



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Their Safety Depends on It

We wish a full and speedy recovery to MnDOT workers Ronald McDeid and Dennis Scott, of Local 221. They were hospitalized June 22 after a driver hit them as they set up a work zone on I-35W in Burnsville.

Their injuries offer this reminder: State law requires –

- Slowing down in work zones.
- Moving over one lane if possible – or reducing your speed – whenever you approach an emergency vehicle with its flashing lights activated.

Chief Stewards Gather July 28

A forum for chief stewards takes place Monday July 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Council 5's South St. Paul office. The forum will focus on best practices, effective problem-solving, and strengthening steward structure and communication in your worksites.

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

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.

Union Makes Flood Relief Available

Members in good standing whose homes have been damaged by June's flooding may be eligible for financial assistance through AFSCME International's Fallen Heroes Fund.

For eligibility guidelines, documentation requirements, and an application form, go to afscmemn.org; click "Resources," then "Fallen Heroes Fund."

Events Honor 1934 Teamsters Strikes

A full weekend of activities July 17-20 commemorates the 80th 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, movies, and historical talks. For a full rundown, go to afscmemn.org; see the story "Events Honor 1934 Teamsters Strikes."

A Tee Time Awaits You

June 30 is the registration deadline 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 prison. The event takes place July 11 at Applewood Hills Golf Course in Stillwater.

Proceeds support the services the two groups provide to military veterans in Minnesota.

Information: Registration for the best-ball event 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.

Teams of four tee off at 11 a.m. To register, contact:

- Local 915's Mike Keapproth at 651-894-3165.
- Local 2728's Sherry Bohn at 651-779-1462.

March with Pride on June 29

Wear your green and join members of AFSCME and other unions at this year's Twin Cities Pride Parade on Sunday June 29.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO unit is #105; marchers will line up along 3rd St. west of Hennepin Ave in downtown Minneapolis. The parade begins at 11 a.m.

For last-minute details, see the Minnesota AFL-CIO's event page at www.facebook.com/mnaflcio.

More Ways to Stay in Touch

You can now join Council 5 on Instagram and Pinterest to get the latest union memes, union-made lists, and event photos.

As a bonus, our followers help spread the word about what unions do for working families. It's a great way to stay connected and share your union pride.

- On Instagram, find us at <http://instagram.com/afscmemn5#>
- On Pinterest, find us at www.pinterest.com/afscmemn5

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MNSure Works – The Facts Prove it

MNSure – the state's health-insurance exchange under the federal Affordable Care Act – is making insurance more accessible and more affordable for more people.

- In its first seven months, 180,500 more people got insurance through MNSure. The percentage of Minnesota residents without insurance plunged from 8.2 percent to only 4.9 percent. In other words, more than 95 percent of state residents now have insurance – the second-best rate in the nation.
- Nationally, 70 percent of people who obtained insurance through the Affordable Care Act are paying less than \$100 a month in premiums. Their average monthly payment dropped from \$346 to \$82.

E-Board Accepting Nominations

July 11 is the deadline to submit nominations to fill a vacancy on the Council 5 Executive Board. 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.

Locals Ratify Contracts

Community Action Partnership. Members in this unit of Local 8 ratified a two-year contract through March 31, 2016. It includes a 2.3 percent pay raise retroactive to April 1 and another pay raise in 2015, based on a federal funding formula.

The agreement also splits increases in health-insurance premiums, increases vacation cash out, and gives workers the option to participate in a paid-time-off program rather than utilize traditional paid leave.

Minnetonka Schools. Members of Local 1877 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2016. The agreement includes 2 percent pay raises this July 1 and on July 1, 2015; reinstates step increases this year and in 2015; and continues fully paid individual health insurance at least through 2014.

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. It 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.

Surprise! It's Almost Time to Vote

Minnesota's primary election takes place Tuesday, Aug. 12. No-excuse absentee voting begins June 27.

- For a list of candidates recommended by AFSCME, go to www.afscmemn.org; click "Political," then "AFSCME Election Endorsements."
- If you want to volunteer to support candidates who support us, call Jon Grebner: 651-287-0587.

For those of you counting down, the general election is Nov. 4.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

AFSCME International Convention: July 14-18, Chicago (McCormick Place North)

"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)

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

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

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