



# News

August 2022

## Local 3634

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*First, a big thank you!*

*I would like to start by first thanking each one of you for your continued support of AFSCME local 3634. It has been a very difficult last two years dealing with this pandemic for all our members and their families. Moving forward, I would like to bring to the attention of all our members that have chosen to take the responsibility for the "P" card program. We are currently requesting a JLMC with upper management to discuss the training and responsibilities of the "P" card holder. We believe that the responsibilities of holding this "P" card have become a major burden and liability for our members. We are hopeful that all our members truly understand the responsibility, and more importantly the liabilities involved with this responsibility. I will inform all our members of the discussions and or resolutions that result from our meetings with Senior level Management.*

*In closing, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [avilaj@metro.net](mailto:avilaj@metro.net) Thank you again for your continued support!*

*Fraternally,  
AFSCME Local 3634  
Executive Board Member  
Jim Avila*



## Cesar Chavez/Juneteenth Holidays and TOWP

As many of you know there was an agreement between MTA and the Unions to give us 16 hours in our TOWP bank for both the Cesar Chavez and Juneteenth holidays. We have received some reports by the membership that they have not received theirs. The Union was informed that the hours were placed into the system prior to metro running the payroll for the July 29th pay date. We explained to the agency that a memo should have been issued confirming what was done because this has created confusion.

If you have not received your 16 hours, please send an email along with your badge number to: [HRISADMIN@metro.net](mailto:HRISADMIN@metro.net) and request that you be provided a full explanation in writing as to where your hours are.

Respectfully  
AFSCME Local 3634 Executive Board



*Sisters and Brothers:*

### *Cal PERS Retirement Workshop*

*We are in the process of setting up a retirement workshop with CalPers sometime in September or early October. For us to do so we need at least 25-30 individuals to register and commit to participating.*

*If interested please provide your full legal name, your CalPERS ID along with either your date of birth or the last four digits of your Social Security number.*

*Please submit your information via email to the local by Friday August 26th.*





**Local 3634 will host a women's empowerment luncheon on October 8, 2022, at the DoubleTree Downtown Los Angeles. The mission is to connect like-minded women, share experiences, gain knowledge, and get FIRED UP about collective bargaining. Labor unions are important for creating opportunities for growth in the workplace, unionized women make an average of 30% more per week than non-unionized women, unions level the playing field between women and their male counterparts, as well as create economic security, and improve our quality of life at retirement. RSVP by September 16, 2022. First come first serve!!!!**

**A flyer will be drafted and distributed. If you're interested, please contact the local via email**

**[L3634@afscme36.org](mailto:L3634@afscme36.org)**



## Food Distribution Committee

On July 28th a conference call took place with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's Community Services Dept. The discussion was in regard to food distribution and the shortages of staff that it takes to prepare and make food boxes for families and individuals in need. With the information provided our Union local would like to assist the Federation by volunteering time helping them in their efforts.

With the approval of the Executive Board, I would like to create a committee of 10-12 members of the Union who will rotate every other month and assist with the food sorting and box preparation. The hours will be either a morning shift for about 5 hours (730-1230) or an afternoon shift for about 5 hours (12-5) and will take place on a designated day Monday thru Friday with advance notice.

The local will cover your lost time if the food distribution is on your regular workday. If it's your off day, we want to thank you in advance for your volunteer time and commitment.

If you have an interest in being on the committee please submit your name, work location and contact number to the local by Friday August 26th and we will communicate with you shortly afterwards to begin this process and schedule volunteer times with the LA Fed.

Respectfully

Al Cromer

AFSCME Local 3634 President







[Haga clic aquí para leer en español](#)

June 20, 2022

AFSCME Family:

Today we learned that the U.S. Department of Education notified our “Free College” partners — Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), Central State University and Paul Quinn College — that they could no longer offer no-cost college to our members and their families. The department indicated that the financing of the program for students not eligible for Pell Grants is inconsistent with federal requirements. As a result, new students may not enroll.

There is no financial liability owed by any former or existing students who participated in the program. We are engaged in discussions with the department and EGCC concerning the continuing education of existing students. Continuation at no cost should not be an issue for any student who qualifies for a [Pell Grant](#). For those who are not Pell eligible, and do not have an alternative source of funding, such as an employer or union trust funded tuition assistance program, we are seeking to continue Free College until their education is complete, but we do not now have an assurance that will be the case.

The Free College program is an outstanding benefit, in some cases life-changing, for AFSCME members and their families. I was proud that we could offer the opportunity to obtain a debt free education to our members and I am committed to finding an alternative program.

By offering this benefit, we learned that a large percentage of our members are eligible for [Pell Grants](#). This federal program provides eligible students with up to \$6,895 a year in education assistance depending on various factors such as income, cost of attendance, and full or part-time student status. The grants are portable and can be used at almost any accredited college or university. To find out if you are eligible, you will need to complete an application form and the college’s financial office will calculate your eligibility before you enroll. [Click on this link to learn more.](#)

I am sorry to report this disappointing news, but we will make every effort to at least partially fill the void left by the cessation of the Free College program.

In solidarity,

Lee Saunders  
AFSCME President

Connect with AFSCME:



Having a sense of excitement lingering while walking into the AFSCME Local office on the morning of August 9<sup>th</sup> for the scheduled Executive Board Meeting, anticipating the agenda which features LA Mayor candidate Karen Bass. Calling the meeting to order beginning with roll call of Officers, addressing various key reports and moving motions in agreements to move the meeting along before the awaited entrance of Ms. Karen Bass. With great energy while introducing herself personally to each member one by one, she gracefully takes a seat next to our Local President Al Cromer.

Being raised in the Venice/Fairfax area, which is the same area she represents today in Congress. The former South Los Angeles Activist turned Congresswoman; Karen Bass gives us a short reflection of her background growing up in Los Angeles. Attending Alexander Hamilton High School following with graduating from both Cal State Dominguez Hills and USC, she stayed local while prospering in her profession in being a physician assistant. Ms. Bass touched basis on being one of the organizers who came together to fund the Community Coalition during the crack cocaine epidemic. The organization reflects on fostering addiction, violence and crimes centered in Los Angeles. Community Coalition is still standing today in South Los Angeles on 81<sup>st</sup> Street and Vermont Avenue.

Becoming a congresswoman and now running for Mayor of Los Angeles, which she stated “I plan to only run for Mayor and no other positions in politics” her vision to address homelessness is top priority. She questioned “Why are they on the streets in the first place?” Not all homeless people are drug users or have addictions. With many previous mayoral candidates mentioning ‘Solving the Crisis of Homelessness’ but lacking the action to rectify the problem head-on, we know firsthand that it is the people closest to the issues who has the knowledge of what is best for our community. Her focus will be directed to the lack of affordable housing, access to job opportunities, domestic violence, along with alcohol and drug treatments. She has the experience, values, and support from many to get the job done. With having a limit on time with meeting with our Local members, it was a pleasure to have encountered such a great woman in congress. It was even a greater moment when she was presented with an endorsement check from our Local 3634 to support her campaign and great hopes of becoming the next Mayor of Los Angeles.

Angela Wiggins  
Location Captain



# AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

## MEDICAL, PENSION and TOWP

Medical is Nicole Patino: [Patinoni@metro.net](mailto:Patinoni@metro.net)

PERS Contact MTA: Email is [Nixony@metro.net](mailto:Nixony@metro.net)

TOWP Contact: [hriadmin@metro.net](mailto:hriadmin@metro.net)



## Union Difference

*Life is better in a union. Having a voice on the job means better pay, better health care, a more secure retirement, and so much more. It means having a say in safety, staffing, and other principal issues that help AFSCME members do their jobs and keep America running.*

### **FRIENDLY REMINDERS:**

*Please make sure to update your personal contact information including your alternate contacts with Metro. It is especially important in times of emergencies that the employer may need to communicate at once, with you or your family for work and personal reasons.*

*Prosperity, Peace, and Good Health!!!*

