



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Meetings Discuss Dues Increase

Council 5's elected Executive Board is recommending a dues increase of \$5 a month beginning in 2015.

"FIVE FOR THE FIGHT" would be the first boost in per-capita dues since Council 5 formed 10 years ago. In that time, we've fought off waves of anti-worker attacks – and earned real victories. Our union led drives to raise taxes, which saved public services and our jobs. We've mobilized for good contracts, built retirement security, expanded rights throughout Minnesota, and improved lives for more workers.

The dues increase will give us resources to keep fighting for our values and priorities. Convention delegates will vote on the recommendation Sept. 12.

Find out more: Council 5 officers and directors will lead informational discussions in 17 cities during June. The afternoon and evening meetings take place from Duluth to Marshall, from Crookston to Rochester, and points in between. For a complete schedule, go to afscmemn.org; in the left column of the home page, click "View Calendar."

Scholarship Deadline Extended

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Foundation is extending its application deadline. Applications for the 2014-2015 academic year must be postmarked by Saturday May 31. Full details are available at www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program.

The renewable scholarships are available to students of color who are union members (or members in a union family) who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in the MnSCU system.

Let Your Talent Grab the Spotlight

This summer's AFSCME International convention features a new twist: a member talent show.

To enter, prepare a 2- to 3-minute performance video, and start raising money for PEOPLE – the fund that helps support elected officials who support workers.

Complete rules, pledge forms, and details are available at 2014.afscme.org; click the "AFSCME's Got Talent" graphic. Audition videos must be submitted by July 1.

Golf Event Tees Off July 11

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 – takes place July 11 at Applewood Hills Golf Course in Stillwater. Proceeds support the 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. You must register by June 30: Contact Local 915's Mike Keapproth at 651-894-3165 or Local 2728's Sherry Bohn at 651-779-1462.

Presidents: Don't Forget June 12

June 5 is the registration deadline for the next meeting of local union presidents. To register, contact Gail Grant at council5@afscmemn.org or 651-450-4990.

The meeting itself is Thursday June 12, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Council 5's South St. Paul office. Presidents who cannot attend should send another elected officer in their place.

On the agenda: the "FIVE FOR THE FIGHT" dues proposal, legislative and election updates, internal organizing, the Supreme Court's *Harris v. Quinn* ruling, and the AFSCME International Convention.

Local 66 Holds Picnic June 8

Arrowhead Local 66 launches summer with a family picnic on Sunday June 8, from 1-4 p.m., at Pike Lake Golf Course, 4895 E. Pike Lake Road, Duluth.

The picnic includes free food, soft drinks, outdoor games, and swimming. Members are encouraged to bring their own chairs and other beverages.

Information: Call Deborah Jackson, 218-624-1942.

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Hennepin Locals Get a Jump Start

What we do *away* from the negotiating table is more important than what we do *at* the table. To prove that, Hennepin County locals are holding a pizza lunch to generate ideas on what members can start doing now that will pay off later in a better contract and working conditions.

Details: The free lunch is Thursday June 12 from noon-1 p.m. at the Government Center Auditorium, 300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis. The discussion is organized by the Education, Engagement and Outreach Committee of Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864, and 2938.

Help Make This Year's Picnic Happen

Hey, it's Memorial Day weekend. Which means it's unofficially summer. Which means the 2014 AFSCME Family Picnic is coming up

The free picnic is scheduled for Sunday Aug. 17 at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. But the picnic happens only because locals and volunteers make generous contributions of money, time, and supplies.

To help make this summer's picnic possible, organizers are seeking commitments for:

- Cash
- Potluck dishes and desserts

To find out how you can pitch in, contact Local 2829's Duane Gatzke at kkirk77dq@comcast.net or 651-472-2787.

AFL-CIO Seeks Standout Volunteers

May 30 is the deadline to submit nominations for the Minnesota AFL-CIO's Community Service Awards. Nominees can be labor groups, individual union members, or youth in union families who have made valuable contributions to their communities through volunteer service.

Details: For specifics on each award, go to: www.mnafcio.org; click "About Us," then "Scholarships & Awards." Find details under "2014 Community Services Awards."

LES Invites Leadership Applicants

May 23 is the deadline to apply for the Labor Education Service's 2014-2015 Minnesota Union Leadership Program.

Participants take six full-day classes over a nine-month period. Through course work and projects, they develop the knowledge, skills, and strategic-thinking abilities necessary to move into successful leadership roles in their unions.

Applicants must get a signed commitment from their union to support their training and to pay the \$1,500 tuition.

Details: For full information and application forms, go to www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service; click "Programs and Courses" in the left column, then "Minnesota Union Leadership Program."

Or, you can contact LES directly at 612-624-5020 or les@umn.edu.

Covering More Territory

AFSCME Council 65, which represents local government employees in much of Greater Minnesota, is expanding its jurisdiction into North and South Dakota. The change is effective June 1, when Council 65 absorbs Council 59.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

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

Council 5 Next Wave Meeting: June 7, South St. Paul, 1 p.m. (Council 5 office)

Labor Movie Night: "Live Nude Girls Unite!" June 20, 7 p.m. (Minneapolis United Labor Centre)

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

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