



Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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July 27, 2007

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Most times it is difficult to measure success because the issue is too complex or difficult to understand. Today we can cautiously say that success has been achieved by the leadership, staff, and members of Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME after a long-drawn-out battle with Governor Donald E. Carcieri for respect, dignity and job security.

Well before Governor Donald R. Carcieri submitted his budget attack upon public employees in January, the leadership of Council 94 had anticipated that privatization would be a critical issue this year and we would be in a serious fight for many of our member's jobs.

RI Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO's 2007 Accomplishments:

- Furlough Days – STOPPED**
- High Priced Consultant Contracts – EXPOSED**
- 1 ½% wage reduction – STOPPED**
- 3% Wage Increase- SAVED**
- Privatization of the Central Falls School Bus Drivers - STOPPED**
- Privatization at the Rhode Island Veterans Home & Eleanor Slater Hospital – STOPPED**
- Smart Staffing – EXPOSED**
- Elimination of Residency Requirement for Classified State Employees – PASSED/STATE LAW**
- Attack on Municipal Pensions & Retiree Health Care – STOPPED**
- Injury on Duty for Environmental Police Officers – PASSED/STATE LAW**
- Mandatory Overtime Legislation- PASSED/VETOED**
- Injury on Duty & Police Officer Bill of Rights for Airport Police – Passed/VETOED**
- Medicaid Disclosure - PASSED/STATE LAW**

In anticipation of this effort, we established a committee with local presidents, staff and legal counsel to fight back. In addition to research assistance from our International Union we recruited hundreds of members to get involved from all of the state, municipal and quasi-public locals. Many members participated in our fight back campaign by signing pledge cards, calling their state representatives and senators, attended rallies, and wore their "Green Monster" AFSCME t-shirts to the statehouse hearings.

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in the public service



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As the privatization battle progressed, Council 94 aired television ads to enlighten the public about this very serious matter. Many Rhode Islanders, patients, residents and their families joined with us in opposing Governor Carcieri's ill conceived privatization plans.

Fortunately, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed Budget Article 42 Substitute as Amended which does not eliminate privatization, but requires a more fiscal responsible approach be taken together with assurances that the process will be fair to the employees and the tax payers.

Governor Donald R. Carcieri was totally opposed to Budget Article 42 and vetoed the budget. The veto was overturned by the legislature. In spite, the Governor has announced that he would lay off 1, 000 state employees. That was over a month ago and we have yet to receive any list of positions or names of personnel that may be impacted.

Whatever the issues may be now or in the future, we need to be prepared to fight. Just next year we will be back into contract negotiations as the State Employee Master Contract expires on June 30, 2008, and the outlook for the state's budget is bleak.

We will enhance our ability to communicate with you through further development and construction of our web site, improved membership databases, and more electronic based correspondence. Also, we will be building our political action teams and committees to make certain we continue to be a formidable force in the next legislative session and the 2008 elections. If you are not a member of our PEOPLE program, please consider joining today.

We hope you and your families have a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable summer.

In Solidarity,

J. Michael Downey
President

Dennis R. Grilli
Executive Director