network with other AFSCME members, members of the Legislature and their staffs

Lobby Day is a one day event beginning with a morning briefing on our issues with coffee and continental breakfast provided 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 20th 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, email us at Council77@aol.com or call 1-800-642-1983. On February 20 (Lobby Day) if you have any problems, call 304-545-8210 an AFSCME Staff cell phone.

www.afscmewv.org

My Co-Workers and I in our Agency are underpaid and past due for a fair raise. PEIA out-of-pocket costs are too high and retirement benefits are too low. I want to join AFSCME to help improve our voice at the upcoming Legislative session. (make copies for coworkers)

Complete, sign, date and mail to AFSCME, 501 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, WV 25302 or fax to 304-342-2441.

AFSCME's union dues in West Virginia are currently \$6.05 per week, deducted bi-monthly. This money is used to pay for representation staff, organizers, research purposes, legal costs and for legislative activities, including lobbying on behalf of public employees at the state Capitol.

Send your suggestions for our lobbyists or questions for our Officers/staff to the address above or email to: Council77@aol.com

JOIN TODAY

AFSCME (WVSEU) WV Council 77

Application for membership / Authorization for payroll deduction - www.afscmewv.org

Name (Print) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer or Agency _____

Work Location _____ County _____

City _____ Your Job title _____

Social Security Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

I hereby apply for membership in AFSCME Council 77 and I authorize the State Auditor to deduct from my monthly salary and remit to AFSCME Council 77 membership dues in the amount certified by the Director of AFSCME Council 77 provided that I may revoke such authorization thirty days prior to the date on which the deduction is regularly made.

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE

DATE

AFSCME WV Council 77, AFL-CIO
501 Leon Sullivan Way, First Floor
Charleston, WV 25301

1-800-642-1983 Council77@aol.com

WV Council 77 Officers:

- Ronnie 'Bear' Napier, President
- Gordon Simmons, Vice President
- Charla Wallace, Secretary-Treasurer
- Patricia Ramey, Recording Sec.
- Barbara Spradling, All Other Agencies
- Randy Spurlock, Cities & Counties
- Hiram Justice, DHHR
- William Robinson, DOH
- Scott Cundiff, 1st District
- Pat Jack, 2nd District
- Robbie Massey, 3rd District
- Bridget Davis, Trustee
- Sandra Coleman, Trustee

WV Staff:

- Ed Hartman, Executive Director
- Robin Wagner, Office Manager
- Rich Patrick, Organizer/Rep.
- Johnnie Featherston, Organizer

WV Retirees Chapter 77:

- Ernest "Spud" Terry, President
- Eddie Harman, Vice President
- Rachael Craddock, Sec-Treas.
- Eloise Jack, Secretary

'Return Postage Guaranteed'



www.afscmewv.org

Circulate &
POST on
Boards at
Work



*With Heartfelt
Sympathy
SAGO ~ ALMA*

