

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6pm

BCFPE UNION OFFICE

(MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6PM)

WELCOME

Hello and Thank you for taking this time out of your very busy schedules to be here. You are the Union and for us to be successful, all membership must take the same vested interest you have show by being here tonight.

INTRODUCTIONS

A. Executive Board Members

President - John Ripley, Executive Vice President – Christopher Morgan,

Secretary – Matt Madairy & Treasurer – Kasia Gatchalian

Josh Tormey - Area 1 VP, Ben Little - Area 2 VP, Kaitlyn Neumeister - Area 3 VP, Angela Spencer - Area 4 VP, Danielle Drell - Area 5 VP, and Hermes Rios - Area 6 VP.

(VACANT) Area 7 – DEPS, OIT & PAI

B. AFT Maryland Representatives and Other Guests

BCFPE TREASURES REPORT AS OF September 1, 2024

- President Ripley read account totals and advised all accounts have been reconciled thru **January 2025**

All accounts are Annually Audited by AFT National Auditor. FY2024 Audit was completed in the fall of 2024 & final report has been issued dated 09/24/2024. Review Summary & Conclusion – nothing came to the attention of the auditor involving the internal control process that is considered reportable conditions. Financial records and internal controls found to be in good condition. Full FY2024 Audit Reports are available for review upon request.

FY2024 AFT Annual Audit is scheduled for the week of September 16th.

The BCFPE Executive Board will review and approve the FY2026 Proposed Budget at the June 2025 scheduled Executive Board meeting.

Dues Increase Notice

Per pay dues will increase from \$25.43 to \$26.92 on October 1, 2023. These are pass-thru increases from our affiliates and dues have not increased since 2021.

BCFPE has absorbed the 2024 and 2025 increases.

STATE OF THE UNION

A. BCFPE FY2025 – FY2027 Tentative Agreement (TA) beginning July 1, 2024

B. Membership accepted the contract by a vote of 97.27% (285 – YES and 8 – NO)

- **1 % COLA Jan. 1, 2025, 1% COLA Jan. 1, 2026 & Jan. 1, 2027**
- **Added Longevities: 8/9 year FY2025, 8/9 year FY2026 & 11 year FY2027**
- **32 Pay Schedule 1 Upgrades**
 - **Guaranteed steps and longevities thru FY2027**
 - **Guaranteed no furloughs or lay-offs thru FY2027**
 - **Pension Re-Opener for FY2026**
 - **We have added over 25% to the Pay Schedule over the combined 5-year contract plus more than 50 classifications have seen upgrades.**

- ✓ **Beginning January 1, 2025 – We have reached an agreement to eliminate the Pre /Post 2-tier healthcare rate system. Post 2007 employees will drop down to the pre 2007 rates. Saving based on current rates;**
 - **The will add 10 / 20 million to the budget**
 - **Family Coverage - Savings \$116 per pay or \$3019 a year**
 - **Employee & Spouse Coverage - Savings \$65 per pay or \$1701 a year**
 - **Parent & Child Coverage – Savings \$25 per pay or \$673 a year**

- **SAC Report is due by February 15th.**

C. Health Care Review Committee (HCRC) UPDATE

- **Quarterly HCRC meeting have been scheduled for 2025**

* 3/12/25 @ 10am	* 6/18/25 @ 11am
* 9/11/25 @ 3pm	* 12/10/25 @ 10am

D. 519 BCFPE Union Members for January 2025

- BCFPE is Strong but membership is dropping due largely to slow hiring and employee access due to pandemic.
- Let us know if you would like to help plan membership recruitment effort in a specific area of the county or if you have county employees interested in more information about the union.

- **Shop Steward Training this sometime fall 2025**

BCFPE UPDATE

STAY INFORMED

- Website (looking for BCFPE activist to volunteer to be our website coordinator)
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Emails (AFT/Baltimore County)
- **Update Contact Information (Home address / Email address)**

E. Legal Benefit Plans for Members.

- BCFPE Legal Plan Brochures (HANDOUT)
- AFT Occupational Liability Coverage for members
- Give us your feedback regarding this benefit

F. County / State Legislation

- ✓ **HB2 – Union Dues Subtraction Modification. (PASSED/SIGNED)**
 - **100% of union dues can be subtracted from your Md. taxable income.**

G. 2026 Elections / County Executive, County Council, etc.

- Voter Registration Training
- Ways to get more involved / fundraisers
- As Baltimore County Employees, we have the unique opportunity to help elect or un-elect our bosses.
- GET INVOLVED & MAKE MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

H. SAVE-THE-DATES: CY2024 General Membership Meetings

- **The Executive Board has approved 2025 General Membership Meeting Dates and they have been posted on the union website.**
 - **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6pm**
 - **Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 6pm**
 - **Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6pm**

I. Help make us MORE visible

- To be influential - **WE** must **BE** influential
- Get involved
- BCFPE Hats and Shirts **(Now in women's cut t-shirts)**
- Facebook & Twitter
- **New Union Giveaways**

J. MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

- **AFL-CIO Night in Annapolis**
 - **Monday, March 10th from 6pm to 8pm**
 - **Buses rides available thru AFT**

- **Union Office Address**
 - **1801 Glen Keith Blvd.**
Suite 100
Towson, Md. 21286
(Loch Raven Center)

Q and A Session –

- Adele asked if county employee pensions are guaranteed. John advised that the union is currently in negotiations with the county in reference to shortening members required years of service. John advised he does not expect there to be any issues with the county's pension system.
- Adele asked if a county employee retires are they still eligible to be a union member or are they out of the union. John advised that if someone retires from county service, they are no longer eligible to be a union member. John advised that there is a retirees union. Chris advised that the retirees union is called, Baltimore County Retired Employees Association.

THANK YOU - STAY INFORMED

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm