



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Beyond a Better Minimum Wage

Our successful effort to raise Minnesota's minimum wage will mean better pay for 357,000 low-wage workers – most of them women. That's a step in the right direction.

The Women's Economic Security Act attacks the bigger picture. It begins to correct other barriers and forms of discrimination that hold women back on the job .

Take action: To increase the chances that more women gain equal pay and equal opportunity at work, call these senators and urge their support:

- Terri Bonoff (DFL-Minnetonka), 651-296-4313
- Chris Eaton (DFL-Brooklyn Center), 651-296-8869
- Melisa Franzen (DFL-Edina), 651-296-6238

See Day on the Hill in Pictures

More than 1,000 Council 5 members and retirees made themselves impossible to ignore during Day on the Hill March 25. For a photo album of members in action, go to www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn/sets; click "Day on the Hill 2014."

For video highlights, see <http://youtu.be/ONsBJSU4Qn0>

Comedy – With a Message

April's Labor Movie Night features the comedy romp "9 to 5," which has a lot more going for it than Dolly Parton's award-winning song.

"9 to 5" features Parton, Jane Fonda, and Lily Tomlin, who portray office workers who have had enough of their disgusting boss, played by Dabney Coleman.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday April 18 in Room 356 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

MSRS Board Selects Strunk

Joe Strunk, of Statewide Corrections Local 2728, was elected March 27 to fill the remainder of the term of Mike Keapproth, representing the Correctional Plan on the board of the Minnesota State Retirement System. Strunk will serve through May 2016.

Keapproth, of Stillwater Corrections Local 915, is retiring.

Jump Start Move MN's Drive

The Legislature is making progress in many areas.

But providing long-term, sustainable funding to move Minnesota's roads, bridges, public transit, and bicycle and walking routes into the 21st Century is not one of them.

MnDOT has \$1 billion in projects this summer. But that's only a bandage on the holes in the state's transportation system. A Move MN proposal to tackle the real problem is stalled, despite clearing House and Senate panels.

How you can help: Clear some roadblocks by writing a letter to your community newspaper. For information, contact Council 5's public affairs director, Jennifer Munt, at 651-287-0575 or jennifer.munt@afscmemn.org .

State Contracts are Now Official

Gov. Dayton signed collective-bargaining agreements on March 26 that cover 38,000 state workers, including 18,100 AFSCME members. The contracts, which include 3 percent pay raises in both 2013 and 2014, run from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

After AFSCME members in Units, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 25 ratified them last year, the Legislature's Subcommittee on Employee Relations recommended approval. The contracts received final legislative approval in the Senate on March 10 and in House on March 25.

City Locals Ratify Contracts

City of Grand Marais: Members in this unit of Local 66 ratified a two-year contract through 2015. It includes a 1.5 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1 and another 1.5 percent raise in 2015. It also increases differential pay for some licensed workers.

City of Lino Lakes: Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a one-year contract for 2014. It includes a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1 and holds the line on health insurance.

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Show that Low Pay is Not OK

A march against low wages and public subsidies of multi-billion dollar corporations takes place April 9 in Sartell. The Greater Minnesota Workers Center is organizing the event, which will call out both Walmart and McDonalds. Meet at 5 p.m. in the Walmart parking lot, Highway 15 and County Road 1 in Sartell. For information, contact Alisha Williams at 320-492-2645 or Casey Hudek at 612-913-6743.

Labor Bowl Rolls April 24

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation's annual Labor Bowl takes place April 24. The fundraiser benefits the Labor Studies and Resource Center, which provides training, layoff assistance, and other services to union families in need in Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties.

Teams, individuals, and sponsors are invited to sign up for this very social event. Shifts are at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 W. University Ave. Each bowler is asked to secure at least \$100 in pledges. To register, donate, or get other information, call 651-222-3787 x17.

LES Seeks 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 to develop the knowledge, skills, and strategic thinking abilities to guide them toward successful leadership roles in their unions.

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

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

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

Buttons Celebrate Librarians

April 15 is not just tax deadline – it's National Library Workers Day. So AFSCME, which represents more librarians, technicians, and support staff than any other union, is celebrating. AFSCME International is offering free buttons that pay tribute to library workers. The custom-designed buttons speak librarians' language: They feature the numbers 331.88, which is the Dewey decimal classification for labor unions, and HD 6483, which is the Library of Congress classification for unions. Look for a button in a university or public library near you.

Don't Miss Out on Scholarships

AFSCME Council 5, AFSCME International, the Minnesota AFL-CIO, the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota, 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.

Some awards are for graduating high school seniors. Some are for current college students. Some are for adult rank-and-file members who are pursuing higher education or increasing their union leadership skills. Application deadlines for this round are as soon as April 30. For a rundown of available scholarships, go to afscmemn.org; click "Resources," then "Scholarships."

Events on the Horizon ...

State Employee Policy Committee Conference: April 11, Minneapolis, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Ramada Plaza)

CCPT Local 3400 Convention: April 11-13, St. Cloud (Holiday Inn)

Social Justice Movie Night, "American Winter": April 30, Duluth, 7 p.m. (Teatro Zuccone)

Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retiree Council Fun(d) Raiser: May 3, Maplewood, 2-6 p.m. (Sheet Metal Workers Hall)

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