What is AFSCME?

AFSCME is the acronym for “American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees”, a union serving more than 1.6 million working and retired members nationwide. AFSCME is comprised of many service workers in hundreds of occupation throughout our country including you as a member of ASEA. AFSCME’s history goes back 75 years and ASEA is a proud affiliate of this International Organization.

Free College Benefit

Yes, you read that right - you are not dreaming. As a union member, you AND your immediate family members qualify for free college through AFSCME as well as local chapter scholarship awards. Visit asea99901.com for the chapter scholarship application and then navigate over to the homepage for the link to the AFSCME benefit. Please make note of these important dates:

05-15-18 | Chapter Scholarship Applications are due
05-29-18 | AFSCME Free College Summer Classes Start

Chapter Board Elections

The Executive Board currently has some terms expiring as well as vacant seats.

President: 2018 - 2021
Secretary: 2018 - 2020
Treasurer: 2018 -2021
Board Member: 2018 - 2021
A Trustee is always needed!

Nominations will be open on the floor of our next chapter meeting on April 18th and will be accepted until the 20th of May to asea99901@gmail.com. Elections will be held on May 24th, 2018 at the VFW hall. Please review our governing documents or the Ketchikan Chapter Bylaws for more details on the positions.

Statewide Board in Ketchikan

The Statewide Executive Board is meeting in KETCHIKAN next. Look out for your invitation to a meet and greet organized by your chapter. This is the governing body of your union when convention is not in session. Your new Executive Director, Jake Metcalfe will also be attending as a member of the statewide board.

Janus Vs. AFSCME

The Janus vs. AFSCME case was heard in the US Supreme Court on February 28th, 2018 and a judgment is expected sometime between now and the end of June. A ruling in favor of Janus will limit your negotiating power when it comes to preserving your salary, benefits and working conditions. Talk to a Steward today on how to become proactive in protecting your bargaining power.

Chapter Stewards

Michelle Gadbois (Chief Steward)
Sean Sumrall
Denise Pooler
Joey Tillson
Wendy Chatham
Shawn Ryan

Visit the Ketchikan Stewards page for contact information.

2019 - 2021 Contract

The Contract Negotiation Committee elections are complete and the team is gearing up for the 2019-2021 contract. Our current contract expires at the end of the next Fiscal year.
Structure and Procedure

Are you asking yourself what exactly the board does or what is discussed at union meetings? Ever wonder if they would be worth taking the time to attend? The way your union chapter is organized involves most “chapter business” occurring during Executive Board meetings, reserving Chapter meetings for informing, educating, and answering questions. In addition, chapter meetings usually include a meal and a door prize giveaway. These meetings occur quarterly or sooner if requested by the board or the Ketchikan membership. In addition, we strive to provide this newsletter, social events and community outreach events to educate you and our community about ASEA.

Where do my dues go?

Do you ever wonder what you pay dues for? Dues support the cost of facilitating the collective benefits received by each member. In this section of the newsletter, we aim to provide a further understanding of how that is achieved. Each ASEA member pays dues that equal a minimum plus a percentage of base wage earnings. Dues are collected by the central office and divided into 5 categories: Member Services we learned about in the last newsletter and in this one we will talk about Operating Expenses. Operating Expenses cover the general operating costs of the union. Additionally and most importantly, it covers the cost for Business Agents. Business Agents represent you regarding work site issues, they help file grievances and they facilitate arbitrations to enforce our contract and protect our jobs. For more information or to learn more about your dues or the benefits you receive, contact a chapter officer or Steward today.

Union Benefits Explained

The ASEA Legal Trust is one of the many benefits that may need to start enjoying. Have you put off making or updating your will? Are you thinking of starting a trust fund for your children? Are you about to get married or divorced? Buying or selling a home? Dealing with a difficult landlord or neighbor? Facing immigration, adoption or custody issues?

The ASEA Legal Trust recently improved benefits for members and now pays a higher amount per hour for lawyers as well as pays a higher amount of benefits to you as a member. That equals up to $2,000 in legal fees that can be covered by your union benefits, each year! Even though you are able to use any lawyer, there are at least two lawyers in Ketchikan that have a history of working with our legal trust benefits. All lawyers that work with the trust can be found on the legal trust website. There are limitations on how you can use the benefit, but there is plenty of other reasons in life for legal guidance or advice covered by the plan.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you do not intend to take advantage of the Chapter Scholarship or have a family member do so, we need judges! It is a blind judging process that takes approximately 5 minutes per applicant with an average of 5 applicants per year. Please send an email to asea99901@gmail.com with any interest.

Save The Dates

Chapter Meeting
April 18th @ 12:00 PM
AFL-CIO Ketchikan May Day Parade
May 1st @ 5:00 PM
Chapter Scholarship Applications
Due May 15th, 2018
Statewide Eboard Meeting
May 15th – 16th in Ketchikan
Chapter Elections
May 25th @ VFW Hall