



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

A Victory for Prison Food Service

Over the past year, Council 5 corrections locals mobilized to end Minnesota's risky outsourcing of food service inside state prisons. Their case was so compelling that Corrections commissioner Tom Roy announced this week that the department will end outsourcing when the current food contract expires in June 2015.

The victory improves security inside prisons, and brings 64 jobs in-house next year.

AFSCME corrections locals documented that outside vendors run out of food too frequently and sometimes serve food that is spoiled or inedible. Further, outside vendors lack the specialized training to properly supervise offenders in prison kitchens.

Aviands, a for-profit corporation, has the current contract. It serves more than 8,000 inmates at seven state prisons – every site except Red Wing and St. Cloud.

March with 'Moral Mondays' Founder

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II – whose "Moral Mondays" campaign has gone viral – leads a "March for Equity" on Saturday Aug. 16 in Minneapolis.

The march begins at 10 a.m. at Peavey Plaza and heads up Nicollet Mall to the Hennepin County Library.

"Moral Mondays" advance social justice and equality for all. The Twin Cities event is part of a drive by faith, labor, and community partners to overcome some of the worst racial disparities in the nation.

We're Not Laughing at You...

August's Labor Movie Night shows that a bad workplace can be funny – if it's not yours. "Office Space," a 1999 comedy, makes us laugh at the absurdity of cubicle life, consultants, and how workers cope before they get even.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday Aug. 15 in Room 356 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Labor Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave. Food and beverages will be available.

The Picnic is Finally Here

The annual AFSCME Family Picnic – organized by metro-based locals – takes place on Sunday Aug. 17 at the Battle Creek Regional Park Picnic Pavilion, near McKnight and Upper Afton Roads in Maplewood.

The free picnic – for AFSCME members, families, and friends – runs from 1-5 p.m. It includes food, raffles, activities for kids, discounted water park rides, entertainment, and surprise visitors.

Visit Us at the State Fair

Want a state that commits to transportation we can count on – a network that protects our jobs *and* provides opportunity and mobility for more residents? Then visit the AFSCME kiosk at the State Fair.

More than 100 Council 5 members and retirees are volunteering to collect post cards that urge legislators to do what it takes to make transportation work better for everyone.

Details: We're at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion, at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper St. (that's on the east end of the Fairgrounds). We'll be there most days from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The Fair runs from Thursday Aug. 21 until Labor Day (Sept. 1).

While you're there: Check out the Labor Pavilion's entire line-up of unions, education, and music. For a full schedule, see <http://mnaflcio.tumblr.com>.

Council 5 Seeks 2 Lobbyists

Council 5 is accepting applications for two legislative representatives. One job will focus on human services, early childhood, and child-care issues. The second job will focus on tax policy, local government, and data practices.

Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 29. For complete job descriptions and application details, go to afscmemn.org; click "Work for Us."

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Convention Deadlines are Sneaking Up
Key deadlines are approaching for Council 5's 10th annual convention. The convention is Sept. 11-13 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington.

Lodging: Reservation deadlines are Wednesday Aug. 20 for the Crowne Plaza Bloomington, and Wednesday Aug. 27 at the Doubletree. Room rates are \$114 plus tax at the Crowne Plaza, \$140 plus tax at the Doubletree, and \$154 plus tax for cabana or tower rooms at the Doubletree.

Resolutions: Must be submitted to Council 5 by Friday Aug. 22.

Delegate credentials: Must be postmarked by Friday Aug. 29.

Special needs: Requests for child care, sign-language interpreters, and similar accommodations must be made by Friday Aug. 29.

Elections: Voting takes place Sept. 11 for chair officers and board members, who will serve through 2016.

Handle Money the Right Way

Financial Responsibility Training for local officers takes place Thursday Sept. 18, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office. The specialized training makes sure locals handle dues and expenses legally and transparently.

The training is recommended for any officer who signs checks or conducts audits. Cost is \$20 per person, which covers lunch and materials.

To register: Contact Council 5's Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524; toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524; or by email at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

Be Part of Our Time Capsule

We're putting together a time capsule to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the merger that created Council 5. Have something you want to include? Mail or drop off a photo, memento, or indelible memory at our South St. Paul office. We'll digitize the items we collect and return them to you. Then we'll unveil the electronic archive at our convention in September.

State Contract Campaign Starts Now
Forms are available online for State of Minnesota employees who want to suggest new contract language and pay inequity adjustments.

Proposals are due by Oct. 1.

All ideas go to the statewide Negotiations Assembly, which drafts the initial AFSCME proposal for a 2015-2017 contract with the state.

To download the forms and other bargaining information, go to afscmemn.org; under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

A Heads Up on Correctional Plan Vote

Members of PERA's Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan now receive both a defined-benefit pension and Social Security. However, participants who did not originally transfer into the plan in 1999 will have to vote this winter on whether to retain their Social Security coverage.

The Correctional Plan covers correctional officers in county and regional adult and juvenile facilities. Council 5 believes AFSCME members should vote "Yes" in order to protect their retirement security.

Find out more: PERA has a FAQ sheet that explains the vote and the impact of voting "Yes" or "No." Go to afscmemn.org; under "Resources," click "Benefit Plans," then "Correctional Plan Referendum."

Knock Down That Student Debt

AFSCME and UnionPlus are holding a \$20,000 student loan giveaway. One winner will receive \$10,000 in loan payments, and two winners will receive \$5,000 each. But you've got to register by Friday Aug. 15.

Details: See www.unionplus.org/contest

On the Horizon ...

Duluth Labor Day Picnic: Sept. 1, noon (Bayfront Park)

Iron Range Labor Day Picnic: Sept. 1, noon, Virginia, (Olcott Park)

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