



Newsletter

January 2025

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Direct (213) 252-1395

Website: www.afscme-3634.org

Social Security Fairness Act is now Law.

Sisters and Brothers

[Biden signs Social Security Fairness Act, GPO-WEP 'gone for good'](#)



Biden signs Social Security Fairness Act, GPO-WEP 'gone for good'

Yesterday brought a huge victory for public service workers, as Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act.



**Did you
know?**

AFSCME has scholarship opportunities for you and your family. Please check out the links below. Please act FAST, the deadline is January 31, 2025. The scholarships are available EVERY year.

AFSCME members family

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

AFSCME members Pursuing higher education

<https://www.afscme.org/member-resources/scholarships/gerald-w-mcentee-scholarship>

Resource

<https://afscme.org/member-resources/afscme-advantage/scholarships/Gerald-McEntee-Scholarship-Announcement.pdf>



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, OUR EVENING EVENT IS
SET FOR APRIL 12, 2025, AT THE SHERATON
FAIRPLEX IN POMONA; OUR THEME IS THE
"GREAT GATSBY" OR "ROARING 20IES"

DETAILS TO COME



TOS/RTOS Arbitration Shake-up Update

Sisters and Brothers

On December 20th, the local was informed by our attorney that the arbitration that was scheduled for January 16th/17th has been delayed due to a medical emergency involving the arbitrator. Normally after testimony, the decision normally takes from 60 to 90 days but now with this latest information received, we will have to wait for the arbitrator to recover or we may have to start over with the arbitrator selection process. We will update in real time as to the direction we take.

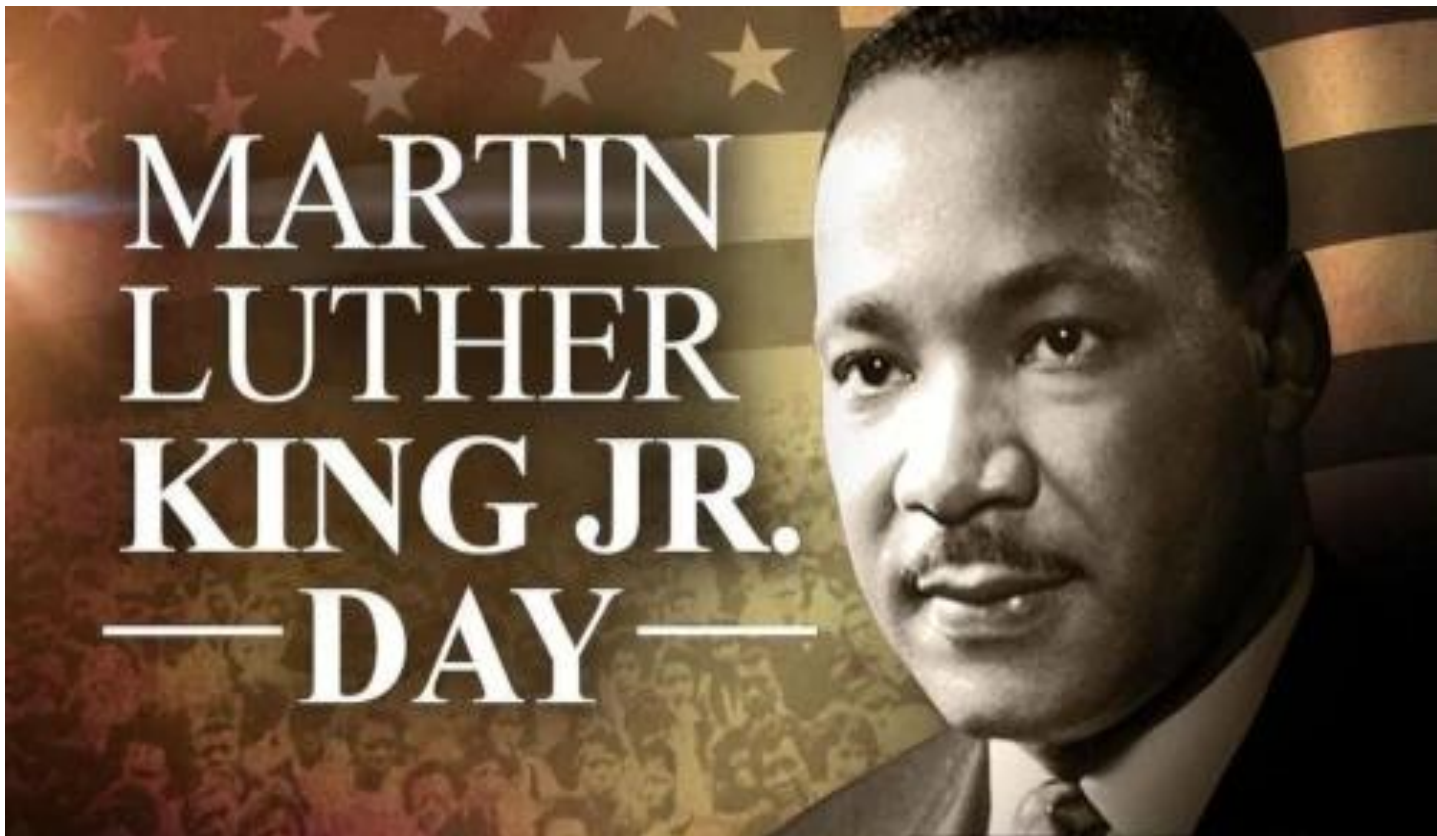
Reporting Incidents: On and Off Duty

AFSCME Family:

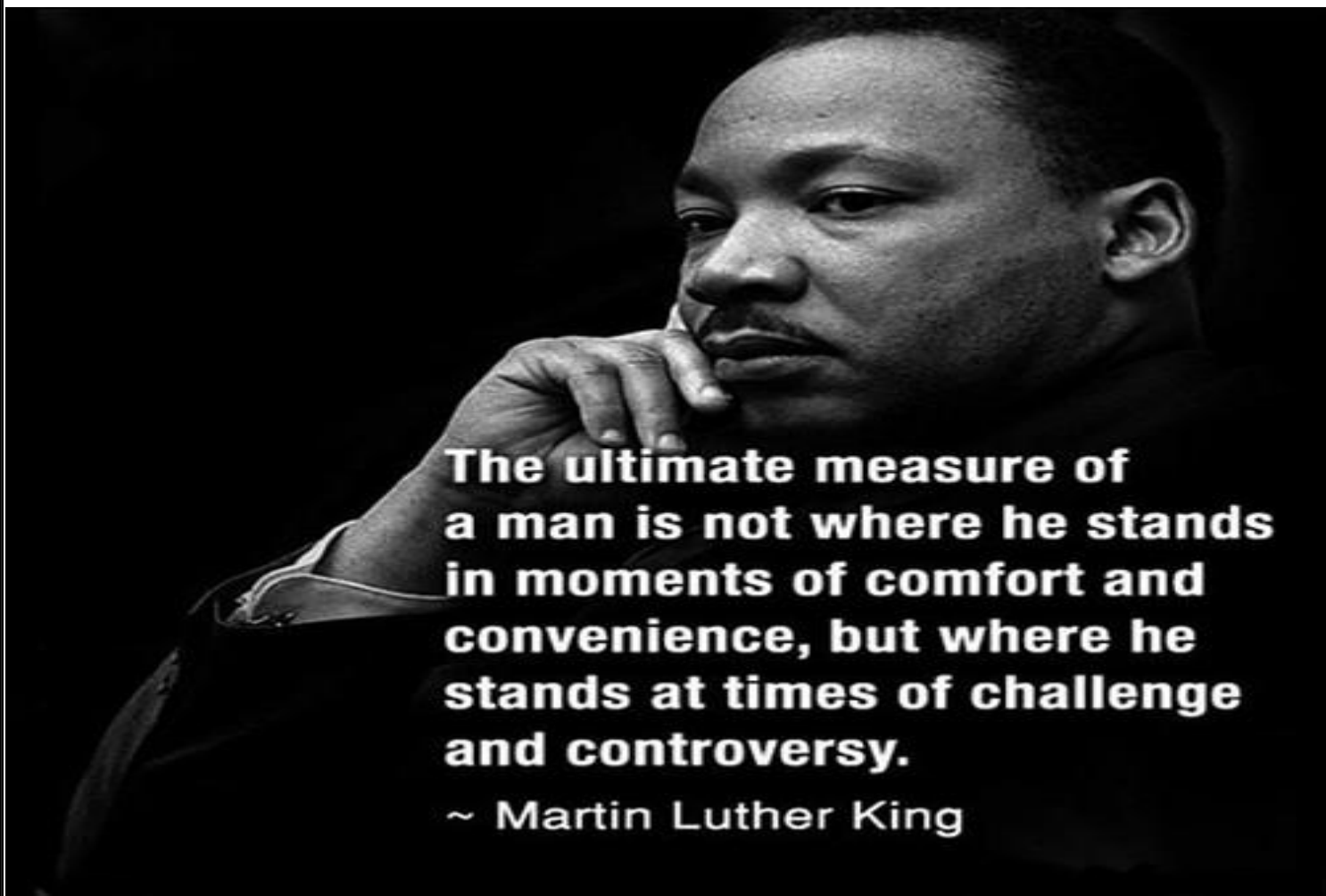
It is very important that when incidents that take place at work and off duty that involve you personally and can affect your employment, you must notify and provide information to your employer immediately. If you as a supervisor are approached by those that you supervise directly or another employee who reports or makes a comment to you that they were subjected to comments or actions by another employee that they deemed offensive in nature, please provide a written summary to your management team in a timely manner. If the individual who approached you changes their mind and states to you to disregard, please submit the information to your management team. Failing to report such matters can subject you to a disciplinary process. It would be helpful if you would re-familiarize yourselves with company policies: EEO, All CIV policies, HR 43 and the Employee Code of Conduct.

Investigative Interviews:

If you are contacted by an investigatory department for an interview, we as your Union would highly recommend that you reach out to us to attend. We cannot prevent your being interviewed but we can provide guidance to you during the process.



MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR.
— DAY —



**The ultimate measure of
a man is not where he stands
in moments of comfort and
convenience, but where he
stands at times of challenge
and controversy.**

~ Martin Luther King



There will be a meeting January 25, 2025

AFSCME Local 3634 is inviting you to an in-person and virtual Zoom meeting.

Topic: General Membership meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4556877610?pwd=SWWhoZXlueGIEOEp2SXFzMjFhV0NjZz09>

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.



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.