



AFSCME LOCAL 2600

October-December 2026

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Official Publication of
AFSCME Local 2600
534 S. 2nd Street, Suite
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Springfield, IL 62701



The fall season brings about changes in nature as the leaves drop from trees and the grass becomes barren. It often looks as if nature is dying but seeing the different variations in colors is a beautiful and vibrant scene. The season of fall reminds me that even in the barren times there is beauty amongst us.

As barren and desolate as the world might appear to be, we must look at the beauty of the benefits and rights afforded to us. Remember, this is the season for negotiating rights within our contract so make sure you attending membership meetings to stay informed and engaged. Also, please make sure that you are registered to vote and that you are voting for candidates that support our benefits as Union employees. Lastly, let us be grateful for the holiday season, being reminded that many are not as fortunate as we are.

Get out the vote....Keep Logan and Choate Open... Let's Fix Tier 2!!

Yours in Solidarity,

Cherena Douglass

President

August 27th Membership Meeting:

\$50 Door Prize Winners:

-Matt Stropes, Tony Martinez, Mike Lowry, Tonya Brust, Ashley Donaho, Jacob Brodt, Krishawn Moore, Mandy Woodworth, Sandy Mordacq, and Carla Jordan.

\$10 Online Trivia Question Winners:

-Jacob Brodt, Katie Farrance, Anne Sabin, Kelly Spencer, Tsilos "Jewels" Kosbab, Lisa Weah, Miranda Merriman, Cherena Douglass, Katrina Ellis, and Angi Murphy

\$25 Winner of Newsletter Trivia Winner:

-Angi Murphy



AFSCME Local 2600 Presents:



FOOD DRIVE

Support
unionized
and/or
local
grocery
stores

**NOW UNTIL
DECEMBER
10TH
2026**



ITEMS NEEDED

- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Low Sodium Canned Veggies
- Low Sodium Canned Soup
- Canned Meat in Water
- Canned Fruit in Juice
- Peanut Butter
- Whole Grain Cereal
- Crackers
- Laundry Soap
- Bath Soap
- Shampoo
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Diapers
- Deodorant

BRING CANNED GOODS TO ANY LOCAL 2600 EVENT

Local 2600 Office
534 S 2nd St
Suite 201

 **DROP-OFF LOCATIONS** 
Any Local 2600 Certified
Stewards and MAT leaders



For More Information : [217-753-2600](tel:217-753-2600) or local2600@sbcglobal.net

www.Local2600.net

Greetings from the desk of the Organizing Chair.....

The weather will be cooling off soon but we are just heating up when it comes to Local 2600 happenings. Contract bargaining will soon be underway and we will need all hands on deck when it comes to showing solidarity. As someone who has been elected to serve on the Bargaining Committee, I have recently learned that the most effective bargaining strategies rely on members who participate in collective action. From wearing your union shirt (or AFSCME green if unable to wear a t-shirt during work) on specific days, to signing pledge cards declaring your support for your union, there are a variety of things you may be asked to do during bargaining. ***ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE, AFSCME LOCAL 2600?!?!*** Items on the bargaining table may include: health insurance costs, remote work, bereavement leave, wage increases, and more. Ask yourself, **“What am I willing to do to fight for these things?”** and then join your AFSCME family in the upcoming fight for a fair contract.

It was another busy Labor Day weekend for Local 2600! We hosted an event at the Railyard on Friday, 9/04/26, to honor the recipients of the annual Local 2600 scholarships. The following day, we joined Springfield & Central IL Trades & Labor Council for a Labor Day celebration at Chatham Community Park. For the first time since I can remember, we participated in the Decatur Labor Day Parade on Monday, 9/07/26. All this was possible thanks to strong leadership and encouragement by Local 2600 President Cherena Douglass, a diligent Organizing Committee with driven co-chairs such as Erica O’Neal, and the members who came out in the heat to attend these events. The first Labor Day Parade consisted of over 10,000 workers who took unpaid time to march from City Hall to Union Square in NYC to honor workers and to promote fair pay, safer working conditions, and the right to organize. Labor Day is a time to honor the sacrifices that brought us all that we have today. These continued events empower us to pass the torch of unity, fellowship, and remembrance on to future generations.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, October 17th – Fall Member Engagement Event

Saturday, December 5th – Holiday Party

See event flyers found within this newsletter for more details!

If you would like to volunteer at either of the following upcoming events, please contact the union office at 217-753-2600 or local2600@sbcglobal.net.

In Solidarity,

Katie Farrance
Organizing Chair



AFSCME 2600
FALL MEMBER ENGAGEMENT EVENT

KRISTEN'S
PUMPKIN PATCH

6300 Wind Tree Road, Springfield, IL 62712
(Location is West end of North Lake Shore Subdivision)



October 17th, 2026
11:00AM until 3:00PM

Pumpkin Patch | Hay Ride | Corn Maze
Cut Flowers | Food | Face/Pumpkin
Painting | Balloon Art

Learn about the upcoming contract!

One large pumpkin provided to each family!
Food and fun provided to members and their
families, with check-in!



Greetings from the desk of the Vice President/PEOPLE Chair.....

Happy Fall AFSCME Sisters, Brothers, and Others!

I hope you all had as wonderful a summer as I did! As the weather cools, I'm looking forward to continuing the fight to Fix Tier 2. The best way to help our fight for a fair and equitable retirement is to make sure you are a PEOPLE MVP. Your \$4.20 each paycheck goes to make sure the team we have at the Statehouse have what they need to protect our interests in Springfield and beyond. If you want to get more involved with PEOPLE, we meet on the fourth Wednesday of odd months at 234 S. Second Street at 5:30 PM. If you reach out to me beforehand at VPPEOPLE@AFSCME2600.net, I can even make sure we have pizza! You can also join us for visits with legislators. Send me an email to arrange to be added to the list.

The other thing you can do to help protect your retirement is vote! Check your registration, make a plan, and make sure you take the time to look over your ballot beforehand. There are resources like Ballotpedia.org where you can see who is running in your district and get more information about where they stand on the issues. I won't tell you who to vote for, but I will tell you that your vote matters. If you want to undo Tier 2, you want to vote for candidates who support public sector jobs. Finally, it is time for everybody's favorite part of the newsletter: Labor History! Today I want to give you a little bit of information about a successful strike right here in central Illinois. In 1917, employees at Bloomington & Normal Street Railway & Light were earning \$2.25 a day for 9 hours and 20 minutes of work. Management refused to recognize the union and offered a raise of 20 cents a day. The Amalgamated Transit Union went on strike with around 200 employees and 1,200 sympathy strikers facing off against 1,400 National Guardsmen.

After about a month, Mother Jones joined the fight. The owner of B&N, a seven-term US Representative and one-term Senator only came to the table when the mayor of Bloomington, E.E. Jones, got involved. The union gained recognition, and workers were given a 35 cent a day raise and a nine-hour work day on July 9, 1917!

I will have a piece of candy at the December membership meeting for anyone who can tell me the ATU Local number.

In Solidarity,

Miranda Merriman
PEOPLE chair





AFSCME AFTER 5



MVP PEOPLE NETWORKING EVENT ORGANIZING| NETWORKING | SOLIDARITY

AFSCME AFTER 5 IS A LOCAL 2600 MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT SERIES THAT ALLOWS FOR NETWORKING AND ACTIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT. PARTICIPANTS ARE SOMETIMES ASKED TO BRING DONATIONS FOR LOCAL MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES IN NEED.

FREE TO LOCAL 2600 MEMBERS

FREE TO AFSCME MVP PEOPLE MEMBERS AND 1 GUEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

5-7PM

BOONE'S SALOON

301 W. EDWARDS ST.

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

We are passing the hat for members in need.

LOCAL 2600 IS COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING EXTREME HARDSHIP. IF YOU HAVE ANY MEMBERS YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE, PLEASE EMAIL THE LOCAL OFFICE AT

LOCAL2600@SBCGLOBAL.NET

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE LOCAL AT

LOCAL2600@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Laticia Taylor “Good Trouble Award”

LATICIA TAYLOR IS A FOUNDING MEMBER, FORMER EXECUTIVE STEWARD AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER FOR AFSCME LOCAL 2600

Nomination Form for Individual

Award will be presented on 12/05 at the Holiday Party

Please scan the QR code to nominate a dues-paying member for the Laticia “Tish” Taylor Good Trouble Award. Nominations close 11/13/2026.



Nomination Form for Community Organization

Award will be presented on 12/05 at the Holiday Party

Please scan the QR code to nominate a community organization for the Laticia “Tish” Taylor Good Trouble Award. Nominations close 11/13/2026.



PLEASE REGISTER NOMINATIONS BY SCANNING THE QR CODES ABOVE IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES COMPLETING CONTACT THE LOCAL AT 217-753-2600 OR LOCAL2600@SBCGLOBAL.NET.

PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Nominations due by 11/13/2026. Please email or drop form to local office

Nominee's Name: _____

Union Role: _____

Job Title & Agency : _____

Start Date: _____

The following are required to be considered for nomination:

☐ Increasing participation

Nominee should sign up new members and MVP members

Total # of MVP PEOPLE: _____

Total # of Members: _____

☐ Expanded understanding

Nominee should expand understanding in their union roles through multiple trainings and development. (List trainings or development attended)

☐ Empowered others to do the same

Nominees shall be inventive and resourceful in solving member engagement issues.

Nominated by: _____

STEWARD OF THE YEAR

Nominations due by 11/13/2026. Please email or drop form to local office

Name of Nominee: _____

Years as a Steward: _____

Job Title & Agency : _____

The following are required to be considered for nomination:

☐ Informed

They will display this by attending at least 2 membership meetings and/or steward trainings annually.

☐ Present

Stewards should maintain contact with the Executive Steward/Local 2600 by attending at least 1 steward's council meeting and assisting at least 1 employee at the request of the Executive Steward/Local/President.

☐ Timely

The Steward cannot have any untimely grievances during the fiscal year to be eligible for nomination.

REASON (OPTIONAL):

Nominated by: _____

Join Us for the Celebration



STEWARD OF THE YEAR

Date: Friday, December 11th

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Place: Maldner's Steakhouse
222 S 5th St, Springfield

Riveting afternoon of recognition,
camaraderie, Music, Food, and More!

Free to stewards. Guests over 21 years old are
welcome for a \$15.00 fee.

Register via QR code or by contacting
the local at 217-753-2600 or at
local2600@sbcglobal.net



Local 2600 Spotlight Recognition: Cherena Douglass- AFSCME Local 2600 President



Spotlight Recognition:

This month, we proudly shine the spotlight on **Cherena Douglass**, President of AFSCME Local 2600 and a true trail-blazer in the labor movement.

Through her leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to working families, President Douglass continues to advocate for fairness, respect, dignity, and a strong collective voice for union members. Her service demonstrates the power of standing together and the importance of having leaders who are willing to speak up, step forward, and fight for what matters.

We recognize **Cherena Douglass** for her leadership, her commitment to union solidarity, and her continued efforts to strengthen Local 2600. Her example reminds us that **when we stand united, we are stronger together.**

On behalf of AFSCME Local 2600, we sincerely thank you for leading, inspiring, and paving the way for those who follow! We are proud to recognize and celebrate you as an **Outstanding Union Member!**

Congratulations, and thank you for your service, commitment, and solidarity!

Members of AFSCME Local 2600

****Members:** *I encourage members to step forward and volunteer to be featured as our Quarterly Spotlight candidate. This is a great opportunity to recognize your dedication, share your experiences, and highlight the important contributions you make to our union. If interested, please contact the Local Union office at local2600@sbcglobal.net or Gina Hopson-Harris, Communications Chair at communications@local2600.net.*



PLEASE JOIN AFSCME LOCAL
2600 FOR OUR ANNUAL

Holiday Party 2026

SATURDAY
6:30PM



DECEMBER 5TH,
2026

NORTHFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER
3280 NORTHFIELD DRIVE,
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
RSVP



OR CONTACT THE
UNION OFFICE AT
217-753-2600 OR
[LOCAL2600@SBCGLOBAL
.NET](mailto:LOCAL2600@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

Local2600.net



AFSCME Local 2600
534 S. 2nd St., Suite 201
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Non-Profit Organization

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Springfield, Illinois

Permit No. 0006

Look for us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AFSCMELocal2600

Stay involved, informed and up to date by attending membership meetings, checking Local 2600 page on Facebook and reading this newsletter and other periodicals from AFSCME.

Go to AFSCME31.org and sign up for mobile updates.

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

October 22nd @ 6:00 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts (Dinner served at 5:30pm)

December 10th @ 6:00 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts (Dinner served at 5:30pm)

****All Wednesdays Wear Green to Show Your Support and Solidarity with AFSCME Stay Alert and informed ****

Like our Local 2600 Facebook Page To Stay Up To Date With News and Events



Check out our website for information about upcoming events!



LOCAL2600.NET

