



# News

June, 2020

## Local 3634

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### Greeting Sisters and Brothers:

*Hope all is safe and well with you as we continue to fight our way through COVID-19. Our local along with the four other unions on the property continue to meet with MTA Executive Management twice a week on the latest information related to health, safety and service related issues involving buses and trains and the riding public*

*MTA is still in the process of having the stimulus funds appropriated from the federal government distributed to us that will assist in shoring up the financial losses due to the pandemic and unfortunately it is a very long and drawn out process. There are talks that another set of funds for cities, counties and states are being proposed to deal with the fiscal losses caused by COVID-19.*

*The local and our Union officials have received multiple communications about our July 1st contractual raise and we want you to know that it will go into effect as scheduled per our CBA. With all that's going on in our country economically, the fact that we're still working and are in a position to receive an increase in pay is a blessing. The local will continue to brief you on changes in real time as they take place. We want to give thanks to all of you for your continued commitment and sacrifice to the local.*

*I want to especially acknowledge Brother Hector A. Gutierrez, an RTOS Instructor for his uplifting words to me on a recent site visit I made. His knowledge and appreciation of where we are today as a result of being in a Union in comparison to where we were before we organized in 1999 is encouraging. "It's not perfect" as he stated but his knowing and understanding our history is what continues to motivate me to keep fighting for your work rights.*

*Continued Peace, Prosperity and Good Health to All*

*In Solidarity,*

*Brother Al Cromer*

*AFSCME Local 3634 President*

## Newsletter

Hello Brothers and Sisters

By now we are all dealing with the Covid19 and the information associated with the Virus. We are hearing words in our lifetime such as, "shelter in place", "quarantine" and "Pandemic".

All these words mean basically for us to stay safe and use every precaution not only for ourselves but for others to combat this disease.

I can assure you that your AFSCME union and Metro management are working diligently to maintain services, provide protective equipment, to keep you informed and employed allowing us to take care of ourselves and our families. For which we are truly grateful.

So, let's stay professional with the public, our fellow employees and prayerfully "that this too shall pass"

Melvin Stokes, Executive board member



Dear Members,

I would like to thank all Metro employees for putting all their fears aside during these trying times. Everyone is working together to provide a safe work environment. I am proud of everyone for putting in all the effort, which resolves in giving the public safe transportation and a sustained ability to get where they need to when they need to.

Joe Kanter jr.  
Rail Track Supervisor 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift  
Wayside Systems Track Maintenance

**AFSCME MEMBER,  
SASHA ALVARENGA  
TOS VEHICLE OPERATIONS**

*From kids to adults, everyone is dealing with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, along with a good deal of uncertainty. Since my children's school has since closed, I have become a full-time teacher with 3 kids with Autism. Kids with Autism are best known with routine. Since the pandemic, I've had to juggle and figure it out fast on how to schedule school sessions via zoom, live chat therapy sessions with their therapists, and do virtual outings. Teaching my children the "new normal", it's been a daily teaching on survival and staying alive. The ways I've been teaching them is by maintaining social distancing, wear masks at all times, wash hands as much possible, and to take their vitamins for better immunity. As an essential worker and an AFSCME member, I've been working since this pandemic started. I truly felt that it was my duty to help and assist my operators are to stay safe out there in the front lines because the community needs public transportation. Continuous reminders I always give to my operators to stay safe and use good judgement in order to keep social distancing. Even though we are dealing with trying times, the silver lining of my story is that I have been much closer to my love ones, my AFSCME brothers and sisters in time of need and appreciate the reciprocal that I have been receiving. We are not alone and we will get through this soon*

Due to the pandemic crippling our nation, the Union would like to keep all of our members informed about all the changes going on with Metro.

If you haven't already, please provide the Union with your current contact information, personal email address and cell for future updates.

L3634@AFSCME36.org

Thank you and be well  
AFSCME LOCAL 3634  
Executive Board and  
Stewards

## **SUPPORT PEOPLE!!!!**

**Sisters and Brothers,  
Please support the AFSCME International PEOPLE Program. PEOPLE is: Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality. It is vital that we protect our labor rights, work conditions and benefits especially our pensions. Who is in office often times speaks to their position politically and philosophically about workers' rights and there are certain public officials who don't believe in benefits and pensions for workers but don't mind using our tax dollars to provide themselves with the same benefits.**

**The wrong person or group of individuals in office can have a very detrimental effect on our future including our retirement years. With a small contribution of \$6 a pay period you can strengthen AFSCME in its goals to keep the pressure on legislators locally, statewide and nationally who may try to reduce or take away your hard earned benefits.**

**Contact the Local for more information and a registration card to enroll.**

