

# Council 13 Connection

Council 13 AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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# Executive Director's Message

David R. Fillman  
Executive Director, AFSCME Council 13

As we go to press...

We close out 2017 reflecting on a tumultuous year for the nation, and for the labor movement. We look ahead to a year of challenges, but also a year of hope. The 2017 election proved we still have reason to be hopeful, as many worker-friendly candidates won seats in Pennsylvania's judiciary (read more on page 6).

We need to continue that momentum in 2018, as we prepare for a crucial governor race that will define our future. Governor Tom Wolf has proven to be a firewall against anti-worker attacks from the state legislature, and his possible opponent Scott Wagner would make it his mission in life to destroy unions if he became governor. It is impossible to overstate how important it is, for not only state employees, but all AFSCME-represented employees, that Wolf gets re-elected on November 6.

We must also re-elect one of labor's strongest allies, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, and elect worker-friendly candidates up and down the ballot. 2017 served as a stark reminder of the consequences of when the middle class votes against its own interests, especially when voting for the highest office in the land.

Not only has President Donald Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, essentially assuring a ruling against the union in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case, but his Solicitor General has submitted a brief in the case, officially siding against public employee unions. *Janus* threatens to make the entire nation "right-to-work" in the public sector, which will completely alter how AFSCME and other unions serve their members.

*Janus* will likely be ruled on no later than June 2018, which means we are running out of time to prepare. We prepare by signing every AFSCME-represented employee up as a full dues-paying member, because soon Fair Share will not exist. Thanks to the AFSCME Strong program and the dedication of Council 13 members throughout Pennsylvania, we are getting prepared, and will do whatever it takes to continue fighting for our members.

We are always fighting for better contracts and safer workplaces, whether that means marching on the picket line with striking Local 2732 (Cedar Haven) members in Lebanon, Pa. (read more on page 3), or testifying to the Pennsylvania House Labor and Industry Committee in favor of public employee OSHA (read more on page 6), AFSCME is there to hold the line for its members and all working people.

Not only does AFSCME serve its members, we serve our communities as well (see page 8). Sisters and brothers of labor step up every Christmas season to make sure children, veterans and anyone in need, can enjoy some holiday cheer. Do your part to pay it forward, not only this holiday season, but year-round.

From your AFSCME Council 13 family, we wish you safe, happy holidays, and a hopeful new year.

Yours in Unity,

David R. Fillman  
Executive Director  
AFSCME Council 13

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## COUNCIL 13 CONNECTION

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## Join RPEP Chapter 13!

Retired or retiring soon? Stay active in the fight for workers' and retirees' rights by joining Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania (RPEP) Chapter 13! For more information, contact the Retirees at 717-564-9797, and download the application form by scanning the QR code with your mobile device!



# Five Stars, Because We Care: Cedar Haven nurses locked out

Employees of Cedar Haven Healthcare Center went on strike to demand a fair contract at noon on Friday, October 20. At time of press, they remained on strike.

Cedar Haven's 225 employees, which include certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, maintenance employees, laundry employees, central supply employees, housekeeping staff, clerical employees, beauticians, transport aides, therapeutic recreation staff and restorative aides, are represented by AFSCME District Council 89, Local 2732, and narrowly averted a strike last year. This year, they are taking a stand, as the owner imposed his "last, best and final" offer on the employees, which would increase the nurses' healthcare costs and cut their paid time off.

"What happened with last year's contract when the owner took so much from us, and now he's taking even more this year, we have to put our foot down. Otherwise, next year, it's going to be a pay cut. We have to put a stop to it," said Penny Kleinfelter, president of AFSCME Local 2732.

The nursing home was owned by Lebanon County, until it was purchased by Stone Barn Holdings in 2014. As often happens with privatization, the owner looked to cut costs on the backs of employees, and put profit over people.

Cheryl Frattaroli, who has never seen anything like this in her 25 years at the nursing home, said "I can't take care of my family in Cedar Haven, because I can't take care of my own family, because of the cuts; it's so unfair."

Nurses have rallied around the building at multiple picket lines for several weeks, chanting and receiving a lot of support from the local community. They will continue to strike until Chas Blalack, the owner of Stone Barn Holdings, returns to the bargaining table and agrees to a fair deal.

"The owner took a knife to us last year, he took an ax to us this year and next year he is going to bulldoze us and go into our wages," said Local 2732 member Wendy Viramontes.

"He needs to come back to the table. He's the one who stopped negotiations. He won't even keep us at status quo, and that's all we're asking. Stop putting us through this every year."

Cedar Haven earned a 100 percent deficiency-free rating from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and is rated among the best facilities in the nation, because of the dedicated nurses and staff who make the nursing home happen. They deserve a fair contract, and will never quit until they get the respect they deserve.

If you would like to support your sisters and brothers on strike, send a check to AFSCME Council 13 (written to AFSCME Council 13), 4031 Executive Park Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111, with "strike fund" in the memo. You are also encouraged to take groceries, diapers, gift cards and other supplies directly to the strikers at Cedar Haven Healthcare Center, 590 S. 5th Ave., Lebanon, Pa. 17042.



"I love my nurses!" Cedar Haven resident Kat Steffy exclaimed as she spoke in support of striking Local 2732 members.



AFSCME Local 2732 President Penny Kleinfelter (left) with her union sister Sara Rhoads (right) at a picket line rally in November.



"The entire labor movement stands with you, because you are holding the line for all of us," AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride said at a picket line rally, before pledging \$10,000 to the strike fund on behalf of the international union.



Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman fired up striking Local 2732 members, encouraging them to continue to stand strong "one day longer!"



"They work harder than anyone I know at a job that's both physically and emotionally exhausting. If the people who care for my dad get sick, but don't have enough sick days and have to work anyway, they are not safe, and my dad is not safe," Liz Wentling, daughter of a Cedar Haven resident said at a picket line rally in October.



AFSCME Local 2732 members stand strong on the picket line!

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 83



District Council 83 Director Mickey Sgro awards Cynthia Spielman of Local 763 (Indiana University), Richard Elliot of Local 1875 (Holidaysburg School District) and Yvonne Buterbaugh of Local 2344 (Torrance State Hospital) for their remarkable dedication to their union. Congratulations!



District Council 83 Director Mickey Sgro with Callie Rose after her beautiful rendition of the national anthem.



The AFSCME Council 13 Color Guard made its debut at District Council 83's Leadership Conference. Thank you and congratulations to Vincent Maxwell, Sr., Melissa Holden, Greg Topor, Jeremy Yagoda and Russell McKlveen, for taking part in this momentous occasion!

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 84



District Council 84 Director Richard Caponi welcomes delegates to Pittsburgh.



District Council 84 members sharing ideas as they prepare to fight for their union.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 85



District Council 85 Director David Henderson welcomes delegates to Erie.



Director Henderson (left) and Executive Director Fillman (right) with District Council 85's members of the year Ross Brumagin of Local 2329 (Edinboro University) and Josh Minich of Local 2112 (Clarion County Trades and Labor).

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 86



District Council 86 Director Zollie Rayner welcomes delegates to Skytop.



District Council 86's delegation share ideas for local union building.

# Eight District Councils Council 13's prepare for

From August to October 2017, the eight district councils (83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90) held their Leadership Conferences throughout Pennsylvania.

Each conference, just as the district councils themselves, had a common goal: to educate and empower union activists getting educated and prepared for the fight ahead.

"The biggest thing I think I took away from the conference was the importance of staying united," said a representative from PHEAA Clericals.

With the United States Supreme Court case *Janus v. AFSCME* ruling against the union will mean for them. *Janus* threatens to strip the right of represented employees to be signed up as a full-fledged member of a union.

"What you need to take back from this conference is your energy and your voice. Back that this fight is our fight. It won't be won by somebody else. It won't be won in one single fight; it is a war and we need to win it. Locals and better for ourselves and for our future." Josh Minich of Council 13.

To drive home just how real the threats to the labor movement are, members in Wisconsin explaining how unions were decimated by the *Janus* ruling.

"Don't believe that it can't happen to you," one of the members from Council 13 said.

Another video was played of the panel discussion from this year's Council 13 Convention where Marty Hathaway of AFSCME Council 61 (Iowa) explained how they are fighting back after their collective bargaining rights were gutted.

A three-page contract that used to be 256 pages.

On top of that, members who attended their district council conference were also given a chance to meet with Council 13 Education Director Tara Wilson, along with Tracy M. Wilson.

There were also informative workshops on topics such as Best Practices for Grievance Prep & Presentation, to name a few. A very popular workshop was on the importance of the AFL-CIO, which enlightened members on the concerted efforts of labor unions and politicians and court cases (like *Janus*).

James Spears and Jim Cullen, both from Council 13, led various workshops on organizing and grievance departments, also led various workshops on organizing and grievance departments.

"I went to the grievance workshop. I've been a member of AFSCME for a long time, and I thought I already knew it all. That was the part that was extremely useful." James Gilhooly of Local 2453 (State Police) said.

"I learned about Dark Money, in terms of the impact of organized labor on the state legislature, but I didn't know exactly how much impact that had on Camp Hill) said.

Attendees also got to hear from Bill Dando or Mike Maguire on what is going on in Harrisburg with the state budget and the impact of the state legislature.

Also urged members to sign up for Council 13's Political And Legislative Action Fund to support pro-worker candidates is more urgent than ever.

Following the eight conferences, AFSCME members all throughout Pennsylvania were given resources they need to continue building their local union, and to stay informed on the state legislature, the Supreme Court and even the Dark Money.



Council 13 Education Director Tara Wilson leads the general session of District Council 89's Leadership Conference.



Jim Cullen (left) and Tracy M. Wilson with a group of District Council 89 members.



James Spears teaches a workshop on workplace meetings at District Council 87's Leadership Conference.



Assistant Legislative Director gives a legislative update to District Council 89.



Delegates of District Council 85 watch a video of the panel discussion from this year's Council 13 Convention, where Marty Hathaway of AFSCME Council 61 (Iowa) explained how they are fighting back after their collective bargaining rights were gutted.

# Councils, One Union: Local leaders for future

(84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 90) that make up AFSCME Council and beyond.

their own unique characteristics, but one thing they all had in preparing to fight for the future of the labor movement. "It was how to be a better leader." Kim Davis of Local 1224

looming, conference attendees learned about what the likely prohibit Fair Share fees, which means every AFSCME-member for the union to survive.

enthusiasm and your dedication to your union. You need to take action. It's up to you to activate your local and to activate your members. We must continuously fight to strive to make things better for our members." Local 2112 (Clarion County Trades and Labor) said.

Next are, conference attendees watched a video of AFSCME International in the state through Act 10 and other policies.

Members in the video warned.

Next year's Council 13 Convention, where Marty Hathaway of Local 1330 spoke after their collective bargaining rights were gutted, displaying

conference took part in union-building training sessions led by Tracy Monahan and Olga Liapis-Muzzy from AFSCME International.

Topics included Best Practices, New Employee Orientation Programs (NEOP) and a workshop was Dark Money, led by Jane Carter from AFSCME International. A multi-billion dollar effort to destroy unions that funds anti-worker legislation was presented from AFSCME Eastern Region, as well as Council 13's proposals at the conferences.

AFSCME for 25 years, and I've been doing grievances almost as long as I've been in the profession – I actually found out stuff I never knew. That's professional – District 4) said.

Organizations like ALEC and the Commonwealth Foundation, which are the ones that they have on us as people." Johnny Johnson of Local 1347 (SCI

of Council 13's Legislative Department, giving them an update on the many anti-union bills circulating in the state legislature. They discussed the need for a legislative (PAL) fund, or increase their contribution, as the need

throughout Pennsylvania have been armed with the information and resources to defend it against the ongoing attacks from local governments, unions and industry.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 87



District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher welcomes delegates to Mt. Pocono.



District Council 87 delegates in their general session, led by Olga Liapis-Muzzy.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 88



District Council 88 Director Tom Tosti welcomes delegates to Atlantic City.



AFSCME Local 1435 (Gracedale Nursing Home) member speaks at District Council 88's Leadership Conference.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 89



District Council 89 Director Steve Mullen opens their general session in Gettysburg.



District Council 89 members working together on a union-building exercise.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 90



District Council 90 Director Carla Insinga welcomes delegates to Reading.



District Council 90 members will not be silenced by Janus!



Tracy Monahan (right) works with District Council 89 members.



Jane Carter teaches a workshop on Dark Money at District Council 90's Leadership Conference.



Director Michael Maguire gives an update to delegates of District Council 89.



Legislative Director Bill Dando gives a legislative update to delegates of District Council 86.



Executive Director David Fillman addresses delegates of District Council 88, where Fillman was a member, staff and council director before leading Council 13.

## AFSCME...Why It's Worth Fighting For

By: Judy Mack, President of AFSCME Local 2588 (Chester & Delaware County Clericals)



To me, the union is an important part of the job. I worked for the State in a time when there was no union and you “paid to stay.” Today, the people coming on board don't remember those days. My dad always said you are bound to repeat what you fail to remember. I would hate for our members to go back to the low pay and non-existent benefits that were in place when I started. When you “Paid to Stay,” your job only lasted while your party was in power. The party members would come along and put a ticket for a dinner or raffle on your desk and you had to buy them. Once, when I was expecting my first child, they laid a \$100 dinner ticket on my desk. I didn't have the money, so they said to make arrangements at the Party Headquarters to pay on it each time I was paid. I did so, because if I didn't, I would not be here telling you this story. With no union at the time, they would just let you go and say it was because they didn't need you for whatever reason, and because there was no union, it was easy to get away with that and it was a regular practice. You also had to work for the party handing pamphlets door to door and working Election Day at the polls giving out leaflets, etc.

I just don't think today's employees know how hard the people worked in the past to get them everything they now have. When I started, you had to be married a year to have maternity benefits; not work for the State a year, but be married a year. I was married 11 months when I had Colleen. I worked for the State for a year and a half, but had to pay for everything. My husband was on strike at Westinghouse during the same time and had no benefits and nothing coming in, so we paid each time I went for a doctor visit. When I went to the hospital to deliver her I told them that I couldn't even afford an extra Band-Aid because I had to pay out of pocket for it. There were no prescription benefits nor were there eye glass benefits. You couldn't look up your rights in a Union book because there was not a union or book.

It would be a shame to lose everything and have to begin all over again. People like Eileen Wellar, Geri Walker, Bob & Bonnie Cooper, Dave Fillman and all the others who worked so hard to bring us to where it is now will all be for naught.

Members make the union strong. Without them we will lose what we have worked so hard for and the rich and powerful will win again. We need to get more members to our meetings. This is the way to keep us strong, united and moving forward in a direction that will be good for our families and all that follow. As I move toward retirement, the thoughts that this Union will flounder has prompted me to speak out and make people aware of what can and will happen if we are not diligent and work with one another to preserve what we have as a Union family.

May God bless, unite and protect our Union family today, tomorrow and always.

## Executive Director David Fillman testifies to PA House committee on public employee OSHA



Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman (right) testifies to the PA House Labor and Industry Committee in favor of House Bill 1082, alongside ATU Local 568 President John Renwick (center) and Council 13 Legislative Director Bill Dando (left).

On Monday, December 4, AFSCME Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman testified to the Pennsylvania House Labor and Industry Committee in favor of House Bill 1082, which aims to extend Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards to public sector employees.

House Bill 1082 is also known as The Jake Schwab Worker Safety Bill, named after an Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority bus mechanic who died on the job due to unsafe working conditions. The bill would require public sector employees to be covered by the same health and safety standards as private sector employees are through OSHA.

The hearing began with the bill's sponsor, State Representative Patrick Harkins, and the widow of Jake Schwab, Tiffany, making their case in favor of HB 1082.

“After the accident, all I could think about was that no one should have to go through the pain his family and I went through. It wasn't supposed to happen that way. Please make all workplace organizations a safe environment for everyone by voting for this bill,” Tiffany testified.

Schwab's family was in attendance at the hearing, and shared a couple of videos of Jake, showing his loving personality, bringing many people to tears.

Fillman testified alongside Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 568 President John Renwick, who was a personal friend of Schwab, and urged the committee to stop treating public sector employees like “second class citizens” and act quickly to pass this bill.

“These workers, on a daily basis, perform some of the most dangerous jobs in the commonwealth,” Fillman said.

“Yet, they are not afforded the ‘on-the-job safety’ standards of their private sector counterparts, whether that is working on a highway construction site, a hospital setting or in an administrative office.”

Representatives from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs testified, raising concerns over the cost of saving workers' lives. Robert O'Brien, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry, also testified.

AFSCME Council 13 will continue to fight for worker safety, and will continue strong support of HB 1082 (and Senate Bill 580). Make your voice heard by urging your elected officials to support this legislation.

## Council 13-endorsed candidates win big in 2017 judicial elections

In an example of the power working people have when they go to the voting booth, eight out of the 10 AFSCME Council 13-endorsed candidates won their judicial races in November.

Congratulations to Chief Justice Tom Saylor (R) and Justice Debra Todd (D) for winning retention to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Winning retention sets Debra Todd up to become the first-ever woman to be Chief Justice in Pennsylvania. Also, congratulations to Justice Sallie Mundy (R) for being re-elected to the state's highest court.

Congratulations to Judge Jacqueline Shogan (R) for winning retention to the Pennsylvania Superior Court, and to Judge Deborah Kunselman (D), Judge Carolyn Nichols (D) and Judge Maria McLaughlin (D) for winning their seats on the court.

Finally, congratulations to Judge Ellen Ceisler (D) for being re-elected to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court.

“The 2017 election was a reminder of the ability of worker-friendly candidates, from either party, to win races when working people go to the polls,” Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman said.

“We are not here to support Democrats or Republicans; we are here to support those who support working families.”

Judicial races are crucial, especially for AFSCME members. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is the body that heard the case regarding “payless paydays” in 2009, and sided with state workers, ruling that they cannot go without paychecks during a budget impasse. The Superior Court hears civil cases, and the Commonwealth Court hears arbitration and unfair labor practice cases.

This shows just how important it is to have judges with legal philosophies that favor working people, and thanks in-part to AFSCME members getting out to vote, Pennsylvania has just that. It is now time to keep the energy going and turn attention to an extremely crucial 2018 gubernatorial race.

## The False Slogan of Right-to-Work: An Attack on Worker Freedom



By AFSCME International President Lee Saunders

Today's economy is rigged against working families and in favor of the wealthy and the powerful. That's not by accident. CEOs and the politicians who do their bidding have written the rules that way, advancing their own interests at the expense of everyone else.

Now, they're trying to get the rigged system affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. In a few months, the justices will hear a case called *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, which would make so-called "right-to-work" the law of the land in the public sector, threatening the freedom of working people to join together in strong unions.

The powerful backers in this case have made no secret about their true agenda. They have publicly said that they want to "defund and defang" unions like the one I lead. They know that unions level the economic playing field. They know that unions give working people the power in numbers to improve their lives and communities, to negotiate a fair return on their work while keeping the greed of corporate special interests in check.

Union membership is especially important for communities of color, historically providing a ladder to the middle class, helping them earn their fair share of the wealth and the value they generate. More than half of African-Americans make less than \$15 per hour. But belonging to a union is likely to lead to a substantial pay raise and superior benefits. African-

American union members earn 14.7 percent more than their non-union peers. The union advantage for Latinos is even greater: 21.8 percent.

When unions thrive, everyone benefits. Wages, protections and labor standards for all working people rise. In New Jersey, my union has set up a training fund that provides young people a pathway to high-demand nursing careers. The result is not just good jobs, but a better health care system. In Minnesota, teachers' unions speak up together to make sure their students get the resources they need to succeed.

Meanwhile, right-to-work isn't just anti-union; it actually has its roots in the racial brutality of the Jim Crow South. The misleading term was coined by a Texas oil lobbyist named Vance Muse, an unapologetic white supremacist who thrived on pitting workers of different races against each and feared that they would find solidarity with one another. "From now on," Muse once said of unionization and workplace integration, "white women and white men will be forced into organization with black African apes whom they will have to call brother or lose their jobs."

By contrast, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who made the connection between racial and economic justice central to his philosophy, saw through the "false slogan" of right-to-work. "Wherever these laws have passed," he said, "wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights." It was during a labor struggle – a strike by AFSCME sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee – that Dr. King was assassinated in April, 1968. To mark the 50th anniversary, AFSCME has launched a grass roots education and mobilization campaign initiative called I AM 2018 – to honor the courage and carry on the legacy of both Dr. King and the sanitation workers.

The *Janus* case and the pursuit of right-to-work is all about people with substantial money and power hoarding even more money and power for themselves. It is strong unions that create greater freedom and opportunity for everyone, helping working people of all races get a fair shake, a strong voice and a chance to achieve the American Dream.

*(Editor's note: This column originally appeared in the AFRO-American Newspapers. To access it there, scan the QR Code.)*



## LEGAL UPDATE

### Adopting a Child Internationally: Getting Started

By the law firm of Willig, Williams & Davidson

When thinking about adopting a child from another country, people often wonder where to begin. Before moving ahead, it is important to do some homework. Here are a few tips to get you started in the process.

#### Choosing an Agency

If you have not already made your selection, this can be the single most important part of the process. You should look into several agencies to find the right fit for you. Factors to consider include:

1. Check the agency's licensing – within your state, the agency must be accredited.
2. If you are adopting from a country that has accepted the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption ("Hague Convention"), the adoption service provider also must be accredited by the federal government (for more about the Hague Convention, see the U.S. Department of State's webpage on this topic, at [adoption.state.gov](http://adoption.state.gov)).
3. Plan to meet with several agencies and ask for the following from each:
  - Referrals.
  - A sample written adoption services contract.
  - The agency's adoption service policies and procedures, including general eligibility criteria and post-placement support.
  - A list of people and organizations not directly employed by the agency that would help with their adoption, and the cost of their services.
  - The number of adoption placements per year, and the number of these placements that remain intact.
  - A list of families who have adopted through the agency. These families can be a wonderful resource.
  - Proof that the agency's state license is current. You can research their license validity through the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse at [childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov).
  - A copy of the agency's refund policy. In case there are changes in circumstances, or changes in country policies, this is vital information to have.
  - Copies of all contracts that will be signed between the family and the agency.
  - A list of all the agency's fees and a fee schedule – there could be additional fees not included in the initial list of your estimated expenses.

Once you choose an adoption service provider, you will be expected to sign an adoption services contract with that agency.

#### Choosing a Country

The decision to adopt a child is a highly personal one, as is the decision as to which country of origin the child is from. Currently, most Americans adopt from the following countries: China, Columbia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine or Vietnam. Considerations in choosing a country may include:

1. Does the foreign country allow single parent adoptions or only couples?
2. Are there age, health, income or other requirements?
3. Can the parents spend time with the child beforehand?
4. Can you obtain a video or other information, including medical, about the child?
5. How many children have been successfully adopted from that country?
6. Has the country adopted the Hague Convention?

#### Eligibility

You will need to satisfy any eligibility requirements of the child's country of origin, such as those listed in the preceding section. In addition, however, there are procedural requirements which must be met in every case, set by United States immigration law and your own state of residence.

Once you have chosen an agency and a country of origin, then the real process of the adoption can begin. For the peace of mind of both the parent(s) and the child, make sure to consult a knowledgeable adoption attorney at every step in the process.





The AFSCME's Got Your Back Program was developed by Council 13 members to deliver supplies to military veterans in need across Pennsylvania. This year, veterans in Erie and throughout western Pennsylvania received backpacks full of food, toiletries and other supplies during the holiday season, thanks to the generosity of members from District Councils 85 and 83. Pictured left to right presenting a donation to Team Red, White and Blue: Kathy Knapik (AFSCME Retiree), Barbie Boone (AFSCME Next Wave), Margaret Smolko (AFSCME Local 2047, Ebensburg Center/Altoona Center), Chrissy Myers (AFSCME Local 2047), Doug Myers (AFSCME Local 2047) and Adam Clawson (Team RWB).



AFSCME Local 2112 (Clarion County Trades and Labor) adopted a 2 mile stretch of State Route 66 on behalf of the local and District Council 85, and gave back to the community by cleaning up litter.



Members of AFSCME District Council 85 showed their union pride at Light Up Night in Franklin, Pa.!



Members of AFSCME Local 2456 (State Professional – District 8) supported the 30th annual Taste of Central PA, which is a fundraiser that benefits the Central PA Food Bank.



AFSCME Local 2579 (Blair County Clericals) collected donations for Mending Hearts in Hollidaysburg.



AFSCME Local 1710 (Wayne County Prison), AFSCME Local 2145 (Wayne County Trades & Labor) and AFSCME Local 2683 (Wayne County Courthouse) combined their efforts for a food drive to benefit Wayne County food pantries.



Members of AFSCME Local 469 (Warren State Hospital) collected 581 pounds of food and \$328 in cash for the Back Pack Program. The Back Pack Program distributes packages filled with food to kids in the Warren County School District each Friday before they leave school, providing them with nutritious food to get them through the weekend. Local 469 members pictured left to right: Sue Ehrhart, Kim McMillen, Ashley Nelson, Jessica Heeter and Samantha Jewart.



AFSCME District Council 87 donated 279 turkeys and 117 hams to the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen.