



Guardians ad Litem Todd Schoonover and Erik Brekke of AFSCME Local 3688, who advocate for children in southeastern Minnesota courtrooms, chat about proper election procedures before taking contract ballots to voting sites.

GALs Approve Historic Contract

Guardians ad Litem, who serve as advocates for children in child protection and some family court proceedings, just overwhelmingly ratified a new contract.

GALs used to be paid by counties, with differences in pay across the state. When the GALs moved to state employment, those pay differences came along with them. The new contract will go a long way toward bridging that gap.

“This contract really is a beginning to setting up a salary structure that is professional in nature,” says AFSCME Local 3688 steward and negotiating team member Tim Arneson. “I think there will be more

separation between people with experience and people starting.”

The new contract includes flat-rate increases for everyone covered by the AFSCME contract both years of the agreement; and provides the group’s first-ever pay range, which was designed to start reflecting years of experience. It increases the starting hourly wage to \$19.07. Workers with pay-parity issues will get raises of up to \$1.61 an hour.

The contract also provides for 10 new FTEs to help with rising caseloads.

Workers Win \$15 Minimum

The Minneapolis City Council voted June 30 to approve a citywide minimum wage of \$15 an hour to be phased in by July 2024. The

Join AFSCME at the Fair!

There’s still time to volunteer with AFSCME at the Great Minnesota Get Together and spread the word about the crucial work we do to make our cities, counties and state work so well.

Volunteer spots are going fast.

The biggest need for volunteers is in the evening, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., followed by the afternoon, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. There are just a few morning shifts left from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fair runs from **Aug. 24 to Sept. 4.**

This year we’re celebrating and honoring workers’ contributions to our communities. The theme is “We Do Minnesota’s Work.”

Volunteers will get a special AFSCME State Fair T-shirt and a free admission ticket to the fair.

Come join the fun. Just email lynette.kalsnes@afscmemn.org with three possible shift choices, your T-shirt size and cell phone number, or call Lynette at 651-287-0537.

move is meant to set an example for the rest of the state. The vote resulted from years of strikes and protests by a coalition of low-wage workers, community groups and the labor movement, including AFSCME Council 5.

Council 5 also supported the Governor’s veto of a GOP effort to undermine local control. That paved the way for Minneapolis to raise the minimum wage and for cities to implement paid sick and safe time.

AFSCME Strong

AFSCME Strong is our program to determine our own destiny by building a stronger union with members who are more engaged. We only need **9,486** more members to fully commit to our union.

Sign a membership card to protect your job, defend our rights and preserve the quality of services we provide our communities.

Locals Approve Contracts

Local 9 (Municipal Building Commission) ratified a three-year contract that includes raises of 2.25 the first and second years, and 2.5 percent the third year; a \$15 minimum wage; an increase to the shift differential, comp time cap, uniform allowance and the differential for working at the Adult Detention Center; annual increases to longevity pay of 2.25, 2.25 percent and 2.5 percent; and an added step at the top for Security. The contract also reduces the probationary period from 12 months to 6 months. The wage hike and minimum-wage increase are retroactive to Jan. 1.

Local 3481 (St. Joseph's Home for Children) won across-the-board wage increases ranging from 3 to 10 percent in a wage reopener, effective June 29. In September, workers also will get merit pay of about 2.5 percent retroactive

to June 29, depending on their performance ratings.

Award Nominations Sought

AFSCME Council 5 is accepting nominations that honor locals or individuals for outstanding political activism, organizing, local union development and communications work. The awards will be handed out at the Annual Convention. The nomination deadline is **Friday, Aug. 4th**. For more information, visit <http://afscmemn.org/awards>.

Celebrate State Capitol Grand Opening

Come see the beautiful restoration of our state Capitol for yourself from **Aug. 11 to 13**.

The state is holding a free three-day celebration that features behind-the-scenes tours of restored spaces, including the House and Senate Retiring Rooms, and the Supreme Court Conference Room.

On **Sunday, Aug. 13**, the state will honor workers, past and present, who built and restored the Capitol. A plaque will be dedicated to the original builders at 2:30 p.m. in Room B-15; their descendants are expected to attend. Workers involved in the recent restoration will be honored on the South Lawn at 3 p.m.

Each day at dusk, the Rotunda chandelier will be raised and lighted. The Grand Opening includes music and dance that celebrates our state's diverse

cultures, kids' activities, a Prince dance party, a sing-along and fireworks. There's even yoga on the Lawn.

AFSCME is a sponsor of the event. Get details at www.mn.gov/mymncapitol.

'Right to Work' Training

You can help get the message across that 'right to work' really means the right to work for less, for a lower quality of life, and without a collective voice. The East Central and West Area Labor Councils are hosting a training **Aug. 8** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. RSVP at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/right-to-work-and-leadership-training>.

Golf to Feed the Hungry

The Rum River Labor Coalition is hosting a golf scramble to benefit the Ogilvie, Milaca and Princeton Food Shelves. It starts at 10 a.m. on **Aug. 13** at Stones Throw Golf Course in Milaca. The \$70 cost per person covers golf and a pulled pork dinner. To register your team of four, call Rachel at 320-761-0624. <https://actionnetwork.org/events/putting-fore-food>.

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

State Capitol Grand Reopening Party	Aug. 11 to 13	www.mn.gov/mymncapitol
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 20, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
AFSCME at the Minnesota State Fair	Aug. 24 through Sept. 4	Labor Pavilion, State Fairgrounds
AFSCME Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 5 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center