



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Event Celebrates King's Legacy

MnSCU Local 4001 and University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800 are sponsoring a Martin Luther King observance on Saturday Jan. 18, at Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood St., Minneapolis.

The free event begins at 3 p.m. Activities include a solidarity march, music, poetry, praise dance, and speakers including Jermaine Davis, Lissa Jones, and Whitney Harris. Proceeds from a free-will offering go to the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

Reservations: Contact Local 4001's Grace Jones at 952-686-1088 or jazzygej@yahoo.com.

Special Election in Duluth Jan. 14

Council 5 is endorsing **Patrick Boyle** in the special election for St. Louis County Board District 2, in east Duluth. Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 14.

Forum Looks at Better Transportation

How a better – and better-funded – state transportation system can promote better jobs, improve public health, and fuel economic and neighborhood development will be topics on the table during a free forum Jan. 14 in St. Paul.

National speakers include Greg LeRoy of Good Jobs First, Andrew Austin of Americans for Transit, and Larry Hanley of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

AFSCME Council 5 and Metropolitan Council Local 668 are among primary sponsors.

Details: The program is at 6 p.m. at the Carpenters Hall, 730 Olive St. in St. Paul. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.

Making an Impact Where We Live

Local 552, in Hennepin County Probation and Parole, donated \$1,000 to the Minneapolis Police Canine Foundation. The foundation supports training, supplies, and needs for dogs and their handlers that cannot be paid for because of city budget limitations.

Local 638, at Minnesota State University-Mankato, partnered with other campus unions to collect 422 pounds of food and an additional \$671 in cash donations for ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato.

Start Planning for DOTH March 25

It's never too early to request time off for Council 5's Day on the Hill, which takes place Tuesday March 25 in St. Paul.

Day on the Hill is when we celebrate the victories we won in 2013, during the first part of this legislative session. It's also one way we remind legislators to take action this spring on priorities they still haven't accomplished.

Details: Members should register through their local. 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."

Brainstorming in Brainerd

The first Central Minnesota Labor Conference takes place Jan. 25 in Brainerd. The conference features workshops and brainstorming on how to grow the labor movement and improve communities in Greater Minnesota. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Greater Minnesota Worker Center.

Details: The conference is at Central Lakes College, 501 W. College Drive, Brainerd. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; sessions run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with follow-up from 3-4 p.m. Lunch will be served.

More information: Contact AFSCME's Michael Dolney at 218-851-9553 or Deb Breneman at 218-820-9162.

Save the Dates

Raise the Wage Rally: Feb. 25, Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul, 3 p.m.

Transportation Rally: March 14, Capitol Rotunda, 4 p.m.

State Employee Policy Committee Spring Conference: April 11, Minneapolis (Ramada Plaza)

AFSCME International Convention: July 14-18, Chicago

AFSCME Council 5 10th Annual Convention: Sept. 10-13, Bloomington (Double Tree by Hilton)

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Movie Night Features 'Roger & Me'

Labor Movie Night kicks off its 2014 series on Jan. 17 with "Roger & Me." The film was Michael Moore's breakthrough documentary; it takes a bittersweet look at the impact of General Motors' decision to downsize the auto plant in his hometown of Flint, Mich.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Pizza and beer will be available.

E-Board Accepting Nominations

Council 5 is accepting nominations to fill the Executive Board vacancy left by the resignation of Wes Volkenant. Nominees must work for a county government and be a member in good standing for at least one year. The term expires at Council 5's 2014 convention in September.

To submit a name: Nominations must be received by Feb. 14. Send them to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075. The Executive Board expects to fill the vacancy at its Feb. 20 meeting.

LES Offers Union Skills Courses

Deadlines are approaching for the next two union skills courses taught by the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota.

- "The Law and Social Media" takes place Jan. 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. The registration deadline is Jan. 10.
- The online class "Intro to the Labor Movement" runs during February. The registration deadline is Jan. 17.

To register: Call 612-624-5020 or e-mail les@umn.edu. All classes are non-credit, and cost \$50. For complete class descriptions and schedules, go to www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service.

Locals Ratify Contracts

Metropolitan Council. Members of Local 668 ratified a two-year contract through 2015. The agreement includes 2 percent pay raises this month and in January 2015, and additional raises of 2 to 4 percent each year, based on tenure and performance.

The contract also cuts employee health-insurance premiums by about 30 percent, creates a health-care savings account that members can tap after leaving employment, and includes a host of language improvements.

City of Minneapolis Attorneys. Members in this unit of Local 9 ratified a two-year contract for 2012-2013, and a three-year contract for 2014-2016.

Step and longevity increases are in effect all five years.

The contract also provides across-the-board raises of 2.25 percent on Feb. 1, 2014; on March 1, 2015; and on March 1, 2016. The raises will be paid out in equal dollar amounts to each employee, which benefits lower-paid employees more. In addition, the top step for Attorney I increases by 3 percent on Jan. 1, 2015.

Northern Community Credit Union. Members in this unit in Local 3558 ratified a one-year contract for 2014. It includes a 2.5 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1, and adds opportunities for paid time off for part-time workers.

Park River Estates Care Center. LPNs, CNAs, and TMAs ratified their first contract – a year and a half after they first unionized this Coon Rapids senior-care facility. With the two-year contract, workers gain – for the first time – guarantees in areas such as seniority, just cause, scheduling, and grievances.

The contract, which runs through December 2015, also includes a 1.6 percent across-the-board pay raise retroactive to Sept. 1, 2013, and provides additional seniority and experience raises for about one-third of the bargaining unit.