



(Left to right) AFSCME Council 5's legislative representative Ethan Vogel, Local 66's John Sundell and Local 151's Cynthia Hassan offer legislators several ways to help the overburdened child protection system keep kids safe.

Enroll Now for Essential State Benefits

If you are a state worker, please take time to review your insurance options. Open enrollment is **Oct. 26 through Nov. 8**.

Even though GOP lawmakers on the Subcommittee on Employee Relations recommended rejecting the multi-unit state contract, there are still opportunities too important to miss out on:

- Guaranteed access to short-term disability, even if you have a preexisting condition or have been turned down before. The state says this is the first open enrollment period this century!
- Enroll or increase long-term disability coverage.
- A pilot project to improve quality of care for diabetes patients while reducing out-of-pocket costs.

Enroll at: <https://mn.gov/mmb/segip/open-enrollment/>.

Find answers to SER questions at: <https://tinyurl.com/yad5segp>.

Social Workers Offer Solutions

The child protection system is so swamped at every level, children taken into care have had to stay in offices overnight in some locations or spent multiple days in hospital ER exam rooms because workers had nowhere else to bring them.

Increasing caseloads are stretching workers thin and putting kids at risk, child protection workers told the Minnesota Legislative Task Force on Child Protection earlier this month.

AFSCME members gave legislators numerous recommendations on how to help fix the system: <https://tinyurl.com/yd7tsgzx>.

Help Get Out the Vote

Local elections are just days away and there's still time to make a difference.

Don't forget to vote on **Tuesday, Nov. 7** for municipal and school district officials. Find candidates endorsed and screened by AFSCME members at <http://afscmemn.org/vote>.

Want to help?

- Door knock on any Saturday before the election for mayoral candidates Melvin Carter in Saint Paul and Jacob Frey in Minneapolis, starting from Council 5's South St. Paul office at 9 a.m.
- On **Oct. 26**, phone banking for Carter runs from 6 to 8 p.m. at our South Saint Paul office, with dinner provided at 5:30 p.m.
- On **Nov. 2 and 3**, phone bank at South St. Paul to help Get Out the Vote from 5:30 to 9 p.m., with dinner provided at 5:30.
- On **Nov. 6 and Nov. 7**, door knock or call with the Melvin Carter campaign to get people to the polls.

To get involved in Duluth, contact Zach Sias at (218) 341-9117 or zach.sias@afscmemn.org. (You also can find a detailed list of Duluth times and locations in the last issue of Action Update.)

To take part in the Twin Cities, contact Laura Askelin at (651) 287-0586 or laura.askelin@afscmemn.org.

Franken Endorses Carter

AFSCME and U.S. Sen. Al Franken agree: Melvin Carter is our choice for Mayor of Saint Paul. “Melvin has a clear vision for the future of Saint Paul, and I know we can count on him to build a city that works for everyone who calls Saint Paul home,” Franken says. <https://tinyurl.com/y9fj3vt5>

Jacob Frey in the News

Check out the AFSCME-endorsed Minneapolis mayoral candidate’s plans for the city: <https://tinyurl.com/y8cwy5ot>.

Legislature Should Approve State Worker Contracts

The *Forum* newspaper published Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide’s letter urging the Minnesota Legislature to pass state worker contracts. Seide points out Republican lawmakers want to deny workers a 2 percent cost-of-living raise, while taking a 45 percent pay raise for themselves: <https://tinyurl.com/ycb4doc3>.

Anti-worker Reps. Steve Drazkowski and Marion O’Neill say our wages are too high and our benefits are too rich. If workers are treated the way these two want, there’s going to be a crisis: The state will have a hard time recruiting workers to replace the wave of retirees. <https://tinyurl.com/yc57thre>. Local 221’s Mike Lindholt responded to their disrespect: <https://tinyurl.com/ybr72qu8>.

Local Approves Contract

Local 66 (Proctor Basic) ratified a three-year agreement that includes



Council 5 Veterans Initiative donations helped buy this bus to transport vets at the Hastings Veterans Home (Local 744).

2 percent general raises each year, the IRS mileage rate for personal vehicle use and paid funeral leave. It clarifies seniority and employee recall language.

Dial for Respect, Power

When Anshitu Foge called AFSCME’s new Member Action Center for the first time, she was nervous. But she knew she had to speak up.

Her employer, Regions Hospital, was boosting the number of rooms housekeeping had to clean from 12 to 18 – in the same amount of time. Foge and her co-workers were worried about how they could adequately clean so many rooms.

The Local 722 members worked with their field representatives to hold listening sessions and present a petition to management. Now, rather than being disciplined if they can’t get all that work done, workers are documenting issues and presenting them to management for discussion with support from their reps.

“I want to do my job right. It makes me happy,” Foge says. “That is my house. I need to be taking care of it.”

The MAC is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dial (651) 450-4990, (218) 722-0577, (320) 235-2344 or (800) 652-9791.

Award Winners Announced

AFSCME Council 5 Achievement Awards were presented at the Annual Convention in Duluth.

- Mike Buesing Award for internal mobilization and local union development: Local 66, St. Louis County Basic-Merit Organizing Committee.
- Communications Award: Aleathea Modlin, Local 1574.
- Rick Scott Political Activism Award: Jean Diederich, Local 34.
- Jerry Wurf Organizing Award: American Red Cross Workers, Collections, Local 3931.

C5 Scholarship Winners

- Jack Porter, the son of Local 552 members Denny and Stacy Porter, won the \$1,000 Richard Patterson Scholarship.
- Rachel Safe, the daughter of Local 608 member Angela Safe, won the \$500 Clarence J. Moss Scholarship.
- Local 4001 member Jennifer Hetzer and Local 638 member Jill Krosch won Robert Norberg Scholarships to continue their education.

Get in on the Action

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

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Vote in General Election	Nov. 7	http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/