

Council 13 Connection

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

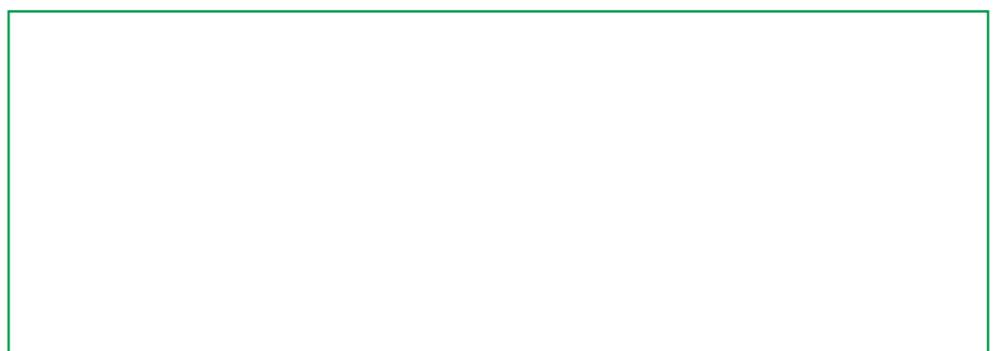
Service and Solidarity in 2019



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

David R. Fillman

Executive Director, AFSCME Council 13

As we go to press...

We reflect on another year in which AFSCME and the entire labor movement endured seemingly endless attacks and challenges, but we never lost sight of our mission and never stopped serving the members we represent.

Throughout 2019, we kept organizing and educating. Thanks to the non-stop efforts of our Organizing Department, we welcomed workers to the AFSCME family from Mount Carmel Township, Squirrel Hill Wellness and Rehabilitation Center, Lancaster Parking Authority, and Lycoming Pre-Release Center.

We held our Women's Conference as well as our District Council Leadership Conferences, where I personally saw the energy Council 13 members have for moving this union forward (read more on Page 4).

2019 was the first full year post-Janus, and we are emerging strongly despite that attempt to destroy us. However, the forces of "Dark Money" continue to bring lawsuits seeking refunds of Fair Share fees. So far, unions have been successful in defending themselves, because courts are recognizing that these are nothing more than baseless attempts to knock down public sector labor unions (read more on Page 7).

Those same forces continue to try to convince AFSCME members that their union is no good while simultaneously claiming the contracts that we negotiate are too good. Which is it? Despite their propaganda, Council 13 members have overwhelmingly proclaimed that they are sticking with their union!

They know they are better off with AFSCME in their corner. Whether it's negotiating contracts, answering questions through our Member Resource Center (1-800-523-7263), or defending our sisters and brothers at Polk and White Haven State Centers, AFSCME has your back.

And the efforts to save Polk and White Haven continue as we enter 2020. The passion of members of Locals 1050 (Polk) and 2334 (White Haven) is relentless. They are fighting for the individuals they care for at the centers, and they have taken their fight to Harrisburg (read more on next page).

That is not the only fight we face in 2020. As you probably know, the Primary Election is coming up on April 28 in Pennsylvania and the General Election is on November 3. AFSCME continues to refrain from endorsing a Democratic candidate, and I just ask that you make the most informed decision on who you think would best represent the interests of working people and their unions as president.

Thank you for all you did in 2019 to serve your community and your union, and thank you for your continued membership with AFSCME Council 13 as we enter a new year. We have a lot of work to do in 2020. I look forward to the Council 13 Convention in April, the AFSCME International Convention in August, and the Council 13 Non-State Education Conference in November. I hope to see you there.

Yours in Unity,

David R. Fillman
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 13

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4031 Executive Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111-1507

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161 Patchway Road, Duncansville, PA 16635-8431

DISTRICT COUNCIL 84 — John Galuska, Director
Foster Plaza 10, 680 Andersen Drive - Suite 505, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

DISTRICT COUNCIL 85 — J. David Henderson, Director
1276 Liberty St., Franklin, PA 16323

DISTRICT COUNCIL 86 — Zollie Rayner, Director
250 Commerce Park Drive, New Columbia, PA 17856

DISTRICT COUNCIL 87 — Kerri Gallagher, Director
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DISTRICT COUNCIL 88 — Tom Tosti, Director
Robert T. Cooper Labor Center, 3031 Walton Road,
Building C, Suite 300, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

DISTRICT COUNCIL 89 — Steve Mullen, Director
150 South 43rd Street, Suite 2, Harrisburg, PA 17111-5718

DISTRICT COUNCIL 90 — Carla Insinga, Director
4031 Executive Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111-1507

**RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OF PENNSYLVANIA (RPEP)
CHAPTER 13 — Dan Mazus, President**
150 South 43rd Street, Suite 5, Harrisburg, PA 17111-5718

AFSCME COUNCIL 13 MEMBER RESOURCES

MEMBER RESOURCE CENTER
1-800-5-AFSCME (523-7263)

Call for more information about:

Car Discounts * Car Insurance * Car Rentals * Cell Phones
Computer Deals * Credit Card * Credit Counseling
Education Services * Entertainment * Free College
Goodyear Tires & Auto Services * Financial Planning
Flower Service * Mortgage Programs * Moving Vans
Scholarships * Theme Parks * Vacation Packages

Legal Services 1-800-631-1233 or 1-888-294-2747
Workers' Comp. Hotline: 1-866-413-2667

HEALTH FUNDS	AFSCME HEALTH & WELFARE FUND
PEBTF (State Workers)	(Non-State Workers)
717-561-4750	717-564-9338
1-800-522-7279	1-800-692-7332

PRESCRIPTION PLANS

CvsCaremark 1-888-321-3261 (State Workers)
www.caremark.com

Benecard 1-888-907-0070 (Non-State Workers)
www.benecardpbf.com

DENTAL PLANS

Concordia Dental - 1-888-320-3321 (State Workers)
Delta Dental - 1-800-932-0783 (Non-State Workers)

VISION PLANS

NVA / National Vision Administrators
1-800-672-7723

COUNCIL 13 CONNECTION

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Jennifer George, Editor and
PR/Communications Director
William Kauffman, Writer



AFSCME Council 13 Member Only Benefits New Year Countdown

- 5. Medical Bill Negotiating Service:** The Union Plus Medical Bill Negotiating Service by Health Advocate provides union members free assistance negotiating bill reductions with physicians, hospitals, and other medical providers. The Service negotiates with medical providers on the union member's behalf to lower costs and establish payment plans.
- 4. AT&T Discounts:** Save 15% off the regular monthly rate for individual and family wireless cell phone plans.
- 3. Legal Services:** Free will preparation, 30 minutes of free legal consultation, and reduced legal fees.
- 2. Scholarships:** A variety of union scholarships are available to AFSCME members, their children, and grandchildren of RPEP (Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania) members.
- 1. Free College Benefit:** Through the AFSCME Free College benefit, you and your family members can earn an associate degree, completely online - for FREE.

For more information on these and many other Member Only Benefits, call 1-800-5-AFSCME (1-800-523-7263)!

SAVE OUR CENTERS: Polk, White Haven workers bring the fight to Harrisburg

In a vigorous day of action, Polk and White Haven State Center workers brought the fight to save their centers to Harrisburg through demonstrations, lobbying, testimony, and a rally on the Capitol steps on September 24, 2019.

Members of AFSCME Local 1050 (Polk) and Local 2334 (White Haven), along with advocates and family members, held a silent protest during an Arc of Pennsylvania press conference to start the day, as the Arc is advocating for the closure of the centers.

After that, they took to the halls of the Capitol to lobby every lawmaker while Local 1050 President Tammy Luce and Local 2334 President Bill Hill testified to the Pennsylvania Senate Health and Human Services Committee alongside Council 13 Assistant to the Executive Director Darrin Spann.

"It's a shame that we protect the most vulnerable citizens, we do excellent care for them, and we take a lot of pride in our work, and now this was done without even taking our thoughts and feelings into account," Hill said.

Spann testified about the risk of job loss from this decision, as well as the PA Department of Human Services' poor communication throughout the process, while Hill and Luce focused on the impact on the

vulnerable individuals who live in these centers.

"They get taken care of at the centers. They get everything they need. I can't imagine them out in a group home and not having what they have at the centers," Luce said.

"I don't see what's so empowering about forcing them out of their home. This doesn't seem to be the residents making their own decision. This decision was made for them and for us as employees, and none of us were consulted, nor were the families of the residents."

To conclude the day, a rally was held on the steps of the Capitol, where sisters and brothers of organized labor joined in solidarity with Polk and White Haven workers.

Spann, Luce and Hill spoke at the rally, along with SEIU Local 668 member Bill Bailey, AFSCME District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher, AFSCME District Council 85 Director David Henderson, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO



AFSCME Local 2334 President Bill Hill (left) and Local 1050 President Tammy Luce (right) testify to the Pennsylvania House Health and Human Services Committee on October 21.

President Rick Bloomingdale, UFCW Local 1776 President Wendell Young, and State Senator John Yudichak (D).

State Representative Gerald Mullery (D), State Representative R. Lee James (R), and State Senator Scott Hutchinson (R) were also slated to speak, but the Senate hearing went longer than expected. Nonetheless, their support is appreciated.

It was clear on that day that this fight is far from over.

Since then, Luce and Hill testified to the Pennsylvania House Health and Human Services Committee on October 21. On October 22, the committee announced that House Bill 1918 had been approved. On November 18, the Senate overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 906, which establishes a moratorium on closing the state centers.

Council 13 commends the unrelenting solidarity of the members, elected officials, advocates, and allies involved in this fight for the residents of Polk and White Haven and those who care for them.



Local 1050 President Tammy Luce (right) and Local 2334 President Bill Hill (center) testify to the Pennsylvania Senate Health and Human Services Committee alongside Council 13 Assistant to the Executive Director Darrin Spann (left) on September 24.



Members of AFSCME Local 1050 (Polk) and Local 2334 (White Haven), along with advocates and family members, hold a silent protest during an Arc of Pennsylvania press conference to start the day, as the Arc is advocating for the closure of the centers.

Polk and White Haven workers and residents need your help!

If you would like to make a personal donation to their legal funds, send a check to the following:

Polk:
Polk Center Strong
PO Box 194
Polk, PA 16342

White Haven:
Ginie Jorda, Legal Defense Fund
31 Yeager Avenue
Shavertown, PA 18708

If your local union would like to donate, please contact Council 13 or your District Council first.



Sisters and brothers of organized labor join in solidarity with Polk and White Haven workers for a rally on the State Capitol steps.

Council 13 members develop skills at Leadership Conferences

A FSCME Council 13 members gathered with sisters and brothers from their respective district councils throughout the summer and fall for the biennial Leadership Conferences.

This year's conferences were defined by members taking part in a variety of workshops and seminars aimed at becoming stronger activists, advocates, lobbyists, and even social media experts.

The conferences took place all over Pennsylvania and beyond, with District Council 90 in Reading, District Council 88 in Philadelphia, District Council 85 in Erie, District Councils 86 and 87 in Skytop, District Council 83 in Wheeling, WV, District Council 84 in Pittsburgh, and District Council 89 in Lancaster.

Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman spoke at the conferences about the challenges that organized labor has faced since the 2017 conferences, specifically the *Janus v. AFSCME* ruling and the "dark money" forces behind it.

"They were successful in ramming the *Janus* case through the judicial system, but when it comes to defeating our movement... when it comes to 'defunding and defanging' unions... when it comes to preventing you all from fighting for a decent living... when it comes to slowing down the Green Machine... they failed!"



Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman traveled the commonwealth to deliver words of encouragement to members and update them on the state of their union.



Newly-appointed Director of District Council 84 John Galuska addresses conference attendees.



District Council 83 Director Mickey Sgro (third from left) poses with members who were presented with awards at their conference, with Local 2952 (Altoona School District) member Stephen Zeak (left) receiving the Non-State Award, Local 2365 (Hiram G. Andrews Center) member Robert Senft (second from left) receiving the State Award, and Local 3157 (Blair Bedford Huntingdon Counties and Merakey) member Jennifer Murphy (right) receiving the Inspirational Award.



District Council 85 Director David Henderson rocks a wig and AC/DC shirt during his remarks as part of the conference's "Back to the Future" theme.



Council 13's Color Guard presents the colors at District Council 83's Leadership Conference.



District Council 86 Director Zollie Rayner and District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher speak at their joint Leadership Conference.



District Council 88 Director Tom Tosti speaks at DC 88's conference in Philadelphia.



District Council 90 Director Carla Insinga speaks at DC 90's conference in Reading.



District Council 89 Director Steve Mullen speaks at DC 89's conference in Lancaster.



At each Leadership Conference, members took part in a variety of workshops and seminars aimed at becoming stronger activists, advocates, lobbyists, and even social media experts.

Mercer County PennDOT educates community about public service and safety

On September 18, members of AFSCME Local 2102 (Mercer County Trades and Labor) joined with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to host their annual Open House event for the community.

This year's event proved to be an even bigger success than last year's, featuring dozens of not-for-profit and government agencies, as well as a PennDOT-themed maze with a powerful demonstration showing the dangers of distracted driving organized by Local 2102 member Samantha Van Dyke.

"This is a combined effort between union and management," Local 2102 President Nick Sicilian said.

"This couldn't have happened without our Open House Committee, and I have to send a shout out to Samantha for all of her hard work."

More than 1,000 people passed through the event, including local schoolchildren on field trips, who got to see firsthand the impact public service workers have on our everyday lives while learning about the dangers of texting and driving.



AFSCME Local 2102 member Samantha Van Dyke set up a PennDOT-themed maze with a powerful demonstration showing the dangers of distracted driving.



AFSCME Local 2102 (Mercer County Trades and Labor) members and District Council 85 representatives gather at their table at the Open House event, where they hosted a toy and bike giveaway for local children. Pictured left to right: Jesse Buzard, Chris Boughner, District Council 85 Director David Henderson, District Council 85 Staff Representative Shane Clark, AFSCME Local 2112 (Clarion County Trades and Labor) President Josh Minich, Nicole Foster, Justin Schneider, and Local 2102 President Nick Sicilian.



The Open House event featured a showcase of public service, including demonstrations by local fire departments, police, first responders, and much more.



Mercer County PennDOT hosts this Open House event annually, and it gets bigger every year. Other counties have expressed interest in doing similar events.



The PennDOT Worker's Memorial includes 89 posts, one for each PennDOT employee who died in the line of duty since 1970, the majority of whom were AFSCME members, including our AFSCME brothers Robert Gensimore and Bryan Chamberlain, who lost their lives on the job last year.



George Fleegle of Local 2102 led a demonstration for groups of schoolchildren passing through, letting them get a glimpse of the action PennDOT workers do on the job every day.

Local 1203 members save Philipsburg Borough thousands through skill and initiative



AFSCME Local 1203 (Centre County Public Employees – Borough of Philipsburg) members Jeremy Conklin, Calvin Kephart, Doug Read, Jared Shaner, and Tyler Roan stand in front of the gate they constructed for Cold Stream Dam & Recreation Park.

During the winter months, municipal road crews are kept busy with clearing snow and ice from local roadways.

The same goes for employees of the Borough of Philipsburg in Centre County, but it's how they spend the rest of their time that sets them apart.

Thanks to the skill and initiative of five members of AFSCME Local 1203 (Centre County Public Employees – Borough of Philipsburg), the borough has seen significant cost savings and improved appearance of its public areas.

Local 1203 members Jeremy Conklin, Calvin Kephart, Doug Read, Jared Shaner, and Tyler Roan bring a special set of skills to the table, including metalwork, masonry, electrical work, and auto repair.

"Everybody kind of has their own thing, so when you put everybody together, you get a well-rounded group of guys," Jeremy said.

Thanks to those skills, work that otherwise would have been contracted out, or not done at all, is being done by Philipsburg Borough workers.

"Nothing gets sent out anymore. They sent one truck out – it was \$8,000 to have it fixed and painted – and we've done the rest of them in-house for a couple hundred bucks because we're doing it here."



AFSCME Local 1203 (Centre County Public Employees – Borough of Philipsburg) members Calvin Kephart, Jeremy Conklin, Doug Read, Jared Shaner, and Tyler Roan stand on the footbridge they constructed for Cold Stream Dam & Recreation Park.

Beyond work required of them by the employer, Jeremy, Calvin, Doug, Jared, and Tyler avoid "downtime" by taking it upon themselves to construct metal benches and trash cans. The borough kept encountering benches in need of repair or replacement, and a new one could cost up to \$1,000, but it can be built in-house by Local 1203 members for just \$80. A trash can could be made for around \$50.

If someone visits any public park in Philipsburg, they will see the borough employees' work. Their most eye-catching pieces can be found at Cold Stream Dam & Recreation Park, where visitors will see a large metal gate, nautical metal orbs (with softballs wrapped in fiberglass in the center), stone pillars, 350 feet of fencing and a 20-foot footbridge, all of which was voluntarily made by the borough workers and includes more



AFSCME Local 1203 (Centre County Public Employees – Borough of Philipsburg) member Jeremy Conklin shows a nautical metal orb that was constructed by him and his fellow employees.

than 6,000 handmade metal rings. They also built the sandboxes in the park, and Jeremy airbrushed a frog and duck for the seesaw.

Their work not only improves the appearance of the community; it has saved the municipality an estimated \$75,000-\$100,000 over just the last few years. They got materials thanks to a \$1,500 donation from Murarik Motorsports and by raising \$3,000 through a scrap metal drive. Besides that, they use old scrap metal and used lampposts that would have otherwise gone to waste.

"If I was growing up here, I'd want this kind of stuff for my kids," Jeremy said.

"It's just nice to see that you can make the town better with the stuff that we're building. And on top of that, everybody here enjoys building those things. It's fun."



A sandbox, seesaw, and trash can show just an example of the items created by Local 1203 at no additional cost to the borough.

AFSCME members recognized at PennDOT IdeaLink 20/20 Awards Ceremony

AFSCME members make the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) happen, and a few of those members were recognized at the IdeaLink 20/20 Awards Ceremony.

IdeaLink 20/20 is an online system that allows PennDOT employees to share innovative “Lean” ideas to improve and modernize the Department in efficiency, safety, morale, customer service, cost savings, and revenue generation. The annual IdeaLink 20/20 Awards Ceremony recognizes some of the best and most innovative ideas submitted by employees.

Among this year’s awardees were AFSCME Council 13 members **Irene Reed** (Local 2150, Monroe County Trades & Labor), **Warren Dell** (Local 2128, Huntingdon County Trades & Labor), **Clifton Charles** (Local 2603, Technical Services – District 2), **Arlan Thomas** (Local 2125, Somerset County Trades & Labor), and **Chris Kapitan** (Local 2125, Somerset County Trades & Labor).

Awards were presented by Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards at the Keystone Building in Harrisburg on November 13, 2019.

These innovative ideas are just a few examples of the valuable contributions PennDOT employees make to their coworkers and the traveling public every single day. Council 13 congratulates all of the award recipients.



Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards presents Chris Kapitan and Arlan Thomas (Local 2125, Somerset County Trades & Labor) IdeaLink 20/20 Awards for designing the original PennDOT Workers’ Memorial logo.



Irene Reed (Local 2150, Monroe County Trades & Labor) is presented with an IdeaLink 20/20 Award by Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards for her idea about high-visibility safety vests.



Warren Dell (Local 2128, Huntingdon County Trades & Labor) is presented with an IdeaLink 20/20 Award by Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards for his idea about tandem truck steps.



Clifton Charles (Local 2603, Technical Services – District 2) is presented with an IdeaLink 20/20 Award by Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards for helping to develop an IT application for right-of-way plans.

District Council 87 Director testifies against SCI-Retreat closure



AFSCME District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher testifies against the closure of SCI-Retreat at an Act 133 hearing on October 17 in Nanticoke, Pa.

AFSCME District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher testified against the closure of State Correctional Institution (SCI) – Retreat at an Act 133 hearing on October 17 in Nanticoke, Pa.

The Wolf Administration announced the planned closure of the Luzerne County institution on August 28. AFSCME Local 2333 represents 34 employees at this facility, which is by far the largest employer in the area, according to *The Citizens’ Voice*. Council 13 stands strongly opposed to this decision.

“The decision to close SCI Retreat came on the heels of the announcement of plans to close White Haven Center in Luzerne County. Much like the closure of White Haven, there was no consultation with employees before the decision was made,” Gallagher said.

“Now Luzerne County is seeing the loss of even more good union jobs that help sustain families and stimulate the local economy. How much more can we take?”

Council 13 intends to do everything in its power to reverse this decision and fight for the best possible outcome for the affected employees.



AFSCME District Council 87 Director Kerri Gallagher and AFSCME Local 2333 (SCI-Retreat) President Bob Mahle.

RPEP AFSCME Chapter 13 holds 40th annual convention

The Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania (RPEP) AFSCME Chapter 13 held their 40th annual convention in Grantville, Pa. on September 22-23, 2019

Speakers included RPEP President Dan Mazus, Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman, and Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale.

“It’s always a treat to get the opportunity to be with the Retirees – true activists who have given decades of their lives to public

service and the labor movement,” Fillman said during his remarks.

A memorial service was led by Chairperson Constance Jones, in which flowers were placed in a vase for each retiree who has passed away since the last convention.

Current members of AFSCME stand on the shoulders of the retirees, who continue to make Pennsylvania happen, and volunteer time that

keeps our union strong and helps us to elect pro-worker candidates.

You can Like the RPEP on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/rpepchapter.

For more information about how you can stay involved with your union in retirement, call the RPEP at 1-800-558-7737.



President Dan Mazus addresses attendees of the 40th annual Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania (RPEP) AFSCME Chapter 13 Convention.



AFSCME Council 13 Executive Director addresses convention attendees.



Convention attendees place flowers in a vase to represent each of their sisters and brothers who have passed away since they last gathered.



RPEP Chapter 13 Regional Vice President for Region 8500 Joseph Kuzma displays awards that the NWPFA Area Labor Federation earned for best floats in Labor Day parades.

AFSCME Retirees History

- In 1976, delegates to AFSCME’s 22nd International Convention resolved that the union should work to establish retiree chapters as a means to recognize the contributions of retired AFSCME members and to utilize the collective assets of retired members in support of the union’s goals and objectives and in the promotion of retiree rights.
- In 1979, Pennsylvania’s AFSCME Retirees were the first in the nation to establish, on a statewide basis, an active, functioning organization, which is known as the Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania (RPEP).
- RPEP’s first Convention was held on October 12, 1979.
- RPEP’s first president was Harry Yost. Their second president was Marion Wolf from District Council 88. Their third president was Marguerite Blanch from District Council 90. The current president is Dan Mazus.
- RPEP has a structure similar to that of Council 13, with eight regions throughout the state.
- Chapters elect their own officers, set their own priorities, establish their own budgets, hire their own staff, and have the same rights of autonomy as does an AFSCME local union.



In Memoriam of Alfred Stanslaw

The AFSCME family is saddened to learn that former Council 13 Executive Board member Alfred Stanslaw passed away on November 6, 2019.

Even as health problems arose, Al remained a dedicated union brother. He was a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation employee and member of AFSCME Local 2246 (State Supervisory - District 9) since 1985, Local Union President since 1999, Vice President Representing District Council 83 on Council 13's Executive Board since 2007, and President of District Council 83's Executive Board since 2016.

Council 13 Executive Director David Fillman issued the following statement:

"Al was a fighter until the end. He will be missed by his Council 13 family. He was always someone you could count on to be there when his union needed him. I send my thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences to his family, his friends, and his District Council 83 sisters and brothers."

LEGAL UPDATE WILLIG, WILLIAMS & DAVIDSON

Unions Are Fighting Against Efforts to Expand on Janus - and Winning

By Jessica C. Caggiano, Esquire

It has now been about a year and a half since the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*, which overturned more than 40 years of Supreme Court precedent and prohibited public employee unions from continuing to collect fair share fees from nonmembers. Since then, courts across the country have been busy with litigation filed against public-sector unions, seeking to expand on *Janus*. Pennsylvania's public employee unions have been the target of many of these lawsuits, and in the cases that have resulted in a court ruling as of this writing, the unions are winning.

Prior to *Janus*, Pennsylvania, like many other states, permitted public-sector employers and unions to negotiate collective-bargaining provisions requiring non-union members to pay their "fair share" of the cost of representing them to the union. When the Supreme Court handed down the *Janus* ruling, unions immediately stopped fair share fee deductions. But the legal battle over the meaning of the Court's decision, and how much further it may go, was just beginning.

Scores of lawsuits have been filed in the last year and a half, raising a variety of types of claims. One of the largest areas of litigation involves claims filed on behalf of former fair share fee payers seeking, in part, to claw back their fair share fees paid prior to the *Janus* decision. Thus far, unions have been unanimously successful in defending these cases - both in Pennsylvania and across the country. More than 20 federal trial courts have dismissed claims from former fair-share fee payers seeking to be reimbursed for fees paid prior to *Janus*.

One of the first appellate courts to hear such a claim - in Mark Janus' own case - was the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. On November 5, 2019, that court affirmed the dismissal of his claim for reimbursement from AFSCME Council 31. Another case was recently argued in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and there are similar appeals pending in several other circuits, including the Third, which includes within its jurisdiction claims arising in Pennsylvania. So far, the courts hearing these claims have consistently held that public employee unions relied in good faith on 40 years of Supreme Court

precedent that permitted collection of fair share fees, and should not now be held financially liable for doing so.

These lawsuits are being driven by ideologically motivated organizations seeking to expand the reach of *Janus* in public-sector labor law, and the sheer number of favorable decisions for unions does not seem to have deterred them. They continue to actively search for plaintiffs across the Commonwealth. Just recently, many public employees in Pennsylvania received letters from one such organization, purporting to advise them of their "rights" and recruiting plaintiffs for additional lawsuits. Virtually every month, new lawsuits are filed. It is important to remember that we are still in the early stages of this litigation. The organizations pressing these claims have been appealing most of their losses, in an obvious attempt to seek the Supreme Court's attention yet again.



2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
January 17-20	AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil & Human Rights Conference	Milwaukee, WI (www.aflcio.org)
April 7-9	*Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Convention	Philadelphia 201 Hotel, Philadelphia, PA (www.paafllcio.org)
April 24-26	*AFSCME Council 13 Convention	Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA (www.afscme13.org)
May 20-25	*Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Convention	Marriott Marquis, Houston, TX (www.cbtu.org)
July 7-10	Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Community Services Institute	Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh South, Pittsburgh, PA (www.paafllcio.org)
July 21-25	UALE NE School for Women in Unions & Worker Organizations	Penn State, State College, PA (www.uale.org/womens-schools)
August 10-14	AFSCME International Convention	Los Angeles, CA (www.afscme.org)
September 27-28	AFSCME Chapter 13 RPEP Convention	Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA
November 13-15	Non-State Education Conference	Skytop Lodge, Skytop, PA

Note: This list, including dates and locations, is subject to change.

Additional events that have not yet been confirmed may be added at a later date.

***STATE EMPLOYEES: Please request union business leave from the Education Department no less than 25 days before the date of the conference or convention in order for the request to be considered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. More information and forms can be found on Council 13's website (www.afscme13.org).**

In Your Community



AFSCME Local 2456 (State Professional - District 8) member Cliff Ackman is running for the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU). Cliff is running because since 2008, the Board has picked its own successors, promoted them to the Board, and presented them on ballot for reelection. Without a challenger, the Board members are reelected by acclamation. No member currently on the Board has been initially elected through a ballot vote where they presented membership signatures on a petition. Seven of the nine members are not state employees, and there are no rank-and-file employees on the Board. If you are a PSECU member and would like to sign Cliff's petition, contact him via email at cliff006@frontier.com.



AFSCME Local 3101 (PSERS) member Lauren Shutt traveled to Florida with her daughter, Laila, to compete in the National Miss United States Agriculture pageant. Lauren and Laila competed in areas of interview, introduction, fashion, impromptu questioning, and evening wear. Lauren was crowned National Elite Ms. United States Agriculture as well as National Miss United States Agriculture Cover Miss, and Laila was crowned National Future Little Miss United States Agriculture as well as National Miss United States Agriculture People's Choice. Their reign lasts until June 2020 when they will travel back to Florida to crown their successors. Congratulations!



AFSCME District Council 88 takes part in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk in Chester County.



AFSCME Local 2230 (Ligonier Valley School District) member Mike Smith's son Gavin receives an adaptive bicycle through Variety: The Children's Charity's "My Bike" program, of which AFSCME Council 13 is a proud supporter.



AFSCME District Council 88 delegates raised enough money to donate more than 400 pairs of socks to residents at Southeastern PA Veteran's Center, where members of Local 1147 work and delivered the socks on Veterans Day.



Members of AFSCME Local 3504 (Claremont Nursing Home) serve food cooked by Local Union President Alicia Figueroa to residents at the Safe Harbour homeless shelter in Carlisle, Pa. Pictured left to right: Amy Sallee, Shanna Worthington, Alicia Figueroa, Cheryl Byrne, Deb Zeigler, and Tara Wise.



For the last three years, AFSCME Local 2245 (State Supervisory - District 8) has donated to Youth 10x Better Ministries for the purchase of five or more bikes and helmets. This year, they had a table and participated in the presentation of the bikes.



AFSCME Local 2952 (Altoona School District) Vice President Joe Eckels receives the Blair Bedford CLC Person of the Year Award. Pictured left to right: Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Frank Snyder, Blair-Bedford CLC President Bob Kutz, Joe Eckels, and AFSCME District Council 83 Director Mickey Sgro.