

AFSCME DAILY

Thursday, July 1, 2010 | Boston, Massachusetts



PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES!



Thousands of AFSCME activists rallied Wednesday at Boston Common, in solidarity with Council 93, to prevent the loss of critical public services, support higher education employees and to pass the jobs bill now stalled in Congress.

Council 93 Exec. Dir. Anthony Caso, also an IVP, said the union's members "are fed up with politicians like Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA) who abandoned workers last week" by opposing the jobs bill. "Today, AFSCME makes its mark on Boston Common, and we are ready to fight and ready to lead!"

"We can't let them destroy vital public services!" added President McEntee. "We can't let them tear down what our hard work has built up!"

Locally, Council 93 members are fighting to prevent the planned closure of four of the state's six long-term residential hospitals for the developmentally disabled, to keep all branches of the city's public libraries open and prevent layoffs of library employees. The council also wants fair, equitable contracts for thousands of higher education workers represented by the union.

Four members of Council 93 also addressed the rally: **Elissa Cadillac**, president of Boston Public Library Local 1526; **Michael Thomas**, president of an organization of Council 93's human services locals; **Kevin Hanley**, Massachusetts State and Community Colleges Local 1067; and **Francis Martin**, president of University of Massachusetts - Amherst Local 1776. After the rally, hundreds of AFSCME activists marched to City Hall to support the library workers.

HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY'S SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

4:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

6 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Elections

BCEC - Hall A

6 a.m.

PEOPLE Booth

BCEC - Hall B

9 a.m.

Information & Exhibit Booths

(Until 1 hour after session.

Closed during session)

BCEC - Hall B

10 a.m.

39th International Convention Convenes

BCEC - Hall C

PEOPLE T-Shirt Day

PEOPLE Awards

Judith Arroyo, Local 436 (DC 37)

Health Care Program

Address

Donna Brazile, Political Strategist

Political Program

Ed Schultz, Emcee

Recess

Women's Leadership Café

4 p.m. - or upon recess of day's

Convention business

BCEC Ballroom Level 3



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059-10 BUG

Pass the Jobs Bill!

Passing the jobs bill also was the highlight of a program during Wednesday's session. Florida state juvenile detention officer **Faustino "Tino" Cosby** of Tampa told how passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 prevented a threatened 10 percent budget cut in the Department of Juvenile Justice.

"Because of that funding, my pink slip never came, and the vital services I provide to improve my community's youth were spared," said Cosby, vice president of Local 2707 (Council 79). "The economic recovery bill saved my job and hundreds of thousands of other jobs like mine."

Then William LeBeau, a police lieutenant for the city of Cohoes and also a member of the statewide executive board of New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union/District Council 82, urged everyone in the session to text the word "Happen" to the number 6-9-8-6-6 on their cell phones.

That action signed up delegates to receive AFSCME text alerts to call Congress when it takes up important legislation that invests in public services and eases state and local budget shortfalls. "We are the ones who have the power to make this happen!" LeBeau said.

By late afternoon, thousands of calls had been made.



We Make Organizing Happen!

When it comes to standing with workers who want a stronger voice at the bargaining table, no one does it better than AFSCME. Nearly 44,000 new members said "yes" to AFSCME in 2009 - making us the number one organizing union in the AFL-CIO. On Wednesday, AFSCME members relayed stories of fighting nearly insurmountable odds to form a union and keep it strong.

Here **Jeanetta Caw**, a personal caregiver, and her client **Janet Wilson** share the story of 12,000 home health care workers who won a statewide ballot election *twice* and defeated repeated legal challenges to form the Missouri Home Care Union.

ELECTIONS TODAY!

An election for International Secretary-Treasurer and International Vice President for Wisconsin will be conducted today, 6 a.m. until 10 a.m., in BCEC Hall A. Delegates must show a photo ID and Convention badge. A runoff, if necessary, will be held Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., in BCEC Hall A.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CAFÉ TODAY

The AFSCME Women's Leadership Cafe will occur today at 4:00 p.m. or upon today's close of Convention business. This first-ever event is an opportunity to share ideas about what it takes to become an effective leader. Open to all. Light snacks provided. BCEC Ballroom Level 3.



Wilhelm, UNITEHERE! Stand with AFSCME

UNITEHERE! Pres. John Wilhelm addressed delegates Wednesday on the importance of labor solidarity and thanked AFSCME members for supporting his union's fights throughout the years.

"I literally can't begin to count the number of times AFSCME has stood with the members of UNITEHERE! in strikes, picket lines, rallies and boycotts," Wilhelm said.

He recounted how AFSCME members rallied in favor of the strike against the New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas in the 1990s, which lasted for more than six years and became one of the longest strikes in recent American labor history.

"Now they're going after public employees," Wilhelm said. "You have been with us, and UNITEHERE! and our members will always stand in solidarity with you."

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were among those adopted by Convention delegates on Wednesday. They called on AFSCME to: expand its affiliate online program to help councils and locals enhance their member communications and activism (#13); work with councils to help establish worker participation in deferred compensation boards across the country (#42); fight to implement measures to tax the rich in every state to help fund jobs and public services (#51); support trained union-provided advocates for workers facing reasonable accommodation issues (#74); and make attempts to change the Family and Medical Leave Act to include time on medical leave and worker's compensation leave as time worked (#75).

ACTION CENTER: LAST CHANCE



Only one day left to complete an "Action Pass" and qualify for the daily drawing of a union-made item.

Today's winner, **Diane Lauren** of Local 920 (MN Council 5) won a garment bag.

Tomorrow's big prize? A laptop computer!

FUN RUN FORMS DUE TODAY!

To participate in tomorrow's PEOPLE Fun Run, drop your pledge forms at the PEOPLE kiosk (Hall B) by the close of today's General Session.

Participants need at least \$100 in voluntary PEOPLE pledges*. Personal checks should be made payable to AFSCME PEOPLE. Shuttle buses to the starting point at Castle Island will leave hotels tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. The race starts promptly at 6:30 a.m. See the Delegate Guide map, Page 10. Buses return to hotels.

*In accordance with federal law, the PEOPLE Committee will only accept contributions from members of AFSCME and their families. Contributions or gifts are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

PEOPLE BOOTH CLOSING FRIDAY

BASIL TOWNSEND: POLITICAL POWERHOUSE

Basil Townsend, executive vice president of Local 412 of Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)/AFSCME Local 1000, was recognized Wednesday for boosting the growth of his union's PEOPLE program. The New York State developmental disabilities aide has been CSEA's PEOPLE Recruiter of the Month five times. In just two years, Townsend has recruited nearly 300 MVP PEOPLE members!

TEST YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE, STAT!

Since Saturday, 1,038 blood pressure screenings have been performed by members of AFSCME/United Nurses of America (UNA). Free screenings continue through Thursday at the Wellness Booth, BCEC Hall B, beginning at 9 a.m. until the Convention convenes, and for one hour after recess.

MEMBERS NETWORK IN SPECIAL CAUCUSES



AFSCME members doing similar jobs met Wednesday in 21 simultaneous sector caucuses to discuss common issues and concerns. They also examined the media onslaught against public services and strategized how to set the record straight about public employees and their jobs. Some of the myths that were dispelled yesterday include: our salaries are bloated (AFSCME members earn, on average, \$45,000 a year); we have too much influence in politics (corporations outspend unions five to one in political contributions); and our pensions are bankrupting governments (the average AFSCME member earns, after a career of service, approximately \$18,000 a year in benefits).

From left, **JoAnn Burk** from Wisconsin Child Care Providers Together/Local 373 (Council 40) shares ideas with New York's **Carolyn Cox** of Local 95 (DC 1707) at the Early Childhood Education caucus.