



it easier to unite in unions and build more power for all working people.

“Unions will always be the most effective force and vehicle to propel working people into the middle class,” says AFSCME International president Lee Saunders. “Despite this unprecedented and nefarious political attack – designed to further rig the rules against working people – nothing changes the fact that America needs unions now more than ever.

“We are more resolved than ever to fight like hell to win for our members and the communities they care so much about,” Saunders says, adding that members “deserve the same freedoms as the CEOs and billionaires who continue to rig the rules against everyone else. The American labor movement lives on, and we’re going to be there every day, fighting hard for all working people, our freedoms and for our country.”

Court Rules for Rich, Against Workers

Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s anti-union decision in the *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* case, leaders of AFSCME International, AFT, NEA and SEIU issued a statement:

As millions of American workers recommit to their unions and launch new organizing drives and as support for labor unions is at its highest level in years, it is shameful that the billionaire CEOs and corporate special interests behind this case have succeeded in manipulating the highest court in the land to do their bidding. This case was nothing more than a blatant political attack to further rig our

economy and democracy against everyday Americans in favor of the wealthy and powerful.

Public service workers – teachers, social workers, 911 operators – are more determined than ever to stick together in their unions.

We will remain a strong and vibrant force for working people and will continue fighting to sustain our families, improve our workplaces and make our communities stronger, regardless of the court’s ruling.

The decision sends our economy in the wrong direction. But it is also a rallying point. We call on elected leaders and candidates to do everything in their power to make

Janus FAQ

Want to learn more about the ruling? AFSCME International answers your questions at: www.afscmemn.org/story/janus-faq.

#UNION

If you’re angry about the *Janus* decision, there’s a simple, powerful action you can take.

Snap a picture of yourself holding a UNION sign, like those pictured above.

Post your selfie with the hashtag #UNION and make it your profile photo on Facebook. Share your #UNION selfies on Council 5’s Facebook page and tag us on Twitter @AFSCMEMN5.

AFSCME Members Endorse Pro-worker Candidates

AFSCME PEOPLE committees – made up of members, led by members – have endorsed numerous candidates for state, county and city office. They screened and then endorsed candidates who share pro-worker views and values.

Check out the complete PEOPLE endorsement list at: www.afscmemn.org/vote.

Early voting started last Friday for the **Aug. 14** primary election. Find out how to early vote at: www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-in-person/.

Marching for Freedom

In keeping with AFSCME’s long tradition of fighting for civil rights, from fighting child labor laws to marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, members of Council 5 joined the “Free Our Future” immigrant rights march Saturday.

AFSCME members braved the heat in Minneapolis along with several thousand people. We joined our brothers and sisters from across the labor movement, community allies and immigrant rights groups in protesting the current “zero tolerance” immigration policy that is

tearing children from their parents. Members marched across downtown Minneapolis, and two of our members who came to this country as immigrants shared the struggles they overcame to be here.

AFSCME Council 5 was a co-sponsor. Treating people with respect and dignity is part of our mission statement. Walking our talk means taking a stand against cruelty at the border and anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies. Check out the speeches, photos and videos on Council 5’s Facebook.

Private Prisons Cash In

The same private prison company that keeps trying to reopen the Appleton prison, CoreCivic (formerly known as CCA), is minting money over President Trump’s immigration policy.

Private prisons like those owned and run by CoreCivic hold more than 70 percent of the undocumented immigrants detained by Homeland Security. Learn more at www.tinyurl.com/y9q37tho and www.tinyurl.com/y9xfo8rx.

Apply for LES Leadership Program

The Minnesota Union Leadership Program run by the U of M’s Labor Education Service helps unions develop and strengthen leaders,

and provides knowledge and skills to address the challenges facing our labor movement. Get more information at www.tinyurl.com/y8hydzh9. The application deadline is **July 13**.

Local Approves Contract

Local 722 (Regions Hospital clerical) ratified a two-year contract that includes general raises of 2 percent a year starting July 1; merit raises of 0.5 percent for those who meet expectations and 1 percent for those who exceed expectations; keeps health insurance costs at the same percentage rate; increases the night shift differential 10 cents an hour; changes how extra shifts are given out; allows experience to be counted in determining new wages after a promotion; adds recall language; requires management to do a work experience survey within a job classification if a new employee is hired at the top of the range; and other language improvements.

Get in on the Action

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

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Vote in Primary	Aug. 14	www.sos.state.mn.us
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