

## **Local 3599 Fighting Sequester on the Hill- February 2013**

Local 3599 showed up ready to fight to stop the sequester and furloughs for one of our most important Legislative Conferences ever. As in past years, Local 3599 sent a mix of seasoned and first time participants. We had Local 3599 Treasurer Darrick Anderson attending for the first time. Returning from last year we had Glenda Bryan Brooks, Local 3599 Secretary. We also had regular attendees Local President Sharon Baker and Rachel Shonfield. Below is an account of the conference from first time participant Darrick Anderson, which appeared in the National Council 216 Works newsletter, May 2013 edition.



*(L-R) Darrick Anderson, Rachel Shonfield, Sharon Baker  
at AFGE/AFSME Super Rally, February 12, 2013*

## **AFL-CIO 2013 Legislative and Grassroots Mobilization Conference**

***By Darrick Anderson, AFGE Local 3599***

The 2013 Legislative Conference was held February 10-13, 2013 in Washington DC. I had the opportunity to participate in this year's Conference for the first time with Council 216 and other local members. The training was excellent. The excitement from the plenary session, Civil Rights Luncheon, Legislative workshops and the rally on Capitol Hill confirms the dedication of our Union to the bargaining unit.

If you are not a member, you should consider being part of this great organization. Council 216's Executive Board demonstrated to me the professionalism and hard work put forth on our behalf during the conference and at our Congressional meetings. We have all (members and non-members) benefited from the Union's negotiations with management, but it does not stop there. Our Council goes another step further by meeting with our elected officials to maintain a tradition of educating both sides about EEOC's concerns and the impact on the workers in our districts. The Council's level of preparation and professionalism has brought respect from Congress. I was enlightened to witness the hard work our Council does for us.

My legislative appointments with the Senators and House of Representatives were a learning experience for me. The Council provided me with material to share with the congressional staff that made my meetings effective. There was a genuine interest in what we had to say. The Council and other local members worked tirelessly in meeting with the Senators and members of the House of Representatives to convey EEOC's concerns. I had the opportunity to speak with Congressman John Yarmuth of Kentucky and his staffer to share some of the Union's concerns, such as, EEOC's budget cuts, intake, staffing, the overtime issue and sequestration. Congressman Yarmuth showed interest in our concerns, especially how it would affect his constituents in his district.

I am excited to be part of this organization that is fighting for our jobs and the future of federal employees. I know that my membership in the Union is not just for me, it is also for you.