

What's the Buzz.... 1067?

AFSCME Convention

AFSCME International kicked off the 38th Biennial International Convention on July 28, 2008. Nearly 6,000 activists gathered in San Francisco to develop the union's plans on priority issues, including securing public support for the vital services our communities depend on; providing states and localities with needed fiscal relief; and guaranteeing quality, affordable health care for all.

"The stakes are too high-too high-for our nation to elect another President who doesn't respect our work, doesn't respect our families, and doesn't respect the public services America depends on

and our members provide," AFSCME International President Gerald W. McEntee told the delegates.

Local 1067 was well-represented with seven delegates and two alternates attending. The delegation included President Lisa Field (Fitchburg State College), Vice President Denise Brown (MCLA), Cathaleen Ashton (MassBay Community College), Julie Curtis (Salem State College), Kevin Hanley (Bunker Hill Community College), James Kefalas (Salem State College), and Christopher Olsen (Westfield State College). The alternates were Secretary Thomasine

Corbett (Northern Essex Community College) and Dan Veira (Massasoit Community College).

In addition to the proceedings of the convention, our delegation attended workshops and the higher education caucus. All have been asked to write an article about their experiences for a special convention edition of the Buzz which we expect to publish within the next few weeks.

The delegation was elected by the members of the Local in an election back in May. All members of the Local in good-standing were eligible to run as a candidate.

Inside this issue:

PHENOM: Reaction to Readiness Project 2

Legislative Update 2

Update on Contract Negotiations 2

Massachusetts AFL-CIO Futures Program 3

AFSCME's Young Activists 4

Message from the Prez 5

July/August Calendar of Events 6

Table Officers

President Lisa Field, Fitchburg State College

Vice President Denise Brown, MCLA

Treasurer Marzi Carolopoli, Berkshire CC

Secretary Tommie Corbett, Northern Essex CC

Parliamentarian Dave Charbonneau, Greenfield CC

Trustee Jim Klim, Massasoit CC

Building Support for Public Services From www.afscme.org

International President McEntee outlined two key goals for convention delegates: to elect pro-worker candidates across the country, and build public support for vital public services that make our communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family. "We

have to tell our story," McEntee said. "It's a story about the tremendous value of the services we provide across this great country. We keep families safe and make communities strong. You know it and I know it: America works because we do."

The union launched an extensive message program training program to help delegates change the way the public views government and public services. It will be rolled out to AFSCME's 3,500 local unions in the weeks and months ahead.

PHENOM: Reaction to Readiness Proposal From www.phenomonline.org

On June 25, 2008, the Governor released his office's long-awaited education reform proposal. The final draft of the Readiness Project is sweeping in its scope, and PHENOM members are still reading through the 44 page document and assessing its contents.

Highlights from the higher education section of the report include:

- A long-term goal of free, open access to two-year community college, with a pilot program beginning in

the next few years extended to early childhood education givers and the parents and guardians of public K-12 student, who meet a certain income threshold.

- Competitive salary for faculty, in line with the standards at other public colleges and universities.
- In-state tuition for the children of immigrants.
- An increase in needs-based financial aid.

- Increased dual-enrollment opportunities.
- Guaranteeing the ability to transfer courses between public colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

Over the coming days and weeks, PHENOM will continue to discuss the report and the specific recommendations contained in it. It is-to be sure-an important moment for the public higher education reform movement in Massachusetts.



Legislative Update

Back on May 17, 2007 a legislative committee reviewed House Bill 2550, an Act to Provide Employees at State and Community Colleges Holding Special State Police Officer Powers with Line of Duty Death Benefits. Several officers from Massachusettsit Community College, Bunker Hill Community College, and Bristol Community College attended that hearing.

I am pleased to announce that the bill

(now House 4933) was enacted by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and laid before the Governor on July 28, 2008. We are currently awaiting action by the Governor. We do not anticipate any issues on this at this point and hopefully will be able to announce that the Governor acted favorably on this matter.

I would like to thank many of the campus

police officers for their dedication and commitment to this bill especially Vasco Cordeiro for his poignant testimony before the legislative committee. I would also like to thank Jim Durkin and Peter Wright from AFSCME Council 93's legislative division for their hard work on this one. Jim was working the phones from San Francisco and updating me on the good news! Thanks to all.



Update on Contract Negotiations

We are currently at the table with management negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement. We have had several meetings and have several more sessions planned for the month of August.

At this time, we are working on non-economic issues. The Governor has not released the economic parameters for

any public employee union. Some of the unions have decided to take action about this point. I want to be clear. Other unions have to do what is best for their members and we have to do what is best for ours. We at AFSCME Local 1067 are not taking any action regarding economic parameters and the lack of the Governor releasing them at this time. We are meeting with management's team

and we are making progress on non-economic items. We will notify you immediately if things change and if we think we need to take any action.

The language of the contract dated July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008 remains in effect until a new contract is ratified.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO Futures Program From www.massafcio.org

The newly created Massachusetts AFL-CIO Program is a forum designed to bring young members together to better understand the struggles and strategies of various sectors and industries, and to foster renewed unity in the Massachusetts Labor Movement. It is time that young union members assume leadership positions within their unions, communities, and the broader labor Movement. Our movement is ever evolving to keep up with the changing world around us and the younger generation of labor activists has a fresh, innovative set of

ideas that we will draw on for the future of organized labor in the Commonwealth.

The Futures program sponsors both programmatic and social events so that delegates may hear from political and labor leaders, learn more about organizing tactics and labor laws, and also be able to socialize and network with other young people interested in becoming leaders. Young individuals in the Massachusetts Labor Movement are encouraged to become involved in this groundbreaking

program if they are not already. Speak to your local union's leadership to become a delegate to upcoming Futures events.



AFSCME's Young Activists: Working for the Common Good From www.afscme.org

We are AFSCME members from across the country who are carrying on the fight to protect working people everywhere. As union activists, 35ish and younger, we are taking action to recruit, engage, and educate younger members to step up and carry in the legacy that AFSCME leaders before us have built.

Only 6% of our members are under 30. We know that members 35 and under

are under-represented in leadership positions.

As a union we have always overcome whatever challenges come our way. Today, we are confronted with an all together different sort of challenge-more than half of AFSCME members are eligible to retire in the next 10 years But, we are not ready to fill this Leadership void. Next Wave chapters are important in

providing the tools and connections to get younger members active and ready for future union leadership.

And don't forget: Next Wave is everyone's program-we all have a stake in the future of AFSCME.

Message from the Prez....

It is vital for our Local to encourage the participation of all of our members in our Union, the Labor Movement, and in our community.

AFSCME and the AFL-CIO recognize the need for all of us in labor to develop our future leaders. As a Future Leader in the MASS AFL-CIO, I applaud the commitment of MASS AFL-CIO President Robert

Haynes in developing the Futures Program. As President of Local 1067, I am currently collaborating with AFSCME Council 93 in developing a Next Wave Chapter here in Massachusetts. The hope is to link our Next Wave Chapter with the Futures Program.

If you are interested in participating in either program, please contact me.



AFSCME Local 1067



PO Box 414
Templeton, MA 01468
Phone: 978-665-3065
E-mail: lfield@fsc.edu

Making Public Higher Education Happen in
Massachusetts

We're on the Web
www.afscme1067.org

AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, is the largest union for workers in the public service with 1.4 million members nationwide.

AFSCME organizes for social and economic justice in the workplace and through political action and legislative advocacy. AFSCME represents a diverse group of service and health care workers in the public and private sector including nurses, EMTs, bus drivers, child care providers, and librarians.

Local 1067 represents over 3,000 clerical, technical, maintenance, trades, storekeepers, and public safety employees at the 9 state colleges and the 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

July/August Calendar

Wednesday, July 2

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

Tuesday, July 22

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

Wednesday, July 23

Step IV reallocation and grievance hearings at Fitchburg State College

Thursday, July 24

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

July 28-August 2

AFSCME International Convention in San Francisco, California

Thursday, July 31

Step IV grievance hearings at Fitchburg State College

Saturday, August 9

Labor to Labor Walk in Support of Barack Obama.

NATC Regional Office, 547 Amherst Street, Suite 203, Nashua, NH. 9AM-12PM

For more information, contact John Drinkwater from the MASS AFL-CIO at 781-324-8230

August 12

Local 1067 Executive Board, Worcester

August 13

AFSCME Professional Development Day at Bridgewater State College

August 14

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

August 15

AFSCME Professional Development Day at Roxbury Community College

August 19

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

August 20

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

August 27

Labor to Labor Walk in Support of Barack Obama.

Manchester, NH from 4PM-8PM