



Newsletter

November 2023

Local 3634

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The Retiree's Corner

I found the **AFSCME California PEOPLE Convention** this year to be incredibly enlightening!

One surprising discovery was the untapped resource within AFSCME: the AFSCME Retiree Program. Established in 1980, this program has chapters in California and all over this great country. Retirees benefit our locals because of their work experience and an interest in retirement benefits. These lovely people are also great representatives who embody the "AFSCME Difference!"

Although the concept of knowledge transfer is well-known, it is unfortunately not frequently practiced in the workplace. However, retirees possess invaluable on-the-job knowledge and tricks of the trade that, if shared, could significantly enhance the workflow for current members. Yes, this knowledge sharing could strengthen the AFSCME Union's bargaining power, as knowledge is indeed power!

Considering the aging workforce's apprehension towards retirement uncertainties, we have a treasure trove of real-world information right in our midst. Additionally, retirees are in a prime position to advocate for crucial elements in retirement packages that may lack vital services.

At the state level, California Local 57 lobbies state legislators, spearheads efforts to safeguard the stability of pension systems and mobilizes retirees to protect their benefits. Another advantage lies in the engagement of retirees in community initiatives, volunteer work, and charitable activities. By representing the union and contributing to the betterment of society, they showcase the positive impact of AFSCME, even in retirement. It is in my greatest interest to explore Local 57 to see how it can effectively support members before, during, and after retirement. Also, how can we, active members, support our retiree local?

Stay tuned ...

Mattie Jones-Hopes
Metro – Stops and Zones Supervisor

A Thanksgiving Message

Sisters and Brothers:

As we all prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday with our families, let's take a moment to reflect and give thanks for what we have and the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Please take care of yourselves and safe travels for those of you who are fortunate to get away for a few days. Enjoy the special moments, celebrate life, continued peace, and prosperity, and try to appreciate and enjoy every day to the fullest.

On behalf of our Executive Board, Stewards, Location Captains, and Trustees, we want to say "Thank You Labor Family" for your continued support of our Union.

Brother Al Cromer

AFSCME Local 3634 President



Thanksgiving Food Giveaway (Turkeys and Food Boxes)

Labor Community Services in conjunction with IBEW will be having a Food Distribution Event on November 18th.

Location: IBEW Electrical Training Institute

Address: 6023 Garfield Ave

Commerce, CA 90040

Time: 9am to 12 Noon

Drive-thru distribution: Open to members of any union and the entire community

Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



Thank you for your service!!!!!!

Benefits Reminder

Open enrollment has now begun. You have about two weeks to make changes to your benefits. Don't Forget!



EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024

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

AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

Medical/Dental/Vision:



Nicole Patino Patinoni@metro.net

Milette Short ShortM@metro.net

Benefits.metro.net

PERS Contact METRO:

Nixony@metro.net

TOWP Contact:

hrisadmin@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.