



Newsletter

June 2024

Local 3634

3375 E. Slauson Ave., Suite 233 - Vernon, CA 90058

Direct (213) 252-1395

Website: www.afscme-3634.org

Recognizing Our Fathers

We would like to honor all of the Fathers in our local. Thanks for what you do to make your presence felt through your hard work, commitment and dedication to both your children and families, in our communities and society as a whole. Thank You for your sacrifices and doing your part to be good role models to not only your child or children but to others who look up to you, the positive impact that you have and the influence you make in the lives of many on a daily basis.

Happy Father's Day!!!

Executive Board
AFSCME Local 3634

AFSCME International Convention: Delegates and Booth Committee

The AFSCME International Convention will be in Los Angeles from August 12th-16th. If you are interested in being a delegate and or an alternate, please make sure that you attend our June 22nd monthly membership meeting at our building in Vernon.

If you have an interest in being on our booth committed where we will be selling Local 3634 promotional items, please submit an email to the local and your name will be placed on the list. We need about 6-8 individuals.

Those that are selected as delegates, alternates and are appointed on the committee will have their lost time covered from work by the local. You will have to attend all required workshops and activities during the convention.

Delegate

At last month's CBTU retiree committee meeting

I was struck by the importance of a before-you- retire checklist. This checklist is a crucial tool that can help us navigate the complexities of retirement. Have you created yours?

Whether you plan to explore the world, enjoy the comforts of home, or embark on a new part-time venture, planning for life after retirement is crucial. Knowing when to step away from work and how you will spend your newfound freedom is a pivotal part of this process.

Retiring from work is a significant milestone, a moment of empowerment. It's a time when you can shape your future years of leisure and enjoyment, pursuing your passions and finding personal fulfillment. Your decisions today will pave the way for this exciting journey.

As we transition into retirement, it is not just about financial security. It's about redefining our sense of time and ensuring a balanced lifestyle. How can we ensure that our internal clock continues ticking at a pace that enriches our lives rather than bringing it to a screeching halt (we have all heard the stories)?

So, if you have not done so already, let's get busy and put together a realistic and doable plan that secures our finances and nurtures our well-being. This way, our retirement years will be full of life and celebration, balancing financial security and personal fulfillment.

Next, join me in building our checklists, beginning with the three-legged stool for financial stability. Then, we move on to our physical and mental well-being, and lastly, we discuss the “plan” and ideas to prepare a contingency plan for unforeseen circumstances.

“Help me to help you so that you can help me.”

***Mattie Jones Hopes
Metro – Stops & Zones Supervisor
L3634***



AFSCME Brothers & Sisters,

It's been a hot topic regarding safety here at Metro, so I just want to emphasize the importance of staying vigilant.

As we have seen in the news, the number of attacks on metro employees and public riders is more frequent.

We all come here to make a living and want to go home safely but sometimes it seems like it's getting harder

and harder to do. Please be vocal with your management groups, preferably by email so you can have a record of

any safety concerns brought up. Management sometimes has the tendency of having memory loss.

Contact the union or any of the shop stewards or location captains with any safety concerns if you feel management are not taking you seriously. Also, please fill out the online L.E.S.R.

(Law Enforcement Service Request) and write down the assigned ticket number or take a picture but you will only

have 15-20 seconds before it disappears once everything is submitted so just a heads up. Inform all your subordinates to notify you of any safety issues and to also submit L.E.S.R. tickets. I know that sometimes staff

stop reporting issues because they feel like nothing is getting done and frankly so do we, but we must continue

to report.

If we don't do what we need to do, just remember this, it's not a problem until it becomes a problem, then people

will be quick to say they notified you so CYA. It's a long battle and nothing is fast here at Metro, so it will take some

time before something is done. As supervisors and as people, always take things seriously even if it's minor to you

and do the right thing and report. We will continue to fight and voice everyone's safety concerns to the metro board

and higher ups at metro. I had the opportunity with our president to speak at last month's Metro Board Meeting

at Gateway regarding the safety surge agenda and we voiced our concerns. I almost passed out from being so nervous, but in the end I did it for all of us because it needed to be said. Just know we will continue to

make them aware until something is done. Please stay safe out there.

Thank You,

**Edgar Suarez- General Services Supervisor
AFSCME Local 3634 - Shop Steward**



INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWS

Sisters and Brothers

As a reminder when it comes to a request made to you for an investigative interview by your management team, EEO, OIG, HEAR, CIV department, law enforcement etc... Please do not take it upon yourselves to go into the interview alone without the Union. We periodically send out reminders to the membership about this issue and we're doing so again. We have the knowledge and experience when it comes to these respective departments. They have a right to speak to you, however, please make sure we are there with you and advise them as such.



Mandatory Metro Training Reminder

Listed below are Metro training (links attached) required by all MTA employees. They should be completed on company time, however if your location management does not accommodate you then you can do so on your own time and be compensated at your rate of pay.

The trainings are:

1. **Workplace Violence Prevention Plan Training (WVPPT):** Due by June 30, 2024

<https://bit.ly/WVPP>

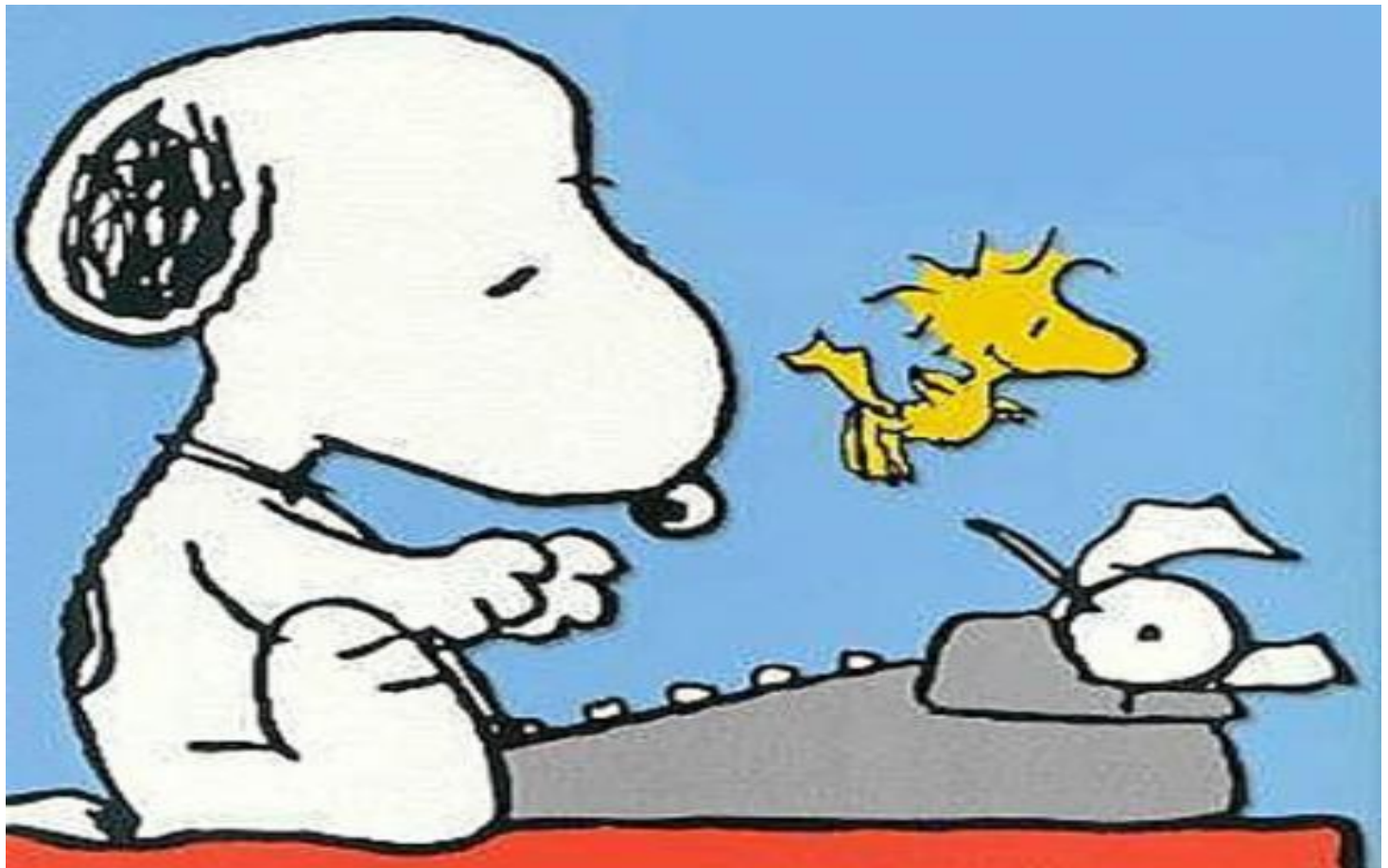
2. **Sexual Harassment Prevent Training (SHPT):** Due by July 31, 2024

Adobe [Learning Manager](#)

LABOR ESSAY FOR 2024 AFSCME INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Sisters & Brothers,

The winners will be announced at our June 22nd monthly membership meeting.





There will be a meeting June 22, 2024

AFSCME Local 3634 is inviting you to a scheduled Hybrid and Zoom.

The election for delegates, alternates, and guests for both International Convention and District Council 36 will be **in person only**.

Topic: General Membership meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4556877610?pwd=SWWhoZXlaeGlEOEp2SXFzMjFhV0NjZz09>

Meeting ID: 455 687 7610

Passcode: 162889

One tap mobile

+16694449171,4556877610#, *162889# US

Certifications-Credentials-Licenses

If you are required as part of your work duties and responsibilities to hold or maintain a valid certification, credential, or license, please don't wait until the last minute to renew your documentation where it can create problems for you in the workplace. Try to begin your renewal process at least 3-4 weeks out, which will allow you ample time to renew in case something unexpectedly happens.

CBA Article 12.2.1: Informal Discussion or Counseling

If you as an employee are asked by your management to come to the office to discuss a matter or issue and they state that it is informal in nature and not disciplinary, you are not allowed to refuse the request and they have a right to meet and discuss the issue. A refusal to comply with the request could possibly lead to discipline. During the conversation, if the issue of discipline is brought up then you enact your Weingarten rights and request Union representation.

HR 21: Updated Attendance Policy

Please search, read, and review the updated Metro Attendance Policy (HR 21) in your spare time at work as relates to excused and unexcused absences, tardies, and call off notification procedures. The updated policy should be dated 1-23-24.



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.

Gabe Schreiber
AFSCME
Political and Legislative Advocacy Apprentice
Cell: (973) 567-8204
Email: gschreiber@afscme.org



UNION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024

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

AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

Medical/Dental/Vision:

BENEFITS



Nicole Patino Patinoni@metro.net

Milette Short ShortM@metro.net

Benefits.metro.net

PERS Contact METRO:

Jonathan Arevalo-Parrish

Arevalo-parrishJ@metro.net

TOWP Contact:

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

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.