

# The 93 Beacon

WINTER 2026

We Make Northern New England Happen!



## 27th Biennial Convention Sets Council 93 Agenda



Delegates to the 27<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Danvers, MA

**Danvers, MA-** In November, leaders, delegates, and rank and file members from across our four-state region gathered for the 27th Biennial AFSCME Council 93 Convention to come together and set the policies, agenda, and goals of our Union for the next two years.

Nearly one hundred and fifty delegates, representing forty-five Locals, gathered for the weekend to debate, educate themselves, and gain perspective from fellow AFSCME activists.

Executive Director Mark Bernard and Council President Chris “Tiger” Stockbridge addressed the convention in speeches highlighting the many victories and challenges facing our members while steadfastly reaffirming AFSCME Council 93’s commitment to fight for all workers, aggressively organize, and stand up to attacks wherever they might come from.

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The Convention opened Friday morning with an invocation from Fr. Anthony Luongo who recognized the dignity, respect, and honor inherent in public service. Saturday morning’s session began with a special presentation from the AFSCME Local 419 Honor Guard which set the tone for the day’s proceedings and underscored the dedication and service of all Council 93 members. With the Convention taking place over Veteran’s Day weekend, special recognition was given to delegates, guests, members, and Council 93 staff who have served our country in the armed forces.

Over the course of the Convention, delegates heard perspectives on the broader labor movement as well as updates on the local, state, and national political landscape from AFSCME International President Lee Saunders, US  
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# NH AFSCME Member Honored with McDonald's Community Policing Award

**Bow, NH-** AFSCME Local 3657 member Officer Ricardo Saint-Marc is the recipient of the 2025 McDonald's Community Policing Award.

Saint-Marc, a Bow, NH Police Officer, was recognized for his dedication to serving and strengthening the community through his compassion, integrity, and commitment to Bow residents.

The McDonald's Community Policing Award is sponsored by New Hampshire McDonald's Franchises and recognizes law enforcement officers for their commitment to community engagement.



## Council 93 Stands Up and Fights Back!



It's our hard work – not corporate greed – that makes our communities stronger. AFSCME and Council 93 have been on the frontlines getting organized and fighting back. We are taking to the streets, taking our case to the courts, and fighting in the halls of government to build power together and tell those in charge that we aren't going anywhere!

**WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!**



# 27<sup>th</sup> Biennial AFSCME Council 93 Convention







AFSCME Local 1373 joined AFSCME Council 93 Endorsed Gubernatorial Candidate Troy Jackson for a fundraiser and NFL Playoff Watch Party hosted by the Maine AFL-CIO.

Local 1373 retiree Matt Fernald, member Hannah Courbron, and Local President and Council 93 Executive Board Member Cindy Pebenito with Troy Jackson.



## Convention *(Continued from pg. 1)*



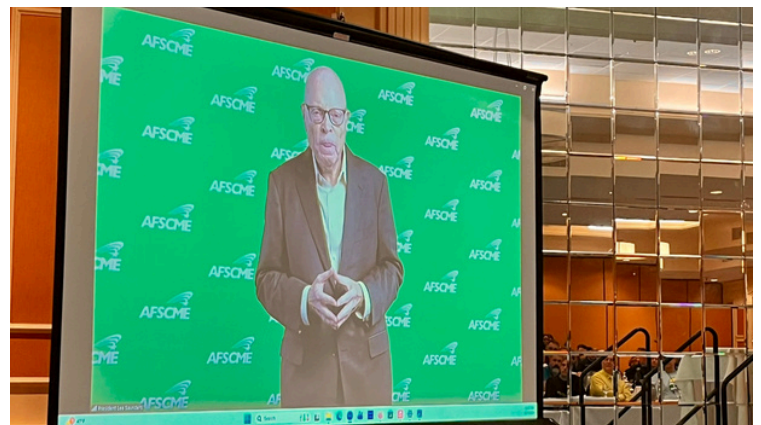
Senator Ed Markey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Maine Senate Candidate Graham Platner, Maine Gubernatorial Candidate Troy Jackson, and Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch. The major policy change to come out of the Convention was a Constitutional Amendment, approved unanimously by the delegates, making it easier to fill vacant Executive Board Seats. This amendment will ensure the continuity of leadership, proper board representation of all sectors, and effective governance of our Union between Conventions.

In addition, delegates debated and voted to support a number of resolutions reflecting the priorities of Council 93 members, reaffirming our commitment to protecting workers' rights, strengthening public services, and advancing policies that benefit working families throughout our region and the country.

Throughout the weekend, delegates also attended workshops on protecting their members from Artificial Intelligence, amending their Local constitutions, recruiting new activists, and adhering to proper financial standards and procedures.

A special resolution was approved bestowing eternal AFSCME Council 93 Honorary Membership to Kevin White and the White Family. A longtime friend and ally of AFSCME Council 93, and of all working people, Kevin White sadly passed away last year after spending the better part of his life and career assisting members in times of crisis and helping them protect their income during difficult times.

Beyond the formal business of the convention, delegates and guests came together for a Casino Night and Gift Basket Raffle, raising thousands of dollars in support of the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund and the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Trust to help members and their families.





# Council 93 Elves Spread Holiday Cheer to Families in Need



**Boston, MA-** Once again AFSCME Council 93 Locals went above and beyond to help families in need in 2025. With the holiday season being a time to reflect on the joys and blessings of the past year, it is also important to remember that not everyone is so fortunate. AFSCME Council 93 members and Locals step up year after year to help those in need. From SUMMUP Locals' annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Toy Drive in conjunction with the Central Mass Labor Council, Council 93's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual toy drive to help organizations in the Greater Boston Area, and the dozens of Locals who help their communities in ways big and small, it is in our nature as union members to help those in need. It is why we do the work that we do!

The 4th Annual AFSCME Council 93 Toy Drive, spearheaded by Director of Field Services and Organizing Eddie Nastari, was once again a huge success thanks to the generosity of our Locals, members, staff, and supporters. Council 93 partnered with Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Housing Authority, and the Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) to bring nearly one thousand toys to the BCYF Johnson Community Center in Mission Hill and Maverick Landing Community Services in East Boston to spread holiday cheer to those less fortunate. Council 93 also bought gifts, toys, and clothing for dozens of children at the Crossroads Family Shelter in East Boston.

We raised over \$16,000 thanks to donations from Locals 362, 445, 646, 703, 783, 787, 804, 1489, 1631, 1892, FSEU, Regan and Associates, individual members, and staff to spread holiday cheer to those in need.

In addition, for nearly twenty years SUMMUP Locals have worked with the Central Massachusetts Labor Council at Thanksgiving and Christmas, hosting both a food drive and toy drive. This year they went above and beyond with thousands of dollars of food, toys, and monetary donations at both Thanksgiving and Christmas to help families across Central Massachusetts.

The tremendous generosity of AFSCME Council 93 Locals, individual members, staff, and partners who made donations of time, gifts, and funds helped to ensure that children and families would have their needs met this holiday season.





# Happy Holidays from AFSCME Council 93!





# Local 1631 Member Michael Stern Named Massachusetts Animal Control Officer of the Year



**Boston, MA-** Last fall Local 1631 member Michael Stern was named Massachusetts Animal Control Officer of the Year by the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Angell.

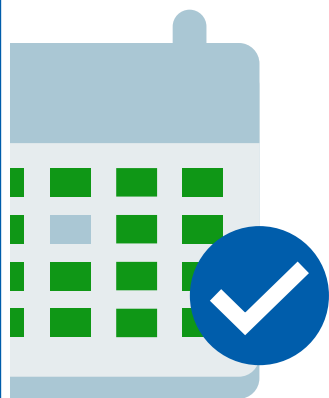
Officer Stern has encountered it all. Whether responding to emergency calls, educating residents on responsible pet ownership, or showing patience and care to animals in distress, Officer Stern handles each situation with compassion, dedication, and professionalism.

An Animal Control Officer since 2005, and with the City of Boston since 2020, Officer Stern enjoys that

“every day is different, and I get to be the bridge between public safety and animal welfare. I love being able to intervene in a difficult situation and achieve a positive outcome—whether it's reuniting a lost pet with their family or getting an injured animal the care it needs. I want people to know that our job is a lot more than just picking up stray dogs. We deal with everything from emergency rescues to public health concerns.”

This well-deserved recognition highlights not only one outstanding officer, but the vital role all animal control professionals play in keeping our communities safe and humane.

## Upcoming AFSCME Council 93 Events



### Online Refresher Training: Everything You Wanted to Know About Union Dues

- Zoom
- January 21st
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- Register at [afscme93.org](https://afscme93.org)

### Virtual Steward Training

- Zoom
- Wednesdays in February
- 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Register at [afscme93.org](https://afscme93.org)

### 2026 Executive Board Meetings

- 1st Quarter Nashua, NH March 14<sup>th</sup>
- 2nd Quarter Hyannis, MA June 20<sup>th</sup>
- 3rd Quarter Danvers, MA September 10<sup>th</sup>
- 4th Quarter TBD

# Massachusetts Local 2948 DCR Fire Fighters Honored for Outstanding Service During 2024 Wildfire Season



**Worcester, MA**—Members of AFSCME Local 2948, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Wildland Fire Fighters, were recently honored for their extraordinary service during the challenging 2024 wildfire season, a year that tested emergency response efforts across the Commonwealth.

Local 2948 received two prestigious awards—the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award and the Manuel Carballo Excellence in Public Service Award—recognizing the bravery, professionalism, and dedication demonstrated as Massachusetts faced one of its most severe wildfire seasons in recent history. In 2024, wildfires burned more than 4,000 acres statewide, driven by dry conditions, high winds, and prolonged drought.

Throughout the season, DCR Wildland Fire Fighters worked long hours in dangerous conditions to protect lives, homes, infrastructure, and natural resources. Their coordinated response, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to public safety were instrumental in containing fires, supporting municipal fire departments, and preventing further destruction.

“Local 2948 members responded without hesitation, at all hours of the day and night throughout an unprecedented wildfire season,” said Michael Marquardt, Local 2948 Steward. “Our fire fighters stayed the course while assisting our brothers and sisters from municipal departments under extreme conditions. The sacrifices made by their families also deserve recognition, especially when members were called away during time normally spent with loved ones.”

The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award honors excellence in fire prevention, suppression, and leadership, while the Manuel Carballo Excellence in Public Service Award recognizes individuals and groups who exemplify dedication to serving the people of Massachusetts. Receiving both awards underscores the essential role Local 2948 members play in protecting communities, often behind the scenes and under extreme conditions. This recognition highlights not only the skill and courage of DCR Wildland Fire Fighters, but also the importance of well-trained, properly supported public employees.





# Members of Local 1517 Continue Fight to Keep Pappas Hospital Open



**Canton, MA-** AFSCME Local 1517 remains steadfast in its fight to keep Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children open and fully funded, standing up for patients, families, and the dedicated public service workers who provide critical care every day.

Pappas Hospital, which serves children and young adults with complex medical and developmental needs, offers specialized services that cannot be easily replaced or relocated.

AFSCME members along with SEIU and MNA members have been actively organizing, advocating, and speaking out against proposals that would close or drastically reduce services at the hospital. Shutting down Pappas would not only displace vulnerable patients, but also disrupt continuity of care and undermine the public health system as a whole.



Since the proposed closure, members have participated in rallies, outreach efforts, and conversations with elected officials to demand transparency and accountability in decisions affecting the hospital's future.

Local 1517's message remains clear: Pappas Hospital must remain open. The fight is about dignity, access to care, and the value of public services. Members and allies are committed to continuing this fight until the hospital's future is secured.

Despite the chaos and uncertainty surrounding the lack of admissions and communication from management, Pappas is still a special place worth fighting for and the members go above and beyond to make sure children in their care have special and unique experiences. One such event was the annual Trunk or Treat held over Halloween, with Local 1517's "Mystery Machine" taking home first place for best Overall Trunk.





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:

# Council 93 Organizing Update

- **Allentown, NH Firefighters**
- **Beverly, MA Breakfast and Lunch Monitors**
- **City of Boston Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement**

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

## Member Benefit: Flowers, Gifts & Treats

### Teleflora Discounts

Save 25% on beautiful bouquets, gift baskets and chocolate-covered treats!

**Exclusive Teleflora savings for union families**

**Your union family discount includes:**

- 25% discount on flowers, gift baskets & chocolate treats. (Promo code BAAUP25)
- Same-day flower delivery service (dependent on order time)
- Unconditional 100% satisfaction guarantee
- International service



**Scan to Save!**



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