

Seward Day
Celebrated
March 26

ASEA In Action



ASEA Members Take Action ASEA Safety Summit

ASEA members from API, MYC and DOC came together for the first ever ASEA Safety Summit, on February 21, 2018. Members at this Safety Summit discussed issues of worker safety, poor staffing levels, lack of training and management's poor response to incidents on the job.

Stories of attacks and assaults at the workplace were all too common. Management routinely turns unprovoked attacks around and blame members (staff) then issue unwarranted discipline, or they ignore worker safety issues all together. It was discovered during the telling of these stories that there were common problems shared at all of the worksites.

Members went through 4 separate training modules during the Safety Summit covering:

- Policy and Regulations
- Political and Legislative Action
- Internal Organizing for Power
- External Communications

Common themes and areas of concern surfaced, along with initial ideas to develop plans for short term actions were discussed. ASEA will continue to meet and train others which will require long term planning.

Members at the summit signed up to become more active as worksite communicators. They volunteered to tell their stories to legislators to help make changes. Some members gave video testimonials for use in our social media campaign. Other members signed up to become stewards.

There will be more Safety Summits planned in the future. Attending members from the summit will be communicating updates to you at your worksite and asking you to assist us in our campaign for a safer workplace.

Statewide Elections - Delegates to AFSCME International Convention - Important Dates

MARCH 28, 2018 - Notice of Nominations will be mailed to all members in good standing.

APRIL 19, 2018 - Deadline for receipt of Nomination Petition Forms and Candidate statements.
at 12 Noon

APRIL 30, 2018 - Ballots mailed to members.

MAY 31, 2018 - This is the "Election Date" (ballots counted)

MAT-SU Chapter Scholarship Winners

The Mat -Su Chapter announced the winners of the first ever Mat-Su Chapter Scholarship. The winners are:

- Valarie Martinez, is a Mat-Su member who works for the Dept. of Public Safety as an Office Assistant III
- Brandon Olson, is the son of Kathy Olson, Mat-Su Chief Steward who works at DPA

The decision was very hard as there were a lot of talented individuals who applied and we wanted to give a scholarship to everyone, which was not possible.

The chapter is looking forward to doing the scholarships again this fall, so keep your ears and eyes open for the next scholarship announcement.

"Work Shouldn't Hurt" Demonstration By ASEA/AFSCME Members at API - Governor's Office Issued A Press Release

On March 8, 2018 ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 staged the "Work Shouldn't Hurt" demonstration in front of API. Within several hours of that march the Governor's Office issued a press release stating that "Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Valerie Davidson had requested an independent investigation into workplace safety at API. Under the supervision of Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth, Anchorage attorney Bill Evans has been hired to independently investigate complaints of workplace safety made by API employees and how those complaints have been previously handled by API management."

Mr. Evans has been charged with the task of investigating if API employees are comfortable reporting their concerns to hospital administrators, or if there are unnecessary obstacles that exist. He will provide a confidential report that will be submitted to the Attorney General and Commissioner Davidson outlining specific allegations and issues. The report should be submitted within four months. A public report will be made available excluding any confidential information."



President's Message

Sisters and Brothers,

Convention, Wow! Your elected delegates came together and worked diligently to discuss Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions that were brought forth by members and local chapters. The first three days we were inspired with committee training, parliamentary training, AFSCME Strong updates and a powerful and successful rally in front of Alaska Psychiatric Institute for our Brothers and Sisters. Our Rally caught the attention of Governor Walker and an investigation has been ordered.

AFSCME International President Lee Saunders and our International Vice President Stacy Chamberlain of Council 75 both graced us with riveting and empowering speeches on standing together in Unity and Never Giving up! Governor Bill Walker, Congressman Don Young, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and Alaska AFL-CIO President Vince Beltrami gave us inspiring words of wisdom and their commitments to State Employees, labor and working families. There were AFSCME International guests from other Councils and National Headquarters who were in attendance.

We had status updates from our sponsored Trusts (Health and Legal), which informed us of the benefits we have diligently used and benefitted from. The Health Trust highlighted acquiring necessary care outside of Alaska and

Bridge Health being very accommodative to member's medical situations. Our new Political Action Lobbyists gave us an update on Alaska's fiscal budget and status on bills in support of State employees. Each Convention committee reported on their work, status of resolutions they crafted and/or supported. A status report of our Statewide Committees were given by each Chair and their work over the past year and a half and our Executive Director, Jake Metcalfe (status of membership and outreach), myself (President) and our Treasurer, John White gave reports.

We were happy to have shared the lobby with our ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Retiree unit and our (WIC) Women's Issues Committee auction. WIC held their wonderful silent auction again this year, which was a success.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and thank you to VSP for the donation of the sun glasses for use as a door prize. Thank you to four Jake and Jill students, WIC member Andrea Quintyne and Ms. Winton who helped man our tables. WIC looks forward to their next silent auction, so be ready. A special thank you to the Anchorage Chapter for partnering in sponsoring our Friday night reception, we enjoyed wonderful food, and the entertainment was provided by the Underground Dance Company.

Be on the lookout for information on Steward Training coming later in April.

In Friendship & Solidarity! Dawn Bundick, ASEA President