

NEW MEXICO WORKS

AFSCME Council 18

OFFICIAL NOTICE
2015 PEOPLE CONVENTION
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Spring 2015

AFTER THE LEGISLATURE GOES HOME, NEW MEXICO LABOR AND ALLIES VOW TO KEEP FIGHTING FOR WORKING FAMILIES

(SANTA FE--Mar. 21, 2015) Following the conclusion of a dramatic 2015 Legislative Session, labor and working family advocates gathered in front of the Roundhouse to thank pro-worker legislators and renewed their commitment to fight for policies that benefit all New Mexico working families, not just the already wealthy.

Early on, anti-worker legislation, or so-called "right to work" emerged as one of the most divisive issues of the session, but working people, labor unions, community members, Democratic lawmakers, and other allies successfully mobilized to defeat the legislation in committee. "Right to work" opponents were able to point to academic research showing there is zero evidence the law



would spur job growth but ample statistics demonstrating it will diminish wages for all workers, lead to higher workplace fatalities, and diminish job training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Workers and community members mobilized across the state to protect New Mexico's middle class. Hundreds turned out to the Roundhouse during the course of the session to make their issues heard at Moral Monday events and committee hearings.

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2015 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY



AFSCME Members worked alongside the entire NM Labor Movement and a large coalition of community allies this session to hold the line for ALL working New Mexicans against partisan attacks and legislation designed to benefit the politically connected and the very wealthy.

WORKER RIGHTS

AFSCME played a key role in defeating so-called "right to work" legislation this year. Defeating this legislation was by far our top priority, as passing right to work would have eroded the rights and voices of all workers for years to come.

There were other bad bills relating to unions, like the paycheck deception bill introduced by a Senate Republican, but AFSCME played a big role in killing those as well.

AFSCME also helped lead the charge to raise the minimum wage, but House Republicans killed multiple bills to help hard-working families and New Mexico remains stuck at \$7.50/hour poverty wages for many full-time workers.

OUTSOURCING AND PRIVATIZING JOBS

Along with attacks on worker rights, and closely related to it, is the national (mostly) Republican movement to privatize state and local government. Opposing outsourcing and privatization is one of our top priorities every year at every level of government. Making this year's statewide privatization attempts even worse was the fact that the main privatization bill also would have resulted in local and state government taking on billions of dollars in debt beyond current debt limits. So not only would many public employees be privatized (meaning lower wages, little to no health care, and a cancellation of PERA and ERB retirement plans), but those remaining would have less and less funding and staffing as a result of greater debt payments.

AFSCME led a large coalition of children's advocates, environmental groups, and other unions who

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April 14, 2015 • #nlwd15

On Tuesday, April 14, during National Library Week, communities across the country will observe National Library Workers Day. We encourage you to observe this day, a time to honor the contributions of AFSCME members, including librarians, library assistants, support staff and others, who make libraries happen. This is the 12th year that AFSCME, the largest union of library employees, with more than 25,000 members, will observe the day.

National Library Workers Day 2015 is a chance to educate members and the community about the challenges facing us and our plan to address them – AFSCME Strong.

STEWARD / MEMBER TRAININGS COMING UP!

AFSCME Council 18 is committed to training the next generation of leaders to continue the fight for workplace justice, dignity, and respect.

Call 505-266-2505 or go online to AFSCME18.org under the Education & Training tab for complete schedule and to sign up for the FREE ELITE Academy series of union trainings.

- ★ ELITE Level I, Part I
Basic Steward Training
April 17 and 18 2015
AFSCME Hall - ABQ
- ★ ELITE Level II, Part I
Communications, Political Action, Community Building
May 2, 2015
AFSCME Hall - Las Cruces
- ★ ELITE Level I, Part I
Basic Steward Training
June 5 and 6 2015
AFSCME Hall - Santa Fe
- ★ ELITE Level I, Part II
Grievance Handling, Disciplinary Actions
June 27 2015
AFSCME Hall - Santa Fe

We Must Stand With Law Enforcement Officers

Lee A. Saunders, President AFSCME International

The vast majority of police officers protect and serve their communities with honor, integrity and professionalism. As president of AFSCME, a union that represents more than 100,000 public safety employees, I will always speak out when all officers are attacked based on the actions of a few.

During the past few months, our nation has been engaged in a long-overdue but no-less-difficult discussion about race, justice and the role of law enforcement. Let me be clear. Our union has long stood, unwavering, for the core values of the civil rights movement, with fairness and justice for all paramount among them. We will continue to do so. But our fight for justice and respect extends to all women and men who put themselves in harm's way every day, especially while in the line of duty as a law enforcement officer.

The members of our union will not condone officers abusing their communities' trust. But we will always stand with officers across this nation who keep us safe and who strengthen our communities. It is sickening to see law enforcement targeted with violence, as they have been nationwide in recent months.

Just a few days before Christmas, two officers in Brooklyn, New York, were gunned down in an ambush on their patrol car. Last month in Philadelphia, a police officer was shot while protecting customers in a video store as a robbery unfolded. He'd stopped in to buy a game for his 8-year-old son, who'd made him proud with good grades. Recently, in Ferguson, Missouri, two officers were wounded -- deliberate shooting targets while keeping the peace at the protests that have embroiled the city.

In all, 116 officers were killed in 2014, leaving behind wives, husbands and children. These women and men answered a call to service. Every day, thousands more like them suit up to keep our streets safe, knowing full well that they might not make it home after their shift's end. They guard our homes and businesses. When disaster strikes, they come to the rescue. They face down criminals with automatic weapons -- entire arsenals in some cases --

while they themselves often carry only a service weapon.

And too often today, the danger they face is because a politician cut funding to their department without bothering to ask what kind of risk that would pose to our neighborhoods, or because a city council thought it would save some money by buying outdated equipment, only to find out that it was a bad deal that put lives in jeopardy.

When it's not danger they're facing, it's disrespect. That comes when police officer pensions are cut, when their collective bargaining rights are revoked, or when they're asked to pay more and more for healthcare benefits, or it comes from politicians like the Connecticut legislators who refused to provide treatment for post-traumatic stress to the brave officers who responded to the horrific shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

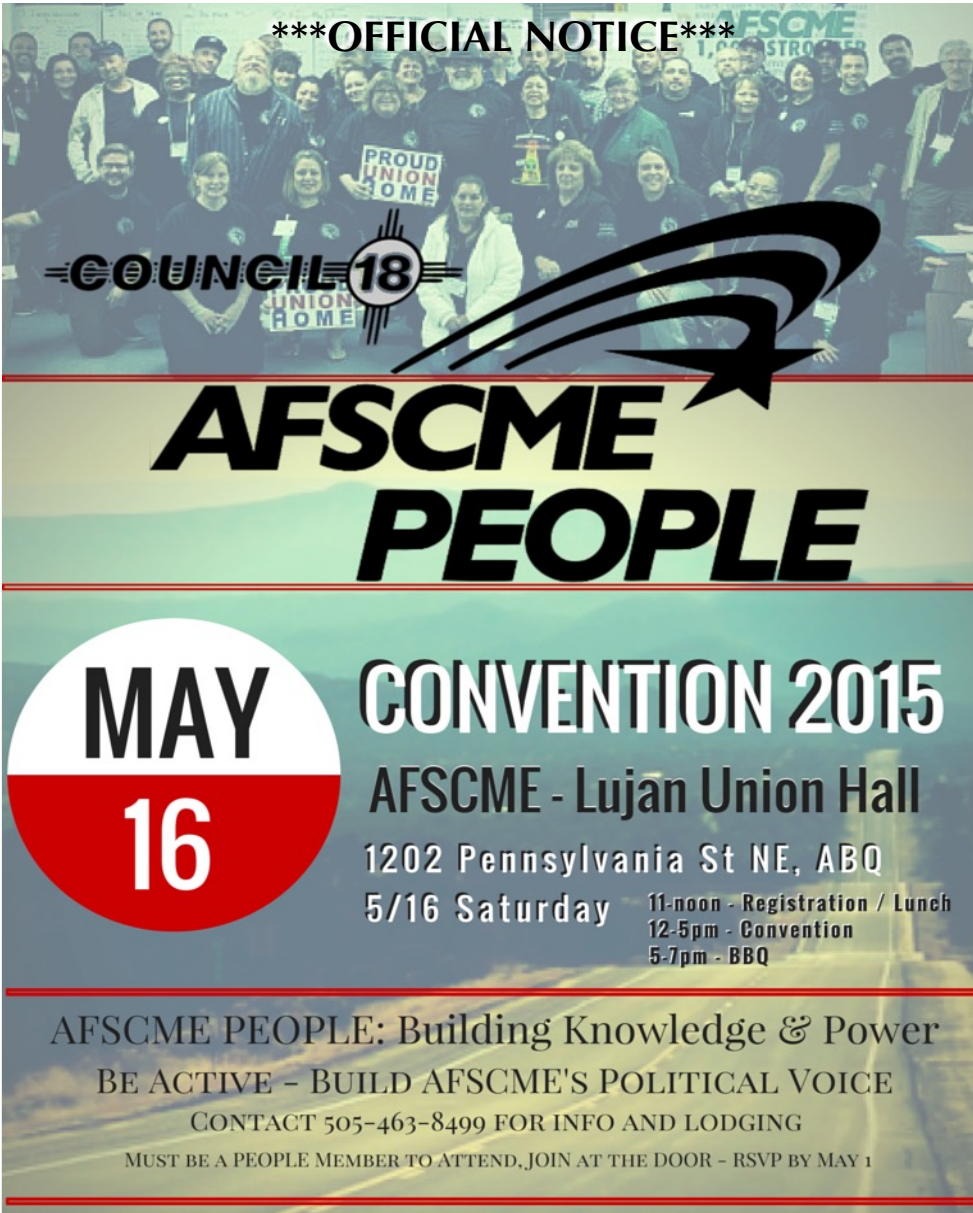
And, finally, too often the disrespect police that officers face comes from their fellow citizens. When a handful of officers fail to uphold their duties or live up to our expectations, all are vilified in a media circus. Keyboard cowboys think nothing of firing off a tweet disrespecting police, knowing nothing of facing actual live fire.

We expect police officers to size up a dangerous situation instantly and make the right decision every time. We expect them to be social workers. We ask them to be humanitarians.

It is a mistake to think that because they are on the front lines, it's the role of police officers alone to fix the deep-rooted inequalities afflicting too many Americans. But officers must absolutely be active participants in an honest dialogue about the problems rooted in race and poverty that face our nation.

It is our job to figure out a way to make American life more fair and equitable for everyone, and we cannot ignore this opportunity to have a frank conversation that brings everyone to the table. Together, we must confront the difficult truths about who we are as a nation and set a course forward that strengthens our neighborhoods, be they urban or rural.

*****OFFICIAL NOTICE*****



COUNCIL 18

AFSCME PEOPLE

MAY 16

CONVENTION 2015

AFSCME - Lujan Union Hall

1202 Pennsylvania St NE, ABQ

5/16 Saturday

11-noon - Registration / Lunch
12-5pm - Convention
5-7pm - BBQ

AFSCME PEOPLE: Building Knowledge & Power

BE ACTIVE - BUILD AFSCME'S POLITICAL VOICE

CONTACT 505-463-8499 FOR INFO AND LODGING

MUST BE A PEOPLE MEMBER TO ATTEND, JOIN AT THE DOOR - RSVP BY MAY 1

LABOR VOWS TO KEEP FIGHTING

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Citizens packed multiple town hall meetings across the state to debate legislative issues and inform their communities about the harm of right to work legislation. Workers went door-to-door and gathered thank you letters to Senators who supported pro-worker issues.

"Once the dust settles, we will see that instead of using our limited time in the legislature to prioritize the things that will make our state a better place for all New Mexico's working families, Republicans under the leadership of the governor's office wasted time playing politics with our state's prosperity," said Jon Hendry, president of New Mexico Federation of Labor.

"We thank the working family champions in the legislature who helped to defeat terrible legislation like the "right to work" scam. We hope in the future, all our elected leaders will work together to focus on the real priorities of New Mexico working families: improving public education, making healthcare more affordable, ensuring safe staffing ratios in our hospitals, raising the minimum wage, attracting jobs and growing the economy."

2015 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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oppose outsourcing our core public services. Together, we held all but two Democrats on the House Floor, and the Republican privatization scheme was killed in the Senate by Democrats.

PROTECTING PENSIONS

Albuquerque Mayor R.J. Berry and his Republican consultants (who also work for Governor Martinez) pulled out all the stops to get special treatment for high-end, well-connected management and cronies to raid PERA to supplement their salaries. We worked closely with PERA and with the Albuquerque Police Officers Association to expose fiscal irresponsibility and other problems with raiding the pension fund, and stopped their attacks on PERA.

BUDGET AND CAPITAL OUTLAY

Governor Martinez and the Republican House introduced budgets with zero raises for state and university employees, even though there was \$83 million of new money available. This is, of course, the same governor who has proposed pay freezes or pay cuts for each of the five legislative sessions she has been in power, even though we've had strong surpluses most of those years. The last two years, we've had a Democratic House to push through a total of 4% raises over her objections. With the Republican takeover of the House in the 2014 elections, though, New Mexico budgets will likely continue to reflect their values of tax cuts for the rich and corporations instead of investing in New Mexicans.

Capital outlay was another sadly partisan anti-worker affair. To their credit, senators in both parties, on a 40-0 vote, passed a \$264 million capital outlay budget. House Democrats agreed to accept that clearly bipartisan compromise. House Republicans, though, at the bidding of Governor Martinez' staff, eliminated huge portions of capital outlay to help senior citizens, kids, the sick, corrections officers, and dozens of buildings where public employees work (all to reward oil-patch donors with a new road). As a result of Governor Martinez and House Republicans blowing up a strong bipartisan agreement, thousands of New Mexicans won't have jobs, and New Mexico's infrastructure will deteriorate for another year.

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GOOD GOVERNMENT

Legislation to expose "dark money" in independent expenditures died.

AFSCME is involved in some independent expenditures but we're honest about them, unlike billionaires and out-of-state corporate behemoths who do their best to hide their identities.

Hopefully future bills will be simpler, clearer, and will receive more support.

A slew of bad voter ID bills designed to suppress votes of the elderly, the poor, and especially Native Americans and Hispanics in traditional communities were killed in the Senate.

BIPARTISAN SUCCESSES

A few bills were clearly good for all New Mexicans and gained bipartisan support. One bill supported by both AFSCME and the Children, Youth, and Families Department allows for CYFD repayment of student loans for people who are already working to protect kids or who decide to make this noble profession their career. AFSCME also supported a successful

bipartisan bill requiring all public employers to allow sick leave donations.

JUST THE BEGINNING

If working families don't vote in big numbers, we'll continue to face attacks. We know that so-called right to work and other anti-worker legislation will return in the 2016 session, if not sooner. We'll keep fighting, but we'll primarily be playing defense until workers, union and non-union, come out to vote. In 2014, not enough did. It will fall to AFSCME and other unions to lead the charge to return our government to pro-worker, pro-family elected leaders in 2016 and 2018.

We'll be reaching out to every local, every worksite, and every member and retiree to ask you to be part of *taking back our state* over the next few months and years. We've escaped the worst of the attacks that have already hit workers around the country, but we can't hold on forever unless we take back our state by organizing and being engaged in our elections.



AFSCME 18 - WEB ACTIVE!

Visit the AFSCME18.org webpage to read about recent news and upcoming events.

EMAIL: info@AFSCME18.org to make certain you are on the email lists to receive important action items.

Join the conversation on social media
[FACEBOOK.com/AFSCME18](https://www.facebook.com/AFSCME18)
TWITTER: @AFSCME18

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