

AFSCME INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT LEE SAUNDERS

Saunders travelled to Springfield to speak directly to AFSCME Council 31 members; the following are excerpts from his remarks on October 15, 2021.

“I wanted to be here to look you in the eye, to thank you and celebrate you. Because it doesn’t matter how steep the challenge is—Council 31 attacks it with courage and tenacity, with a warrior mentality that represents the very best of our union.

“When we say AFSCME never quits, that’s more than a catchphrase. It means that when things are at their absolute worst, we find the strength and stamina to push through. It means that when our communities need us most, we continue to serve with fearlessness and resolve. It means we stand on the front lines to protect our neighbors even if we have to expose ourselves and our families to danger.

“At Council 31, you know how to break through the noise and bring people together. You know how to instill pride in our union, how to give members a greater sense of ownership in our union. You know how to fortify the pillars of AFSCME Strong: growing the union through internal and external organizing; building power in the workplace, in the legislature and at the voting booth; and driving new innovations to better communicate with members and potential members.

“As one of AFSCME’s strongest and most strategic affiliates, I’m counting on you to light the path and show the way. I’m counting on you to show that Council 31 power. I’m counting on you to help our entire union rise to meet this challenge.”