



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Convention Points the Way

More than 600 delegates from Council 5 locals learned new ways to make solidarity a way of life, not just a slogan, during their statewide convention in Duluth Oct. 3-5. Delegates:

- **Donated** more than 2 tons of food, plus \$1,920 in monetary contributions, to Duluth's CHUM food shelf.
- Discussed better ways to **build power with partners** in their workplaces, in their locals, and in the communities where they live and work.
- Learned concrete ways to **create networks for change** so AFSCME can lead the way in making life better not just for our members, but for all workers.
- Adopted policy resolutions that commit AFSCME to **campaigns** to raise the minimum wage, reinvest in the state's transportation infrastructure, reform the nation's broken immigration system, combat rising student-loan debt, make public education more affordable and efficient, and pursue a single-payer health system.
- Cheered the **endorsement** of Gov. Mark Dayton for re-election in 2014. Dayton told delegates, "We've come a long way working together, but we still have a long way to go." (To read the endorsement statement, go to www.afscmemn.org; click "News Room," then "News Releases.")
- **Welcomed** AFSCME International president Lee Saunders, who said, "We stand for what is right about this country, not what is wrong."

The Convention in Photos

For a photo album of events in Duluth, go to www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn; click "Sets," then "2013 Convention."

The History Behind History

Council 5 unveiled a series of 15 labor history posters at the Duluth convention. To see samples of the posters – and the stories behind them – go to <http://afscmemn.org/labor-poster-history>.

Keep Pushing to Raise the Wage!

Two actions take place Oct. 14 urging the state Senate to raise Minnesota's minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour. Both events will feature Congressmen Keith Ellison and Rick Nolan, and partners in the Raise the Wage Coalition.

Minneapolis: Join a community roundtable from 10-11 a.m. at Powderhorn Recreation Center, 3400 15th Ave South.

Duluth: A march begins at 4:15 p.m. at Bayfront Park, and ends with a rally outside the Maritime Visitor Center, 600 S. Lake Ave.

Make a call: Call Senate majority leader Tom Bakk at 651-296-8881. Urge Sen. Bakk to make sure his DFL caucus supports House File 92, which raises the wage to \$9.50 by 2015.

Distribute postcards: We've collected thousands of cards supporting a raise for minimum-wage workers. You can add to the stacks. To get cards for colleagues to sign in your workplace or social circles, call Council 5 at 651-450-4990.

Congratulations!

At the convention, Council 5 honored great work by locals and individuals with the following awards:

- **Jerry Wurf Organizing Volunteer Award:** Victoria Johnson, Minneapolis Veterans Home Local 744
- **Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award:** Members of Local 3558 at the Human Development Center, a nonprofit mental-health agency with offices in Cloquet, Duluth, Grand Marais, and Two Harbors.
- **Rick Scott Political Activism Volunteer Award:** Steve Reeves, Ramsey County Parks Local 1935
- **Communications Volunteer Award:** Cherrene Horazuk, University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800

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Being Seen and Heard in Hennepin

Hennepin County locals – fighting for a bigger voice and better contract – invite all AFSCME members to join them at the County Board meeting Oct. 15, wear union colors, and support Hennepin workers who will speak during the board's open mic time.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. on the 24th floor of Tower A at the Government Center, 6th St. South and 3rd Ave. South in downtown Minneapolis.

Get more involved: Members who work for Hennepin County can learn more about what they can do to achieve a better contract. Drop in Oct. 14 from 3-5 p.m. in the Government Center Auditorium.

An October Classic

As baseball's playoffs build, October's Labor Movie Night features "Eight Men Out," the John Sayles film about the 1919 "Black Sox" scandal. Sayles looks at why underpaid ballplayers threw the World Series.

Details: Show time is 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Council 5 has awarded the following college scholarships:

Robert Norberg Scholarships (for active members continuing their own education):

- Kimberly Kolar, of MnSCU Local 4001 at Century College. Kolar is studying at the University of Minnesota.
- Rory Oberhelman, of Northeast DNR Local 718. Oberhelman is studying at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Richard Patterson Scholarship: Kayla Bauer, the daughter of Joseph Bauer, a member of St. Cloud Corrections Local 599. Kayla is attending the College of St. Scholastica.

Clarence J. Moss Scholarship: Nicholas Lilya, son of Dan and Sheryl Lilya, who are both members of Moose Lake Corrections Local 3887.

Order State Contracts by Oct. 18

Locals that want printed copies of the 2013-2015 state contracts for Executive Branch Units 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, or 25 must place their order no later than Oct. 18.

To order: A local officer must contact Jackie O'Shea at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0524.

Members Ratify Contract

Augustana Care: Members of Local 1337 ratified their first contract with the new owner of the Pines retirement community in Richfield. The one-year agreement provides a 2 percent pay raise, creates the facility's first pay grid with step progressions, creates a vacation accrual bank, and makes part-time workers eligible for sick leave and funeral leave.

Making Our Capitol Magnificent

The premiere of the film "Who Built Our Capitol?" takes place Oct. 19. The documentary, produced by the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota, tells the story of the workers here and elsewhere who quarried stone, worked the railroads, and built Cass Gilbert's vision.

Research uncovered the names of more than 600 workers; the film talks to their descendants and to modern-day workers now renovating the Capitol.

Details: Screenings are at 10:30 a.m. and noon in Room 123 of the Capitol. Reservations are necessary; contact LES at 612-624-5020 or les@umn.edu.

The Wait for 'Lefty' is Over

A free staging of Clifford Odets' "Waiting for Lefty" takes place Oct. 23-26 at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. The Depression-era play tackles economic and class themes that still affect us today.

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

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