



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

A Ground-Breaking Victory

Twenty-two firefighters in the City of Roseville made history this month when they joined Council 5. They are the first in Minnesota to unionize under a 2012 ruling that allows part-time firefighters to organize if they work an average of at least 14 hours a week. The Roseville members gained representation when the city recognized that a vast majority of the eligible firefighters signed cards demanding collective bargaining through AFSCME.

Save the Date: DOTH is March 25

It's never too early to put *this* on your calendar: AFSCME Day on the Hill is Tuesday March 25 in St. Paul. At Day on the Hill, we celebrate the victories we won in 2013. We also remind legislators that they still need to act this spring on unfinished business. (One example: A bonding bill that protects our members' health and safety; see the story at afscmemn.org.)

Details: Members should register through their Local union. Day on the Hill includes workshops in the morning, a box lunch, a 12:30 p.m. rally in the Rotunda, lobbying, and a happy-hour reception.

- For a full schedule, go to: afscmemn.org; click "Political," then "Day on the Hill 2014."

Local Presidents Meet Feb. 21

Local union 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. The registration deadline is Feb. 14.

E-Board Accepting Nominations

Council 5 is accepting nominations to fill an Executive Board vacancy. Nominees must work for a *county* government and be a member in good standing for at least one year.

Send nominations to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075. The deadline is Feb. 14.

Join Precinct Caucuses Feb. 4

Minnesota's political parties hold their precinct caucuses on Tuesday Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

Attending your district caucus and becoming a convention delegate are the first steps toward re-electing Gov. Mark Dayton and maintaining a House majority that shares our values. That's what we need to achieve in this year's elections.

Election results matter if we expect to protect the value and dignity of our jobs, our livelihoods, and our retirements. They matter if we expect to maintain the quality of our services wherever we work: in state, county, or local government; in education; in health care; or at a nonprofit.

To find your caucus: Go to: <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

Bring resolutions: Beginning Feb. 1, you can check afscmemn.org for resolutions on raising the minimum wage; tackling Minnesota's urgent transportation needs; and exposing ALEC.

Raise the Wage to \$9.50!

Next month, the Legislature will return and consider raising the minimum wage. Here's where we stand:

- The House already voted to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2015. The House bill also raises the wage for inflation each year, doesn't penalize tipped workers, and matches up Minnesota law with federal laws on family leave and the 40-hour workweek.
- Gov. Dayton says he supports an increase to \$9.50.
- Unfortunately, Senate legislation raises the wage to only \$7.75 – 50 cents above the outdated federal rate.

Here's what you can do:

Contact state senators now. Tell them: Make hard work pay – raise the wage to \$9.50 by 2015. To find your senator, call 651-296-0504.

Join the rally. A "Raise the Wage!" rally takes place at the Capitol on Tuesday Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. RSVP at <http://raisethewagemn.org/rally-to-raise-the-wage>.

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Locals Ratify Contracts

Hermantown School District. Members of this unit in Local 66 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2015. Upon school board approval, the contract provides a 1.5 percent raise retroactive to Jan. 1, and another 1.5 percent raise in 2015. The contract also increases starting salaries by eliminating the first step; increases the employer's health-insurance contribution each year; and increases the meal allowance.

Safe Haven Shelter, Duluth. Members of this unit in Local 3558 ratified a two-year contract through Sept. 30, 2015. The contract includes a 2.5 percent pay raise retroactive to Oct. 1, 2013, and another 2.5 percent raise effective Oct. 1, 2014. It eliminates a provision that allowed the employer to terminate the retirement annuity plan, adds a provision that clarifies health insurance eligibility, and creates a labor-management committee.

City of South St. Paul. Members of Local 2535 ratified a two-year contract for 2014 and 2015. It includes a 2.5 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1, another 2.5 percent pay raise in January 2015, additional "market adjustment" raises of 50 cents an hour this year for about half the bargaining unit, and four classification upgrades worth about \$1,600 a year.

It's Time for a Winter Parade

The Community Services program of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation is inviting union members and their families to march Jan. 25 in the annual Grande Day Parade at the St. Paul Winter Carnival. Marchers will gather at 1 p.m. at the St. Paul Labor Centre, 411 Main St. The parade begins at 2 p.m.

RSVP: Contact Lynne Larkin-Wright at 651-222-3787 x16, or llwright@stpaulunions.org.

Kick In Now for PEOPLE Run

At this summer's AFSCME international convention, Local 2829 activist Duane Gatzke hopes to again lead Council 5 to the top spot 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." Or contact Duane at 651-472-2787 or kkirk77dg@comcast.net.

Scholarship Deadline is Jan. 31

Jan. 31 is the deadline to apply for a Union Plus scholarship, which is part of AFSCME Advantage. Active and retired members in good standing for at least one year, their spouses, and their dependent children all are eligible. The scholarships, which range from \$500 to \$4,000, can be used for graduate or undergraduate study at colleges, universities, and trade or technical schools in the U.S.

Details: Full details are available at www.unionplus.org; click "Legal and Education," then "Scholarships." Completed applications are due by 11 a.m. Jan. 31.

Continuing King's Work

Without unions, the 1963 march on Washington never would have happened. That was one of the history lessons that blended with provocative speakers and uplifting performances during a Martin Luther King holiday observance in Minneapolis on Jan. 18. MnSCU Local 4001 and University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800 sponsored the event.

- For a photo album, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn/sets/; click "Continuing King's Work."