

# STEWARD HANDBOOK



**A Guide for Building  
a Strong Union &  
Power in the Workplace**

*Updated August 2010*



## Congratulations on Becoming an AFSCME Steward!

The job of a steward is the most challenging, most rewarding and most important job in our union. That's because you are on the front lines of our fight to develop a strong, active union in the workplace — one that can make a real difference in the lives of our members.

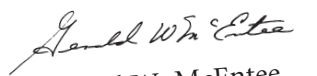
Stewards have an enormous impact on our members' faith and belief in the union. The steward is the one union person our members see every day when they go to work. In the eyes of most AFSCME members, you are the union. Because this is so, the AFSCME steward, more than any other union leader or activist, has the opportunity to energize and mobilize the source of our union's strength: the membership.

The steward takes on a number of roles in the union: You provide leadership in the workplace; you organize co-workers to take collective action; you communicate with workers, union leaders and management; and you represent members. By performing these steward tasks, you will earn the confidence and respect of your co-workers. This will allow you to carry out your primary responsibility: to reach out to our members and encourage them to become active, involved participants in their union.

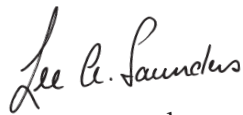
This is vitally important because of a fundamental truth about our union: Member involvement in union activities and union actions creates union power in the workplace. A strong union is better able to protect workers' rights and fight for improvements in wages, hours, working conditions and quality of life on the job.

Take great pride in being an AFSCME steward. We know you are up to the challenge.

In solidarity,



Gerald W. McEntee  
International President



Lee A. Saunders  
International Secretary-Treasurer





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