



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

They Call It the Green Line, After All Council 5 is a sponsor of Opening Day celebrations on Saturday June 14 for Green Line light-rail service in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Green Line provides a new transportation option for 15,000 AFSCME members who work along the Central Corridor: in state agencies, in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, at the University of Minnesota's East and West Bank campuses, and at hospitals such as Regions, Hennepin County Medical Center, and University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview.

Riders will see AFSCME advertising in each Green Line train car. Trains begin running at 10 a.m. June 14; celebrations last from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. that day. They include music, food, and theater at nine stations.

Details: For a full Opening Day schedule, go to www.metrotransit.org/opening-day. Rides on all Metro Transit buses and trains are free on June 14 and 15.

It's Time to Recognize Great Work

Council 5 is accepting nominations for our annual Achievement Awards. The awards honor individual members, an AFSCME local, or a group of members or locals who made outstanding contributions last year in four distinct areas: political activism, organizing, local union development, and 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." The nomination deadline is Aug. 8.

Welcome to AFSCME!

- Six telemetry technicians and 22 community health workers at Hennepin County Medical Center are the newest members of AFSCME. Workers in the two classifications joined Local 2474 through an accretion agreement when a majority of them signed cards seeking representation through AFSCME.
- Also, 15 workers at the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board have joined Local 9 after a clarification ruling added them to the bargaining unit.

Per Capita Tax Meetings Continue
Informational meetings are scheduled through June 23 on the Council 5 Executive Board's proposal to increase the council's monthly per capita tax by \$5 a month beginning in 2015. The per capita is the council's share of total dues.

"FIVE FOR THE FIGHT" would be the first boost in the per capita since Council 5 formed 10 years ago. Convention delegates will vote on the board's recommendation Sept. 12.

Find out more: Council 5 officers and directors are explaining the proposal and answering questions in locations throughout the state this month.

For the upcoming schedule, go to afscmemn.org; in the left column, click "View Calendar."

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. The term expires at the Council 5 convention in September.

Send nominations to: Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075. The deadline is Friday July 11.

The Naked Truth about Unions

Workers are workers. That's the point of June's Labor Movie Night, which features "Live Nude Girls Unite!" The documentary details the fight by strippers at a San Francisco peep show who unionize to improve their working conditions.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday June 20 in Room 356 of the Minneapolis United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Labor Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave.

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Locals Ratify Contracts

Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth.

Members in this unit of Local 66 ratified a three-year contract through 2016. It includes raises of 1 percent retroactive to Jan. 1, and 2 percent in January 2015 and January 2016. It also creates afternoon and night differentials; enables part-time workers to progress through pay steps; and increases clothing allowances.

Proctor School District. Bus drivers in this unit of Local 66 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2015. The agreement includes a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to July 1, 2013, and a 2.25 percent pay raise on July 1, 2014; creates a 403(b) retirement account for veteran drivers; and reimburses drivers up to \$125 for physical exams required by the state.

Ramsey County Care Center. Members of Locals 8, 151, and 1076 ratified a salary supplement, based on funds appropriated by the state Legislature. The supplement boosts pay by 18 cents an hour, effective June 1.

Learning from Our Past

Former Local 1164 president Joe Burns will give a free talk on June 21 about his latest book, "Strike Back: Using the Militant Tactics of Labor's Past to Reignite Public Sector Unionism Today."

Burns points out that hundreds of thousands of public workers rose up in the 1960s and 1970s to demand collective-bargaining rights. He suggests that today's public workers – who are fighting unprecedented attacks on their jobs – can learn from past tactics.

Details: Burns speaks on Saturday June 21 at 6 p.m. at the Minneapolis United Labor Centre, Room 218, 312 Central Ave. SE.

Training for Chief Stewards July 28

Chief Steward Training takes place Monday July 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Council 5's South St. Paul office.

Training focuses on strengthening steward structure and communication, problem-solving, and best practices.

To register: The class is free, but space is limited.

Contact Council 5's Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524.

Golf Event Tees Off July 11

June 30 is the deadline to register for the first "Golf for Vets Tournament" – sponsored by Council 5's Veterans Initiative and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon campaign at Oak Park Heights state prison. The tournament is July 11 at Applewood Hills Golf Course in Stillwater. Proceeds support services the two groups provide to military veterans in Minnesota. Registration for the best-ball tournament is \$75 per person. That covers greens fees, a cart, food, raffle, and prizes. If you don't want to golf, join the meal and raffle for \$25.

Information: Teams of four tee off at 11 a.m. To register, contact Local 915's Mike Keapproth at 651-894-3165 or Local 2728's Sherry Bohn at 651-779-1462.

Don't Miss Convention Deadlines

If you're going to the AFSCME International Convention in Chicago next month, here are two deadlines you need to pay attention to:

- **June 12:** The last day to guarantee reservations at convention hotels.
- **June 24:** Deadline for locals to submit delegate credentials.

The convention takes place July 14-18 at Chicago's McCormick Place North. For complete convention information, go to 2014.afscme.org.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Presidents Meeting: June 12, South St. Paul, 10 a.m.

Hennepin County Labor Lunch: June 12, Government Center Auditorium, Noon-1 p.m.

"Revolutionary Teamsters": with author Bryan Palmer, July 17, Minneapolis, 6:30 p.m. (Central Library)

Labor Movie Night: "Uprisings of 1934," July 18, Minneapolis, 7 p.m. (Bell Museum of Natural History)

Remember 1934 Street Festival: honoring the 80th anniversary of the Teamsters strikes, July 19, Minneapolis, 4-10 p.m. (7th Ave N and 3rd St. N)

Remember 1934 Picnic: July 20, noon-4 p.m., Minneapolis (Minnehaha Park, Wabun Picnic Area)