



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Join Raise the Wage Rally Feb. 25

A rally to "Raise the Wage!" takes place at the Capitol on Tuesday Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. It's our first big push urging state senators to raise Minnesota's minimum wage to at least \$9.50 an hour by 2015.

Spread the word: If you have a Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr account, join Council 5's "raise the wage" Thunderclap. On Feb. 25, we'll automatically post a message on everybody's account at the same time. Sign up at <http://thndr.it/1cmKq93>.

Take a bus: Two buses from Greater Minnesota will take participants to and from the Capitol.

- Central Minnesota: The bus leaves Central Lakes College in Brainerd at 11:30 a.m. The bus will stop in Little Falls, St. Cloud, and Elk River. To reserve a seat, contact Casey Hudek at 612-913-6743.
- Mankato: The bus leaves the Gander Mountain parking lot at 1:30 p.m. To reserve a seat, contact Audra Waylett, 507-316-1999.

Carpool: To arrange a car pool, contact:

- Western Minnesota: Mark Froemke, 218-779-9258.
- Northeast Minnesota: Zach Sias, 218-409-9246.

'Salt of the Earth' Shows Feb. 21

February's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis features the ground-breaking "Salt of the Earth" on Feb. 21.

The 1954 film was assembled by blacklisted Hollywood talent and financed by a rebel union. It upended convention by relying on real miners and their families for most roles, by featuring Latinos as key characters, and by portraying the genuine tensions in a strike.

Details: The free event begins at 6 p.m. Friday Feb. 21 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave.

'Inequality for All' Screens in Duluth

"Inequality for All" – the eye-opening documentary by Robert Reich about income inequality in the United States – is featured at Duluth's Labor Movie Night. A panel discussion follows the free showing.

Details: Events begin at 7 p.m. Thursday Feb. 27 in Wellstone Hall at the Duluth Labor Temple, 2002 London Road.

Sign Up Now: DOTH is March 25

Online registration is open for AFSCME's Day on the Hill, Tuesday March 25 in St. Paul. To register, go to afscmemn.org, then click the "Income & Opportunity" graphic above the Calendar.

A bonus: Bring a co-worker who never has attended Day on the Hill; both of you will get an AFSCME Council 5 "Bread and Roses" canvas bag.

Buses: Charter buses will travel from Virginia, Duluth, and points in between on their way to St. Paul. To reserve a spot, contact Local 66's Jayme McKenna at 218-269-1456 or mckenna_jayme@yahoo.com.

Full information: Go to afscmemn.org; click "Political," then "Day on the Hill 2014."

SEPC Meets, Elects Officers April 11

The spring conference of the State Employee Policy Committee takes place Friday April 11 in Minneapolis. Delegates will elect four chair officers, one trustee, and executive board members.

The conference runs from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE. Key deadlines:

Credentials: Locals must submit delegate lists no later than March 28.

Resolutions: Must be received by March 11 at Council 5's South St. Paul office.

Hotel reservations: The hotel is holding rooms until March 28. The AFSCME Conference rate is \$89 plus tax. For reservations, call 612-331-1900.

More information: Contact Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524 or by email at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

Job Vacancy at Council 5

Council 5 is accepting applications for a field representative, based in the Duluth office.

Applications are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 25.

For details and a full job description, go to afscmemn.org; click "Work for Us."

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HCMC Locals Ratify Contract

Locals 977 and 2474 at Hennepin County Medical Center ratified a two-year contract through 2015. The deal includes a 1 percent raise each January, steps each year, and stability pay each year. In addition, one-third of members will receive additional "market adjustment" pay raises of 1 percent each year. The contract preserves an HCMC-based health insurance plan that is one of the best in the state, and expands short-term and long-term disability insurance to all employees at no cost if they qualify for paid sick leave, paid vacation, or paid time off.

Don't Miss Out on Scholarships

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 for current college students, and some for adult rank-and-file members pursuing higher education or increasing their union leadership skills.

Application deadlines are as soon as Feb. 28. For a rundown of available scholarships, see the story at afscmemn.org.

Are You Related to the '34 Strike?

This year is the 80th anniversary of 1934 Teamsters strike that broke the grip of Minneapolis' business cabal and made the city a union town.

As part of commemorative events, a committee is tracking down descendants of the original strikers. If you are a descendant of a strike participant or can help locate descendants, email AFSCME retiree Gladys McKenzie at gladysjane@me.com.

A partial list of strike participants is on the website of the Minneapolis Labor Federation; go to www.minneapolisunions.org/remember34_list.php.

LES Offers Next Skills Course

The Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota is offering skills courses for union activists. The next course, "Trade Union Administration," takes place March 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. The class is non-credit, and costs \$50. The registration deadline is March 14.

To register: Call 612-624-5020 or e-mail les@umn.edu.

Teachers Host Book-Release Party

A book party takes place Wednesday Feb. 26 in St. Paul to celebrate the release of "How to Jump-Start Your Union: Lessons from the Chicago Teachers." The free event runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the office of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, 400 Selby Ave., Suite A.

Kick In Now for PEOPLE Run

At July's AFSCME International convention, Local 2829 activist Duane Gatzke hopes to again lead Council 5 to the top in contributions at the PEOPLE Fun Run. The run raises money to support candidates who support workers. The PEOPLE Fund is built entirely from voluntary contributions, not from dues. For details on how to contribute individually or as a group:

- Download the flier from Council 5's website: go to afscmemn.org; click "Political," then "PEOPLE."
- Contact Duane at kkirk77dq@comcast.net or 651-472-2787.

Save the Dates

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: Feb. 20, University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, 5 p.m.

Transportation Rally: March 13, Capitol, St. Paul, 4 p.m.

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner: March 27, Oakdale, 5:30 p.m. (Prom Center)

Labor Bowl: April 20, St. Paul, 2-8 p.m. (Midway Bowl)

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