



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

[www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org)

## Hennepin Locals Vote on Dec. 10

Hennepin County workers in Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864, and 2938 (Legal Unit) can vote Dec. 10 on a 2014-2015 contract with the county. The master negotiating committee recommends ratification of the proposal, which covers roughly 3,975 workers.

Voting takes place at 14 locations, with times ranging from 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., depending on location. Full dues-paying members in good standing are eligible to vote at any location.

**Details:** For a summary, local supplements, and times and locations of voting, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click "Bargaining," then "Hennepin County."

## March with HCMC Workers Dec. 4

Members of Locals 977 and 2474 at Hennepin County Medical Center are still fighting proposals that would cut parts of their pay, yet raise their health insurance costs at the same time.

On Dec. 4, members are going public with their struggle for a fair contract. To join them, meet at 6<sup>th</sup> St. S and Chicago Ave. S., across from Hubert's.

Demonstrations will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 3:30-6 p.m.

## Move Transportation into the Future

Minnesota's quality of life and economic vitality depend on a transportation system with safe roads and bridges, and easy access to public transit.

To learn about our campaign to make sure the Legislature addresses the state's urgent transportation needs in 2014, join the Move MN regional meeting near you:

**Duluth:** Dec. 19, 2 p.m., City Hall #303, 411 W. First St.

**Mankato:** Dec. 18, 6 p.m., Greater Mankato Growth, 1961 Premier Drive #100.

**Moorhead:** Dec. 18, 9 a.m., Hjemkomst Center, 202 First Ave. N.

**Rochester:** Dec. 16, 4 p.m., Operating Engineers Local 49 hall, 1765 County Road 16 SW.

**Willmar:** Dec. 17, 4 p.m., AFSCME Council 5 hall, 1305 First St. S.

## Save Community Nutrition Jobs

Community nutrition educators in Local 3937 help low-income families make healthy food choices on limited budgets. They work with food banks, schools, and senior centers in all 87 counties. But the University of Minnesota is cutting 92 CNEs. We need to save their jobs and mission.

First, call federal Farm Bill conferees. Urge them to restore SNAP-ED funding. Call:

- **Sen. Amy Klobuchar**, 1-888-224-9043
- **Rep. Collin Peterson**, 1-202-225-2165
- **Rep. Tim Walz**, 1-877-846-9259

Also, remind university leaders that outreach and public service are part of their land-grant mission. Ask them to restore CNE jobs. Contact:

- **Bev Durgan**, U of M Extension dean, 612-624-2703 or [durga001@umn.edu](mailto:durga001@umn.edu)
- **Eric Kahler**, university president, 612-626-1616 or [upres@umn.edu](mailto:upres@umn.edu)

## Party Rings in the Holidays on Dec. 6

All AFSCME members are invited to Council 5 Next Wave's annual holiday party on Dec. 6.

The free event runs from 7:30-11 p.m. at the Green Mill in Uptown, 2626 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Pizza and soft drinks are provided; a cash bar will be available.

Monetary donations will be collected for North Country Food Alliance, a nonprofit that increases access to food through weekly foodshares, foraging of wild food, and community gardens and meals.

## Talk Minimum Wage in Coon Rapids

Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) will hold a town hall meeting Dec. 10 focused on whether to raise the state minimum wage to \$9.50.

The forum takes place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Coon Rapids Civic Center, 11155 Robinson Drive.

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## Safety Committee Seeks Nominees

Dec. 13 is the deadline to submit nominations for slots on the State Employee Policy Committee's safety committee. Nominees must be from Unit 3 (Service), Unit 6 (Clerical), or Unit 25 (Radio Communications).

Send nominations to Jackie O'Shea by:

- Mail: 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075
- Email: [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org)
- Fax: 651-455-1311

## Locals Ratify Agreements

**Ecumen Scenic Shores, Two Harbors.** Members of Local 2032 ratified a three-year contract through 2016. The contract provides a pay raise of 25 cents an hour retroactive to Sept. 1. It also reduces employee health-insurance costs by 28 percent for single coverage and 48 percent for family coverage.

**Franciscan Health Center, Duluth.** Members in this unit in Local 3558 ratified a wage reopener that provides a pay raise of 4 percent retroactive to Sept. 1.

**Safe Haven Shelter Center, Duluth.** Members in this unit in Local 3558 ratified a two-year agreement through Sept. 30, 2015. The contract includes a pay raise of 2.5 percent (retroactive to Sept. 30), another raise of 2.5 percent on Oct. 1, 2014, and keeps health insurance unchanged. In addition, the contract establishes a labor-management committee.

**Sodexo-Minnesota State University Mankato.** Members in this unit of Local 638 ratified a three-year contract through Aug. 24, 2016. The deal includes pay raises of 25 cents an hour to \$1.05 an hour effective Dec. 6 (depending on job classification), a \$125 bonus on Dec. 13, and additional raises of 25 cents an hour on Aug. 25, 2014, and on Aug. 25, 2015. The contract also switches two paid holidays into the school year, provides three new uniforms, and improves language in such areas as vacations and job postings.

**Viewcrest Health Center, Duluth.** Members in this unit in Local 3558 ratified a wage reopener that provides a pay raise of 75 cents an hour retroactive to Sept. 1.

## Member Needs Vacation Donations

State employees can donate up to 40 hours of their unused vacation to Sharon Simi.

Sharon, a Local 2829 member and former member of Local 3142, is battling a rare plasma cell cancer. She has exhausted her own leave and, without donations on her behalf, will lose health insurance. Yet, she still must undergo a donor leukocyte infusion in hopes of eradicating the cancer.

**To donate:** Vacation donation forms are available from your HR office. Or, go to the state employee self-service website – [www.mmb.state.mn.us](http://www.mmb.state.mn.us). Near the upper-left corner, click "Self Service." Log in. Then: Click "Other Payroll," click "Leave Donations," select the magnifying glass next to "Reserve Bank," and choose Sharon's name. Enter the number of hours you are donating, then click "Save."

## College Scholarship Money Available

Dec. 31 is the deadline to apply for AFSCME International's 2014 Family Scholarship.

Ten renewable 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 other requirements and full application details, go to [www.afscme.org/family](http://www.afscme.org/family).

## Save the Dates

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

**Central Minnesota Labor Conference:** Jan. 25, 2014, Brainerd (Central Lakes College)

**Legislature returns:** Feb. 25, 2014

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

**State Employee Policy Committee Spring Conference:** April 11, 2014, Minneapolis (Ramada Plaza)