



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Tell Legislators: Fund DHS

Gov. Mark Dayton's supplemental budget adds \$11 million a year for DHS. His recommendation pays for negotiated salary increases for staff at 24-hour care facilities within State Operated Services and the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.

However, neither the House nor Senate has this salary supplement in its budget bill. Without the money, DHS says, it will lay off 218 workers and close facilities.

What you can do: Tell legislative leaders and conference committee members why the salary supplement must be in their budgets.

To find out which legislators to call, go to afscmemn.org; click the article "Tell Legislators: Fund DHS."

Remember on Workers Memorial Day

DOT locals will take part in Workers Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday April 28. Events commemorate workers killed or injured on the job.

- **Rochester:** 9 a.m. at the District 6 maintenance facility, 2900 48th St. NW
- **Mankato** (District 7): Noon at 500 S. Front St.
- **Metro:** 1 p.m. at the Chaska Truck Station, 4725 Chaska Blvd.

The Duluth Central Labor Body holds a solidarity breakfast from 7-9 a.m. April 28 at the Labor Temple, 2002 London Road. A tree-planting ceremony takes place outside at 9:15 a.m.

Vote Schweigert in April 29 Primary

Council 5 is endorsing Local 2938 member Ben Schweigert in the special District 3 election to replace Gail Dorfman on the Hennepin County Board.

The district covers St. Louis Park, downtown Minneapolis, and Minneapolis neighborhoods roughly south of I-94 and west of I-35W.

Voting: The primary is Tuesday April 29. Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. You can vote absentee at the Hennepin County Government Center, Minneapolis City Hall, and St. Louis Park City Hall through April 25 during regular office hours; on Saturday April 26 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and on Monday April 28 until 5 p.m.

Make Equality More than Words

Ask your state senator to pass the Women's Economic Security Act. The time is now: The legislation goes to the Senate floor on Wednesday April 23. This legislation will:

- Help close the gender pay gap so more women can earn equal pay for equal work
- Provide more flexibility for pregnant mothers in the workplace
- Create more opportunities for women to enter high-wage, high-demand professions

The House passed the bill on April 9.

Stop the Latest Postal Scheme

The U.S. Postal Service is trying to outsource mail service by putting "postal units" inside Staples stores. The problem is, it won't be public-sector postal workers in these "postal units." It will be low-wage Staples staff.

This privatization scheme is another attack on public employees and on solid, middle-class jobs.

What you can do: Join postal workers in their "day of action" on Thursday April 24. The Twin Cities event is from 4-6 p.m. outside the Staples store in Har-Mar Mall, 2100 Snelling Road N, Roseville.

Untold Stories Connect Place, Time

The annual Untold Stories labor history series is under way in St. Paul. Sessions show how the more things change, the more they don't. Among the first events:

- **April 28:** How workers past and present fight to turn low-wage jobs into middle-class careers.
- **April 30:** Examine a "memory map" of sites near the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers that hold special meaning to the Dakota people.

Other events are scheduled on May 7, 12, and 14.

Details: All events are free. More details are available on the Council 5 website; go to afscmemn.org; click the article "Untold Stories Connect Time, Place."

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For Too Many, It's Still Winter

Duluth's Social Justice Movie Night on April 30 features "American Winter."

The prize-winning documentary takes a sobering look at middle-class families in Portland, Ore. Blind-sided by the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression – and despite their best efforts – they find the American Dream slipping from their grasp.

Details: The movie begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday April 30 at Teatro Zuccone in the Zeitgeist Arts Building, 222 E. Superior St. Admission is free; a panel discussion follows. See a preview at www.americanwinterfilm.com/hbo-trailer.

Movie Night is organized by the North East Area Labor Council, CHUM, and Community Action Duluth.

AFL-CIO Seeks Standout Volunteers

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is accepting nominations of labor groups, individual union members, and youth in union families who have made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service.

Details: For specifics on each award, go to: www.mnafcio.org; click "About Us," then "Scholarships & Awards." Find details under "2014 Community Services Awards."

Nominations must be submitted by May 30.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

MnSCU Frontline Conference: May 28-29, Duluth (Lake Superior College)

Council 5 Presidents Meeting: June 12, South St. Paul, 10 a.m.

Golf for Vets Tournament: July 11, Stillwater, 11 a.m. (Applewood Hills)

AFSCME International Convention: July 14-18, Chicago

AFSCME Family Picnic: Aug. 17, Maplewood, 1-5 p.m. (Battle Creek Regional Park)

AFSCME Council 5 10th Annual Convention: Sept. 10-13, Bloomington (Double Tree by Hilton)

Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention: Sept. 21-23, St. Paul (Crowne Plaza)

Don't Miss Out on Scholarships

AFSCME Council 5, AFSCME International, the Minnesota AFL-CIO, the Labor Education Service, and the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Foundation all are accepting applications for grants and scholarships that help union members and their families advance their education.

Application deadlines are as soon as April 30.

For a rundown of the available scholarships, go to afscmemn.org; click "Resources," then "Scholarships."

Retirees Hope You Join the Fun

Your chance to support retiree activism takes place May 3 when the Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retiree Council holds its annual Fun(d)Raiser. The all-ages event features free admission, free food, free parking, plus music, games, raffles, a silent auction, and more.

The council uses proceeds to educate union retirees about policy issues and political action.

Details: The Fun(d)Raiser runs from 2-6 p.m. Saturday May 3 at the hall of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10, 1681 Cope Ave., Maplewood.

LES Invites Leadership Applicants

The Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota is accepting applications for its 2014-2015 Minnesota Union Leadership Program.

Participants take six full-day classes over a nine-month period. Through course work and projects, they develop the knowledge, skills, and strategic-thinking abilities necessary to move into successful leadership roles in their unions.

Applicants must get a signed commitment from their union to support their training and to pay the \$1,500 tuition.

Details: The application deadline is May 23. For full program information and application forms, go to www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service; click "Programs and Courses" in the left column, then "Minnesota Union Leadership Program."

You can also contact LES directly at les@umn.edu or 612-624-5020.