



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

'Moral Mondays' Founder Plans March

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II – whose “Moral Mondays” campaign has spread from North Carolina to other states – will lead a March for Equity on Saturday Aug. 16 in Minneapolis.

The march begins at 10 a.m. at Peavey Plaza and heads up Nicollet Mall to the Hennepin County Library. Barber electrified delegates to the AFSCME International Convention earlier this month. “Moral Monday” demonstrations advance social justice and equality for all. In the Twin Cities, faith, labor, and community partners are pulling together to overcome some of the worst racial disparities in the nation.

Time to Plan for Convention

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

Elections: Voting takes place Sept. 11 for chair officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) and for Executive Board members through 2016.

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. Reservation deadlines are Aug. 20 at the Crowne Plaza, Aug. 27 at the Doubletree.

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

Delegate credentials: Must be postmarked by Aug. 29.

Special needs: Requests for child care, sign-language interpreters, and similar accommodations must be made by Aug. 29.

Last Chance to Point Out Great Work

Aug. 8 is the deadline to submit nominations for Council 5's annual Achievement Awards. The awards honor individuals, an AFSCME local, or a group of members or locals who made outstanding contributions in four areas: political activism, organizing, local union development, or communications.

Full details on each award are available on Council 5's website; go to the home page at afscmemn.org; click “It's Time to Recognize Great Work.”

In Voting, Practice Makes Perfect
Minnesota's primary election is less than two weeks away. Even in summer, your vote matters!
AFSCME-endorsed candidates Mark Dayton, Al Franken, and Steve Simon need your vote to advance to November's general election.

Here are primary election details:

When: Tuesday, Aug. 12. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Absentee voting: Can't make it to the polls? Gonna be on vacation? No problem. New laws mean any voter can vote absentee ahead of time – no excuse needed. You can cast an absentee ballot right now at your local election office.

Find out more: Get details on where you vote (absentee or in person) and how you can register at www.mnvotes.org.

For a list of candidates endorsed by AFSCME, go to afscmemn.org; under the “Political” tab, click “AFSCME Election Endorsements.”

Make a Difference at the Fair

Last year, AFSCME volunteers at the State Fair jump-started the drive to successfully raise Minnesota's minimum wage. This year, we'll be back – building support for a statewide transportation system that expands opportunity and quality of life for all.

You can join us: Sign up for a shift at the Council 5 kiosk. Volunteers take a 3-1/2-hour shift: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m., or 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Fair runs Thursday Aug. 21 through Labor Day (Sept. 1).

To say thanks, we'll pay your admission and give you a limited-edition T-shirt.

If there's a shift that works for you, contact Michael Kuchta at michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0537.

Reeves Joins Executive Board

Steve Reeves, of Ramsey County Parks Local 1935, is the newest member of Council 5's Executive Board. Steve was elected to fill a county sector vacancy.

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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.

Be Part of Our Time Capsule

We're putting together a time capsule to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the merger that created Council 5. Have something you want to include? Mail or drop off a photo, memento, or indelible memory at our South St. Paul office. We'll digitize the items we collect and return them to you. Then we'll unveil the electronic archive at our convention in September.

Regions Local Ratifies Contract

Regions Hospital. Members of Local 722 in the business office ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2016. The agreement provides 2 percent pay raises on July 1, 2014 and on July 1, 2015, a \$250 signing bonus for 2014, and additional raises of up to 1 percent each year based on performance.

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; toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524; or by email at jackie.oshea@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. Proposals are due by Oct. 1.

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; under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

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. 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55802.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Labor Movie Night: "Office Space," Aug. 15, Minneapolis, 6 p.m. (United Labor Centre)

AFSCME Family Picnic: Aug. 17, Maplewood, 1-5 p.m. (Battle Creek Regional Park)

Labor Day Picnic: Sept. 1, Duluth (Bayfront Park)

Iron Range Labor Day Picnic: Sept. 1, Virginia, Noon-4 p.m. (Olcott Park)

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

Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention: Sept. 21-23, St. Paul (Crowne Plaza)

General Election: Nov. 4. You can vote absentee beginning Sept. 19.

Labor Ball: Nov. 14, St. Paul (Wabasha Caves)

State Negotiations Assembly: Jan. 30, 2015, Bloomington (Ramada Airport Mall Hotel)