

Newsletter

March 2025

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AFSCME District Council 36 Convention: 2025

Sisters and Brothers

During the weekend of February 28th through March 2nd in the city of Long Beach, AFSCME District Council 36 held its convention for the first time since fall of 2021. Since early 2022, the council (now at 74 locals and 20,000 members) has been under administrative receivership by AFSCME international. In addition to other activities and labor education workshops at the convention, new elections were held for the council executive board, which consists of President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and 11 vice-presidents who represent 8 districts in the council.

As a result of the elections, our locals Recording Secretary Sister Veronica Gunn (also, Vice-President on the International Executive Board) is now the new President of AFSCME District Council 36. In addition, our locals Secretary Treasurer, Brother Q Arachchi, was elected as one of four new Trustees for AFSCME District Council 36,

They both will represent Local 3634 well on the council executive board and we want to give a big shout out to them both.

Congratulations!!! 🎉

The AFSCME Family

Back in October 2024 in Baltimore, Maryland, AFSCME District Council 3 just won the right to bargain for MDOT (Maryland Dept. of Transportation which includes supervisors, assistant superintendents, superintendents & police sergeants), MTA (Maryland Transit Administration), and SHA (State Highway Administration)

Part 1: Our Local, 3634, was asked by our International if we could assist district council 3 in Baltimore to organize those supervisors. Danny De La Cruz (Stops & Zones supervisor) and me, John T. Humphrey (TOS) were sent to Baltimore, Maryland for 15 days to assist in organizing those supervisors. We organized all over the greater DMV area in bus/rail divisions, maintenance shops, state offices & we phone banked as well. We got many people to sign the union cards to become members of AFSCME.

Part 2: We were able to get the majority of supervisors to sign the union cards, to begin the process for them to be certified into AFSCME. This process was certified in December 2024.

Part 3: January 2025, we were asked to return to Baltimore to finish the job. I was tasked with going to the bus/rail divisions & SHA (State Highway Administration) to ensure that all the supervisors/superintendents have cast their votes to have their own union. On February 26, 2025, all the votes were counted... My union brothers & sisters votes overwhelmingly passed, and we now welcome the supervisors, all superintendents, police sergeants and State Highway Administration in Baltimore city/County into the AFSCME District Council 3 family. AFSCME International requested our local to send us to assist in Baltimore twice because they see the work that we do here at Metro daily. Before this organizing campaign they were only offered a \$1.00 raise. Now they have gained bargaining power for a fair contract for wages/benefits, job security, sick/vacation time & more.

Our saying here at AFSCME is, when we FIGHT, we WIN!

Fraternally,
John T. Humphrey
AFSCME 3634 Executive Board Officer
Transit Operations Supervisor – Division 18





St. Patrick's Day

A vibrant St. Patrick's Day illustration. A black cauldron overflowing with gold coins sits on a green background with a subtle clover pattern. A green banner with the text "St. Patrick's Day" in a white, stylized font is draped across the middle. In the foreground, a green leprechaun hat with a gold buckle and a small pile of gold coins are visible. The entire scene is framed by a blue border.



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 TWENTIES"

**March 25th is the deadline
to RSVP for this event, use the QR
code and Link below room reservation must be
secured by March 14th**



<https://afscme36.org/Gatsby-Soiree>

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?guestreslink2=true&id=1735943942861&key=GRP>

***If anyone is interested in volunteering for this event
Please send an email to the local***



Reporting Incidents: On and Off Duty

AFSCME Family:

It is very important that incidents that take place at work or off duty 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 the 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.



There will be a meeting on March 22, 2025

AFSCME Local 3634 is inviting you to a 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=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.





AFSCME Member Services

To all members of the bargaining unit, if you haven't received your membership card from AFSCME International with your AFSCME member number, please go to [Apscme.org](https://www.afscme.org), hit the contact us link and fill out the email information box. Please include Local 3634 and District Council 36 in the body of your email. You should receive your green and white AFSCME card within 10-14 days. You can use this card at various locations that offer discounts to union members.

AFSCME BENEFITS INFORMATION

Medical/Dental/Vision:



Nicole Patino Patinoni@metro.net

Milette Short ShortM@metro.net

CalPERS

PensionBenefits@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 motiwala@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 \$185.00 in 2025.

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.