

## Register for DOTH

Attending Day on the Hill on **Tuesday, March 20**, is more important than ever this year. Hundreds of AFSCME members will gather to show legislators that Together We Rise.

We are united in a belief that our state can be a place where everyone is able to live a secure, happy and healthy life; where we have the freedom to join together in strong unions to build a brighter future for our families and our communities.

AFSCME will call on the 2018 Minnesota Legislature to:

- Support our freedom to join together in strong unions.
- Extend opportunity to all, not just the wealthy few.
- Reinvest in the work we do.
- Guarantee retirement security.

## Contracts for Units 8 and 25 Took Effect Saturday

New contracts covering AFSCME correctional officers (Unit 8) and radio control operators (Unit 25) took effect Saturday because the Legislative Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER) chose to take no action by the Feb. 9 deadline.

That inaction by SER means the two contracts are approved on an interim basis. The full Legislature will still need to approve our contracts during the upcoming session, which begins Feb. 20.

The good news: Workers covered by these contracts will receive a 2 percent raise with back pay retroactive to July 1, 2017.



- Staff up for safe workplaces.
- Move forward on transportation.
- Protect children and elders.
- Ban private prisons.

Please register through your local. Check out bus schedules and get more information at <http://afscmemn.org/doth2018>.

The bad news: SER's interim approval means workers will have to wait for negotiated improvements to insurance benefits, including:

- Free access to convenience clinics and virtuwel (current co-pay is \$10).
- Sealants at no cost.
- All 50% plan coverage will go to 80%.
- Dental implants.
- Annual maximum increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.
- No age limit for orthodontia.

For these insurance benefits to take effect, the Legislature must approve the AFSCME multi-unit and MAPE

## Working People Unite in Saint Paul

Join the Working People's Day of Action in Saint Paul on **Feb. 24**.

Thousands of working people and our allies will stand up for our freedoms and demand an end to a system that's rigged against us. We will rise up and fight.

Fight for the freedom to come together in strong unions.

Fight for equitable pay.

Fight for affordable health care.

Fight for quality schools.

Fight for vibrant communities.

Fight for a secure future for all of us.

When we join forces and stick together, we are unstoppable.

Bring your partners and kids, and join us for the family-friendly event at 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, Feb. 24**, in the Capitol Rotunda.

RSVP to let us know you're coming and sign up for buses at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/working-peoples-day-of-action-st-paul-mn>.

contracts. All of us must stand united to get all of our contracts approved by the Legislature. We want every legislator to know that maintaining high-quality state services requires competitive compensation for all state workers.

## Local Ratifies Contract

**Local 3445** (City of Plymouth) approved a three-year contract with 3% increases each year.

## Organizing is Growing

Let's give a big AFSCME welcome to the 226 workers organized by Council 5 in 2017, part of Minnesota's growing union density.

They include workers from the City of Hopkins; City of North St. Paul; Hennepin County adult education and community health; HCMC; Walker Methodist housekeeping and laundry; Ramsey County epidemiologists; and the Minneapolis Park Board professional unit.

Workers are building power across Minnesota: We gained 46,000 union members in 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/y74ocsok>

## Bigham Wins Senate Seat

Congratulations to Senator-Elect Karla Bigham. Her win shows the energy behind a pro-worker agenda in a district that Trump carried in 2016. That's great news in a pivotal election year.

A lifelong resident of Washington County, Karla Bigham has dedicated her career to public service. As a county commissioner, former state representative and former Cottage Grove city council member, she has the experience needed to get things done at the State Capitol.

Throughout her time in elected office, Bigham has delivered for those she serves. As state senator, Bigham will bring her fighting spirit to critical issues like health

care, education and economic opportunity.

## Judge Rules Fischbach Can Hold Both Seats

The balance of power in the state Senate won't change yet: A judge ruled Monday that Michelle Fischbach can remain both senator and lieutenant governor. The judge wrote that the suit by Destiny Dusosky, who lives in Fischbach's district, "is premature." The judge dismissed the case in a way that a new one may be filed. His decision also may be appealed. <https://tinyurl.com/y9cyr9q3>

## Vote for MSRS Board

Ballots for the Minnesota State Retirement System Board election arrived in mailboxes this week.

Each MSRS member gets two votes. AFSCME recommends that one of them be for Jacqueline Terry, a member of AFSCME Local 22 who is dedicated to protecting retirement security. Learn more about her at <http://afscmemn.org/story/protect-our-pensions>.

Members can vote by mail or online at [directvote.net/msrs](http://directvote.net/msrs). Ballots are due by **March 1**.

## Janus Update

When the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on the anti-union case *Janus v. AFSCME* **Feb. 26**, our union will get support from elected officials across the nation.

Twenty-two state attorneys general, along with governors, city and

county attorneys, school districts, mayors and our fellow unions have filed "friend of the court" briefs. They argue that unions are critical to the delivery of efficient, effective public services.

## AFSCME International Visits

International secretary-treasurer Elissa McBride joined dozens of Council 5 Local leaders on Jan. 19 in vowing to fight harder than ever against anti-worker forces behind *Janus*.

"We're not planning to win – we're working to be ready for 'right to work' in the public sector," says McBride, acknowledging the anti-worker, pro-corporate bias of the current U.S. Supreme Court. "Those who came before us were not daunted by the fact they didn't have the right to organize. People have had to form unions during the toughest of circumstances. We know we can fight when it's an uphill climb." <https://tinyurl.com/ycnfropp>

## AFSCME Is Hiring

Council 5 is looking for an organizer based out of the South St. Paul office. The deadline to apply is **Friday, Feb. 16** at 4 p.m. Learn more at <http://afscmemn.org/content/organizer>.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out twice a month for locals and activists. Download a copy at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org). Share news by emailing [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendars

| Event   | Date                            | Place/details  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Rally for State Contracts                                 | Feb. 20 at noon                 | State Capitol steps, Saint Paul  |
| AFSCME Council 5 legislative phone bank on worker freedom | Feb. 22, 5:30 to 8 p.m.         | Call Laura Askelin at 651-238-5334 or email <a href="mailto:Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org">Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org</a> |
| Working People's Day of Action                            | Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m. | State Capitol Rotunda, Saint Paul  |