



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

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

## Brooklyn Park Firefighters Win

In the first-ever union election for part-time firefighters in Minnesota, 46 Brooklyn Park firefighters have joined AFSCME, forming Local 2839. Their election victory culminates a two-year battle in which they also won a legal ruling establishing their union rights.

Earlier this year, part-time firefighters in Roseville formed Local 2911. That happened without an election: The city granted recognition after a vast majority of eligible firefighters signed cards to create their union.

## Mankato Clinic Now Costs Less

As of March 1, Mankato Clinic moves from Cost Level 3 to Cost Level 2 for executive and judicial branch workers in the State Employee Group Insurance Program. The change reduces members' out-of-pocket costs for deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance.

The switch came after union members pressured the clinic and SEGIP to renegotiate. The change applies to health plans that administer the state's Advantage Health Plan: Blue Cross Blue Shield, HealthPartners and Preferred One.

Members in Cost Level 3 move automatically to Level 2. Plan administrators will issue new membership cards.

## SEPC Meets, Elects Officers April 11

The spring conference of the State Employee Policy Committee takes place Friday April 11. Delegates will elect four chair officers, one trustee, and executive board members. The conference runs from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis. Deadlines:

**Resolutions:** Must be submitted by March 11 to Council 5's South St. Paul office.

**Registration:** Locals must submit delegate credentials no later than Friday March 28.

**Hotel reservations:** Rooms are being held until March 28 at the AFSCME conference rate of \$89 plus tax. For reservations, call 612-331-1900.

**More information:** For special accommodations or other requests, contact Council 5's Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524, or toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524.

## Time is Short: DOTH is March 25

There's still time to register for Council 5's Day on the Hill, Tuesday March 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

**To register:** Go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click the "Income & Opportunity" graphic on the home page.

**A bonus for you:** Bring a co-worker who never has attended Day on the Hill; both of you will get an AFSCME "Bread and Roses" canvas bag.

**A bonus for locals:** All locals that get their registration lists postmarked on or before March 7 are eligible for a \$100 prize drawing.

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

- From Cloquet, Moose Lake, Sandstone, Hinckley, and 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 and Red Wing, contact Local 915's Mary Deering at 507-457-5435

**The schedule and more:** Go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click "Political," then "Day on the Hill 2014."

## Budget Brings Brighter Days

For the first time in more than a decade, Minnesota has a sunny budget forecast. New projections show a \$1.2 billion surplus in this budget, and a \$2.6 billion surplus in the next one.

The economic comeback under Gov. Mark Dayton and a forward-thinking Legislature reverses years of deficits, gimmicks, and shifts that balanced the budget on the backs of the working class.

The strong forecast now gives Minnesota the opportunity and resources to invest in our shared priorities: education, seniors, and middle-class jobs.

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**Scholarship Dinner Features Ellison**  
Congressman Keith Ellison is the keynote speaker at the annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction.

Festivities take place Thursday March 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Prom Center in Oakdale.

**To order tickets:** Contact Mitch Franklin, 612-331-6668. Tickets are \$65 each or \$490 for a table of eight.

## LES Offers Next Skills Course

March 14 is the registration deadline for "Trade Union Administration," the next skills course from the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota.

The class itself is Saturday March 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. The class, which is non-credit, costs \$50.

**To register:** Call 612-624-5020 or e-mail [les@umn.edu](mailto:les@umn.edu).

## Labor Bowl Rolls 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 the east metro.

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.

For complete information, call 651-222-3787 x17.

## Is Your Calendar Up to Date?

**MoveMN Transportation Rally:** March 13, St. Paul, 4 p.m. (Capitol Rotunda)

**Labor Movie Night:** March 21, Minneapolis, 6 p.m. (Labor Center). "Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman" and "Triangle: Remembering the Fire"

**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)

**East Metro Examines Its Travel Pains**  
"Pains, Trains, and Automobiles" – a forum on transportation challenges in the east metro – takes place Tuesday March 18, from 7-9 p.m., at Woodbury Lutheran Church, 7380 Afton Road, Woodbury. The free forum is organized by River Valley Action. For details, see [www.rivervalleyaction.org](http://www.rivervalleyaction.org); click "Events."

**Charles Elected to Executive Board**  
Kellie Charles, of Hennepin County Legal Local 2938, has been elected to Council 5's Executive Board. She fills a vacancy for a County Sector representative.

## Locals Ratify Contracts

**Anoka-Hennepin School District.** Interpreters in Local 2454 ratified a one-year contract through June 30. The agreement includes a 2.5 percent pay raise retroactive to July 1, 2013, plus a \$350 payment.

**Duluth Airport Authority.** Members of this unit in Local 66 ratified a three-year contract through 2016. The deal includes a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1, then 3 percent raises on Jan. 1, 2015, and on Jan. 1, 2016. The deal also increases pay for working on a holiday, and fights off attempts to erode seniority.

**City of Farmington.** The Maintenance and the Professional, Technical and Clerical units in Local 3815 ratified two-year contracts for 2014 and 2015. The contracts replace the city's "performance pay" plan with steps. For 2014, employees are slotted in a step, then move up one step on their anniversary date. In 2015, workers receive a 1.75 percent pay raise in January, then a step increase on their anniversary. Also in 2015, maintenance workers receive \$50 more for their uniform allowance.

**Proctor School District.** Members of this unit in Local 66 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2015. The agreement includes pay raises of 15 cents an hour retroactive to July 1, 2013, and another 15 cents on July 1, 2014. The deal also increases longevity pay, increases shift differential, and holds the line on insurance and accruals for vacation and sick leave.