



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

New Contracts for a New Year

City of Apple Valley: Members of Local 479 ratified a two-year contract through 2015. The tentative agreement includes a 2 percent raise on Dec. 28; a 2.5 percent raise on Dec. 27, 2014; a higher pay scale for fleet mechanics; and increases in the employer contribution toward health insurance. The proposal also gives current staff first shot at vacant jobs, and creates a cash-out option for accumulated leave.

Chris Jensen Health Center, Duluth. Members of Local 2512 ratified a wage reopener providing a pay raise of 2.72 percent.

City of Lino Lakes. Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a one-year contract for 2013. It includes a 1.5 percent raise retroactive to Jan. 1 and creates an option for paid time off as an alternative to vacation and sick leave.

City of Minneapolis. Members in the general unit of Local 9 will vote on a tentative agreement for 2013 and a separate three-year agreement for 2014-2016.

For 2013, the tentative agreement provides a 2 percent raise, plus steps, retroactive to April 1.

The three-year proposal includes 2 percent raises on April 1, 2014; March 1, 2015; and Jan. 1, 2016. In addition, it includes step raises each year, though steps are delayed until six months after the employees' anniversary date.

Ramsey County Public Defenders. Members in this unit of Local 8 ratified a two-year contract, through June 30, 2015. It provides a pay raise of 3 percent retroactive to July 1, and another 3 percent raise on July 1, 2014. In addition, the county now will pay the attorneys' license fees.

City of Robbinsdale. Members of Local 3823 ratified a three-year contract through 2016. It includes a 2 percent pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2014, with wage reopeners in 2015 and 2016. In addition, the employer will contribute \$60 a month more toward health-insurance premiums.

St. Joseph's Home for Children, Minneapolis. Members in this unit in Local 3481 ratified a three-year contract through Oct. 31, 2016. It includes wage increases of 5 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2014, and a wage reopener each June. The contract with Catholic Charities also improves language in such areas as performance evaluations, job postings and bidding, mileage reimbursement, and use of paid time off.

City of Shorewood. Members in this unit of Local 224 will vote on a tentative agreement on a one-year contract for 2014. The TA includes a 2 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1, reduces health-insurance premiums, and adds two additional hours of pay for pager duty.

Stillwater Public Library. Members in this unit of Local 517 ratified a one-year contract for 2014. The agreement includes a 2 percent pay raise.

How MNSure Can Help You

MNSure is a great option for many Minnesota workers. That includes AFSCME members who, in many situations, can benefit from the state's health insurance exchange.

In a new video, AFSCME health-care consultant Peter Benner explains eligibility, benefits, and easy enrollment. For example:

- MNSure may be the answer for seasonal and part-time workers who don't have employer-paid health coverage.
- For workers considering early retirement, MNSure may provide the coverage they need until Medicare kicks in.
- Workers on strike can access MNSure to get quality insurance at a price they can afford.

Learn more: You can watch the short video at <http://bit.ly/1bCJueX>

Brainstorming in Brainerd

The first Central Minnesota Labor Conference takes place Jan. 25 in Brainerd. The conference features workshops and brainstorming on growing the labor movement and improving communities in Greater Minnesota. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Greater Minnesota Worker Center.

Details: The conference is at Central Lakes College, 501 W. College Drive, Brainerd. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; sessions run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with follow-up from 3-4 p.m. Lunch will be served.

More information: Contact Local 1574's Michael Dolney at 218-851-9553 or Local 4001's Deb Breneman at 218-820-9162.

College Scholarship Money Available

Dec. 31 is the deadline to apply for AFSCME's 2014 Family Scholarship. Ten scholarships, worth \$2,000 per year, will be given for full-time college study.

Eligible applicants must be a graduating high school senior whose parent, legal guardian, or financially responsible grandparent is a full AFSCME member.

For full details, go to afscme.org/family.

Save the Dates

Martin Luther King Holiday Observance: Jan. 18, 2014, Minneapolis (Zion Baptist Church), 3 p.m. Sponsored by MnSCU Local 4001

Raise the Wage Rally: Feb. 25, 2014, Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul, 3 p.m.

Move MN Transportation Rally: March 13, 2014, State Capitol, St. Paul

AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill: March 25, 2014, St. Paul