



*Local 3634*

# *Newsletter*

**January 2024**

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Direct (213) 252-1395

**Website: [www.afscme-3634.org](http://www.afscme-3634.org)**

## **Senate Bill 616 (SB616)**

What we know:

The California legislature passed a new law that replaces Labor Code 233- allowing employees to use ½ of their annual sick leave accrual to care for a nuclear family member as protected leave. The employees were not charged an instance as long as they used their leaves bank to cover the absence.

NOW:

An employee adhering to their work location's SOP, may call-off work for the care of a nuclear family member or designee (establish on a 12-month basis) could use the hours in their sick (TOWP) bank as protected leave. Like LC233, if an employee has hours to cover the absence in their bank, they will not be charged an instance.

METRO informed the employees but is drafting a policy BE PATIENCE!

Please read the new Bereavement and Reproductive policy as a result of Senate Bill 848.

Veronica Gunn  
Recording Secretary

# CBA Article 18: Temporary/Permanent Promotions

## Sisters and Brothers

There are many members who have or are contemplating promoting into non -contract positions. Many do so without fully understanding what those decisions entails as it relates to our CBA.

1. The maximum time that you can be gone from the bargaining unit without it affecting your seniority is 180 days. If a person temporarily promotes and stays beyond the 180 days, they stop accruing seniority under article 19.4.8. If it's a permanent promotion you are officially out of the bargaining unit after 180 days.
2. When you promote outside of the bargaining unit, temporary or permanent you are no longer eligible for overtime and you cannot participate in any bidding process, including shakeups. Articles 18.2(3) and 18.3(3)
3. Any shift that you vacate when promoting temporary or permanent and it's placed up for bid and awarded, you cannot bump any bargaining unit member out of the assignment you vacated if you return within 180 days, and you must take an open shift until the next shakeup.
4. If you promote, your shift and vacations go up for bid as well due to your leaving the bargaining voluntarily.



## Benefit Changes

Any information that you may need regarding CalPERS, Jonathan Arevalo-Parrish is the new contact. His email is [Arevalo-parrishJ@metro.net](mailto:Arevalo-parrishJ@metro.net)

# ***PEOPLE BLURB***

The PEOPLE PAC is how AFSCME protects our rights to collectively bargain, preserve our jobs, defend our pensions and benefits and safeguard our wages. As public service employees, we need allies in office who will work with us for the best contracts and safest working conditions. Giving at the MVP-level of \$100 a year, just \$8.40/month, ensures we have a seat at the table rather than being on the menu. You can sign up to contribute [here](#).

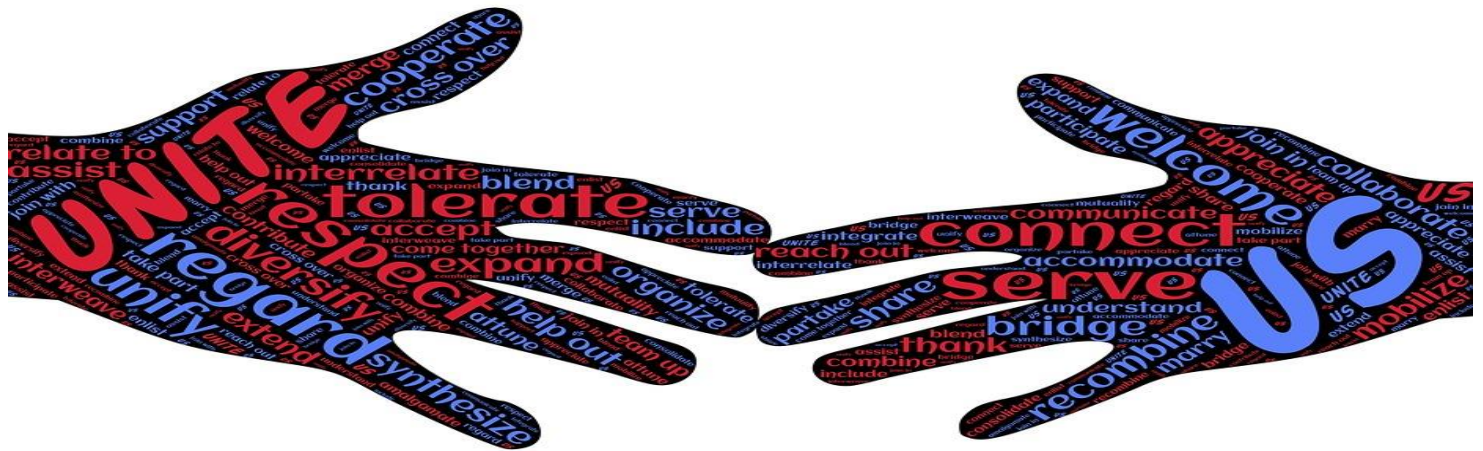
PEOPLE funds go toward electing pro-worker, pro-union candidates at all levels of office. We are a non-partisan PAC that elects candidates who care about our members and holds them accountable once they are in office. In addition to engaging in electoral work, we also have a strong legislative program to protect our members and expand workers' rights.

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## **There will be a meeting January 27, 2024**

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

Topic: General Membership meeting

Time: 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4556877610?pwd=SWhoZXlueGIEOEp2SXFzMjFjFjV0NjZz09>

Meeting ID: 455 687 7610

Passcode: 162889

One tap mobile

+16694449171,4556877610#, \*162889# US

### **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!!!*

## UNION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024

<https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships>

## AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

Medical/Dental/Vision:



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

Milette Short [ShortM@metro.net](mailto:ShortM@metro.net)

[Benefits.metro.net](http://Benefits.metro.net)

PERS Contact METRO:

Jonathan Arevalo-Parrish

[Arevalo-parrishJ@metro.net](mailto:Arevalo-parrishJ@metro.net)

TOWP Contact:

[hrisadmin@metro.net](mailto:hrisadmin@metro.net)

Also, for those of you who have 401/457 questions or need to submit forms for changes or updates, Arif Motiwala is the contact. His Email is [motiwalaa@metro.net](mailto:motiwalaa@metro.net)

For those of us who have CalPers for our pension, MTA has a contract with them and is just the intermediary. MTA doesn't make the final call on your retirement benefits and calculations. If you have any questions or problems related to PERS including your service credit, you need to communicate directly with them. If you haven't done so, create your account with them and monitor your service credit. **If you take off work for any reason and miss more than two complete months of work during the service credit year (July 1st to June 30th), it can be detrimental to your yearly credit and delay your retirement.** Again, the Union does not run the PERS retirement system. You must reach out to them.

### **Medicare Part B**

If you are retiring soon or plan to do so in the near future and you'll be 65 or about to turn 65, please know that you are entitled to receive a Medicare part B supplemental stipend that is a reimbursement if you enroll for part B but you have to ask MTA about it when you retire. The supplemental stipend is \$164.90 in 2023.

### **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.*