



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

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

## Tell Hennepin: It's Not Acceptable

For the first time in memory, Hennepin County negotiators have reneged on a deal at the bargaining table – about the rights of limited-duration employees.

So, the more than 4,100 members of Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864, and 2938 are asking for our help.

**Here's the plan:** Call county commissioners. Tell them: Stop negotiating in bad faith.

If you live in Hennepin, call your own commissioner (look it up at <http://bit.ly/a5fGXy> if you need to). If you don't live in Hennepin, call chair Mike Opat: Tell him his negotiators' actions are unacceptable. The numbers:

- Jan Callison: 612-348-7886
- Gail Dorfman: 612-348-7883
- Linda Higgins: 612-348-7882
- Jeff Johnson: 612-348-7887
- Randy Johnson: 612-348-7885
- Peter McLaughlin: 612-348-7884
- Mike Opat: 612-348-7881

## Locals Vote on Proposed Contracts

**Park River Estates.** About 70 licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, and trained medical assistants will vote in November on their first contract with the Coon Rapids nursing home. The two-year proposal, through Aug. 31, 2015, includes immediate pay raises of 1.6 percent, annual step increases, and additional seniority raises for about one-third of staff.

**City of Plymouth.** Members of Local 3445 ratified a three-year contract through Dec. 31, 2015. The contract includes a 2 percent pay raise, plus a 10-cent-an-hour wage adjustment, each year. (The 2014 raises are retroactive to Jan. 1.) The deal also holds the line on employee health-insurance costs

**St. Joseph's Children's Home.** Members of Local 3481 vote Oct. 23 on a four-year contract, through Oct. 31, 2017. The tentative agreement includes a 5 percent pay raise on Jan. 1, 2014; a wage reopener each year to determine general increases and performance raises after June 1, 2015; more flexibility in using paid time off; and stronger language in areas such as bidding and job postings.

## The Basics of Voting on Nov. 5

Trying to figure out who deserves your vote in your city council, mayoral, school board, or other local elections on Nov. 5?

Don't forget to check Council 5's endorsements:

Go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Political," then "AFSCME Election Endorsements."

- To find out where you vote, go to <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.
- To understand how instant runoff/ranked choice voting works in Minneapolis or St. Paul, watch this easy-to-understand video from Minnesota Public Radio: <http://bit.ly/YjzKu>.

## University Locals Reach TAs

University of Minnesota Health Care Local 3260, Clerical Local 3800, Duluth Local 3801, and Technical Local 3937 all have reached tentative agreements on two-year contracts through June 30, 2015.

Locals are setting up details for ratification votes. The contracts cover about 3,150 workers. Some details:

- **Clerical workers** in Locals 3800 and 3801: a 1 percent pay raise in 2013 (retroactive to July 29); a 1 percent raise on July 1, 2014; step increases each year on the employee's work anniversary; and a \$400 payment for employees at the top of their pay range.
- **Technical workers** in Locals 3801 and 3937: a 1 percent pay raise in 2013 (retroactive to Sept. 23); a 1 percent raise on July 1, 2014; step increases each year (retroactive to Oct. 1); a \$200 payment for employees at the top of their pay range; and long-awaited fixes that increase all steps to 2 percent.
- **Health-care workers** in Local 3260: 1.25 percent pay raises on July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014; step increases each year; and two new steps for workers at the top of their salary range, which benefits about one-fourth of bargaining-unit members.

Health insurance and other issues will be moved to the Benefits Advisory Committee and other venues.

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## Go Online for Health Plan Details

State executive and judicial branch employees now can go online to look up health-insurance open enrollment information and their primary-care clinic directory for 2014. Open enrollment runs Nov. 1-14.

**Details:** Go to [www.mmb.state.mn.us/oe](http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/oe); click through the links for the specific information you need.

## The Wait for 'Lefty' is Over

A free staging of Clifford Odets' Depression-era play "Waiting for Lefty" takes place Oct. 23-26 at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Though written in 1935, the play tackles economic and class themes that still affect us today.

**Details:** Performances are 7 p.m. Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Oct. 24, 7 p.m. Oct. 25, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oct. 26. Performances are in MCTC's Whitney Fine Arts Center, 1424 Yale Place, Minneapolis.

Admission is free, but audience members are encouraged to make donations of nonperishable food items.

## Council 5 Seeks Data Specialist

Council 5 is accepting applications for a full-time data specialist to work at the South St. Paul office.

A cover letter and resume must be received by 4 p.m. on Oct. 29. For a complete job description, go to: [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Work for Us."

## 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.

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 will fill the vacancy on Nov. 21.

## Training for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Looking for extra help building the skills and structure you need to make your local more visible and effective? Need practical ideas on how you can keep members connected, involved, and informed? Do your officers and stewards know what they need to know to be strong advocates and leaders? Do you want to build ties to other workers and allies in your community? That's what Council 5's education program is all about.

Training is not cookie-cutter; it's geared to the specific needs and goals in your local.

Training can take place at any Council 5 office, at your workplace, or at any location that makes sense for your members. To talk about custom training for your local, contact Ryan Wells at 651-287-0530 or [ryan.welles@afscmemn.org](mailto:ryan.welles@afscmemn.org).

**Need financial training?** Treasurers and other officers with local financial duties can get the specialized training they need through AFSCME's Financial Responsibility course. To get on the list for the next class, contact Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524 or [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org).

## 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.