



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

See You at DOTH March 25

Council 5's Day on the Hill takes place Tuesday March 25.

Check in begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul.

Workshops start at 9 a.m., followed by lunch, a 12:30 p.m. rally in the Capitol Rotunda, lobbying legislators in the afternoon, and a happy-hour reception afterward.

Buses: Charter buses can get you to and from points in Greater Minnesota. To reserve a spot:

- From Cloquet, Moose Lake, Sandstone, Hinckley, or North Branch, contact Local 3887's Jerry Firkus at 218-390-9560
- From Duluth or Virginia, contact Local 66's Jayme McKenna at 218-269-1456
- From St. Peter, contact Local 404's Connie Anderson at 507-327-8355
- From Willmar, contact Local 701's Sheila Blokzyl at 320-444-0003
- From Winona or Red Wing, contact Local 945's Mary Deering at 507-457-5435

SEPC Deadlines Approach

March 28 brings two deadlines for the State Employee Policy Committee's spring conference:

- Locals must submit delegate credentials no later than March 28.
- Hotel reservations must be made by March 28 to lock in the AFSCME Conference rate of \$89 (plus tax). For reservations, call the Ramada Plaza at 612-331-1900.

The conference takes place April 11 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Ramada, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis.

Ellison Headlines Scholarship Dinner

Congressman Keith Ellison is the keynote speaker at the annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner.

The dinner and silent auction take place Thursday March 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Prom Center in Oakdale. Proceeds support scholarships for students of color enrolled in the MnSCU System.

To order tickets: Contact Mitch Franklin at 612-331-6668 or mfranklin@fmcs.gov. Tickets are \$65 each, or discounted to \$490 for a table of eight.

Raise the Wage. And Index It!

Legislative negotiators have agreed to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9.50. They have *not* agreed to index the wage to inflation.

That means we need to keep up the fight, so Minnesota's low-wage workers not only catch up, but also keep up with the cost of living.

Where does your state senator stand? Go to www.bluestemprairie.com; check the website's Minimum Wage Constituent Whip Count.

If your senator has not committed to \$9.50 – with indexing – let them hear about it. If your senator *is* on board, call to say: "Thank you!"

Local 517 Stands Together

Congratulations to members of Washington County Local 517. County workers in both the exempt and nonexempt bargaining units beat back a raid and won elections to keep AFSCME as their union.

Movie Night Delivers a Double Feature

March's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis features two short documentaries: one about a legendary labor leader, one about a tragedy that paved the way for modern workplace safety laws.

- "Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman" highlights the lifelong crusade and fearless tactics of Mary Harris Jones to improve the lives of workers and their families in all walks of life.
- "Triangle: Remembering the Fire" looks at the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire that killed 146 workers, and its ongoing impact a century later.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. March 21 in Room 356 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave. Snacks and beverages are available.

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Doing Redesign the Right Way

Council 5 director Eliot Seide is among experts featured in the final installment of public television's "Redesigning MN" series. In "The New Normal" segment, Seide joins a roundtable discussion on the best ways to redesign state and local governments – and our own expectations of public services.

Where to watch it: "The New Normal" debuts on Sunday March 23 at 8 p.m. on TPT's Minnesota Channel. It will be rebroadcast on Sunday March 30 at 8 p.m. on TPT-1, and also on March 30 at 2 a.m., 8 a.m., and 2 p.m. on the Minnesota Channel.

Locals Vote on Contracts

Housing Redevelopment Authority of Duluth. Members of this unit in Local 66 vote March 19 on a tentative agreement for a three-year contract through 2016. The deal proposes a 1 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1, then 2 percent raises on Jan. 1, 2015, and on Jan. 1, 2016. The proposal also reduces the hours required to progress through steps; improves scheduling, including guarantees of work hours and days off; improves premium pay and uniform allowances; and increases flexibility in using sick leave and paid vacation time.

City of Rosemount. Members of Local 3857 ratified a two-year contract through 2015. The contract includes a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1, and another 2 percent pay raise on Jan. 1, 2015.

Handle Money the Right Way

Financial Responsibility Training for local officers takes place May 5. 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. The training runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office. Cost is \$20 per person, which covers lunch and materials.

To register: Contact Council 5's Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524 or toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524.

Help Make This Year's Picnic Happen Hey, it's daylight savings time. Which means it's almost summer. Which means the 2014 AFSCME Family Picnic is coming up

The free picnic – scheduled for Sunday Aug. 17 at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood – happens only because of generous contributions from locals and volunteers. To help make the 2014 picnic possible, organizers are seeking commitments for donations of:

- Potluck dishes and desserts
 - Cash, especially to buy discounted water park tickets
- To find out how you can pitch in, contact Duane Gatzke at 651-472-2787 or kkirk77dg@comcast.net.

Roll Along with Labor Bowl April 24

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation's annual Labor Bowl takes place April 24. The fund-raiser benefits the Labor Studies and Resource Center, which provides training, layoff assistance, and other services to union families in need in Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties.

Teams, individuals, and sponsors are invited to sign up for this very social event. Shifts are at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 W. University Ave. Each bowler is asked to secure at least \$100 in pledges. To register, donate, or get other information, call 651-222-3787 x17.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retiree Council Fun(d)

Raiser: May 3, Maplewood, 2-6 p.m. (Sheet Metal Workers Hall)

MnSCU Frontline Conference: May 28-29, Duluth (Lake Superior College)

Council 5 Presidents Meeting: June 12, South St. Paul, 10 a.m.

AFSCME International Convention: July 14-18, Chicago

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)