



# ACTION UPDATE

**One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers**

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

afscmemn.org

## Register for Safety Conference

Injuries are up for AFSCME members who work in human services and health care, while management gives us lip service. Attend our Safety Conference to learn about your rights and how to be safer on the job. What's "imminent danger?" When can you defend yourself? What does "person-centered care" really mean? How can we work with OSHA to record and report injuries?

**Details:** The AFSCME Safety Conference is Wednesday, **Jan. 20**, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ramada Mall of America in Bloomington (2300 East American Boulevard).

**Cost:** It's free to AFSCME members in health care and human services. Lunch will be provided. Participants are responsible for the cost of lodging. Book a room at the Ramada at 952-854-3411.

**To RSVP:** Contact Melinda Pearson at [Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org) or 651-287-0524 or search for "[Safe Staffing MN](#)" on Facebook.

## Local Ratifies Contracts

**Locals 3445, 3839** (City of Plymouth Public Works and City Hall) approved a two-year contract that includes a 2.75 percent raise plus 80 cents/hour in year one and 3 percent in year 2; increased comp time, funeral leave and callback pay; and new on-call language.

## MSRS Candidates Endorsed

The Minnesota State Retirement System Board of Directors will have four vacant positions in May. Council 5 recommends these candidates: General Plan, Michael Schweyen, incumbent, MnDOT, and Joe Sullivan, Department of Revenue; Correctional Plan, Joe Strunk, incumbent, Corrections; and Retirees, Wes Skoglund, incumbent.

The ballots go out in February to eligible members.

## Precinct Caucuses in March

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on March 1. That's when the state of Minnesota is hosting Democratic and Republican precinct caucuses. Get politically active and help work for labor-friendly policies. State law lets residents take time off from work without pay to attend as long as employers get written notice at least 10 days in advance. Find your precinct location online at [caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

## Anti-Worker Case Before Top Court

On Monday, Jan. 11, the U.S. Supreme Court hears *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. Big business and wealthy extremists are using this landmark case to try to undermine our rights to negotiate together for better wages and benefits to sustain our families. Learn more about this case and what we can all do to help at [www.afscmemn.org/friedrichs](http://www.afscmemn.org/friedrichs). Monitor what's happening in court by following the Supreme Court's live blog from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday at [www.scotusblog.com](http://www.scotusblog.com).

## Regional Presidents Meeting

Council 5 is holding Regional Presidents' Meetings on Jan. 12-15 to share plans for AFSCME Strong, precinct caucuses and Day on The Hill. The meetings are from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with a box lunch provided.

**Details:** Jan. 12, AFSCME Council 5, 1305 1<sup>st</sup> St. S., Willmar

Jan. 13, Sawmill Inn, Hwy. 169 S., 2301 S. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids

Jan. 14, Mayo Civic Center, Legion Meeting Room, 30 Civic Center Drive SE, Rochester

Jan. 15, Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul  
RSVP to [melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org) or call (651) 287-0524.

## Special Election Coming Up

A special election for House District 50B in Bloomington is **Feb. 9**. We've endorsed Andrew Carlson.

## Labor Movie Night

*10,000 Black Men Named George* tells the powerful true story of the first black-controlled union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in 1925. See the film for free Friday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. If you have an event people should know about, email Lynette Kalsnes at [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

For the most current AFSCME news and events, or to download a copy, visit [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

## Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

**Labor Movie Night:** Jan. 15, 6 p.m., United Labor Centre, Minneapolis

**AFSCME Council 5 Safety Conference:** Jan. 20, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Bloomington (Airport Ramada)

**Precinct Caucuses:** March 1, 7 p.m.

**AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill:** April 5, St. Paul (RiverCentre)

**Council 5 Retirees United Convention:** April 19

**SEPC Spring Conference:** April 29

**AFSCME 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Convention:** July 18-22, Las Vegas, Nevada. Council 5 will be staying at the Paris Hotel, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S.