

## Newsletter

## Not All Super Heros Wear Capes!









### **Table Officers Contact Information**

Thomasine Corbett, President Tcorbett@necc.mass.edu

Northern Essex Community College T: 978-738-7493

Janet Cartwright, Treasurer

JCartwright@bridgew.edu
Bridgewater State University
T: 508-531-1291

Marie Griffin, Secretary

MGriffin@bhcc.edu
Bunker Hill Community College

T: 617-228-2282



Local 1067 Officers

March 10, 2020

**President** 

AFSCME Local 1067 Executive Board

Sheila Kearns

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Local 1067.

**Vice President** 

Thomasine Corbett

Northern Essex Community College

Massasoit Community College

For the past 27 months I have loyally served this Union Local as your President. Through both the good and the bad, I have worked immeasurable hours represented the membership of Local 1067, fighting Administration and others for the rights of members, all while also creating and publishing the monthly newsletter, creating and administering the new website, posting and monitoring the AFSCME Local 1067

web page and working as a Staff Representative. And I have not faltered.

Janet Cartwright

**Bridgewater State University** 

Beginning in July 2019, I commenced a leave of absence from Massasoit Community College to explore a new experience as a Staff Representative for Council 93. Shortly after the start of this new experience, I

had been asked to relinquish my reign as your Local President.

Secretary

**Treasurer** 

Marie Griffin

Bunker Hill Community College

The past few weeks have been extremely difficult for me as I deliberated the direction I wanted to proceed for me and my career. All this being said, it is with regret and a heavy heart that I am informing you that I will be resigning as President effective at the close of business March 27, 2020.

**Three Year Trustee** 

Vacant

**Parliamentarian** 

Kim Noel

Springfield Technical Community College

Please accept my deepest gratitude to those of you, our fellow colleagues, and Council 93 who have supported me during this short time. I truly loved and appreciated the opportunity to continue to guide this Local in the direction that Kevin Hanley had worked so hard to create. It is my expectation that you will **all** aspire to ensure that this Local remains true. That you will all work for justice in the workplace,

and that you will advocate for prosperity and opportunity for all of America's working families. And that you truly believe that strong unions are the key to a strong middle class; and that you will not only stand for fairness at the bargaining table — but fight for fairness for all at the ballot box and in the halls of government.

Remember our Union is not just something we belong to — it is an organization that we, as members, should actively participate in.

As always, it is my firm belief that **Our Colleges Work Because <u>YOU</u> Do.** 

Yours in solidarity,

Sheila Kearns President Local 1067





### **Vacation Leave Cap - Deadline Extension**

This is from Michael Murray regarding vacation cap deadline changes are in red:

Subject: Amendment to Art 13 Section 7 of CBA

Dear Ms. Kearns,

This email will confirm the agreement reached today by the BHE/Community Colleges/State University and AFSCME Council 93 Local 1067 to amend the parties' collective bargaining agreement's Article 13, Section 7 as follows: (amendments are in red)

#### Section 7

An employee may request vacation leave when it becomes available. Vacation leave requests shall be granted unless in the CEO's opinion it is impossible or impracticable to do so because of work schedules or emergencies. The CEO shall make reasonable efforts to insure that an employee, having requested vacation leave, is granted such leave in order to prevent the loss of earned vacation credits.

An employee wishing to exercise his/her seniority for vacation preference must apply in writing not more than sixty (60) calendar days nor less than forty-five (45) calendar days in advance of the first day requested. (An employee wishing to file such request earlier than sixty (60) days prior to the first day requested, may do so but preference will be determined as of the 45<sup>th</sup> day in advance of the first day requested.) The CEO shall respond to this request in writing, indicating whether it can reasonably schedule such vacation, at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the first day requested.

When vacation requests are submitted less than forty-five (45) calendar days in advance such requests shall be processed in the order in which they are received without regard to seniority. Responses shall be given to unit members in writing within seven (7) calendar days of date of receipt of such request.

Effective July 1, 2019, no employee shall carry vacation leave credit of more than 375 hours (50 days) for unit members in Unit I and 400 hours (50 days) for unit members in Unit II.

Notwithstanding the above, current unit members as of the date of the parties' Memorandum of Agreement for this collective bargaining agreement with accrued vacation leave amounts above the fifty (50) day limit shall have until September 1, 2020 June 30, 2020 to lower their accrued vacation leave amounts equal to or below the fifty (50) day limit. The process by which this change in vacation leave maximum balances and accrual is effectuated shall be as follows:

At the end of the last payroll in August June 2020, any employee who is carrying vacation leave credits of more than 375 hours (50 days) or 400 hours (50 days) shall have any such accrued vacation leave credits converted to sick leave. After September 1, 2020 June 30, 2020, accrued vacation leave credits in excess of 375 hours or 400 hours depending on unit membership shall not be converted to sick leave and any accrued vacation leave credits above 375 hours or 400 hours shall be forfeited at the end of the last payroll period in December of each year. Employees whose services are terminated for any reason during a given year shall be subject to the provisions of Section 11 below.

This agreement is made as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis which makes the use of vacation leave difficult especially for the many essential employees on each campus. Under the amendment above, the deadline to use excess vacation leave is extended from the contract's June 30, 2020 date to September 1, 2020.

Thank you.

Michael J. Murray, Esq.
Director of Employee and Labor Relations
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education



As you know, humans need social interaction, and social isolation, even if temporary, can be challenging for individuals and communities. Rates of child abuse, domestic violence, drug and alcohol use, and mental health problems all increase when there is social isolation.

Fortunately, social distancing (avoiding close physical contact with others, particularly in large groups) is not the same as social isolation.

During this time of social distancing, I encourage you to reach out to others and make connections, especially with others who may be at risk for social isolation. Pick up the phone and call, parents, grandparents, or someone else elderly who might be feeling anxious right now. Drop a friendly note of encouragement into a neighbor's mailbox (but only if you are healthy and use really good hygiene when handling the note). Send a text to someone who is living alone, or to a friend who might not have the best home situation. And if you are feeling lonely, you are not alone. Please reach out. Call, text, or email someone, and say, "Hey, I'm feeling alone, can you please get back to me?"

Just like it is easy to spread COVID-19, we can also spread happiness, strength, and patience. So stay home as much as you can, wash your hands thoroughly, and make digital connections whenever you can.

Lynn Shelley, Ph.D Westfield State University Department of Psychology



### **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

On March 18, 2020, the Senate passed and President Trump signed into law a bill that affords employees some economic relief during the COVID-19 crisis. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act contains two leave provisions that apply to the state universities. Specifically, these two leave provisions are:

- (1) the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, which extends and expands the protection of the Family and Medical Leave Act for employees who are unable to work because they need to care for children whose school or daycare is closed due to the coronavirus, including requiring paid FMLA leave benefits.
- (2) the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, which provides a ten-day new paid sick leave entitlement for certain coronavirus-related absences.

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PUBLISHES GUIDANCE EXPLAINING PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

<u>WASHINGTON, DC</u> – Today, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) announced its first round of published guidance to provide information to employees and employers about how each will be able to take advantage of the protections and relief offered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) when it takes effect on April 1, 2020.

FFCRA will help the United States combat and defeat COVID-19 by giving all American businesses with fewer than 500 employees funds to provide employees with paid leave, either for the employee's own health needs or to care for family members. The legislation will ensure that workers are not forced to choose between their paychecks and the public health measures needed to combat the virus while at the same time reimbursing businesses.

The guidance – provided in a <u>Fact Sheet for Employees</u>, a <u>Fact Sheet for Employers</u> and a <u>Questions and Answers document</u> – addresses critical questions, such as how an employer must count the number of their employees to determine coverage; how small businesses can obtain an exemption; how to count hours for part-time employees; and how to calculate the wages employees are entitled to under this law.

"Providing information to the American workforce is a top priority for the Wage and Hour Division," said Administrator Cheryl Stanton. "With so many workers and so many employers struggling to find their way in these trying conditions, providing guidance on a rolling basis will allow workers and businesses to prepare for the law to go into effect on April 1, 2020. We remain committed, and are working around the clock to provide the information and tools for employees and employers alike."

The guidance announced today is just the first round of information and compliance assistance to come from WHD. A workplace poster required for most employers will be published later this week, along with additional fact sheets and more Q&A.

WHD provides additional information on common issues employers and employees face when responding to COVID-19, and its effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act at <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic</a>.

For more information about the laws enforced by the WHD, call 866-4US-WAGE, or visit <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd</a>.

For further information about COVID-19, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u>.

## EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

#### PAID LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

#### Generally, employers covered under the Act must provide employees:

Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage, paid at:

- 100% for qualifying reasons #1-3 below, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total;
- 2/3 for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 belowup to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total; and
- Up to 12 weeks of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave paid at 2/3 for qualifying reason #5 below for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total.

A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

#### ► ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

In general, employees of private sector employers with fewer than 500 employees, and certain public sector employers, are eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons (see below). *Employees who have been employed for at least 30 days* prior to their leave request may be eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below.

#### QUALIFYING REASONS FOR LEAVE RELATED TO COVID-19

An employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to **telework**, because the employee:

- 1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- 2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;
- 3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
- 4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2);
- 5. is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or
- is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has the authority to investigate and enforce compliance with the FFCRA. Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who lawfully takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, files a complaint, or institutes a proceeding under or related to this Act. Employers in violation of the provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to penalties and enforcement by WHD.



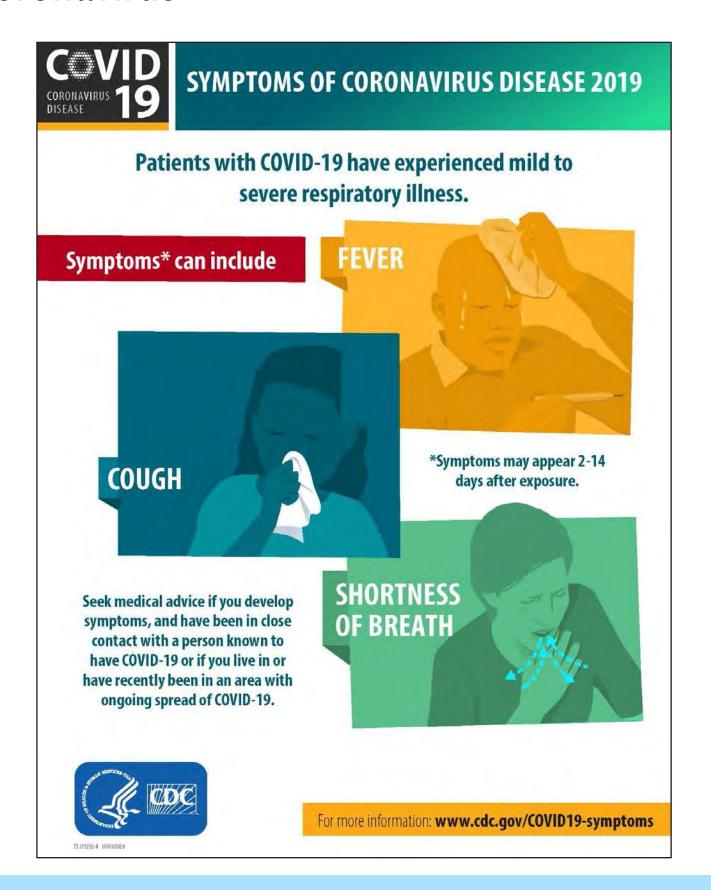
For additional information or to file a complaint 1-866-487-9243 TTY: 1-877-889-5627

dol.gov/agencies/whd





### Coronavirus









**Tournament** 

### Supporting Local Families

The Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund is hosting the 14th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament at the Black Swan Country Club, in Georgetown, Massachusetts on Monday, June 29, 2020

### **EVENT DETAILS**

- ✓ Slots filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ✓ Lunch served on-site during awards presentation and raffle prize drawings.
- ✓ Prizes awarded for: (1) 1st Place Team,(2) Closest to Pin, (3) Longest Drive
- ✓ Raffle Prizes include: 50/50 Drawing, Sports Memorabilia, Golf Supplies, Big Screen TV, and other great items
- ✓ If an individual is unable to play after payment is received, he or she will be responsible for finding a replacement
- ✓ All proceeds to benefit the Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund
- ✓ No refunds will be given

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PARTNER SPONSORSHIP - \$5,000

- ✓ One foursome in event
- ✓ 4' x 8' Banner with local/company name
- ✓ Logo on all hole sponsor signs
- ✓ Display table for products/services
- ✓ Special gift item for team members

DIAMOND HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$2,500

- ✓ One foursome in event
- ✓ Signage at one hole
- $\checkmark$  Special gift item for team members

PLATINUM HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$1,000

**CUT HERE** 

- ✓ One foursome
- ✓ Signage at one hole

GOLD HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$750 SILVER HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$500 BRONZE HOLE SPONSORSHIP - \$250

### **Registration Form**

# MAIL WITH CHECK TO: AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund 8 Beacon St., 9th Floor Boston, MA 02108

Teams will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Registration must be complete, with payment included.

### \$150 per person \$600 for a foursome: Due by June 1, 2020

1st Player

.51.1.4) 6.	
Name	
Address	
City	St
Phone	
Email	
2nd Player	
Name	
Address	
City	St
Phone	
Email	
3rd Player	
Name	
Address	
City	St
Phone	
Email	
4th Player	
Name	
Address	
City	St
Phone	
Email	



## **Attention Stewards:**

Make sure that you are notified of new hires.

If necessary, request new hires from HR monthly.

You are allowed one (1) hour to meet with each new hire.

AFSCME Strong cards are to be submitted to Payroll, HR, and the Union.

Please see the adjoining page for specific instructions.



## **AFSCME Local 1067 STRONG Instructions for new cards**

- Make a plan within your local to speak with each member spread the work out, you should get volunteers to assist. The members will be more engaged in the local if we get them talking with each other on a local level.
- <u>First</u>, approach each individual member and get them to recommit to the union. Ask them if they would be willing to help by getting active at work. Check the box where they are willing to do something. Keep this information for your records. (top section)
- Second, have the member fill out the Membership Application (middle section)
   Make sure the card is <u>signed</u>. And, cell phone and personal email are important.
- Third, explain to the member how important it is to be involved politically

  Make sure you tell the member that dues money can't be spent on politics.

  That's why we need them to contribute to PEOPLE. It's job security for them to have someone lobbying for their best interests.
- When you complete this process you can give the <u>original cards</u> to your Council 93 Staff Representative when they are on campus or at Executive Board Meetings or mail them to Brittany Alexander, 8 Beacon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02108. <u>Make a copy and submit to both HR and Payroll.</u> Keep a copy for your local files, In between meetings/mailings a scanned copy can be e-mailed to Brittany Alexander at balexander@afscme93.org.
- You do not have to wait until you get cards from all the members; get them to Council 93 staff when you receive them. Please send the <u>whole card</u>, even if only the middle section has been filled out. **Do not perforate or cut the card**.
- **FOR NEW MEMBERS**: Original card goes to Council 93 Copy to HR and Payroll.
- **PEOPLE** When a member fills out the PEOPLE card, make sure they have selected a deduction amount and signed the card. Make a copy of the card for local records.
- **CAMPUS** Make sure that the name of your college/university is on the card



### **AFSCME Council 93**

Yes! I am AFSCME Strong.

I want a strong voice at work and in my community

### Yes, sign me up to:

- Talk to colleagues at work about AFSCME
- Make phone calls to AFSCME members for campaigns
- Knock AFSCME member doors during campaigns

### **Membership Application**

### American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Membership and Authorization for Dues Deduction

I hereby apply for membership in Council 93 (hereafter "Union") and I agree to abide by its Constitution and Bylaws. I authorize the Union and its successor or assignee to act as my exclusive bargaining representative for purposes of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment with my Employer.

Effective immediately, I hereby voluntarily authorize and direct my Employer to deduct from my pay each pay period, regardless of whether I am or remain a member of the Union, the amount of dues certified by the Union, and as they may be adjusted periodically by the Union, and to authorize my Employer to remit such amount monthly to the Union.

This voluntary authorization and assignment shall remain in effect in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement. If the applicable collective bargaining agreement or state statute does not address revocation, then this voluntary authorization and assignment shall be irrevocable, regardless of whether I am or remain a member of the Union, for a period of one year from the date of execution or until the termination date of the collective bargaining agreement (if there is one) between the Employer and the Union, whichever occurs sooner, and for year to year thereafter unless I give the Employer and the Union written notice of revocation not less than ten (10) days and not more than twenty (20) days before the end of any yearly period, or in accordance with state statute. The applicable collective bargaining agreement is available for review, upon request. This card supersedes any prior check-off authorization card I signed.

I recognize that my authorization of dues deductions, and the continuation of such authorization from one year to the next, is voluntary and not a condition of my employment.

In order to comply with Internal Revenue Service rulings, be advised that your membership dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

☐ New Member	PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.	☐ Re-commit
Local Number	Employer	
Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Street Address		Apt. No.
City	State	ZIP Code
SSN (last four digits)	Employee ID #	Job Title
Cell Phone	Personal E-mai	l Address

By providing my cell phone number, I understand that AFSCME and its affiliates may use automated calling technologies and/or text message me on my cell phone on a periodic basis. Carrier message and data rates may apply to such texts.

Signature Date

### Contribution \_\_\_Form

#### Become a PEOPLE MVP for \$8.35/ month (\$100 annually)



I hereby authorize my employer and associated agencies to deduct, each pay period, the amount certified as a voluntary contribution to be paid to the treasurer of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees PEOPLE, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, P.O.

Deduction Per Pay Period

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15
☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ each pp

Circle jacket size.

S M L XL 2XL Other \_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

Box 65334, Washington, D.C. 20035-5334, to be used for the purpose of making political contributions and expenditures. My contribution is voluntary, and I understand that it is not required as a condition of membership in any organization, or as a condition of continued employment, and is free of reprisal. I understand that any contribution guideline is only a suggestion and I am free to contribute more or less than that amount and will not be favored or disadvantaged due to the amount of my contribution

or refusal to contribute, and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by giving written notice.

Signature Date

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

#### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Street Address		Apt. No.
City	State	ZIP Code
SSN (last four digits)	Employee ID #	Occupation
Local Number	Employer	
Cell Phone	Home Phone	

By providing my cell phone number, I understand that AFSCME and its affiliates may use automated calling technologies and/or text message me on my cell phone on a periodic basis. Carrier message and data rates may apply to such texts.

Personal E-mail Address



## Info you can use...

### **Staff Representatives for Higher Education**

Please see the Staff Representatives below and their contact information for your particular College/University.

Berkshire Community College
Bridgewater State University
Bristol Community College
Bunker Hill Community College
Cape Cod Community College
Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University
Greenfield Community College
Holyoke Community College
Massachusetts Bay Community College
Massachusetts College of Art & Design
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Joe Malinowski
Sheila Kearns
Sheila Kearns
Ashley Peel
Sheila Kearns
Dan Morse
Dan Morse
Joe Malinowski
Joe Malinowski
Ashley Peel
Ashley Peel
Joe Malinowski

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Massasoit Community College
Middlesex Community College
Mt. Wachusett Community College
North Shore Community College
Northern Essex Community College
Quinsigamond Community College
Roxbury Community College
Salem State College
Springfield Technical Community College
Westfield State University
Worcester State University

Sheila Kearns Sheila Kearns Ashley Peel Dan Morse Carol Markland Carol Markland Dan Morse Ashley Peel Carol Markland Joe Malinowski Joe Malinowski

### **Contact Information:**

Dan Morse dmorse@afscme93.org 617-367-6047

Carol Markland cmarkland@afscme93.o!!!rg 781-425-7870

Ashley Peel apeel@afscme93.org 617-367-6032 Joe Malinowski jmalinowski@afscme93.org 413-668-2202

Sheila Kearns skearns@afscme93.org 774-202-8067



### Executive Board Meeting Schedule for 2020

January 2020 - No meeting

February 11, 2020

March 10, 2020

April 14, 2020 - zoom

May 12, 2020

June 9, 2020

July - No meeting

August 11, 2020

September 15, 2020

October 13, 2020

November 10, 2020

December 8, 2020

Monthly Executive Board Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month, except in January, July, and September.

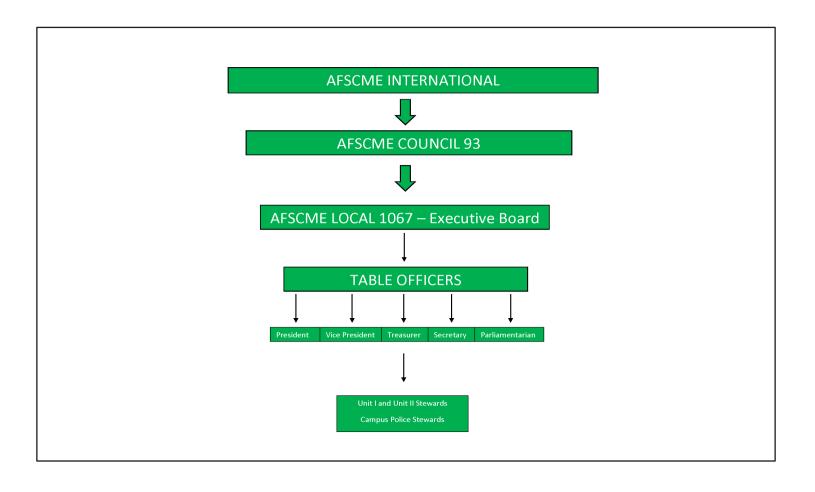
NOTE: Meetings now take place at:

The Educational Association of Worcester, Inc.

397 Grove Street

Worcester, MA 01605

9:30 a.m.





## Organizing 03's/part-time employees!

We are ramping up the campaign to organize part-time employees! Schedule a meeting at your college/university, TODAY!!!

Contact: David Nagle at dnagle@afscme93.org

# Please come to a meeting to find out how you can become a union member.

#### Some facts about AFSCME Local 1067 and Council 93:

- AFSCME represents more than 1.6 million members nationwide, with more than 35,000 members of AFSCME Council 93 in Massachusetts. There are over 3,000 members of AFSCME Local 1067 at the Massachusetts state universities and colleges.
- Widely recognized as a powerful and effective voice for workers at the negotiating table, AFSCME consistently secures the best wages and health insurance coverage for our members.
- We have over 500 members who are on the 03 payroll at UMass Amherst and they have a contract with benefits.

We would like to explain the process of how you can become a member of AFSCME Local 1067.

We will be asking 03 employees who are interested in the union to sign union authorization cards. These cards will allow us to request recognition from the Board of Higher Education. Then we can begin the process of negotiating a contract for 03 employees.

#### You would be entitled to all of the following and much more:

- Wages and benefits negotiated by AFSCME
- Representation for grievances arising under the contract, including representation by a steward, a staff representative, and an attorney if needed.
- Protecting your interests on Beacon Hill with experienced lobbyists
- Assist you with public & media relations
- Access to the AFSCME Advantage Program which provides substantial discounts on everything from auto insurance, to travel discounts, to mortgage and refinance programs, and free college tuition for you and your family members!

### Interested?



The meeting will take place on the following date, time, and location. We hope to see you there!



Date:			
Time:			
ocations			



NOTE: Form 30's are <u>ONLY</u> to be used for desk audits when applying, or if you are being considered for a reclassification!



## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ROOM 619, MCCORMACK BUILDING ONE ASHBURTON PLACE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108-1530

TO: State and Community College Personnel Directors

FROM: Carleton H. LaPorte, Jr.

Vice Chancellor/Director of Employee Relations

RE: AFSCME, 1067 - Coalition One Agreement

DATE: August 30, 1985

The Employee Relations Division of the Board of Regents has received several complaints relative to the use of "Form 30's". Please be advised that it is the position of this office that "Form 30's" are to be used as an "information gathering" tool and should not be used to replace existing job specifications either in postings or advertisements.

In the 1983-1986 Collective Bargaining Agreement, we have agreed with AFSCME that the "classification structure and the accompanying job specifications have been created by the Commonwealth through its Department of Personnel Administration for the purposes of describing the duties and responsibilities of each job title." (Article 23, Section 1.C.).

--- However, as you are aware, these job specifications are descriptive rather than restrictive and employees may be assigned incidental, related or emergency duties.

If you have any questions in this regard please contact me.

cc: Erika Pinault Sharon Fiske



**GENERAL** 

# Update





### Public Safety Protection Program: PORAC LDF PLAN II

	Providing representation to public safety officers since 1974  Run by peace officers for peace officers
	The largest and oldest legal plan in the nation
	No cap on benefits
	Panel of experienced attorneys
	Coverage for Acts or Omissions Within The Scope Of Employment
<u>CI</u>	VIL.
	When your employing agency defends and indemnifies you, the Plan will provide you with an experienced attorney to monitor your case to ensure you receive quality representation, free of any conflicts of interest between you and the employer of other involved officers. The civil monitor will also be available to answer your questions and address your concerns about the case throughout the process. If your employing agency refuses to defend you, then you will be provided with your own experienced, independent civil attorney to represent you in the case.
	If there is:  ☐ A legal conflict of interest between you and your employer ☐ Inadequate representation by your employer ☐ A considerable likelihood that punitive damages could be awarded against you ☐ If your employer refuses to represent you for an act or omission within the scope of your employment
	You will be provided with independent counsel by the Legal Defense Fund.
	SCME PSPP members can contact the LDF plan at (888) 556-5631 for any incidents covered. e AFSCME Advantage Coordinator can be reached at (800) 588-0374.



<u>CRI</u>	M	N	ΑL

	Full representation by an experienced criminal attorney from the onset of the investigation through trial  This benefit is available no matter what agency does the investigation:
	□ Local □ State
	☐ Federal ☐ FBI
CI	VIL AND CRIMINAL COVERAGE:
	Customary and Usual Services:
	☐ Investigators
	☐ Expert Witnesses
	□ Polygraphers
	☐ Court Reporters
	☐ Court Costs  Conflict coverage - each member gets separate counsel
his	OCAP ON BENEFITS — The PORAC Legal Defense Fund prides itself on a long story of providing unlimited access to attorneys, experts, and investigators when asonably needed to protect its members.
EX	PANSIVE LIST OF EXPERIENCED PANEL ATTORNEYS — The PORAC Legal
	fense Fund only engages highly experienced and well-qualified attorneys, with a history of presenting public safety personnel. If you have an existing relationship with a local attorney and
wo	uld like to submit their information for inclusion on the panel, please contact the PSOAA
Ad	ministrator at admin@psoaa.org.
	<b>HOUR COVERAGE</b> The PORAC Legal Defense Fund has attorneys available 24 urs a day, 7 days a week to handle emergency or critical incidents: (888) 556-5631.
	Criminal – All PSOAA members will receive representation by an experienced criminal defense attorney from the first indication of potential criminal exposure (e.g. shooting, death in custody, use of force resulting in serious physical injury) arising from an act or omission within the scope of employment.
	Civil – <u>All PSOAA members will receive representation</u> by an experienced civil attorney when a member is sued for an act within the scope of employment, but the employing agency refuses to defend the member. When the member's employing agency defends, but fails to fully indemnify that member, the Plan will provide an experienced attorney to monitor the case.

AFSCME PSPP members can contact the LDF plan at (888) 556-5631 for any incidents covered.

The AFSCME Advantage Coordinator can be reached at (800) 588-0374.



NEED TO FILE A CLAIM- As a PSOAA member and you need to file a claim simply call PORAC at (888) 556-5631. You will briefly speak with a case coordinator who will determine your eligibility for benefits. If your case is coverable you will be referred to an attorney or law firm in your area. Most calls take no more than four or five minutes.

#### BEEN INVOLVED IN A CRITIICAL INCIDENT OUTSIDE OF NORMAL BUSINESS

HOURS?-The 24-hour a day, 365 day-a-year PORAC hotline is available for all critical incidents such as shootings, deaths in custody, and vehicle pursuits resulting in death or serious injury. When you call (888) 556-5631 outside of normal business hours your call will be answered by an answering service and then transferred to a representative from the Legal Administrator's office. In most cases the Administrator's office is able to get an attorney to respond within 10 to 15 minutes.

#### DISCLAIMER

The PORAC Legal Defense Plan (LDF) is a non-profit ERISA trust fund, and the coverage it offers is separate and apart from any other plan offered through the Public Safety Officers of AFSCME Association (PSOAA) and the AFSCME Public Safety Protection Program. LDF is not related to any other PSOAA benefit provider. LDF has not entered into any relationship with any other PSOAA benefit provider. LDF is not the representative of any other PSOAA benefit provider and is not responsible for any representations or benefits which may be offered by another benefit provider. If you have any questions about LDF, please contact the LDF Legal Administrator or the Administrator's designated representative. Only they may answer questions regarding the benefits and coverage LDF provides.



AFSCME PSPP members can contact the LDF plan at (888) 556-5631 for any incidents covered The AFSCME Advantage Coordinator can be reached at (800) 588-0374.

### Note:

https://www.psoaa.org/faq.php website.

Group: AFSCME Public Safety locals can elect to sign up their entire local or segments of their local for the Public Safety Protection Program.

Sign-up and payments are handled by the local.

The per-member cost for this option is \$15.75 per quarter (\$5.25 per member per month).

As stated in previous newsletters the Local is willing to pay for the first six months.



## Weingarten Rights!

### Weingarten Rights. Know them, Use them! (SAVE THIS INFORMATION)

If you are unsure if they apply, ask for them anyway. Better to be safe than sorry.

### Know your rights! Please read below!

### Employee Rights in "Weingarten" Meetings – Know Them, Use Them!

Beware that management <u>is not</u> obligated to inform employees of their Weingarten rights – employees must <u>ask for them</u>.

Unlike Miranda rights – where police are required to tell a suspect of his/her right to an attorney, etc. –

employees must ask for their Weingarten rights.

### Weingarten – State the following:

"If the discussion in this meeting could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or impact on my personal working conditions, I request that my steward, local officer or union representative be present.

Without union representation, I choose not to answer any further questions at this time.

This is my right under a Supreme Court decision called Weingarten".

Weingarten rights apply during investigatory interviews when a supervisor *questions* an employee to obtain information that could be used as grounds for discipline for either you or a colleague. When an employee believes such a meeting may lead to discipline, he/she has the right to request union representation.

These basic Weingarten rights stem from a Supreme Court's decision.

- •The employee must request representation before or during the meeting.
- After an employee makes the request, the supervisor has these choices:
  - grantthe request and wait for the union representative's arrival;
    - denytherequest and end the meeting immediately; or
  - give the employee the choice of either ending the meeting or continuing without representation.

### <u>(Never, ever, ever, continue without representation! EVER!)</u>

If the supervisor denies the request and continues to ask questions, the employee has a right to refuse to answer! In addition, the supervisor is committing an unfair labor practice.

As always, call your Chief Steward if you have guestions or if you are unsure!

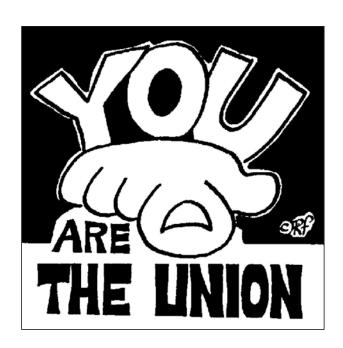
**Please note: Do NOT** think that you are bothering your steward if you have a question or a problem with your supervisor and/or management. That is what we are here for.

Table officer contact information is on the front cover.



Remember...





Don't leave your *rights* to *chance*... *Recommit* to your Union **TODAY!!!** 

Give your Union a fighting chance...

**Local 1067**