



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

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

## Don't Miss Convention Deadlines

Here's a rundown on deadlines for Council 5's annual convention, which takes place Oct. 3-5 in Duluth:

**Resolutions:** Must be received at Council 5's South St. Paul office by Sept. 13.

**Delegate credentials:** Must be mailed and postmarked no later than Sept. 23.

**Child care or special accommodations:** Requests must be submitted by Sept. 23.

**Local banners:** In order to be displayed in the convention hall, banners must be delivered to Council 5's South St. Paul office by Sept. 27, or delivered to the Duluth Holiday Inn on Oct. 2 between 6 and 7 p.m.

The convention, titled "Partners in Progress," takes place at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Delegate check-in takes place Oct. 2 from 6-9 p.m., Oct. 3 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., and Oct. 4 from 7-9 a.m.

## Start Collecting Food Donations Now

September is National Hunger Action Month. Council 5 is participating with a food drive in which we will deliver donations to CHUM's Emergency Food Shelf in Duluth during our convention.

That means it's never too early to start collecting nonperishable food and household items in your workplace or in your local. For details, see Council 5's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5](http://www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5)

## E-Board to Fill Vacancy

Council 5 is accepting applications to fill a 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 after Council 5's 2014 convention.

Applications 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.

## Hennepin Locals Rally Sept. 30

Hennepin County members are fed up with years of austerity budgets and contracts. On Sept. 30, they're sending that message loud and clear to county officials – with a lunchtime rally.

Workers say it's time to deliver a contract:

- With real wage increases that bring Hennepin's pay up to par with other counties
- That restores steps
- That quits dumping health costs onto workers

The rally runs from noon to 1 p.m. on the Public Service level of the Government Center, 6<sup>th</sup> St. South and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South, in downtown Minneapolis.

## Aramark Members Ratify Contract

Members in Local 2385 who work for Aramark at Minnesota State University-Marshall have approved a three-year contract through June 30, 2016.

The agreement raises wages by a total \$1.05 an hour over the next three years, continues employer-paid health-care coverage during summer layoff and, for the first time, allows the use of vacation leave on short notice.

## 'Salt of the Earth' Screens Sept. 20

"Salt of the Earth," a 1954 drama based on a 1951 New Mexico mining strike, is the next installment of Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis.

The ground-breaking and controversial film was assembled by blacklisted Hollywood talent and financed by a rebel union. It relies on real miners and their families for most of the cast, features Latinos as key characters, and takes a feminist point-of-view while portraying the tensions surrounding the strike.

The movie shows Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. in Room 467 of the Minneapolis United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE. The movie is free, but donations are appreciated.

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## Raising Pressure to Raise the Wage

As a coalition of unions, faith groups, and community organizations mount a statewide campaign to raise Minnesota's minimum wage, AFSCME is leading the way by turning words into action.

Thanks to more than 80 Council 5 volunteers at the State Fair, we collected more than 5,750 signatures urging the Legislature to raise the wage to \$9.50 by 2015.

Our efforts attracted attention in the Star Tribune, MinnPost, and even Gov. Dayton's website.

For a photo album of Council 5 volunteers in action, see our Flickr stream: [www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn](http://www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn).

## Public Safety Congress Planned

Sept. 20 is the registration deadline for AFSCME International's Public Safety Congress. The gathering of corrections officers and sworn law enforcement members takes place Oct. 18-20 in Columbus, Ohio.

The agenda focuses on topics giving members the tools and information they need to defend themselves and their profession on the job and in the political and legislative arenas.

For complete hotel, travel, and conference information, go to [www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org); click "Upcoming Events."

## LES Offers Union Skills Courses

Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota is offering "nuts and bolts" skills courses for union activists. The first course, "Advanced Arbitration Techniques," takes place Sept. 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Other classes later in the year include "Unions for All Generations," "The Law and Social Media," "Intro to the Labor Movement," and "Union Administration."

All classes are non-credit, and cost \$50. They take place either online or on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus.

For a complete class descriptions and schedules, go to [www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service](http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service).

## Author Throws Book-Release Party

Local 2938's Colin T. Nelson will hold a release party for his third crime novel, "Flashover." The free event takes place Sept. 19 from 4-7:30 p.m. at Magers & Quinn Booksellers, 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis. The party includes food, music, and the opportunity to purchase signed books.

## Looking for Good Ideas

Gov. Dayton is inviting state employees to submit ideas on how to make Minnesota government work better.

AFSCME is a firm believer that the best way to improve public services is to ask the people who actually do the work. That's us. That's why we are cooperating with the governor's search.

**How to participate:** If you've got a positive idea, don't forget to share it with your Local AFSCME leadership. Council 5 will compile all the ideas, then work with locals and members to submit the most promising ideas and turn them into success.

## College Scholarship Money Available

AFSCME International is now accepting applications for its 2014 Family Scholarship. Ten scholarships, worth \$2,000 per year, will be given for full-time college study. The scholarship is renewable for four years.

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

**Details:** Go to [www.afscme.org/family](http://www.afscme.org/family).

## Union Nonprofit Holds Fundraiser

Working Partnerships, which provides emergency assistance to union families in need, is holding its first golf tournament fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 16.

Registration is closed, but your local or workplace can still make a donation to support the nonprofit's work. For full details, see [www.minneapolisunions.org](http://www.minneapolisunions.org).