

# **Alaska Union Affiliates with AFSCME**

**July 3 2007**

Members of the 700-strong Alaska Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) have voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with AFSCME, the nation's most powerful union for law enforcement.

Partnering with AFSCME International, which represents 1.4 million members, including more than 38,000 law enforcement officers nationwide, creates significant new leverage for PSEA, which has effectively represented its members at the state and municipal levels since 1978.

PSEA members include Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Airport Police and Fire Officers, Deputy Fire Marshals, Court Service Officers, Municipal Police Officers, Dispatchers, EMTs and others in the law enforcement community.

“By working together, we are stronger than if we remain an independent union,” says PSEA President Rob Cox, a state trooper based in Palmer.

AFSCME already represents more than 8,000 state employees through its affiliation with the Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA)/AFSCME Local 52. Both ASEA and PSEA will remain independent unions, but will partner to increase the effectiveness of each in organizing and at the

bargaining table. So far this year, PSEA has negotiated five individual municipal contracts, and it's getting ready to negotiate in September for state troopers, airport police and fire and court service personnel – about half of PSEA's membership. Talks are also scheduled that month for employees of the Ketchikan (cq) Police Department.

“Our commitment is to strengthen AFSCME in the state of Alaska and, by working together, improve service to our current members and bring new members into both our unions,” says ASEA Business Manager Jim Duncan.

To learn more about AFSCME, click [here](#)