

AFSCME Executive Director Announces Retirement

Council 5's Eliot Seide says he will stay on until a new director is hired and will aid in the transition:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

After 38 years serving our movement, I have announced to our Executive Board that I intend to retire. By our Constitution, the Executive Board hires the Executive Director. The Board has approved a hiring process that will take many months to complete. I will stay until a new Director is hired and I will help the new Director transition into that new role. By announcing my intent to retire this way, the Board has the time and space for a smooth transition.

Our unification into a single council and our members' commitment to fund our program have allowed us to become the high capacity Council we are today. We have organized nearly 3,000 unorganized workers since unification. We have built the best communications shop in the labor movement that presents a bold, proud image of who we are and makes sure the public knows that the work we do is critical to our communities and our citizens. We have built one of the most effective, powerful political operations in our state that helps elect public officials who support and promote the work we do. We have grown one of the most effective grassroots lobbying programs of any organization in our state that protects the jobs we do and our right to have a voice in our workplaces. We have retooled and rebuilt our field services program to better handle



the new workplaces and challenges in those workplaces. We have grown a powerful retiree program that now is 2,600 members strong. Through our business and back office operations, we have built real efficiencies, and with the strong support of our members, we are in the best fiscal condition of our history.

I am extremely proud and humbled to have served you for the last 13 years (14 if you were with old Council 14). Our strong staff team, our committed Executive Board and our engaged local leaders will ensure that we can deal with the serious challenges that we will continue to face. I want to assure you that I will continue to lead our preparations for these future threats as I have done for these past years and that I will stay until this transition is complete.

In Solidarity,

Eliot Seide

Board Member Selected

Terry Anderson of Local 588 (MnDOT-Brainerd) has joined the Council 5 Executive Board to fill a vacancy in District 4, Central.

OPPOSE LEASING THE PRIVATE PRISON IN APPLETON

CoreCivic is the largest for-profit prison corporation in America. They want to reopen their private prison in Appleton. Republicans want the state to buy or lease it.

AFSCME opposes a lease or purchase. Our correctional officers don't want to work for a corporation that drives down their wages, benefits and retirement security. But it's much more than protecting a good union job that provides for our families.

It's morally wrong to profit from locking up humans. Doing business with CoreCivic is like doing business with the devil. There's a trail of horror stories about how they cut corners to make a buck. Their prisons have been plagued with violence, sexual assault and medical neglect – putting inmates, prison staff and communities in danger. Learn more at www.appletonlease.org.

Commissioner Roy says Corrections doesn't need the Appleton prison and Gov. Dayton has pledged to veto a bill to buy or lease it. They agree that sentencing reform is a better remedy for our overcrowded prisons.

Text PRISON to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators, or call your senator at **1-866-891-0358** and your representative at **1-858-314-3518**.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Oppose leasing or buying the private prison in Appleton.



Workers at Hennepin County Medical Center returned to work stronger than ever after reaching a settlement presented in court April 18. Locals 977 and 2474 had sought a temporary restraining order to stop the employer from continuing to commit unfair labor practices. HCMC committed to follow labor law and reinstate two union leaders. AFSCME will use the grievance and arbitration process to make workers whole for the damages they suffered. The union animus lawsuit continues. <http://afscmemn.org/story/victory-hcmc-workers>

Local Ratifies Contract

Local 2725 (City of Maplewood) approved a two-year contract with raises of 2.5 percent a year, plus no changes to insurance in 2017.

Board Seeking Members

The Council 5 Executive Board is filling two vacancies in the county and private sectors. Submit nominations to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Liza Allen, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075 by **May 15**.

U Contract Campaign Rally

Front-line workers at the U of M

represented by AFSCME Locals 3260, 3800, 3801 and 3937 and Teamsters Local 320 are kicking off their contract campaign “Standing Together for our Standard of Living” with a rally **May 1** from noon to 2 p.m. at Morrill Hall, Minneapolis campus. They’re fighting for wages to thrive on, not just survive on; six weeks of paid leave for all parents; expanded education benefits; and respect for front-line workers.

Workers will then join the **May 1** March. The protest starts with a 3 p.m. rally at East Phillips Park, a

4:30 march to the Federal Building in Minneapolis, followed by a 6 p.m. rally there.

Mayoral Candidate Endorsed

Council 5’s Executive Board has endorsed Melvin Carter III for Saint Paul mayor, following a candidates’ forum. He heads Gov. Dayton’s Minnesota Children’s Cabinet and is a former City Council member. “Melvin has the experience, intellect and drive to lead our great city to an even better future,” says Willie Snyder, chairperson of the union’s screening committee. “He respects public workers and values the work we do to improve people’s lives.”

Tax Action Day

On April 18, Council 5 members greeted last-minute tax filers at several post offices. The Minnesota GOP wants to give big tax breaks to profitable corporations and the wealthiest earners. AFSCME members say that it’s wrong to put rich people’s wealth ahead of our health and our children’s education.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy at www.afscmemn.org or share news by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Workers Memorial Day	April 27, 8:30 to 10 a.m.	MnDOT Maintenance, 2900 48th St NW, Rochester
SEPC Spring Conference	April 28	Ramada, Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis
Public Town Hall: State Senators Jason Isaacson, Susan Kent and Dan Schoen	April 29, 11 a.m.	Kandi Entertainment Center, Gold Room, 500 19th Ave. SE, Willmar
Saint Paul Caucus and Conventions	April 29 and 30	https://stpauldfi.wordpress.com/2017-caucus-and-convention-dates/
Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships	April 30 deadline	www.mnafcio.org
International Workers Day Protests	May 1	https://tinyurl.com/lhb7r48
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarships	May 5 deadline	www.afscmemn.org/scholarships