



AFSCME Council 5 members and retirees stand watch over a Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement hearing Jan. 24. A foundation headed by a billionaire who spends millions trying to take away secure public pensions is now helping shape Minnesota's pension discussions. <http://afscmemn.org/story/anti-pension-arnold-foundation-comes-capitol>

Save the Date

Join thousands of working people, our allies and our families in standing up for our freedom to come together in strong unions.

Working People's Day of Action is at 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, Feb. 24** at the state Capitol Rotunda in Saint Paul.

We'll stand together for equitable pay, affordable health care, quality schools, vibrant communities and a secure future for all of us. We'll demand an end to a system that corporate elites and extremists have rigged against us.

When we join forces and stick together, we are unstoppable. RSVP to <https://www.facebook.com/events/655460597911608/>.

Locals Ratify Contracts

Local 3839 (City of Plymouth)

approved a three-year contract with raises of 3 percent a year.

Locals 1842 and 2508 (City of Saint Paul technical and clerical) ratified a three-year contract that includes a 1.5 percent raise retroactive to Jan. 1; 1 percent on July 1; 1.5 percent in January 2019; 1.25 percent in April 2019; and 2.75 percent in 2020. It also includes an increased night shift differential.

Local 3481 (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery) ratified a two-year contract with a 1 percent raise retroactive to Jan. 1 in 2018; a new wage grid on July 1, 2018, with a 1 percent increase for those above the grid; and a 2 percent raise in July 2019. It also includes a 50-cent hourly shift differential from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.; double time for hours worked on additional

It's Precinct Caucus Time

You can help make sure that worker-friendly candidates are elected in Minnesota by attending your precinct caucus at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, Feb. 6**.

Join your coworkers, friends and neighbors. Caucusing is exciting and easy to do.

This year, attending a DFL caucus could be your best chance of weighing in early on the governor's race. Attorney General Lori Swanson has decided to run for reelection, not for governor. That diminishes the likelihood of a crowded DFL primary in August and enhances the value of a party endorsement at the convention.

By taking part, you can help pack the Legislature with lawmakers who support workers, our families and our communities, too.

Find your caucus location at <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

Vote in Special Elections

With special elections coming, we're lucky to have two strong candidates: Karla Bigham for state Senate District 54 and Melissa Wagner in House District 23B.

The special elections are **Monday, Feb. 12**. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Find your polling place at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

holidays; language clarifying PTO requests, approvals and denials; and a change in the definition of on-call workers.

Reopening Private Prison Is Spendy

The shocking price tag to purchase and upgrade the shuttered private prison in Appleton is nearly \$200 million, according to an independent assessment ordered by the Minnesota Legislature.

The new report also finds that leasing private-prison beds would cost nearly twice as much as keeping overflow inmates in Minnesota jails when prisons are full. <http://afscmemn.org/story/reopening-private-prison-would-cost-more-expected>

Rally for State Contracts

Join our brothers and sisters at MAPE in welcoming legislators back on the first day of session **Feb. 20** and demanding they pass state workers' contracts.

After a short program on the Capitol steps at noon, participants will deliver thousands of letters to lawmakers, supporting the fair and affordable contract AFSCME and MAPE negotiated with the state. Expect the rally to take one hour, including travel time for Capitol Complex workers.

Last October, the Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER) voted against recommending passage of AFSCME's multi-unit and MAPE contracts. Those contracts need legislative approval.

Contracts for Unit 8 (corrections) and Unit 25 (radio communications operators) are still waiting for action by SER. Download a rally

flier or RSVP at <http://afscmemn.org/event/rally-capitol>.

Join Moment of Silence

In 1968, African American sanitation workers in Memphis faced poverty wages and degrading, unsafe work conditions. The city refused to recognize their union or their humanity.

Then two workers – Echol Cole and Robert Walker – were crushed to death on the job. Their AFSCME brothers marched in the streets carrying signs proclaiming “I AM A MAN” and won their union.

Join us for a national moment of silence on Thursday at 4:20 p.m. to honor them and join the call to action for our future. <https://iam2018.org/moment-of-silence/>

Protect Our Pensions

AFSCME Council 5 recommends Jacqueline Terry to fill a vacancy on the Minnesota State Retirement System Board. MSRS provides retirement benefits to state and Metropolitan Council workers plus many non-faculty employees at the U of M. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in early February. The deadline to vote is **March 1**.

Take Quick Action

Sick and tired of super wealthy CEOs spending tens of millions trying to stack the deck in their favor? Sign this petition to stand in solidarity with your union brothers and sisters and let them know you won't quit on them: <https://www.afscme.org/hub/afscme-stick-with-union>.

Labor Giant Passes Away

Our union brother Paul Booth was a tireless champion for working people as an organizer, mentor and friend. He died Jan. 17.

Booth was an activist and leader in the early student movement against the Vietnam War and helped organize the first major march on Washington, D.C. opposing the war. As an anti-apartheid activist, he fought for disinvestment in South Africa.

In 1970, Booth worked with Saul Alinsky to form Chicago's Citizens Action Program, which reduced toxic air pollution from steel plants and other factories.

He joined AFSCME in 1974 and helped organize state employees in Illinois, leading to the founding of AFSCME Council 31. As AFSCME's organizing director, he helped grow the union into a 1.6 million member giant. Booth later became assistant and then executive assistant to the president, helping guide the union through almost three decades of struggle and bargaining successes.

We will honor his legacy by fighting fiercely for working people. Rest in Power, Paul.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out twice a month for locals and activists. Share news by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org. Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board at www.afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Moment of Silence	Thursday at 4:20 p.m.	https://iam2018.org/moment-of-silence/
Rally for State Contracts	Feb. 20 at noon	State Capitol steps, Saint Paul
Working People's Day of Action	Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m.	State Capitol Rotunda, Saint Paul