



News

October 2022

Local 3634

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Me Too and Pandemic Appreciation Pay

As you know by now, the SMART union was able to get pandemic appreciation pay in their contract that covered the period of March 2020 thru February of 2022. All of the other four unions at Metro have requested a Me too tie into the same pay. AFSCME has been told by the agency that we will receive the pay, however the exact pay period when we will receive it is still in question. It could happen with the last payday in October or possibly the first or second payday in November. We will keep you updated in real time.

Productive Use of Company Time

Sisters and Brothers

As a Union our top priority is to protect and preserve your hard-fought work rights and make sure that your working conditions and surroundings provide you safety and comfort at your respective locations. Another priority that we have is to provide the best representation that we can when situations arise that could cost you time off or worst-case scenario your job. It is very important during the course of your workday that you utilize your work time wisely. Unfortunately, we have members who have gotten themselves into unnecessary situations where their misuse of company time (including falsification of documents) and or resources have cost them money out their pockets and their jobs.

The misuse of company equipment during the course of your workday whether it is a computer, other machinery and vehicles can have ramifications that place you under investigation and if it rises to the level of gross misconduct will initiate a formal hearing and possibly the loss of your employment. If you utilize a company vehicle during your workday (car, van, or SUV) be conscious of your work surroundings, do not have unauthorized individuals in the vehicles and do not go into unauthorized areas that have nothing to do with the work you are supposed to perform for the agency. Being placed under investigation and not knowing your fate can be very stressful so please use good judgement and make wise decisions during the course of your day.

Doing so will make our jobs as your representatives much easier.

Respectfully and In Solidarity,

Brother Al Cromer
AFSCME Local 3634 President



Good morning, Brothers, and Sisters

Hope this monthly newsletter finds you and your families all in the best of health. Over the past 20 months or so do you find your lives improved to the better financially or has the economy hit your spending on food, utilities, gas, etc. got worse. Well Mid-Term Elections are November 8th. 2022, hopefully you are registered to vote, you need to register if not. Encourage your families and friends to also register. Voting on this day can change many things that we all frown daily when we get gas etc. "Yeah, I know" many say my vote does not count. "Yes, it does count." If you do not vote, do not complain on the results.

To all, I have been here since April 8th. 1983. (RTD) I have seen so many changes, some for the good and bad. Decision makers here are not perfect, it always seems to become political like Kissing Ass. Metro has not only gone downhill but also cannot get back on track. TOS's (OCI) We know that you are being over worked and doing the best that you can with what Metro's instruction policies may be such as just push the new Operator's through. Keep up the excellent work but be stern in your instructing, they come to the street with attitudes already. (BOC) A whole lot to deal with because everything goes through BOC, Operator's unfamiliar with routes, rules, and procedures. I worked there too, I know what it is like, that phone is non-stop constantly ringing. You all do a great daily, even putting up with me in the field. (Division Window), an Operator's Day starts with you, spot check them as they sign on, Baseball Caps of their choice or Nike tennis shoes, even caught one wearing Croc's or the light blue Mailman shorts??? (Division Instructors), Re- evaluate some of your Mentors, they are just sitting in the bus making that extra pay and not training them correctly. I had a conversation with a Mentor after his student was threatened, the student seemed more involved with what happened, the mentor stayed his distance to not get involved. I stated to him that I would be writing Memo to his Director and possibly get him dismissed from the Mentor program, Attitude changed and now he was involved. (VO's) Being on a shift 5-7 days a week I hear a lot of calls. Nothing is worse than to hear a controller call a Unit more than 3 times and not hearing a neighboring Unit ask if they could assist, were supposed to all work together. Most of the time the Unit being called will answer especially if it's an easy call. When meeting an Operator on a call, on-spot corrections could be said but not enforced unless the attitude comes out, then a Trans-19 if necessary.

Uniforms, many of you look sharp and Professional, some of you could still invest hours pay and buy an Iron to use, some uniforms could be put into a washing machine too. You should not be walking around on Thursday with the same shirt you spilled mustard on, on Monday. I have seen window TOS's wearing Croc's with no socks, your fuzzy house slippers, or slip-on vans with booty socks, totally Unacceptable!! Remember Operator's see you enter your place of work, and they are watching too.

You might be reading this with your LIP raised saying "Who does Ernie think he is", that's ok, I don't mind, many of you know me and many of you don't. "Do Your Job" Metro did not make you apply for the position of TOS, you applied. We can all bring this Company back to a wonderful place to work again. Seems like there is so much Hate around here.

Rail and other job locations we know you have your issues on that side, I only hear about them. I am sure you all are handling them professionally too. In closing, remember someone is always watching, Trackers in our Units, Cameras are everywhere, Terminals, Divisions, street corners and Metro has the access to watch you live... or someone from the upper floors from Gateway may walk into your job locations, Word to wise. You all have a wonderful day, stay safe, now a days head on a swivel, take care.

**Respectfully,
Ernie Paredes
E-Board Officer
TOS Vehicle Operations.**

Student Debt Relief.....

I read an article regarding student debt relief and how working people are finally catching a break. President Lee Saunders of AFSCME stated after President Joe Biden provided his plan to extend the moratorium on student loan payments and forgive up to \$20k for Pell Grant recipients and \$10K for non-Pell Grant recipients. What started all this debt in the first place? Once elected #39, the POTUS, Mr. Ronald Reagan, set the educational tone for his administration by calling for an end to free tuition for state college and university students. He then began on an annual basis, demanding 20% across-the-board cuts in higher education funding, repeatedly slashing construction funds for state campuses. Mr. Regan engineered the firing of Clark Kerr, a popular President of the University of California, and declared that the state "should not subsidize intellectual curiosity.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders issued the following statement after President Joe Biden unveiled his plan to extend the moratorium on student loan payments and forgive up to \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 for non-Pell Grant recipients:

"Our national leaders prioritized rich people and corporate interests for far too long. Now, working people are finally catching a break.

"Today's historic action puts money back into working people's pockets and frees thousands of families from crippling debt. It builds on relief already delivered through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which has lifted a burden for more than 160,000 public service workers across the country. And it joins lowering prescription drug costs, falling gas prices, and the lowest unemployment in 50 years, yet another way working Americans can benefit when leaders put their needs first.

"For far too long, too many people have barely kept their heads above water, struggling to pay the bills each month. With political extremists hellbent on reversing the progress of the last two years and taking away our rights and freedoms, the choices we must make in the 2022 midterm elections could not be clearer."

Submitted by:

Lt. Nathaniel Brown

AFSCME Captain Local #3634



HOLIDAY PARTY 2023: IT'S BACK

Sisters and Brothers

For the first time in six years our Holiday Party is returning. It will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Los Angeles (Little Tokyo) on January 14th, 2023.

If you are interested in being on the Event committee, please communicate via our locals' email L3634@afscme36.org with our Recording Secretary Veronica Gunn.



General Membership, October 22 @ 10:00am

Meeting

AFSCME Local 3634 is inviting you to a scheduled **Zoom** membership meeting. **Virtually**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82130748969?pwd=enlEcEU1K2lra1I5V3dUZmN6bkVZZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 3074 8969

Passcode: 613531

One tap mobile

+16699006833

Legislative News

Newsom relents, signs farmworker union bill after pressure from Biden and labor, [click on link below](https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2022/09/newsom-farmworker-union-bill/)

Governor Newsom Signs COVID-19 Sick Pay, Small Business Relief Bill, [click on link below](https://www.natlawreview.com/article/governor-newsom-signs-covid-19-sick-pay-small-business-relief-bill)

Labor Is on the Offensive, [click on link below](https://www.barrons.com/articles/labor-unions-jobs-rail-strike-51664296906)



AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

MEDICAL, PENSION and TOWP

Medical is Nicole Patino: Patinoni@metro.net

PERS Contact MTA: Email is Nixonny@metro.net

TOWP Contact: 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!!!

