

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, COUNCIL 62, AFL-CIO

AFSCME Council 62 Headquarters

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AFSCME is the fastest growing union in the AFL-CIO. Its more than 1.6 million members are state and local government and health and education workers committed to achieving dignity and improving their working conditions through collective bargaining.

MEMBERSHIP

AFSCME represents more than 1.6 million public employees and health care workers and retirees throughout the United States. They include employees of state, county, and municipal governments, school districts, public and private hospitals, universities and non-profit agencies who work in a cross section of jobs ranging from blue collar to clerical, professional and paraprofessional.

In Indiana and Kentucky, AFSCME Council 62 represents over 17,000 public and health care workers. The union's membership is evenly divided between health and hospital employees, blue-collar workers and social service/counseling professionals. AFSCME Council 62 represents employees from Louisville, Kentucky to Gary, Indiana and in between. The union's central office is in Indianapolis where state employees as well as those working for the City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Public Schools, Wishard Hospital, IUPUI, and Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library to name a few are all represented by AFSCME Council 62. Throughout the two states the union represents employees in over seventy-six state, county, municipal, school, and health care jurisdictions.

STRUCTURE- AFSCME is organized into more than 3,500 local unions, most of them affiliated with one of 60 district councils. Local unions and councils have their own constitutions, elect their own officers and administer a wide variety of local affairs. The International Union coordinates issues of concern to all AFSCME members and provides research, legislative, legal, organizational, educational, public relations and other services.

AFSCME Council 62 has over 80 affiliated local unions in Indiana and Kentucky. AFSCME Council 62 was chartered in Indianapolis, IN on June 15, 1963. The union's Executive Board and Director are elected by convention every four years. Each local union elects its own officers and sets its own dues rate and all full dues paying members have a right to attend meetings and vote on all local activities – including their contracts.

HISTORY- AFSCME began as a number of separate locals organized by a group of Wisconsin state employees in the early 1930's. By 1935 there were 30 locals which became a separate department within the American Federation of Government Employees. In 1936, AFSCME was chartered by the American Federation of Labor. By 1955, at the time of the AFL-CIO merger, AFSCME had 100,000 members. The following year, the Union merged with the 30,000-member CIO Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee. In 1957, AFSCME moved its headquarters from Madison, Wisconsin to Washington, D.C. Recent organizing successes, including Indiana's state employees, have brought the union's membership past the 1.3 million mark.



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OFFICERS

DAVID WARRICK, Council 62 Executive Director and International Vice President

David was born in Greenfield, Indiana, but spent most of his growing years in Tokyo, Japan where his parents were missionaries. Upon returning to the United States in 1986, he began working for the State of Indiana as a psychiatric attendant at Richmond State Hospital. In 1990, he became involved in the AFSCME organizing campaign for state employees. This was one of the nation's largest organizing campaigns, and one of the most intense. In 1991, he was elected to the first bargaining team for the members of the State of Indiana and soon became the Local Union President of Richmond State Hospital, Local 795. In 1994, he became an AFSCME Council 62 staff representative in North Central Indiana. In 1999, he became the Associate Director. He was the chief negotiator for many first time contracts. He was also responsible for the grievance and arbitration handling for the Council. Under his direction the Council settled and won more grievances in the State of Indiana's history since the grievance procedure was negotiated.

In 2001, a special meeting of the Council 62 Executive Board was held and they appointed David to fill the unexpired term of Council 62 Executive Director. He was also nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term of the International's Central Legislative District Vice President. Council 62 represents over 30,000 employees in 103 jurisdictions in Indiana and Kentucky.

GERALD W. McENTEE, International President

Beginning his career in labor in 1958 as an AFSCME organizer in Philadelphia, McEntee went on to become the successful architect of the major public sector organizing drive to unionize Pennsylvania's more than 75,000 state employees. In 1973, McEntee was elected Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13, the largest public employee union in Pennsylvania, at its first convention. The following year he was elected an International Vice President of AFSCME. McEntee was first elected International President of AFSCME in 1981.

McEntee is a Vice President and member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. He chairs the AFL-CIO Committee on the Needs of the Working Family. He is also a member of the Democratic National Committee and the DNC's Labor Council.

LEE A. SAUNDERS, SR, International Secretary-Treasurer

Joining the AFSCME International staff in 1978, Saunders served in the capacities of Assistant Director of Research and Collective Bargaining Services, Director of Community Action, and Deputy Director of Organizing and Field Services (the largest department within AFSCME); as well as, Executive Assistant to the President. In his capacity as Executive Assistant he managed what is acknowledged to be the most effective political and legislative operation in the history of the American Labor movement.

Saunders is a board member of the Progressive Legislative Action Network (PLAN). PLAN supports progressive state legislators with research, policy, communication and strategic resources to counter ultra-conservative programs and legislation.

Saunders was elected AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer in 2010.