



Congrats to Local 1129 Para/DITA and Clerical groups at Roseville Area Schools. Members unanimously passed their contracts following a great turnout at their AFSCME Back to School Luncheon. The two-year contracts include raises, more life insurance, improved language for seniority and religious holidays, and use of 8 hours of sick time for family obligations.

AFSCME Council 5 Convention is Nearly Here

The 14th annual AFSCME Council 5 Convention is just two weeks away on Sept. 27 to 29, and we can't wait.

About 750 delegates from 125 locals will proudly proclaim "I AM UNION," showing our solidarity and our conviction that we are more powerful fighting with the combined voices of many than fighting alone.

Together, workers can take on wealthy special interests and corporate CEOs trying to rig the system against us and to steal our right to make a better life for ourselves, our families and our communities. Together, we can



take on bad bosses. Together, we can fight for better wages, benefits, pensions and working conditions. Together, we can overcome injustice and inequality, close opportunity and pay gaps, and embrace our differences so that every Minnesotan gets a fair shake.

The Convention is jam-packed with an election; workshops; and speeches by International Union president Lee Saunders and AFSCME-endorsed candidate for Governor, Tim Walz.

For more information, call the Member Action Center at 651-450-4990; 218-722-0577; or toll-free at 1-800-652-9791.

Elect Worker-friendly Walz

The Nov. 6 election is only 56 days away, 56 days full of opportunities for us to create change and make sure we elect worker-friendly candidates to represent us. You can find a list of those candidates, endorsed by your fellow members, at www.afscmemn.org/vote.

The most essential race is for Governor. DFLers Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan, AFSCME's endorsed candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, have strong records of supporting labor, affordable health care, quality education, veterans, parents, children and communities of color.

If Walz doesn't win, his GOP opponent Jeff Johnson has previously declared that he'd "go all Scott Walker on Minnesota." Walker stripped public workers of collective bargaining rights, slashed education funding and gave tax cuts to the rich.

By comparison, under Gov. Mark Dayton's leadership, Minnesota taxed the rich and invested in public services and public workers. We now beat Walker's Wisconsin by pretty much every measure, including wages, jobs, economic growth and quality of life.

We need to elect someone who will follow in Gov. Dayton's footsteps: Congressman Tim Walz.

You can make that possible. There are opportunities to phone bank and door knock near you. Contact political organizers laura.askelin@afscmemn.org, zach.sias@afscmemn.org or abdul.omar@afscmemn.org.

Corrections Wins Staffing after Prison Shutdown

Nearly 60 correctional officers and workers won more staffing this week at Stillwater Correctional Facility after they shut down part of the prison over safety concerns.

They refused to work in the Industry area when it was set to reopen Sept. 5, following the mid-July murder of Correctional Officer Joseph Gomm by an inmate.

COs said there wasn't enough staff or functioning cameras to keep workers and inmates safe in that area. They cited their AFSCME contract and state law, which allow employees to refuse to work when conditions are unsafe.

The correctional officers and workers made it clear they'd work anywhere else in the prison, but not in Industry – not until there was adequate staffing to allow officers to patrol in pairs rather than alone.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections has agreed to provide more staff so COs can patrol in pairs. Industry is expected to reopen Wednesday. DOC also has agreed to offer more training including a full day of self-defense training to non-security staff.

The Stillwater work action involved all workers in the Industry area, including teachers, counselors

and LPNs from MAPE, MNA and SERA. They stood firm and nobody crossed the line. Council 5 reached out to our attorney and threatened the Department with grievances if management tried to open Industry without safe staffing levels.

“We are very proud of our officers and correctional workers for the stance they took today, and their union will provide every resource available to stand behind them,” says AFSCME Council 5 associate director Tim Henderson.

The work action is part of an ongoing push by Council 5 and leaders of its Corrections Policy Committee to honor Gomm and make sure his death was not in vain. They are demanding funding for more correctional officers and workers; the elimination of the 90-day stepdown program and a return to previous discipline guidelines; and safety equipment including cameras.

They met with the Governor's Office Monday to share concerns, and they continue to pressure DOC.

“Correctional officers and workers want to wake up, go to work, put an honest day's work in and go home,” Henderson says. “They just want to ensure the safety and the security of the facility, and that they have enough officers and staff to watch out for one another.”

Hennepin County Locals Reach TA

Six locals that bargain together, Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864 and 2938 (legal unit) have reached a tentative agreement with Hennepin County.

The three-year TA would include raises of 2.5 percent in 2019, 2.5 percent in 2020 and 2 percent in 2021. The contract would standardize the step progression, which gave workers widely differing step increases and numbers of steps across job categories, and resulted in raises of less than 1 percent in some years. Now everyone in the range would get an additional 3 percent each year of the contract.

The TA would fix contract language that prohibited religious holiday use on Sundays; and expand funeral leave to allow time for grieving and to attend funerals for people outside of family. Members will vote on the TA on Sept. 19 and 20.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from www.afscmemn.org. Share news and events by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Early Voting	Sept. 21 to Nov. 5	www.sos.state.mn.us/
AFSCME Council 5 Convention	Sept. 27 to 29	DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel
General Election	Nov. 6	www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/