



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

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

## We Don't Quit — We Get Stronger

Billionaires, judges, and anti-union politicians keep attacking us, but AFSCME keeps getting stronger. Proof: This year, 92,155 new members joined AFSCME. That includes 2,761 new members in Minnesota. That victory is one of the highlights from AFSCME's international convention in Chicago. For photos, video, and updates, follow along at [2014.afscme.org](http://2014.afscme.org).

## Events Honor 1934 Strikes

A full weekend of activities July 17-20 commemorates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1934 Teamsters strikes. The strikes turned Minneapolis into a union town by breaking the power of the Citizens Alliance, an anti-worker business cabal that was the ALEC of its day. Events include a street festival, picnic, and movies. For the full rundown, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); see the story "Events Honor 1934 Teamsters Strikes."

## Fight Outsourcing on Our Border

Our Wisconsin brothers and sisters are still fighting for their jobs and the services they provide. One of their newest fights: the University of Wisconsin-Superior, just across the bridge from Duluth. The chancellor is looking to eliminate AFSCME custodians and ground crews and to outsource their jobs.

You can help stop this privatization scheme in two ways:

- Join the Wisconsin workers in a march and rally on Saturday July 26. Events begin at 11 a.m. at the Superior Library, the corner of Highways 2 and 35.
- Sign a petition: Go to [petitions.moveon.org](http://petitions.moveon.org); in the search field, type in "Stop UW-Superior Outsourcing."

## Picnic Fires Up the Grills Aug. 17

The annual AFSCME Family Picnic – organized by metro-based locals – takes place Sunday Aug. 17 at the Battle Creek Regional Park Picnic Pavilion, near McKnight and Upper Afton Roads in Maplewood. The free picnic – for AFSCME members, families, and friends – runs from 1-5 p.m. It includes food, raffles, activities for kids, and discounted water park rides.

## Make a Difference at the Fair

Last year, AFSCME volunteers at the State Fair collected 6,000 post cards – jump-starting efforts to successfully raise the state's minimum wage. We're back this year, building support for transportation investment in Minnesota that supports our jobs and expands economic opportunity and quality of life for all.

**How to join us:** Volunteer for a shift at the Council 5 kiosk. Shifts run 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m., or 4:30-7:30 p.m. To say thanks, we pay your admission and give you a T-shirt.

The Fair runs Thursday Aug. 21 through Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 1). If there's a shift that works for you, contact Michael Kuchta at 651-287-0537 or [michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org](mailto:michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org).

## State Contract Campaign Starts Now

Forms are now available online for State of Minnesota employees who want to suggest new contract language and pay inequity adjustments.

All ideas go to the statewide Negotiations Assembly, which drafts the initial AFSCME proposal for a 2015-2017 contract with the state.

To download the forms and other bargaining information, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota." Proposals are due by Oct. 1.

## Sometimes, You Feel Like Singing

The Twin Cities Labor Chorus leads an informal sing-along of labor songs new and old on Tuesday July 29. The second annual Labor Sing begins at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion on the State Fairgrounds, Cooper St. and Dan Patch Ave. The event is free and open to all. Voluntary donations will benefit the community services programs at the Minneapolis and St. Paul Regional Labor Federations.

*(Continued on page 2)*



# Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

## It's Time to Plan for Convention

The official call for Council 5's 10<sup>th</sup> annual convention is in the mail. The convention runs Sept. 11-13 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington. Key information:

**Elections:** Voting takes place Sept. 11 for chair officers and Executive Board members.

**Lodging:** Room rates are \$114 plus tax at the Crowne Plaza Bloomington, \$140 plus tax at the Doubletree, and \$154 plus tax for cabana or tower rooms at the Doubletree.

The reservation deadline is Aug. 20 at the Crowne Plaza; call 1-877-270-1393. The reservation deadline is Aug. 27 at the Doubletree; call 1-800-222-8733.

**Resolutions:** Must be submitted to Council 5 by Aug. 22.

**Delegate credentials:** Must be postmarked by Aug. 29.

**Special needs:** Make requests for child care, sign-language interpreters, or similar accommodations by Aug. 29. Call Deb Smith at 651-287-0543.

## Keapproth Wins Volunteer Award

Mike Keapproth, of Oak Park Heights Corrections Local 915, is the winner of the Minnesota AFL-CIO's 2014 Community Services Award as outstanding volunteer.

The award honors Keapproth's leadership of Council 5's Veterans Initiative. In its first six years, the Initiative has raised nearly \$100,000 by selling candy bars and beef sticks, through direct donations from AFSCME members and locals, and through matching grants from AFSCME International.

The donations pay for equipment and programs that the state's five Veterans Homes cannot afford in their own budgets.

## Kick In, Then Kick Up Your Heels

Council 5's Next Wave is planning its second annual Labor Ball for November. To help make the music, dancing and plain old community camaraderie happen, kick in with a donation.

Checks can be made out to AFSCME Local 66 (with Labor Ball in the memo field). Send them to: AFSCME Local 66, 211 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Duluth, MN 55802.

## Sandwich in Time for a Free Lunch

The annual "thank you" lunch for public workers takes place Wednesday July 23 on the lawn of the state Capitol, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Public employees are invited to enjoy free food (while supplies last) and have a shot at prizes and other giveaways. The appreciation lunch is sponsored by Hiway Federal Credit Union, Subway restaurants, Sparkling Ice soft drinks, and radio station KS95.

## Website Adds Dental Information

Council 5's website has added eligibility, benefit, and other information for AFSCME participants in the Delta Dental plan. For details, go to [afscmemn.org/dental](http://afscmemn.org/dental).

The plan is available to about 5,000 members in Hennepin County Locals 34, 1719, and 2822; in Hennepin County Medical Center Local 977; in some job titles in HCMC Local 2474; and to Local 224 members at the City of Shorewood. Open enrollment is in November.

## Surprise! It's Almost Time to Vote

Minnesota's primary election takes place Tuesday Aug. 12. If you want to vote absentee, you can do so now – no reason needed.

- For a list of candidates recommended by AFSCME, go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); under the "Political" tab, click "AFSCME Election Endorsements."
- To volunteer to support candidates who support us, call Council 5's Jon Grebner: 651-287-0587.

## 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 specialized training makes sure locals handle dues and expenses legally and transparently. The training 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 [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org).