

## Local 3599 Goes to Washington – February 2012



*(L-R) Rachel Shonfield, Sharon Baker, Glenda Bryan Brooks*

Local 3599 once again showed that legislative action is a priority. The Local sent a strong contingent to the 2012 AFGE Legislative Conference, in order to be able to meet with the many lawmakers for our eight states. Legislative Conference veterans Sharon Baker and Rachel Shonfield were joined by first timers Glenda Bryan Brooks (Birmingham) and Consuelo Nodar (Miami). The 3599 group shared with Congress the National Council 216 talking points, as well as issues of concern in the Local's particular offices. For FY12 EEOC's budget was cut for the first time in the agency's history. The Union is pressing Congress to restore the \$6M that was cut. The Union also continued advocating for implementation of the Council's dedicated intake plan. While in Washington, EEOC union members learned that in tough budget times the President did request an increase for EEOC in FY13 to \$373M.

Participants from Local 3599 also attended the AFGE rally. Local 3599's own Rachel Shonfield was one of the speakers at the Women's and Fair Practices Civil Rights Luncheon. Council President Gabrielle Martin and Shonfield both alerted the luncheon crowd of over 800 activists about EEOC's budget cut that has threatened civil rights enforcement. Activists were provided Council 216 Talking Points to pass out on their own Hill visits.