



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

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

## Convention Credentials Due Aug. 29

This Friday, Aug. 29, is the deadline for locals to submit delegate credentials for Council 5's 10<sup>th</sup> annual convention. Credentials must be postmarked by the 29th, or delivered in person by 4:30 p.m. to Council 5's South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. South. Aug. 29 is also the deadline for delegates to request special needs accommodations, such as child care or sign-language interpreters. Call 651-450-4990. The convention is Sept. 11-13 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington.

## Convention Adds Food Drive

Council 5's convention will include a food drive to benefit people served by Neighbors Inc. The food shelf assists more than 600 families a month in Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, and West St. Paul. Locals and individuals can donate non-perishable food or money. Checks should be payable to "Neighbors Inc." At last year's convention, AFSCME members donated 2 tons of food and \$2,000 to Duluth's CHUM food shelf.

## Now is the Time for Contract Ideas

Forms are available online for state 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.

**Details:** To download the forms and other bargaining information, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

## Council 5 Seeks 2 Lobbyists

Council 5 is accepting applications for two legislative representatives. Applications are due at Council 5's South St. Paul office by 4 p.m. Friday Aug. 29. One job will focus on human services, early childhood, and child-care issues. The second will focus on tax policy, local government, and data-practices issues. Full job descriptions and application details are available online; go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click "Work for Us."

## Election Drive Kicks Off Sept. 4

Two summers ago, a Republican-run Legislature shut down state government. They threw thousands of us out of work. Those are facts we can't forget in this fall's elections – or we risk having it done to us again.

To stress what's at stake this Nov. 4, unions are holding a "day of action" on Thursday Sept. 4. Volunteers will call or visit other union members. Activities take place from 4:30-8:30 p.m. in:

**Brainerd:** Area Labor Council office, 503 Maple St.

**Duluth:** Labor Temple, 2002 London Road

**Moorhead:** Fargo Labor Temple, 3002 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N

**Little Canada:** Painters Hall, 3205 Country Drive

**St. Cloud:** Education Minnesota, 4140 Thielman Lane, Suite 306

**Willmar:** Council 5 office, 1305 S.1<sup>st</sup> St.

**Phone bank:** Retirees will staff a phone bank at 3:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, 312 Central Ave., Suite 542

**More information:** Go to [www.mnaflcio.org](http://www.mnaflcio.org); click "Labor 2014 Days of Action."

## Visit Us at the State Fair

More than 100 Council 5 members and retirees are volunteering at the Minnesota State Fair. With our Move MN coalition partners, we're collecting cards urging legislators to do what it takes to make transportation work better for everyone.

Stop by and sign a card. We're promoting balanced, long-term investment in roads, bridges, transit, and bike and pedestrian facilities. That commitment protects our jobs; provides dedicated, sustainable revenue; and makes sure Minnesota has the infrastructure to support a growing economy and high quality of life.

**Details:** We're at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion, at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper St. We're there 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. The Fair runs until Labor Day.

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## Celebrate Labor Day with a Picnic

- Congressman Keith Ellison's annual barbecue to honor labor is Sunday Aug. 31, from noon-2 p.m., at Wabun Picnic Area D. The picnic pavilion is in Minnehaha Falls Park, 4655 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Minneapolis.
- Duluth's Labor Day Picnic takes place Monday Sept. 1 from noon-4 p.m. at Bayfront Park, 350 Harbor Drive.
- The annual Iron Range Labor Day Picnic takes place Monday Sept. 1 from noon-4 p.m. in Virginia's Olcott Park, 9<sup>th</sup> St. North and 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. West.
- The annual Brainerd-area Labor Day Picnic takes place Monday Sept. 1 from noon-4 p.m. at Oscar Kristofferson Park, 5672 Baxter Lions Road, Baxter.

## A Story of Workers on Labor Day

"Who Built Our Capitol?" – the story of the men and women who built the Minnesota State Capitol from the ground up – will be broadcast on Labor Day, Sept. 1, on Twin Cities Public Television's Minnesota Channel. You can watch the Labor Education Service documentary at 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.

## How Did We Get Labor Day Anyway?

Learn the history of Labor Day through historic speeches, song, and more. The special presentation is Thursday Aug. 28 from 7-9 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., Saint Paul. For information, call 651-774-8687.

## 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 training makes sure locals handle dues and expenses legally and transparently. It 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 or by email at [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org).

## Locals Approve Contracts

**Crisis Connection.** Members of this unit of Local 3481 ratified their first contract at the crisis hotline. The two-year agreement, through Aug. 31, 2016, installs just cause, grievance, and union security protections for workers. It includes a 1 percent pay raise, effective Aug. 18; a wage reopener in the second year; and a signing bonus for staff hired before 2014. The contract also creates premium pay of 50 cents per hour for overnight work, and improves scheduling of time off. Members voted to join AFSCME in July 2013.

**Dakota County.** Members of Human Services Local 306 ratified a two-year contract through 2015. The deal raises pay by 1 percent retroactive to Jan. 1; another 1 percent on Jan. 1, 2015; and increases shift differential by 20 cents an hour by Jan. 1, 2015. In addition, employees can receive raises and lump-sum payments of up to 4 percent more each year, based on performance. The county also increases its share of insurance premiums to 80 percent for family plans, but cuts its share for individual plans to 90 percent.

## A Heads Up on Correctional Plan Vote

Members of PERA's Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan will vote in January on whether to retain their Social Security coverage. The plan covers correctional officers in county and regional adult and juvenile facilities. Plan participants now receive both a defined-benefit pension and Social Security. However, a recent ruling says that participants who did not originally transfer into the plan in 1999 will have to vote on whether to keep their Social Security benefit. Council 5 believes AFSCME members should vote "Yes."

**Find out more:** PERA has a question-and-answer sheet that explains the impact of voting "Yes" or "No." Go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); under "Resources," click "Benefit Plans," then "Correctional Plan Referendum."

Counties will send out more details on the voting process by Oct. 30. Mail ballots will be counted on a county-by-county basis. Ballots are due Jan. 30, 2015.