

On Saturday June 15, Organizing Committees met in Reno and Henderson to discuss organizing goals and next steps for our union. An Organizing Committee is a group of leaders within our union, working towards building our union power. To get to a strong first contract, we must have a strong union!



**Save the Date!**  
 Ready to be a part of the change?  
 Join us for the next Organizing  
 Committee Meeting  
 on Saturday July 20th  
 sign up at:  
[nvafscme.org/organize](http://nvafscme.org/organize)



*Designed and printed in house*

**Legislative Wins!**  
 In addition to winning collective bargaining rights, AFSCME members lobbied for and won:

- ✓ 3% raises for all state employees
- ✓ Increased employer contribution to PEBP, at zero employee contribution increase to health insurance premiums
- ✓ Law created to protect health care and mental health care workers from workplace violence

Newsletter naming contest!  
 Got a fun name for our AFSCME Local 4041 newsletter?  
 Send your suggestions to [info@nvafscme.org](mailto:info@nvafscme.org)

# AFSCME UPDATES



AFSCME President Lee Saunders and members of Local 4041 gather around Governor Steve Sisolak at the June 12 bill signing.

## AFSCME wins collective bargaining rights for Nevada state employees

After years of AFSCME organizing, Governor Steve Sisolak signed into law a historic bill granting 20,000 state workers the right to collectively bargain. The bill, which he signed June 12, is the largest expansion of collective bargaining rights for state workers anywhere in the U.S. in 16 years.

The signing of SB135 marks a massive win for working people both in our home state and across the country, with Nevada AFSCME members leading the growing wave of union momentum. Now, with the right to negotiate, we can use our collective voice to negotiate a host of workplace issues, among them wages, paid leave and ways to improve safety on the job.

Sisolak said state workers who work day in and day out to improve Nevada deserve respect: "For public sector service workers, the work they do every day for the Silver State isn't merely a job. It's a calling. It's a career. At times, the work they do can go unrecognized, and often, it can be thankless. That's just one reason signing this bill is so important," the governor said at the signing ceremony. "It's about respect for state workers and finally giving them the voice at the table they deserve, the seat at the table that has gone unfilled for so long."

"This is a historic day for state employees and all Nevadans, as collective bargaining rights will mean a voice on the job to make meaningful changes in our workplaces and communities," said Harry Schiffman, Local 4041 president, in a statement upon the bill become law.

We thank SB135's sponsor, state Sen. David Parks, and leaders in the Nevada Legislature for their support for Nevada state employees.

**Join us today!**

Call us at:  
 775-882-3910 or  
 702-431-3113

[nvafscme.org](http://nvafscme.org)  
[facebook.com/NVAFSCME4041](https://facebook.com/NVAFSCME4041)

**AFSCME ADVANTAGE**  
 Check out money-saving programs, only for AFSCME members  
[afscme.org/advantage](http://afscme.org/advantage)



# Local 4041 Executive Board



**Harry Schiffman**  
Electrician  
President



**Sonja Whitten**  
Compliance Investigator  
Vice-President



**Stephanie Cantler**  
Chief Investigator  
Secretary-Treasurer



**Lydia Del Rio**  
Administrative Assistant  
Recording Secretary



**Richard Zerbe**  
Family Services Specialist  
Regional Vice-President  
Region 1



**Janet Brooks**  
Revenue Officer  
Abermore Regional  
Vice-President  
Region 1



**Joe Roberts**  
Correctional Officer  
Regional Vice-President  
Region 2



**Gordon Miken**  
Parole/Probation Specialist  
Regional Vice-President  
Region 4



**Neil Lake**  
HVAC Specialist  
Regional Vice-President  
Region 4



**Hywel Gwyn Davies**  
Emissions Control Tech  
Abermore Regional  
Vice-President  
Region 4



**Sherri Thompson**  
Unemployment Insurance Rep  
Abermore Regional  
Vice-President  
Region 4

**We are Nevada state employees and leaders in our union. Join us to take action in the development of AFSCME Local 4041!**  
[www.nvafscme.org/join](http://www.nvafscme.org/join)

## President's Corner

Harry Schiffman  
President,  
Local 4041



For decades, AFSCME members have been at the fore front of a dvocating for Nevada state employees at the bi-annual sessions of the Nevada Legislature. Over the years we have fought for pay raises, ending furloughs when the state was back on track and preventing privatization of state services. This year we won a long time goal of our union- the right to collective bargaining.

But as AFSCME, we have also fought for one another. We've stood with our brothers and sisters in Corrections when they were treated unfairly by department managers. We've pushed back when faced with retaliation against our right to take action in the workplace as a union. And we've succeeded in making changes in our workplaces to ensure we are in the best position to do our jobs.

I am proud to be President of our union because together, as AFSCME, we've been able to accomplish so much to improve our lives and the communities we serve.

Collective bargaining will allow us to accomplish so much more in the years to come.

But we can only do this together. So make sure you're a member and talk to your co-workers about becoming a member.



### AFSCME at the SBI 135 bill signing.

L-R: Sonja Whitten, Vice President, Local 4041; Lee Saunders, President, AFSCME International; Harry Schiffman, President, Local 4041; Steve Sisolak, Governor, State of Nevada

## Making Changes in our Workplace



Through a Labor and Management Committee, staff at Summit View Youth Center were able to get

state mandated break laws implemented in their workplace.

Correctional officers in southern Nevada banded together to support two Correctional Officer Trainees (COTs) when they were unfairly fired during their probational period. Their fellow AFSCME members walked them through the name clearing process and provided witness statements, which lead to the COTs being reinstated in their jobs at different facilities.



Forensic Specialists go through similar trainings and take similar courses to POST Certified positions, yet were paid significantly less than their corrections counterparts. Workers sat with the DHHS director in a Labor and

Management Committee to make their case to address pay parity, and won a 10% pay increase in the department's budget.

## Chapter Updates

### Great Basin Chapter



AFSCME members in Ely, NV, recently restarted the Great Basin Chapter. Workers, coming from various jobs at Ely State Prison, "If you want to make change, you have to be involved. It's not going to change its self," said chapter president George Davis.

Officers: President: George Davis  
Vice President: Justin Hunt  
Recording Secretary: Desiree Peters  
Treasurer: Shane Allman  
Executive Board: Art Boynton, James Underwood, Stephan Mollet  
Trustees: Debbie Boone-Sharp, Miguel Escamilla

## A voice on the job for better residential care

By Ken Edmonds,  
Developmental Support Tech



I'm Ken Edmonds, a member of AFSCME Local 4041, and a Developmental Support Tech for the State of Nevada.

Working at a intermediate care facility for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, my co-workers and I help the residents with daily activities that able-bodied people can easily do every day. I love being able to help people and take pride in the work I do.

Having stable work schedules is something that is important to how we can provide quality care. The more time we spend with residents, we build trust with them and they are more comfortable in their living situation. Having this relationship and trust with residents is important, as fewer violent situations occurs when the residents are comfortable in their surroundings and with staff.

Recently, my co-workers and I came together to stop unnecessary scheduling changes in our workplace, by presenting a petition to facility directors. The changes facility directors tried to implement would have put tremendous strain on staff, forcing us to rearrange doctor appointments and child or family care. These scheduling changes would have also caused disruptions to the daily routines of the residents, leading to possible violent reactions due to their unfamiliarity with the staff working with them.

Having a strong union means we have a voice on the job so the needs of residents are met and staff have a safe work environment.

### Big Meadow Chapter

The Big Meadow Chapter, comprised of workers from Lovelock State Prison, recently held elections for their chapter. The new chapter officers are:  
President: Joe Roberts  
Vice President: Paul Kinsley  
Recording Secretary: Andrew Meister  
Executive Board Members: Dr. Kim Adamson, Mark Dunn, Nick Baker

Corrections South Chapter will hold elections the last week of June. Over 15 people stepped up to run for a position! Results will be shared soon.

