



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

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

## Join Dayton in Raising the Wage

Gov. Mark Dayton is publicly joining our fight to raise Minnesota's minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2015.

"Someone who works hard, full time, should be able to support his or her family," the governor says.

Raising the wage will raise family incomes for 137,000 children. Research shows that even a \$1,000 increase improves kids' nutrition, health, and education.

**Help make it happen:** Get "Raise the Wage" cards to circulate in your life. Contact Council 5's Jon Grebner at [jon.grebner@afscmemn.org](mailto:jon.grebner@afscmemn.org) or 651-287-0587.

## We Stick Together

In AFSCME, we're family: We don't agree on everything. But when outsiders try to divide us, we stick together. Here's proof:

**Hennepin County Adult Corrections Local 1719.** A private organization called the Minnesota Public Employees Association tried to raid Local 1719. MNPEA is not a union; it is an enterprise run by a lawyer and three unelected "officers" who try to split workers. That always makes life easier for the boss.

Members of Local 1719 saw through this: They stuck together and defeated MNPEA 51-27.

**City of Rosemount Local 3857.** A few workers thought they'd be better off without a union. So they tried to disband their local. But the rest of the members knew better. So they stuck together and, in a 19-4 vote, sent a clear message that they are, indeed, AFSCME.

## Movie Night Features 'Silkwood'

"Silkwood," based on the life of union activist Karen Silkwood, is featured at this month's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis. Silkwood died under mysterious circumstances in 1974 after exposing unsafe working conditions at the plutonium plant where she worked.

**Details:** The film begins at 6 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. The movie is free, though donations are accepted. Labor Movie Night is sponsored the third Friday of every month by Council 5 Next Wave and University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800.

## Fight the Forest Lake Scheme

What if you were a longtime employee who suddenly is told that, in order to keep your job, you've got to move within 10 minutes of where you work – and you have to fight fires (literally)?

That's what Forest Lake wants to do. But members of Local 517 are fighting this "reorganization" scheme, which the city's administrator cooked up in secret without any input from employees who actually do the work.

In its first phase, the plan forces five workers – most of them in their 50s – to become city firefighters as part of their job. If they refuse, they're gone. Altogether, the administrator wants to eliminate 15 current employees so he can replace them with "dual function" and lower-paid workers. City workers say they can come up with a better plan – if they get a chance.

**Show your support.** Contact the Forest Lake mayor and city council at [city.council@ci.forest-lake.mn.us](mailto:city.council@ci.forest-lake.mn.us) or 651-464-3550. Tell them it's wrong to force older workers to fight fires and uproot their homes in order to keep their jobs.

## Update Your Presence Online

Wondering how to start a Facebook page for your local or policy group? Already have a page, but wondering how to use it more effectively?

Then take a look at these two Council 5 tutorials. Each video is about 5 minutes:

- How to create a Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/1aZzLNW>
- Tips for using a Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/19uweJ6>

**Need to know more?** Contact Trisha Harms at [trisha.harms@afscmemn.org](mailto:trisha.harms@afscmemn.org)

**Need a website?** Council 5 can also help your local create a website using the free Labor Web platform. Training takes about four hours; it is scheduled on an as-needed basis. Contact Michael Kuchta at 651-287-0537 or [michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org](mailto:michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org).

(Continued on page 2)



# Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

## Go Online for Health Plan Details

State of Minnesota executive branch and judicial branch employees now can go online to look up the primary care clinic directory for 2014 and other open enrollment information.

**Find what you need to know:** Go to [www.mmb.state.mn.us/oe](http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/oe); click through to the specific information you're looking for. Open enrollment runs Nov. 1-14.

## The Real People Behind the Capitol

History names the governors, legislators, and other elected officials who served in the Minnesota State Capitol. It does not name the hundreds of workers who literally raised the building out of dirt.

Until now. New research led by the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota tells the story of those workers – who quarried stone, worked the railroads, and built Cass Gilbert's vision.

A 47-minute film, "Who Built Our Capitol?", brings to light the stories of more than 600 workers. The film and related website also talk with workers' descendants, and with modern-day workers renovating the century-old building.

**See for yourself:** Watch the film and find out much more at [www.whobuiltourcapitol.org](http://www.whobuiltourcapitol.org).

## E-Board Accepting Nominations

Council 5 is accepting nominations to fill a District vacancy on the Executive Board. Applicants must be a member in good standing for at least one year and live in Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Scott, or Wright County. (Members who don't live in Minnesota can apply if they work in one of those counties.)

The term will expire at Council 5's 2014 convention.

**To submit a name:** Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. Nov. 15. Send them to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075.

The board expects to fill the vacancy on Nov. 21.

## Benefit Helps Family Battle Illness

A benefit for the family of Sean Mullaney, of St. Paul Public Schools Local 844, takes place Nov. 15 in Vadnais Heights.

Sean's 2-year-old son, Nolan, is battling a rare form of kidney cancer. Benefit organizers hope to help the family pay medical expenses and to offset the fact that the family is down to one income, because Sean's wife, Holly, is on unpaid leave from her job to care for Nolan.

**Details:** The benefit takes place Nov. 15 from 5:30-10 p.m. at Jimmy's Event Center, 1132 E. County Road E, Vadnais Heights. Admission is \$20 for teens and adults, \$10 for children ages 6-12. Donations can also be made to the Nolan Mullaney Fund at City and County Credit Union, 8500 Hudson Blvd. North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.

## Give Fair Trade a Boost

A fund-raiser for the Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition takes place Nov. 13 in St. Paul.

The Fair Trade Coalition fights the corporate outsourcing of American jobs and other "race to the bottom" policies. That includes the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership, which would be the largest corporate trade agreement in world history.

**Details:** The fund-raiser takes place Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. at the St. Paul Labor Centre, 411 Main St.

## You Can Talk Politics Here

The Minnesota AFL-CIO holds its Legislative and Political Conference Nov. 21-22 at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront. The conference includes more than a dozen workshops focusing both on policy issues and mobilization tools.

**Details:** The conference fee is \$65; the registration deadline is Nov. 13.

To register, contact Lori Williams at 651-227-7647 or [lwilliams@mnaflcio.org](mailto:lwilliams@mnaflcio.org)