



March 15, 2018

AFSCME Membership Grows Following Las Cruces Trainings and Worksite Actions!



Nearly two dozen Council 18 activists and leaders from state, county and higher education gathered at the AFSCME Las Cruces Union Hall on March 8, 9 to learn skills to be AFSCME Strong-er! Activists networked with one another, discussed what issues we're facing, and decided on the best tactics we will employ to win.

"AFSCME Strong is all about talking with each other, really listening to the issues that matter, and working together on finding solutions," said **Connie Derr, Executive Director for AFSCME Council 18.** *"Across*

the State, from south to north and east to west, our members are coming together to build power and support one another. The excitement is in the air!"

Over the two days and during seven worksite visits... *what a response!* The activists had 113 workplace conversations, 20 new members joined AFSCME, and eight members became AFSCME MVP PEOPLE members!! Plus, seven activists are stepping up to become stewards and will be attending the upcoming [AFSCME ELITE Steward Training class](#).



SIGN UP for the next AFSCME Strong Training [[AFSCME18.org](#)] to be held in Santa Fe on April 18 and 19.

Participants practice real listening skills in order to meet our members where they are on the issues of concern. Activists discussed how to connect our everyday battles we face at work with the need to build our union AFSCME Strong.



AFSCME Strong - Training

AFSCME members gathered for the first day of training, in which the morning session was focused on understanding what is at stake for our union, listening to our co-workers on what they care about, and making the connections between understanding what matters to our co-workers and how, through our union, we make positive change.

The afternoon session was focused on the vision of the union, worksite mapping and planning the next steps which activists will take to make connections with every employee at each worksite their local union represents across the state.

AFSCME Strong - Worksite Visits



Beginning late on Thursday evening and into the pre-dawn hours on Friday, activists visited worksites to speak with members about building their union as they came off their shifts or arrived for the work day.

Teams were able to have face to face conversations with over 100 employees and signed up nearly two dozen new members. Activists identified new issues and gathered vital information on workplace issues.



Las Cruces Probation and Parole Officers standing AFSCME Strong on Day Two of the training.

"I travelled from Los Lunas to participate in this training and meet with my fellow Corrections Officers. We visited the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility at 11:00PM, 6:00AM and again at 2:00PM. It was incredible. We helped our members realize that the issues we face in Las Cruces are similar to those we face at every facility in the state.

We signed up new members to participate in our political program, PEOPLE, and also identified numerous potential Stewards." said Robert Darnell, President of Local 3422C, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility.

Be sure to sign up for the next AFSCME Strong training and ALL the great classes offered through the AFSCME Council 18 ELITE Academy: **SIGN UP at AFSCME18.org**