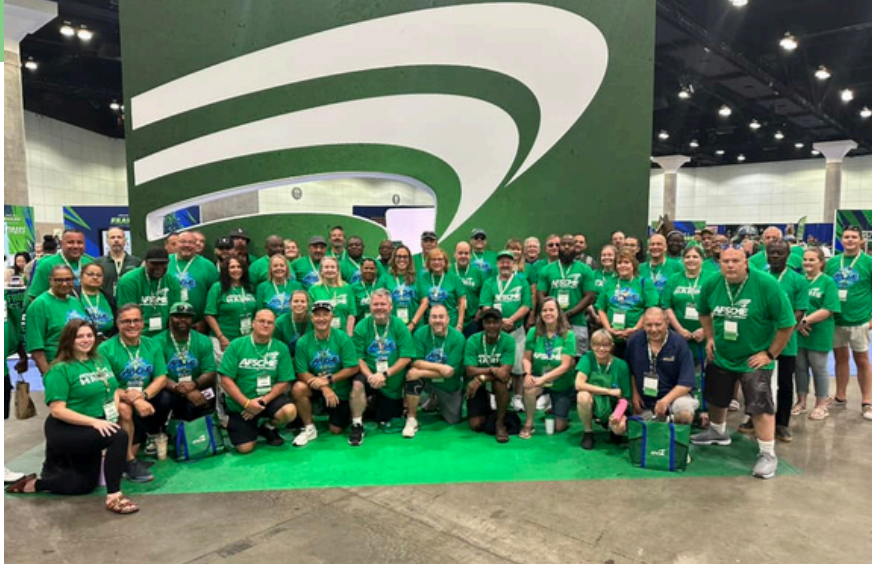


# The 93 Beacon

We Make Northern New England Happen!



## AFSCME Leaders Gather in LA and Danvers

While most were enjoying the end of summer and getting ready for the first days of school, AFSCME Council 93 leaders were busy setting the agenda and electing leaders of our union for the next several years. The first gathering was in mid-August for the 46th AFSCME International Convention in Los Angeles (Top). AFSCME Council 93 leaders gathered again in Danvers, MA in early-September for the 22nd AFSCME Council 93 Biennial Legislative Conference (Below).

### Learn More Inside!



## In this issue:

- Project 2025
- Exec. Dir. Bernard Named to Labor Advisory Board
- Local 2948 Responds to Western Wildfires
- 18th Annual Golf Tournament
- New Organizing Victories
- Six Locals Ratify First Contracts
- Labor Day 2024
- And More!

## WEP/GPO Repeal Passes Major Hurdle in US House

**Washington, DC-** After years of hard work and advocacy by thousands of working people across the country, we are closer than ever to repealing the unfair WEP/GPO. The WEP/GPO wrongfully strips millions of hard-working people across the country of the full Social Security benefit they earned and paid for simply because they are also entitled to a public pension benefit.

In mid-September, a Discharge Petition filed by Representatives Garret Graves (R-Louisiana) and Abigail Spanberger (D-Virginia) to force a vote on H.R. 82— which is the only bill in Congress that effectively eliminates the WEP and GPO once and for all— gained the needed 218 co-signers in the US House of Representatives.

Eleven of the fourteen Representatives in Council 93's region supported the petition. *(WEP/GPO on pg. 12)*

# 2024 Council 93 Endorsed Candidates



*Angus King (ME)  
for United States Senate*



*Bernie Sanders (VT)  
for United States Senate*



*Elizabeth Warren (MA)  
for United States Senate*



*Joyce Craig  
for New Hampshire Governor*



*David Zuckerman  
for Vermont Lt. Governor*

We all have an interest in who our elected leaders are, but for public sector workers the stakes are particularly high. Elected officials have great influence over your wages and benefits, over the privatization of public services, and indeed just about every aspect of your work lives.

Council 93 encourages all of our members to vote!

As you head to the polls, we urge you to consider the Council 93 endorsements. These candidates were endorsed only after lengthy in-person discussions, virtual meetings, phone conferences, and written questionnaires. We also reviewed our past experiences with these candidates and their actions as elected officials.

We understand that you may consider a variety of factors when voting, but when it comes to issues like privatization, workplace safety, and protecting our healthcare and pension benefits, we're convinced that these candidates are the best choices.

**Election Day is November 5th.**

The voter registration deadline in Massachusetts is **OCTOBER 26th.**

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont allow for same day voter registration.



[afscme.org/action/vote](https://afscme.org/action/vote)

# Trump's Project 2025 Would Take Away Many of Our Freedoms

Donald Trump and his allies want to eliminate AFSCME.

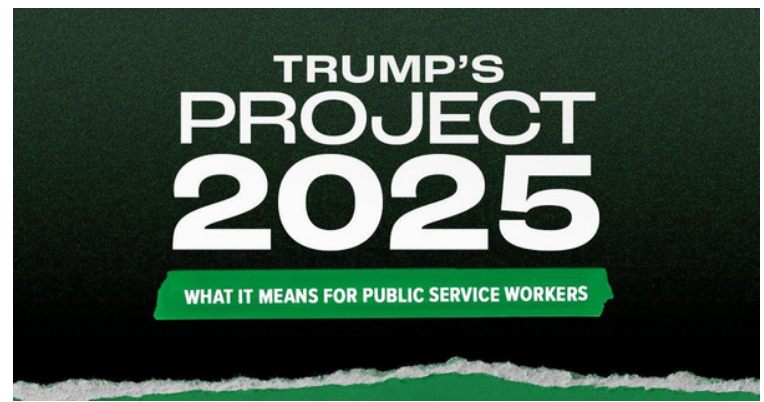
Questioning the need for public service unions is only part of Trump's plan for a second term. His plan — all 900 pages of it — would take power away from working people and give him unprecedented levels of control over our lives.

Known as "Project 2025," this radical agenda, designed to be set in motion on Day One of a new Trump administration, was written by top Trump advisers.

AFSCME research shows Project 2025 would hurt working people by:

- Allowing states to ban labor unions in the private sector.
- Making it easier for corporations to fire workers who engage in collective action or organizing.
- Allowing corporations to get rid of unions even when the workers are protected by a signed union contract.
- Forcing workers to hold secret ballot elections to form a union even when their employer has agreed to voluntarily recognize it.
- Eliminating overtime protections for workers.
- Ignoring the federal minimum wage.
- Eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which has relieved many AFSCME members of an overwhelming student debt burden.
- Ending merit staffing in the federal government so Trump can hire unqualified loyalists for thousands of positions now filled by qualified, trained, nonpartisan career employees — among them AFSCME members.
- Eliminating federal rules that protect children from working in mines, meatpacking plants and other dangerous workplaces.

But Trump's attacks on workers and our unions are only one front in Project 2025's attack.



AFSCME research shows the draconian blueprint for Trump's second term includes hundreds of extreme policy recommendations that would, among other things, transform the entire federal government, gut health care and retirement benefits, destroy public education, wreck the economy, and wreak havoc with reproductive rights and immigration — all designed to crush our freedoms and benefit the wealthy at our expense.

What's more, Project 2025 would also eviscerate Biden administration programs and policies that AFSCME members overwhelmingly support and fought for:

- If this plan is implemented, Trump would undo the progress we've achieved under the Biden administration in reducing prescription drug costs, and he would repeal the \$35 per month cap on insulin costs for seniors on Medicare.
- He would also end the government's ability to negotiate drug prices with Big Pharma and end Medicare's \$2,000 per year cap on out-of-pocket drug costs that begins in 2025.
- Project 2025 would put an end to the Head Start program, which serves more than 833,000 children living in poverty across the country; many AFSCME members also work as Head Start educators.

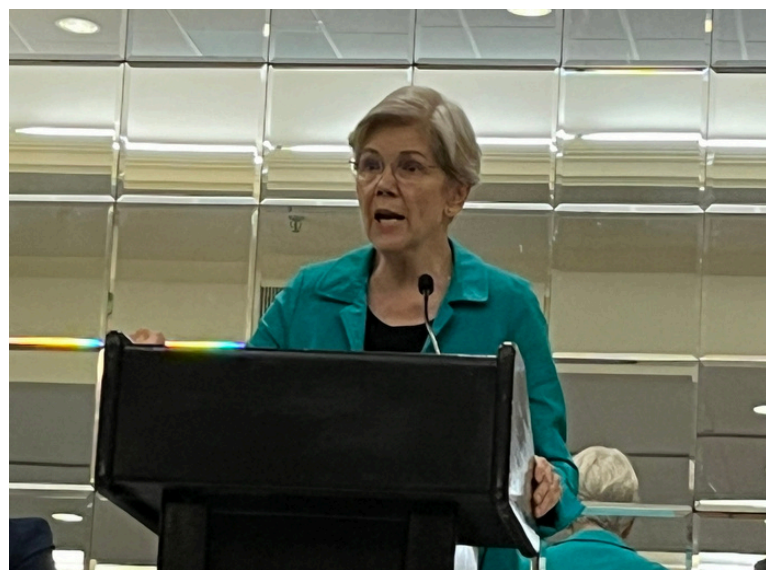
We urge all AFSCME members to spend the final weeks of this campaign studying the issues, and urge our members to support pro-worker candidates at every level of government in November!

# AFSCME Council 93 22nd Biennial Legislative Conference

**Danvers, MA-** Over 125 delegates, alternates, officers, and staff representing Council 93 were in Danvers, MA from September 13th to 15th for the 22nd Council 93 Legislative Conference. Council 93 heard from a number of elected leaders in our four-state region as well as AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride and our own Executive Director Mark Bernard. The conference helps to set the policies that will shape our union in the years to come. Attendees were also able to participate in workshops led by both International and Council 93 staff designed to help strengthen their unions at the Local level.

United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey from Massachusetts, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, Vermont Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, Maine Senate President Troy Jackson, Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, and New Hampshire Candidate for Governor Joyce Craig addressed the conference during the weekend.

Through the generous donations of many locals and members, the Scholarship Fund was able to raise several thousand dollars at the conference to help AFSCME families with the costs of higher education.



# AFSCME Council 93 22nd Biennial Legislative Conference



# AFSCME International Convention Held in Los Angeles

**Los Angeles, CA-** The 46th AFSCME International Convention was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center from August 12th to 16th. Every two years, AFSCME members come together to conduct the business of our union and to set priorities for the future.

Over 120 delegates, alternates, and staff from Council 93 were among the 4,000 convention attendees. Whether it was speaking from the convention floor, serving on important committees, or participating in workshops, Council 93 members were there to help guide our union into the future.

The important business of the convention was electing leadership who will strengthen and grow our union in the coming years no matter what challenges we face. Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard seconded the nomination of International Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride for re-election.

International President Lee Saunders and Secretary-Treasurer McBride were reelected by acclamation from the convention floor to lead our union for the next four-years.

Council 93 Executive Director Bernard was nominated, and elected by acclamation, for another term as the International Vice President from the Northern New England Region. He was nominated by Council 93 President Tiger Stockbridge.

During the convention, the delegates heard from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, in his first solo campaign event as Vice President Kamala Harris' running mate. Gov. Walz addressed convention and laid out the Harris- Walz vision for the next four-years. His message "When unions are strong, America is strong!" - resonated with the dedicated public servants in the crowd.



# Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament a Success

**Plymouth, MA-** Nearly 200 golfers braved the hot and humid conditions at CrossWinds Golf Club for the 18th Annual AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on August 5th. The tournament raised nearly \$50,000 through donations, raffle ticket sales, and sponsorships for the Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to Council 93 families to help offset the cost of higher education.

The field of golfers was made up of AFSCME Council 93 leaders, rank-and-file members, friends, supporters, and allies. Locals from all four Northern New England states were well represented, with several Locals fielding multiple teams to support the fundraising efforts.

Major sponsors of the tournament included Council 93, Regan Associates, and Membership Benefits Group. A number of Locals, friends, and supporters also generously donated to sponsor holes, raffle prizes, and time to make the tournament a success. The tournament does not happen without the dedication and commitment from the dozens of volunteers who generously donate their time to help set up, register players, sell raffle tickets, monitor on-course games, and make the day special for everyone.

The team from Mills' Mechanical were the tournament winners with a score of 14-under par. However, no matter what the score, the day was a great success for all involved.

Over the past twenty-years, the Scholarship Fund has provided more than \$100,000 in scholarships to Council 93 members, their spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren and legal dependents.

Applications for the 2025 Council 93 Memorial Scholarship and registration for the 2025 Tournament will be open in the Spring.



# AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Award Winners Announced

**Boston, MA-** Council 93 is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Council 93 Memorial Scholarship, all of whom will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for every year they are in school, up to four consecutive years. The Scholarship Fund makes it easier for AFSCME members and their dependents to afford the cost of higher education.

This year's winners are:

- Alysia Mathurin - Dependent of AFSCME Local 445 member Xavier Mathurin, Alysia is attending Lincoln University where she is studying Psychology.
- Annabelle Ho - Member of AFSCME Local 362, Annabelle is attending Valdosta State University where she is studying Library and Information Science.
- Daniel Lane - Child of AFSCME Local 490 member Michael Lane, Daniel is attending the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts to study Film and Television.
- Jaclyn Cadogan - Child of AFSCME Local 3485 member Paul Cadogan, Jaclyn is attending Bryant University where she is studying Business Management.
- Julia Gigliotti - Child of AFSCME Local 49 member Luigi Roberto Gigliotti, Julia is attending UMass Lowell where she is studying International Business.
- Justin Saslaw - Child of AFSCME Local 364 member Carole Saslaw, Justin is attending Stonehill College where he is studying Sports Management and Data Analytics.
- Ryan Saslaw - Also a child of AFSCME Local 364 member Carole Saslaw, Ryan is attending Suffolk University where he is studying Accounting.
- Keira O'Keefe - Child of AFSCME Local 2610 member Linda O'Keefe, Keira is attending St. Anselm's College where she is studying Accounting and Communications.
- Olivia DeForest - Child of AFSCME Local 1700 member Brian DeForest, Olivia is attending Curry College where she is studying nursing.
- Patricia Anglin - Member of AFSCME Local 298, Patricia is attending Southern NH University where she is seeking her Master's of Science in Nursing.
- Shannon Abram - Member of AFSCME Local 3720, Shannon is attending Fitchburg State University where she is studying the Humanities and Psychology.
- William Nash - Child of AFSCME Local 3720 member Julie Nash, William is attending Worcester State University where he is studying Computer Science and Music.



Topsfield Library Workers recently joined Local 2905 after receiving voluntary recognition of their union! They will now start negotiations for their first union contract. Welcome to AFSCME Council 93!

Joining together with your co-workers to form a union will make makes us all stronger by giving us a voice on the job, uniting for fair pay, benefits and respect, and stopping the attacks on working people.

Interested in joining Council 93? It starts with a conversation simply call 617-367-6045 to speak to one of our Organizers today!



## Six Council 93 Locals Ratify First Union Contracts

**Boston, MA-** In recent months, six newly organized groups have ratified their first AFSCME union contracts.

After a long protracted fight that reached the Maine Labor Relations Board, the Orono, ME Town Employees ratified their first union contract over the summer and will now become members of Local 2178. Also, joining Local 2178 are the Strong, ME School Department Employees.

The West Brookfield, MA Firefighters joined Local 1364 and emphasized health and safety provisions in their first union contract.

Other groups who have recently signed first contracts include Local 1098 Danvers, MA Library workers, Local 2905 Hamilton-Wenham, MA Cafeteria workers, and Local 3117 Wakefield Housing Authority workers.

All first contracts are a starting point for future gains, but these members can be proud of contracts that achieved wage increases, guaranteed time off, quality of life improvements, union protections, and most importantly, a seat at the table.

Dr. Sean Codier (second from left), one of the leaders of the AFSCME Salem Physicians Union, participated in a panel discussion on unionizing at the American College of Emergency Physicians Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas.

Joining Dr. Codier on the panel were representatives from the SEIU Committee of Interns and Residents—who recently organized resident physicians at Mass General Brigham—the Oregon Nurses Association, Denver Health Workers United, and the Union of American Physicians & Dentists.

## Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard Named to Governor's Labor Advisory Board



**Boston, MA-** In July, Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard was one of twenty Massachusetts' labor leaders sworn onto the first Labor Advisory Council in over fifty years.

Co-Chaired by Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch and UNITE HERE Local 26 President Carlos Aramayo, the Labor Advisory Council brings together leaders from public and private sector unions to advise the Governor's office on how best to make Massachusetts more affordable, equitable, and competitive for all working people.

In addition to signing an Executive Order creating the Labor Advisory Council in March, Governor Healey also named longtime labor leader Roger Brunelle as Labor Advisor in the Office of the Governor.



# Council 93 VMOs Help Organize New AFSCME Members in Maryland

**Baltimore, MD-** For two weeks in September, Council 93 staff joined with AFSCME Volunteer Member Organizers (VMOs) from across the country to assist in organizing thousands of front-line supervisors in the Maryland Departments of Human Services, Transportation, Juvenile Services, and Public Safety and Correctional Services.

AFSCME Council 3 advocated and helped pass new collective bargaining legislation that allows Maryland state supervisory employees the right to organize for the first time in history. The law went into effect on October 1st and VMOs from Council 93 were there to assist our brothers and sisters with this historic unionization effort and help the supervisors win their union and reach the bargaining table for a first union contract.

Council 93 staff representatives, coordinators, and organizers were on the ground in Baltimore to talk about the strengths and benefits of AFSCME membership with thousands of Maryland state workers.

VMOs help your fellow public service workers protect their rights and build a real future for their families.



VMOs are vital to our union’s organizing and “fight back” efforts. When members speak about how AFSCME makes a difference in their work and personal lives, they are a powerful force for defending and building our union.

Growing our union will make AFSCME stronger at the bargaining table and at the ballot box. It will help us unite for fair pay, benefits and respect, and stop the attacks on working people. AFSCME VMOs inspire, lead and encourage through the organizing techniques they learn at AFSCME trainings and through direct practice in partnership with an experienced organizer.

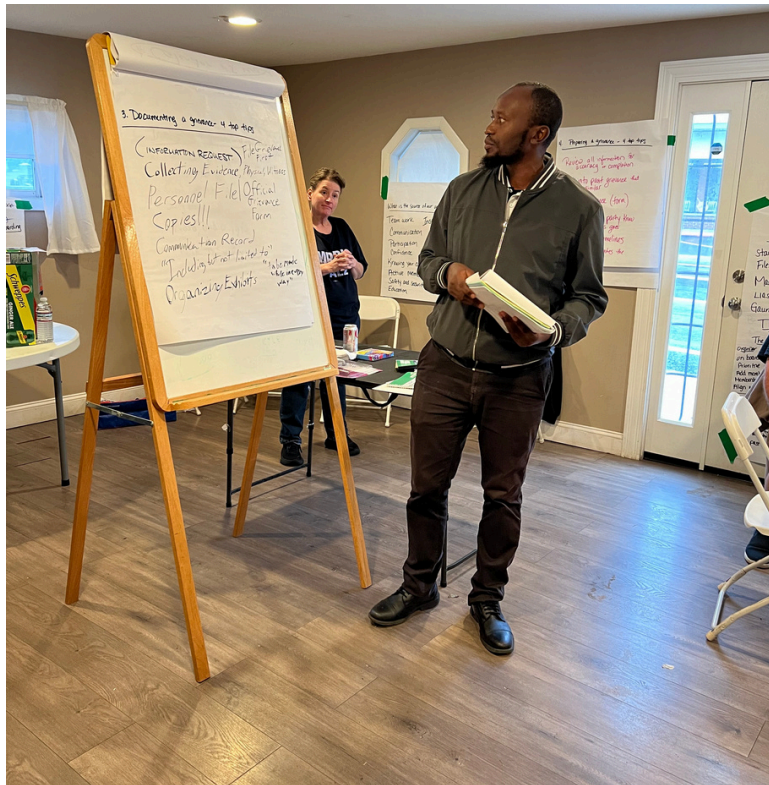
## Council 93 Hits the Doors in New Hampshire!

With Election Day fast approaching, Council 93 has been out in force to support candidates who support working families and advocate for policies that help all workers.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard, Executive Board Member and Local 298 President Karen Sutkus, Legislative and Political Director Jim Durkin, and New Hampshire Coordinator Gerry Mills joined a recent Labor-to-Labor Rally and Canvass sponsored by the New Hampshire AFL-CIO to support Council 93’s New Hampshire Gubernatorial Candidate Joyce Craig.



# Council 93 in Action!



AFSCME is the union that never quits! We are always growing, learning, and advocating to make our members' lives better!

From Top Left: Executive Director Mark Bernard swears in the new leadership of Local 1679 Rockport, MA Foreman and Supervisors, Council 93 North Shore Steward Training in Lynn, MA, and Wakefield Housing Authority employees officially join AFSCME Local 3117 after ratifying their first union contract!



Recently, Sen. Elizabeth Warren stopped by the EcoTarium in Worcester, MA and met with AFSCME Local 2221 members. The EcoTarium is New England's leading museum of science and nature, an indoor-outdoor experience dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and nature in visitors of all ages. AFSCME members provide vital hands-on learning experiences for visitors of all ages.

# WEP/GPO

*(continued from pg. 1)*

Under current federal law, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) drastically reduces or even completely eliminates the expected Social Security benefit of retirees who are entitled to a public pension. Similarly, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) will significantly reduce any survivor's benefit your spouse may be entitled to in the event of your death if your spouse collects a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security.

According to the Social Security Administration, in our Northern New England Region more than 105,000 retirees are hurt by the WEP and nearly 50,000 surviving spouses are impacted by the GPO. Many are harmed by both.

A Discharge Petition is a rare parliamentary procedure used to force a bill to the floor of the

House of Representatives for a vote. There is no guarantee that a vote will happen, or if the bill will pass. Even with broad bi-partisan support from legislators across the country and political spectrum for HR 82, the current Republican leadership has refused to bring the bill to the floor through the normal, process forcing the Discharge Petition.

Should the legislation pass the House, it still faces action by the Senate. The Senate's version, S. 597 Social Security Fairness Act has 62 co-sponsors, including every Senator from the Northern New England region. Even with such broad bi-partisan support, there has been no movement to schedule a floor vote in the Senate yet. Passage will continue to be up against the time constraints of the current session.

We continue to monitor the progress of this important legislation and will keep our members updated.



AFSCME Council 93 was at the Greater Boston Labor Council Labor Day Breakfast and proud to stand in solidarity with our union brothers and sisters from UNITE HERE Local 26 who are striking for a fair contract! AFSCME Council 93 President and Greater Boston Labor Council Executive Vice-President Tiger Stockbridge addressed the hundreds of labor, community, and elected leaders who were gathered for the annual breakfast, which was moved from the Boston Park Plaza ballroom to a nearby park because of the Local 26 strike. AFSCME City of Boston employees from Locals 296, 445, 703, 783, 804, 1631, and 1892 worked throughout the holiday weekend to ensure the last minute change of venue allowed the breakfast to go off without a hitch. Local 26 is on strike at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel as well dozens of Marriott, Omni, and Hilton Hotels across the country. An injury to one is an injury to all!

# Local 2948 Wildland Firefighters Assist Fighting Western Blazes

**Boston, MA-** This summer, dozens of AFSCME Local 2948 members working for the Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game were sent to fight wildfires in Montana, Oregon, and Idaho as part of a mutual aid compact.

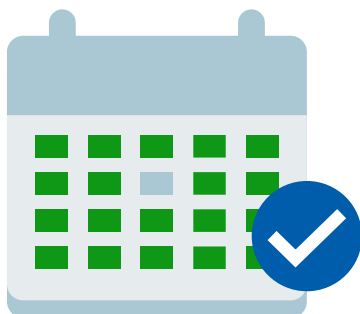
These highly trained wildland firefighter specialists were deployed because of the ongoing fire activity across the Western United States combined with weather concerns which resulted in increased resource demands from all partnering federal and state agencies nationwide.

Persistent wet weather patterns across the Northeast this past summer kept local fire activity low allowing Massachusetts wildland



firefighters to lend support to partner agencies in areas that have seen increased fire activity.

The DCR's Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry has the partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission since 1985 to fight fires in areas of the Western and Rocky Mountain States, Alaska, Florida, Virginia, and Quebec.



## Save the Date!

### Maine Steward Training

- October 26, 2024
- 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Manchester, ME

### AFSCME Council 93 Executive Board Meeting

- November 16, 2024
- Burlington, MA

# Council 93 Organizing Update

Council 93 is growing and adding new members all the time. Here are just some examples of the progress Council 93 is making on the organizing front:

- Killington, VT DPW - 5 New Members
- Brighton, VT DPW - 4 New Members
- Topsfield, MA Library - 10 New Members
- Brookline, MA Part-Time Library - 27 New Members
- Charlotte, VT Town/Library - 10 New Members
- Boston Public School Lunch Monitors - 250 New Members

Joining Council 93 starts with a conversation - to learn more contact our Organizing Staff at [info@afscme93.org](mailto:info@afscme93.org)

## Council 93 Member Benefit: Abenity Dining Discounts

Use your AFSCME Union  
Card to Save!

Are you planning your next date night or a fun family night out to eat? Union members can enjoy discounts at local restaurants and many of the popular chains in the country.



Save at these restaurants and more:

- IHOP
- Macaroni Grill
- Maggiano's
- Lebanese Taverna
- Carrabba's Italian Grill
- Bonefish Grill
- Johnny Rockets
- Little Caesars
- Chili's
- Applebee's
- Ghirardelli Chocolate
- Habana Village
- Jerry's Subs & Pizza
- and MORE!

To start saving today, go to:  
[unionplus.org](http://unionplus.org)

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