



AFSCME Council 5 members and staff show their #UNION spirit at the DFL State Convention in Rochester.

## Show Your #UNION Pride

While the U.S. Supreme Court deliberates the anti-worker *Janus* case, AFSCME members can offer a powerful, silent response: #UNION.

We're participating in a nationwide effort to show the power and importance of strong unions, and we're counting on you to help make it work.

We're asking Council 5 members, families and allies to snap a picture holding a UNION sign – just like the one Sally Field waved in the film “Norma Rae.”

Then please share it on social media with the hashtag #UNION and make it your profile photo on Facebook.

As billionaires and big corporations amp up their efforts to “defund and defang” unions, showing our

solidarity as workers – online and in real life – is more important than ever.

Collective action, even something as simple as changing your profile picture, sends a strong message: WE are the UNION, we are strong and united, and we are here to fight for freedom, prosperity and justice for all.

Along with sharing your #UNION selfies on your own social networks, please share them on Council 5's Facebook page and tag us on Twitter [@AFSCMEmn5](https://twitter.com/AFSCMEmn5).

## Scam Alert

An \$80 million con is targeting public workers in our homes and workplaces.

The billionaires and special interests behind *Janus* aren't content with filing a lawsuit trying to weaken

public sector unions or lobbying states to pass “right to work” laws. Now they're taking their show on the road.

The State Policy Network, an organization of more than 100 anti-union, anti-worker groups, is calling and mailing union members on the West Coast. SPN is getting workers' personal information to go to their homes and workplaces – unannounced and uninvited. They'll be heading here, too.

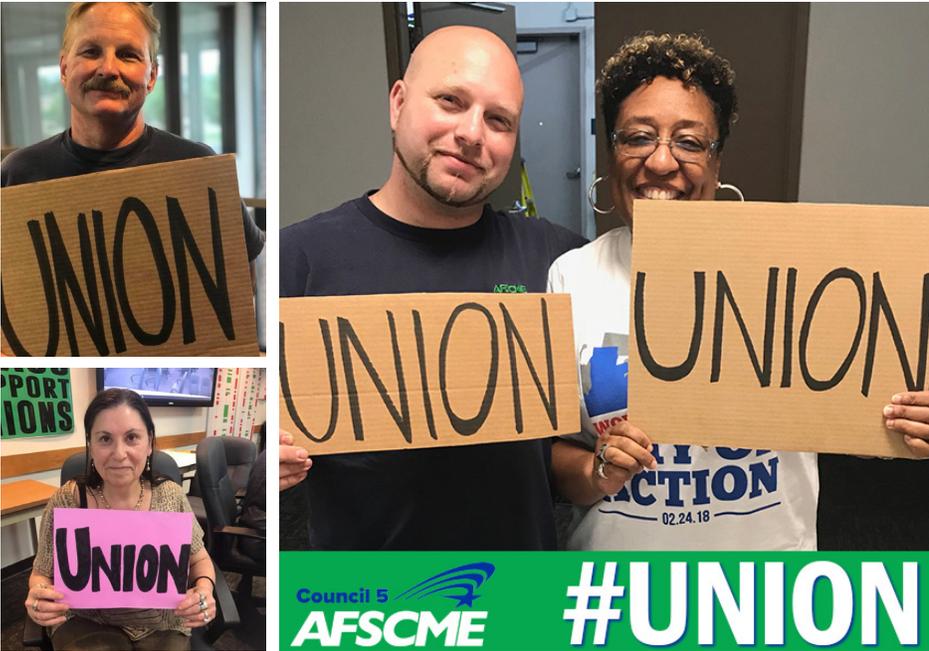
The SPN activists have one goal: to trick people into dropping their union membership. They'll falsely tell you that if you leave your union, you'll give yourself a raise and keep the same benefits. In reality, you'll just hurt your chances for getting either in your next contract.

These SPN activists will try to seem like they're on your side. That's perhaps their biggest lie. SPN is funded by billionaires like the Koch Brothers. SPN backs measures to diminish workers' freedom; blocks policies like paid sick leave and minimum wage increases; and promotes privatization.

For decades, unions have been one of the few remaining checks on the rich and powerful, and SPN wants to end that.

SPN affiliates know unions bring power in numbers. The more we stick with our unions, the more power we have to negotiate good pay, benefits and pensions. With strong unions, workers have more control over their jobs, working conditions and quality of life.

If people quit their unions, that power goes away. United we bargain, divided we beg.



(Photos clockwise from top left) #UNION selfies are already flooding in: Duane Butorac (Local 221); Bryan Kirsch and Denna Thurmond (L221 and L2829); and Linda DeGidio (L3142) all show their #UNION pride.

## Pension Bill Wins Kudos

The editorial boards of the Pioneer Press and Star Tribune are taking note of a rare and crucial moment of bipartisanship at the Minnesota Capitol. The House and Senate passed the pension bill by unanimous votes. Gov. Dayton signed it. The Pioneer Press described it with a single “Wow.”

The pension bill was the result of three years of hard work by lawmakers and stakeholders, including Council 5, to make sure public worker pensions are secure for decades to come:

[www.twincities.com/2018/05/31/editorial-unanimously-passed-pension-repair-wow/](http://www.twincities.com/2018/05/31/editorial-unanimously-passed-pension-repair-wow/)

[www.startribune.com/pension-bill-was-2018-bright-spot-for-minnesota-legislature/484635361/](http://www.startribune.com/pension-bill-was-2018-bright-spot-for-minnesota-legislature/484635361/)

## Legislative Roundup

Thanks to AFSCME members who were a strong, green presence at the Capitol this legislative session, we won some major victories and halted bad bills. Members showed up in huge numbers, met directly with lawmakers and phone banked.

Thanks to your efforts, Minnesota’s public worker pensions are protected and so is the state’s General Fund.

Members also blocked anti-worker poison pills that sought to make it harder to get final approval of state contracts, to weaken unions and to drain away the quality of state workers’ health care.

Get more information at [www.afscmemn.org/story/legislative-session-brings-wins-blocked-poison-pills](http://www.afscmemn.org/story/legislative-session-brings-wins-blocked-poison-pills).

## Share the Pride

AFSCME members will march alongside our fellow AFL-CIO family in the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade in Minneapolis on **June 24**. Bring your union banners and colors.

We are unit number 127 and will line up on the south end of Third Street between 4th and 5th Avenues starting at 10 a.m. RSVP at: [www.facebook.com/events/532726387129573/](https://www.facebook.com/events/532726387129573/).

## Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists.

Download a copy from [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org) to post on your workplace bulletin board. Share news by emailing [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

## Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Vote in Primary	Aug. 14	<a href="http://www.sos.state.mn.us">www.sos.state.mn.us</a>
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 19, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
Council 5 Convention	Sept. 27 to 29	DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel