

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Leigh Tomlinson, President

AFSCME Retirees Michigan Chapter 255

JUNE 11, 2026



Picnics and Politics

Meet the Candidates for this year's Michigan elections

Macomb County – Politics in the Pavilion

Saturday, June 27, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

UAW Region 1 Pavilion

27800 George Merrill Drive, Warren

Detroit – Picnic in the Pavilion

Saturday, July 25, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Northwest Activities Center

18100 Meyers Road, Detroit

Food and beverages provided

Open to families

55" TV's to be raffled - donated by AFSCME 925

50/50 Raffle

Thanks to Kathie for designing the flyers

Community Events

Flint Labor Day Parade

Chris Swanson, Sheriff of Genesee County, who is running for Governor of Michigan, is also in charge of the parade. I left a message but have not received a call back. I would like some discussion and a decision from the board and with our Political Liaison, Julie Bauman, as to whether or not we should pursue our involvement in the Flint parade this year.

Marquette Labor Day Parade

Region 11 VP, Shana Thornton, referred me to Kathy Carlson who has been an AFSCME activist for many years and has been on the board for the Labor Day Parade. She has an upcoming meeting with the President of the UP Regional Labor Federation and will let them know we would like to get some exposure at the parade this year. She mentioned she was told this year's Labor Day Parade is going to look different but she doesn't know exactly what that means. She will be getting back to me with more details.

Detroit Labor Day Parade

This parade is well-organized and AFSCME has been part of it for many years. Who wants to be there to represent the retirees this year?

Grand Rapids Labor Day Event

This is an event where we could have a table to get exposure. I don't have any information as yet and believe we should hold off on this until possibly next year as it will be important to focus on the elections this year.

Give us your ideas for:

“Fun” activities around the state where members can socialize and enjoy being together.

Community events, large or small, where we could get pass out information about the retiree chapter.

PALS Program Information

(Political Action Liaison or Political and Legislative program)

The current focus is on the Farm Bill. They are asking that we contact our Senators and urge them to vote no on any farm bill that does not fix the SNAP cost shift onto states or allows for the privatization of SNAP merit workers. I have asked Steve Rzeppa to send me information regarding that bill so we can be well informed. They are hoping to schedule a meeting with Senators Elissa Slotkin and Gary Peters soon to discuss this issue and any others that may arise.

If you are interested in being a part of the PALS program, please let me know and I will look into it.

Retiree Conference and International Convention

The 46th Annual Meeting of the AFSCME Retiree Council will be held on Sunday, August 16 through Monday, August 17, 2026 in conjunction with the International Convention in Chicago. I propose designating Treasurer Ed McNeil as Chapter 255's representative at this year's meeting. AFSCME International's Retiree Department will cover the hotel cost and reimburse up to \$600 for the cost of travel for the Chapter's designated Representative only. Costs for an alternate are the responsibility of Chapter 255. Registration is due by June 26.

The 47th AFSCME International Convention will be held from Monday, August 17 through Friday, August 21, 2026. Again this year, I recommend that Chapter 255 NOT send a delegate to Convention.