

The 93 Beacon

FALL 2026

We Make Northern New England Happen!



From Chicago to Danvers and from the Ballot Box to the Streets, Council 93 is.....
Energized, Mobilized, and Organized



From our international convention in Chicago, to VMOs in Houston, and right here at home in Northern New England, AFSCME Council 93 has been extremely busy over the past few months organizing, advocating, educating, and working hard to build a stronger Union in Northern New England and across the country!

At the bargaining table, on the job, at the ballot box, and in our communities AFSCME Members show up each and every day!

In this Issue:

- Council 93 Endorsements
- Legislative Conference
- Council 93 Golf Tournament
- AFSCME Scholarship Winners
- Vermont Members Say "Yes on 3!"
- Local 298 Honored in NH
- Council 93 Open House
- Member Discounts
- Trainings
- And More!

2026 Council 93 Endorsed Candidates



ED MARKEY (MA)
for United States Senate



Troy Jackson (ME)
for United States Senate



Chris Pappas (NH)
for United States Senate



Dan Koh
for MA 6th District US House



Stephany Shaheen
for NH 1st District US House



Maggie Goodlander
for NH 2nd District US House



Matt Dunlap
for ME 2nd District US House



Chellie Pingree
for ME 1st District US House



Becca Balint
for Vermont US House



Hannah Pingree
for Maine Governor



Maura Healey
for Massachusetts 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!

AFSCME members are voting to put the power back in the hands of working people. We need lawmakers who understand that working families can't wait.

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.



The voter registration deadline in Massachusetts is **OCTOBER 24th**. Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont allow for same day voter registration.

afscme.org/action/vote

AFSCME Convention Brings Members Together in Chicago



Chicago, IL—Thousands of AFSCME members, including hundreds from Council 93, gathered in Chicago August 17–21 for our Union’s 47th International Convention, celebrating 90 years of AFSCME while charting a path forward for working people.

Under the theme “Built for This Moment,” delegates debated and adopted more than 80 resolutions focused on strengthening collective bargaining, standing up for retirees, organizing new members, protecting worker safety, expanding affordable health care and housing, and addressing emerging workplace issues such as artificial intelligence.

The week brought together AFSCME members from across the country to share experiences, build solidarity and prepare for the challenges ahead. Whether serving on a number of important committees, presenting resolutions on the floor, or participating in a variety of workshops and events, Council 93 was well represented at the convention.

The convention also marked a historic leadership transition. Delegates elected Patrick Moran as AFSCME International President, succeeding retiring President Lee Saunders, while Nicole Pollard was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The message from Chicago was clear: AFSCME



members are “Built for This Moment” and ready to keep fighting for strong unions, quality public services and better lives for working families.

Council 93 left Chicago energized, mobilized, and organized to make our Union stronger!



Vermont AFSCME Members Say "Yes On 3!"

Montpelier, VT- Vermonters presently have the right to form a labor union by law, but laws can be changed. Proposal 3 asks voters to approve an Amendment that would enshrine the right to unionize in the Vermont State Constitution.

So on Election Day every union member and their families must go to the polls and [VOTE YES ON 3](#) to better guarantee that future generations of Vermonters have the right to achieve livable wages, family sustaining benefits, safe working conditions, and democracy on the job through collective bargaining and unionizing.

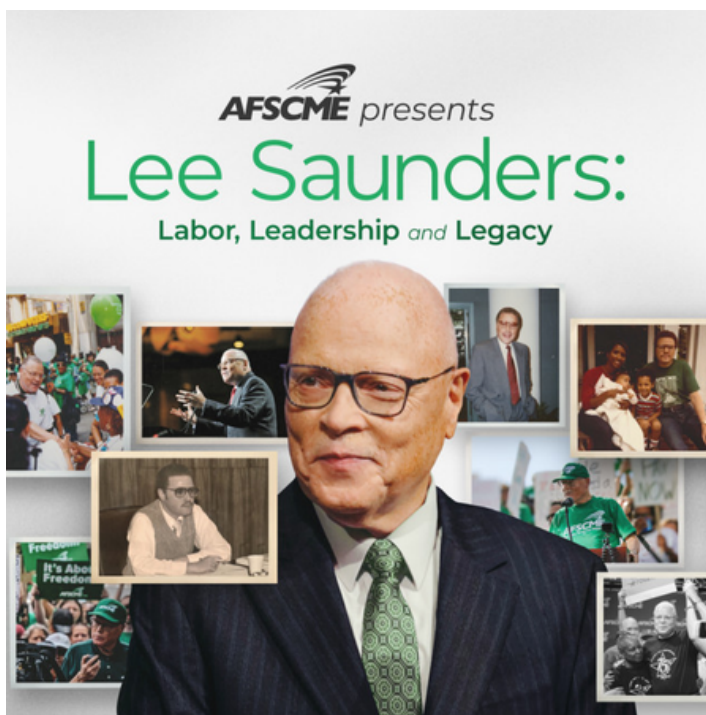
Across the United States billionaires, corporations, and anti-union forces that fear an organized, united, and politically engaged working class are actively seeking to diminish the rights of people like us to form and maintain a union. They do this because they know that unions are the way workers build and assert economic and political power, but here in Vermont we aim to turn back that tide.



As a labor movement, we aim to see this wave of national anti-union reaction crash upon our Green Mountains and be rolled back through our assertiveness as organized labor and as a united working class constituting the great majority of the population. And passing Proposal 3 this November, placing the right to unionize in our State Constitution, will be one way that we shall demonstrate our growing collective power.

So on Election Day, November 3rd, go to the polls and show the world that Vermont is Union Strong! VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL 3!

For More Information On The Fight To Pass Proposal 3 Visit: yeson3vt.org



A new podcast called "Lee Saunders: Labor, Leadership and Legacy" features a series of candid conversations with AFSCME President Emeritus Lee Saunders about his extraordinary career in the labor movement and the legacy he leaves on our union.

In the five-part podcast, Saunders chronicles his journey from Cleveland, Ohio, where he was raised in a union household, to become AFSCME's President. The podcast provides an insider's glimpse into the stalwarts who made our union great and includes colorful stories of the opponents who stood in our way.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Lee Saunders: Labor, Leadership and Legacy."

Council 93 Gathers in Danvers for Legislative Conference



Danvers, MA- AFSCME Council 93 members from dozens of Locals across Northern New England gathered for the 23rd Biennial AFSCME Council 93 Legislative Conference, three days of discussion, advocacy, education and solidarity.

The Conference opened with the AFSCME Local 419 Honor Guard leading delegates in a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives on September 11th. President Tiger Stockbridge and Executive Director Mark Bernard then addressed delegates on the state of the union and the challenges and opportunities facing public service workers.

Throughout the conference, members heard from elected officials and labor leaders, including U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, Maine Senate candidate Troy Jackson, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Brousseau, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, and Massachusetts 6th Congressional District candidate Dan Koh. AFSCME International representatives also emphasized the importance of political engagement and electing candidates at every level of government who stand with working people.

One of the Conference's highlights came when Sen. Markey presented longtime Council 93 activists Barbara Mann and Ed Keefe with a U.S. Senate citation recognizing their decades of

work to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) and secure full Social Security benefits for public sector workers and surviving spouses.

While there was a lot of work done, the delegates also found time to relax and socialize with a union-themed Trivia Night on Friday and the presentation of the Council 93 Memorial Scholarships.

The Conference concluded with closing remarks from President Stockbridge and Executive Director Bernard, followed by a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing. Dozens of Locals generously donated raffle baskets, helping raise thousands of dollars for the Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 23rd Biennial Legislative Conference once again demonstrated the strength, solidarity and commitment of AFSCME members across the region.



AFSCME Council 93 23rd Biennial Legislative Conference



Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament Tees Off

Plymouth, MA – AFSCME Council 93 continued a new tradition on July 20th with the second annual AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament at Crosswinds Golf Club. The event brought together members, supporters, and community partners for a day of friendly competition, camaraderie, and fundraising for a great cause.

Hosted by the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation, the tournament raises funds to support scholarships, disaster relief, and assistance for working families throughout Council 93's Northern New England region. More than 200 golfers—including Council 93 leaders, rank-and-file members, friends, supporters, and allies—took part, with Locals from all four Northern New England states well represented.

Thanks to generous donations, sponsorships, and raffle ticket sales, the tournament raised nearly \$40,000 for the Charitable Foundation.

"Thanks to the generosity and selflessness of our members and supporters, the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation is well positioned to assist out members in their times of need. AFSCME members always answer the call and today is just another example of our members stepping up to help," said Co-Chair and Council 93 Vice President Kevin Drake.

The tournament's success would not be possible without the dozens of volunteers who donate their time to register players, sell raffle tickets, monitor on-course games, and help make the event a success.

Now in its second year, the tournament is becoming an annual Council 93 tradition and a powerful example of what AFSCME members can accomplish when they come together to support their communities and fellow members.



Tournament Sponsors

Partner Hole

- Regan Associates
- AFSCME Council 93

Beverage Cart

- Membership Benefits Group

Diamond Hole

- BAMSI Local 2511

Platinum Hole

- Altus Dental
- Pasqualucci & Sons
- Salem Five
- Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Gold Hole

- Liberty Mutual
- Babanikas, Ziedman & King PC
- Community Labor United, Inc.
- Celera Networks
- AFSCME Council 93 Field Staff Representatives

Silver Hole

- Blue Cross Blue Shield Labor Affairs
- Grinnell Mechanical
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 550

Bronze Hole

- UNUM Group
- Brookline Municipal Credit Union
- Hilb Corporate Group
- Colonial Life
- Local 1892

Contributors

- Mark Bernard and Family
- Local 1776
- Joe DeLorey
- Local 72
- Kyocera
- Aflac

Donors

- Local 408
- Local 3485
- James Durkin

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors for their donations and support of the AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation!

AFSCME Council 93 Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament



AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients



Westborough, MA- Each year, the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund provides individual one-thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarships to deserving students enrolled in a two-year or four-year accredited college, university, community college, graduate school, or recognized technical or trade school.

Awarded in memory of all of our departed members, the scholarship is renewed for each year of attendance. Over the past two decades, tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships have been awarded to deserving Council 93 families.

Students must submit an essay on “Why Unions Have Been Important to My Family” to the Scholarship Committee for consideration.

Applications for the 2027 Scholarship will open early next year and are due to the Committee by July 1, 2027. Watch the AFSCME Council 93 website for details.

Congratulations to this year's Memorial Scholarship Winners!

This year's winners are:

- **Neave Beatrice**, child of Local 1067 member Erin Hennessy. Neave will be attending UMass Dartmouth.
- **Emma Cabral**, child of Local 1517 member Melissa Cabral. Emma will be attending Regis College.
- **Katherine Cornoni**, Local 939 member. Katherine will be attending Southern New Hampshire University.
- **Madison Desilets**, child of Local 1736 member Richard Desilets. Madison will be attending Coastal Carolina University.
- **Kevin Drake**, child of Local 3485 member Kevin Drake. Kevin will be attending Bridgewater State University.
- **Caroline Kennedy**, child of Local 703 member Colleen Kennedy. Caroline will be attending Merrimack College.
- **Brielle Pigott**, child of Local 1703 and 680 members Kim and Rich Pigott. Brielle will be attending Saint Joseph's College of Maine.
- **Soriya Plang**, child of Local 1067 member Rithy Plang. Soriya will be attending MA College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.
- **Abigail Stock**, child of Local 362 members Timothy and Tamra Stock. Abigail will be attending Rowan University.
- **Morgan Weaver**, child of Local 939 member Allison Sheehan. Morgan will be attending Northern Essex Community College.

Westborough Hosts Council 93 Open House

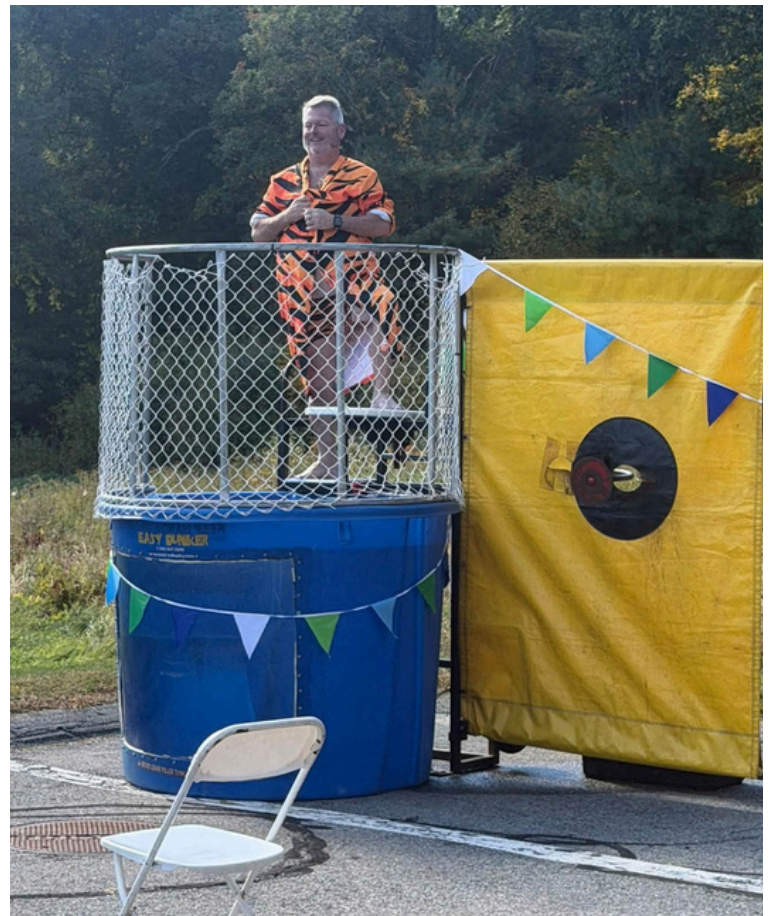


Westborough, MA- Earlier this month, Council 93 members, staff, and their families gathered to celebrate the grand opening of our Union's new headquarters at a fun-filled open house. Guests had the opportunity to tour the offices, meet with staff, and get a firsthand look at the new space.

The event also featured a cookout, family-friendly activities, and an ice cream truck, giving members and their families plenty of opportunities to connect and enjoy the day.

The dunk tank proved to be a nice fundraiser for the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship after Council President Tiger Stockbridge and attorneys from our Legal Department entered the tank.

The open house was a great opportunity to bring members, staff, and families together, celebrate this new chapter, and strengthen the connections that make our union community strong.



Council 93 VMOs Hit the Streets in Texas



Houston, TX- AFSCME members from across the country recently joined workers in Harris County, Texas in a major organizing effort to give more public service workers a stronger voice on the job.

Workers who keep Harris County running are organizing through AFSCME Organizing Committee 832, building on a major victory earlier this year when the County adopted a consultation policy giving workers a greater opportunity to have a voice in workplace decisions. Local AFSCME members are now working to secure recognition as the County's consultation agent and expand worker power across every County department.

More than 40 AFSCME Volunteer Member Organizers (VMOs) from around the country

joined Harris County workers for an organizing blitz, knocking on doors, talking with workers and building support for the campaign. Council 93 was proud to be part of this effort, with Council 93 VMOs joining fellow AFSCME members on the ground in Texas.

Executive Director Mark Bernard led the Council 93 VMOs which included Organizers Dan Morse and Angel Alvarez, Local 137 member Kelly Abreu, and Local 651 member Nate Mendonca.

The campaign is another example of AFSCME members putting solidarity into action. By standing together across state lines, members are helping workers build the power they need to win a stronger voice, better working conditions and a greater say in the decisions that affect their jobs and their communities.

Make Way for Ducklings!

In late June, AFSCME Local 1098 members with the Danvers, MA Department of Public Works and assisted by the Danvers Police Department rescued a mother and her ducklings that had fallen into a storm drain while trying to cross a busy street.

Great job Local 1098!



Manchester Mayor Recognizes Local 298 Members for Outstanding Public Service



Manchester, NH – The City of Manchester recently recognized members of the Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) and Health Department Healthy Aging Specialist Karen Sutkus, Local 298 President and Council 93 Executive Board Member, for their exceptional service to Manchester residents. The honorees are members of AFSCME Local 298, representing public employees in Manchester.

Established in 2022 through a partnership between the Manchester Health Department and Manchester Police Department, PHAST provides highly trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) to address neighborhood needs across all 12 City Wards. PHAST teams work to connect residents with available resources for housing, nutrition and food access, healthcare, childcare, fuel assistance, legal aid, personal safety, and many other services.

In 2025, PHAST provided care coordination to 1,272 residents through more than 2,000 community encounters, making 1,082 referrals to outside organizations. CHWs assist residents with food insecurity, transportation, housing, medical and dental care, financial and legal resources, wellness checks, home visits, and community outreach.

Karen, who has served as the City's Healthy Aging Specialist since 2023, has helped more than 300 older residents navigate complex challenges, connect with essential services, and remain safe and independent in their homes.

Mayor Jay Ruais' recognition highlights the compassion and dedication of Karen and the PHAST team in helping Manchester residents through challenging circumstances.



Congratulations to all of our AFSCME Local 298 members on this well-deserved recognition and for their continued service to the Manchester community!

Local 680 Places 2nd In Arlington Pulling for Hope Fundraiser

Arlington, MA - Early this summer, the Arlington Fire Department hosted the 7th annual Pulling for Hope fundraiser in support of the American Cancer Society.

The AFSCME Local 680 team placed second overall in the friendly competition to pull a fully loaded fire truck 50 feet, which has raised nearly \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society over the past several years.

The event is held in honor and remembrance of Arlington Firefighters' Deputy Chief Steve Porciello, who passed away from a job-related cancer in 2017.



Great job for a great cause Local 680!

Council 93 in Action



It's our members' 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!

Member Benefit: Liberty Mutual



Exclusive Council 93 Benefit!

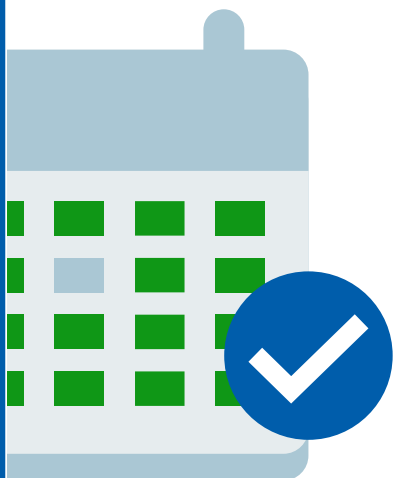
We are excited to introduce a new benefit designed to help you and your family save money—an exclusive Home and Auto Insurance program with Liberty Mutual available to all AFSCME Council 93 members. This collaboration between AFSCME Council 93, our longtime friends at Membership Benefits Group, and Liberty Mutual leverages the collective strength of our membership with trusted partners to provide real savings to our members.

AFSCME Council 93 members, and their families, can access competitive rates and potential savings of **up to \$950 on customized home and auto insurance with Liberty Mutual** to deliver real value with no compromise on coverage or service. **You can also protect your pets for less with an extra 10% discount for AFSCME members!**

**Start a quote today
to see how much
you could save!**



Upcoming AFSCME Council 93 Events



Steward Training

- Hadley, MA
- October 23rd
- 9:00am to 4:00pm

Steward Training

- Westborough, MA
- November 7th
- 9:00am to 4:00pm

December Refresher:

Interviewing a Grievant/Knowing and Using Your Contract

- Zoom
- December 8th
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm

AFSCME Council 93

Executive Board Meeting

- Westborough, MA
- December 5th
- 10:00am

To learn more or to register for any AFSCME Council 93 Trainings or Events Visit: afscme93.org/calendar-events

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