



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Raise a Ruckus to Raise the Wage

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 – on the first day of the legislative session – to urge state senators to raise the state's minimum wage to at least \$9.50 an hour by 2015. RSVP at <http://raisethewagemn.org/rally-to-raise-the-wage>.

Spread the word: Do you have a Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr account? If you do, join Council 5's "raise the wage" Thunderclap. On Feb. 25, we'll automatically post on everybody's account – at the same time. Ka-Boom! That will get their attention.

- Join the fun at <http://thndr.it/1cmKq93>.

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 this year: If you 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.

Details: At Day on the Hill, we celebrate the victories we won in 2013. We also remind legislators that they have unfinished business this spring.

For full information, go to afscmemn.org; click "Political," then "Day on the Hill 2014."

Trumka Speaks at U of M Feb. 20

Workers' rights and civil rights cannot be separated.

National AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka will spell out how true that is during a featured appearance at the University of Minnesota.

Details: Trumka speaks at 5 p.m. Thursday Feb. 20 in the Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The event is free and open to the public.

The Humphrey School is at 301 19th Ave. S, on the West Bank of the Minneapolis campus.

Trumka's speech commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Transportation Gets Early Hearing

The Legislature's transportation committees are holding joint hearings on Minnesota's unmet transportation needs and on how inadequate funding threatens our future prosperity.

Join the audience to show support for AFSCME's Move MN coalition partners, who will testify promoting transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, public transit, and pedestrian and bicycle routes.

The hearings take place in St. Paul:

- **Feb. 10:** 10 a.m. in Room 10 of the State Office Building.
- **Feb. 18:** 1 p.m. in Room 15 of the Capitol.

For information on Move MN's goals, see movemn.org.

State Launches Propane Hotline

If you're in danger of running out of heating fuel, need financial aid to fill a propane tank or heating fuel tank, or have questions about the regional propane shortage, you can call a state hotline for assistance:

- 651-297-1304 in the metro
- 1-800-657-3504 in Greater Minnesota

Commerce Department employees staff the hotline from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, see the story on Council 5's web page: afscmemn.org.

Local Presidents Meet Feb. 21

Feb. 14 is the deadline to register for the next Council 5 local union presidents' meeting. Presidents will meet on Friday Feb. 21 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office. Presidents who cannot attend should send another elected officer in their place.

To register: Email council5@afscmemn.org or call 651-450-4990.

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Locals Vote on New Contracts

Hennepin County Attorneys. This essential unit of Local 2938 ratified a two-year contract for 2014 and 2015. The agreement includes pay raises of 2.5 percent each Jan. 1, plus an additional 5 percent step increase for those still in pay range. Starting pay increases by 2.5 steps for attorneys and 3.5 steps for associate attorneys. The deal includes the countywide health plan with more-affordable insurance options.

LifeCare Services. Members of Local 1337 will vote this month on a tentative agreement for what would be their first contract for retirement communities run by LifeCare Services. The proposal runs from March 1 through June 2015. It includes a 2 percent pay raise.

E-Board Accepting Nominations

Feb. 14 is the deadline to nominate candidates for a vacant seat on Council 5's Executive Board.

Nominees must work for a *county* government and be a member in good standing for at least one year.

To submit a name: Send your nominee to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075.

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 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.

Job Vacancy at Council 5

Council 5 is accepting applications for a political representative, working out of the South St. Paul office. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 14. For details and a full job description, go to afscmemn.org; click "Work for Us."

'Salt of the Earth' Shows Feb. 21

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

The film was assembled by blacklisted Hollywood talent and financed by a rebel union. The 1954 film upended convention by relying on real miners and their families for most roles, by featuring Latinos as key characters, and by taking a feminist point-of-view while portraying the genuine tensions surrounding a strike.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 in Room 467 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Pizza and beer will be available.

Labor Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave.

Pitch In for Veterans Initiative

Council 5's Veterans Initiative is still trying to reach its goal of \$10,000 to qualify for matching funds from AFSCME International. Donations pay for direct support of veterans, or for additional activities and equipment that the state's veterans homes cannot afford themselves.

Here's how to help:

- Locals and individuals can contribute directly.
- Locals and individuals can raise money by selling candy bars and beef sticks at work or through organizations and eating and drinking establishments in their communities.

More information: Contact Council 5's Tim Henderson at tim.henderson@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0529.