

Public Safety Congress Gets AFSCME STRONG

By: Chuck Stewart

On September 11-13, 2015, three members of ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 (Chuck Stewart, Shannon Watson and Steve Gentle) attended the AFSCME Public Safety Congress in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Hundreds of AFSCME Public Safety members gathered over the weekend for the 2015 Public Safety Congress to discuss important issues regarding public safety and service. This Congress was developed to help Correctional Officers, Probation and Parole Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, Juvenile Justice Officers, EMT personnel, Firefighters and all the support staff that work in these programs deal with public safety issues.

We discussed the problems each state

has or had and how they dealt with it or how they fixed them. One of the main goals of this Congress was the AFSCME STRONG Campaign. All members were trained to apply this program in their areas and to work closely with the membership to make a better and stronger Union.

The twelve (12) workshops offered included the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA); Women in Public Safety; Garrity and Weingarten Rights; Body Cameras and Equipment; Handling of a Critical Incident; Crafting Policies to Increase Public Safety; Mental Health Issues in Public Safety; and Psychological Survival in a High Stress Work Environment. In addition to the experts within AFSCME International's Research and Collective Bargaining Department,

(Continued on page 3)



What You'll Find in this Issue

COVER

- ♦ Public Safety Congress Gets AFSCME STRONG (continued on page 3)
- ♦ Famous Words of Solidarity

Page 2

- ♦ ASEA Chapter Picnics
- ♦ Did You Know ?

Page 3

- ♦ Public Safety Congress Gets AFSCME STRONG (continued from page 1)
- ♦ Sign Up For ASEA Text Alerts!

Page 4

- ♦ ASEA Health Trust News
Take Advantage Of The Annual Health Fairs
- ♦ Labor Day Parade & Executive Board Meet And Greet With The Midnight Sun Chapter

Famous Words of Solidarity

-He serves his party best who serves his country best. - Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th President of the United States

-When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses. - Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm (D-NY., 1969-1983)

-It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle class security all bear the union label. - Barack Obama

-Capital should be at the service of labor and not labor at the service of capital. - Pope John Paul

Solidarity Update

Did You Know?

ASEA Chapter Picnics

Did You Know That:

On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and on October 15, 1991, the U.S. Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court by a 52-48 vote, making him the second African American to sit on the Court, replacing retired Justice Thurgood Marshall.



Did You Know That:

On October 24, 1945, The United Nations was founded.



Did You Know That:

October 31- Halloween origins date back to an ancient Celtic Festival over 2000 years ago.



Halloween was also called All Saints' Day, All-hallows, and All-hallows Eve.

Today Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday with Americans spending an estimated \$6 billion dollars.



ANCHORAGE

The Anchorage Chapter held a summer picnic for their members on June 30, 2015, at the Hilltop Chalet. All members were invited and encouraged to attend. Each member received an Anchorage Chapter coffee mug and each child received a Frisbee with our logo. Everyone enjoyed the food, hiking up the slope of the mountain and door prizes, while the kids enjoyed the bouncing obstacle course and house. The Picnic Committee would like to thank all the members and their family members who volunteered their time on this Committee and for set up and clean up on the day of the picnic. Thank you to the Chapter Executive Board and the Retiree Chapter for their participation.



MIDNIGHT SUN

The picnic was a success. We had about 225 people at the picnic. We invited all members whether they were a member in good standing or an agency fee payer. One agency fee payer became a dues paying member, so they could participate in the drawing for a TV.

We invited the representatives who supported ASEA during the last budget negotiation. We appreciate Tammie Wilson and her aide, Scott Kawasaki and Steve Guttenberg for stopping by.

We want to thank Bette Watts, Sallie Roger and Elena Spoerle from the Retiree Chapter for helping us with the picnic.



JUNEAU

The ASEA annual picnic in Juneau was a success. The fire warmed the 60-some members that attended with their loved ones.

The volunteers prepared a wonderful meal for the group; 144 hamburgers, 78 hotdogs, 15 gallons of salad and assorted sundries were served.

Prizes were aplenty and every member went home a raffle winner and every child enjoyed a gift bag. The remaining gift bags were donated to Juneau Youth Services.



Solidarity Update

Public Safety Congress Gets AFSCME STRONG

(Continued from page 1)



AFSCME President Lee Saunders speaking about the importance of all unions working together and the AFSCME STRONG Campaign at the Public Safety Congress.



Meet & Greet at the Public Safety Congress

workshop presenters included staff from the Department of Justice, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, a psychologist and public safety legal counsel. I sat in on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Stress at the Work Place workshops.

They also honored two Alaska State Troopers, Gabe Rich and Scott Johnson, who were shot and killed in the line of duty last year. A press conference was held on September 11, 2015, with public safety workers voicing AFSCME's opposition to the push by extreme-right politicians who advocate for "right-to-work-is-wrong" laws and the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Freidrich's vs California Teachers Association*, which would silence workers' voices in their fight to ensure safe staffing levels, quick response times, functioning equipment and other aspects necessary to do the work demanded of public safety personnel.

AFSCME public safety and first

responder members include law enforcement corrections officers, probation & parole officers, 9/11 dispatch, security and emergency medical services spoke about their 9/11 experiences.

Overall this was an outstanding learning experience for the three of us.



Chapter Training

On August 31, 2015, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Chapter completed ASEA Chapter Officer Training conducted by Internal Organizers MaryAnn Ganacias and Ryan Kopiasz.

Four chapter officers attended: Steve Gentle, President; Robyn Turner, Secretary; Lynn Carlson, Chief Steward; and Diane Japhet, Treasurer;

(Pictured: Ryan Kopiasz-ASEA, Steve Gentle, MaryAnn Ganacias-ASEA, Diane Japhet, Robyn Turner, & Lynn Carlson)



On September 16-17, 2015, four Bristol Bay Chapter Officers completed ASEA Chapter Officer Training. Pat Owens, President; Donette Heyano, Secretary/Treasurer; Jeanine Layland, Trustee and Diane Seitz, Board Member. (Pictured: Pat Owens, Jeanine Layland, Donette Heyano & Diane Seitz)

Important Dates

December 9 - 10, 2015 -
State Executive Board Meeting
in Anchorage

February 8 - 9, 2016 -
State Executive Board Meeting
in Juneau

May 17 - 18, 2016 -
State Executive Board Meeting
in Homer

Sign Up For ASEA Text Alerts!

Sign up for ASEA Text Alerts!



Text **ASEAL52** to **237263** for general ASEA News and Alert

You can also sign up for personalized alerts

Text **AKLEG** to **237263** to receive legislative and political alerts

Text **AIA** to **237263** to receive the latest copy of the ASEA monthly newsletter

(There is no charge for this service from Msnbc.com, but some carriers do charge a small fee to send or receive a text message.)
Message and Data rates may apply

Solidarity Update

ASEA HEALTH TRUST NEWS



The Health Fairs offer four FREE preventive care lab tests paid for by the ASEA Health Trust for members and covered dependents age 18 and over. Screenings like these can help you learn about your health and detect potential problems early on. Your test results will be sent directly to you. Be sure and send a copy to your health care professional to review and keep in your medical records. Also take advantage of free seasonal flu vaccines as well (9 years and older). Pre-register for tests at coalitionhealthfair.org.

Take Advantage Of The Annual Health Fairs - They're Free, Fun And Good For You

NEW! Pre-registration is required to attend the 2015 Health Fairs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau & Ketchikan
All fairs are open 8 a.m. – 12 noon

Anchorage

Oct. 3 & 4

East High, 4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
(NOTE NEW LOCATION)

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Rd.

Fairbanks

Sep. 26 & 27

Carlson Center, 2010 2nd Ave.

Juneau

Oct. 24

Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Dr.

Ketchikan (NEW LOCATION)

Sept. 20

Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave.

Mat-Su Valley

Sept. 26

Mat-Su Regional Medical Center
2500 S. Woodward Loop

Soldotna

Oct. 24

Central Peninsula Hospital
250 Hospital Pl.

Labor Day Parade & Executive Board Meet and Greet With The Midnight Sun Chapter

The annual Labor Day Parade was held in Fairbanks on September 7th. This year ASEA had about 65 members and friends walk in the parade.

On September 8th, the Chapter held a Meet and Greet for the State E-Board. We invited members, agency fee payers, the FNSB (Borough Chapter) and Buffalo Chapters to this event. We had about 70 people attend this function. One agency fee payer became a dues paying member. Our members asked some great questions and appreciated the Board taking the time to answer them.



ALASKA DAY

October 18

Alaska Day will be observed on Oct. 19.

