



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

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.

Convention details: AFSCME's convention runs from July 14-18 in Chicago. The official convention call (which has been mailed to locals) includes rules on how to elect delegates. Key deadlines:

- Hotel reservations: Thursday June 12.
- Delegate credentials: Tuesday June 24.

Building Strength in Numbers

Fact: Some of our co-workers are fee payers because no one ever asked them to join AFSCME. That undermines us at the bargaining table, because bosses count each fee payer as someone who is anti-union and doesn't care about higher wages and better benefits.

What you can do: Talk to co-workers about becoming a full member of your local. To get involved, contact your AFSCME field representative. Look them up at afscmemn.org; click "Locals & Contracts."

Kudos to all the Ramsey County locals that signed up dozens of new members last month to build power for their contract campaigns. In April, Council 5 locals collected 512 new member cards total. We're working to add 3,000 new members by July. It is part of our national union's "50,000 Stronger" campaign.

Presidents to Meet June 12

The next AFSCME local union presidents' meeting 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.

To register: Contact Gail Grant at 651-450-4990 or council5@afscmemn.org. The registration deadline is Thursday June 5.

Help Stamp Out Hunger

The nation's largest one-day food drive takes place on Saturday May 10 as union Letter Carriers again lead the way to "Stamp Out Hunger."

How you can help: Fill a bag with non-perishable food in non-breakable packaging. Suggested items include canned and dry goods such as tuna, soups, pasta, rice, and cereal.

Set the bag with your donations near your mailbox on May 10. Carriers will collect donations and deliver them to a food bank in your community.

Or, give cash: You can double your impact by making a cash donation online through www.2harvest.org. Financial donations made online before May 14 will be matched dollar for dollar.

Berg Wins President's Award

Congratulations to Local 3937's Lisa Berg, recipient of the 2014 President's Award for outstanding service by a University of Minnesota staff member. Berg is a library assistant in veterinary medicine on the St. Paul campus and a trustee in her local.

The annual award honors staff who provide "exceptional service to the University," go "well beyond" their regular duties, and "demonstrate unusual commitment to the University community." Berg receives her award May 8 at the Board of Regents meeting.

Film Traces NAFTA's Impact

The unintended connection that global trade creates between workers is an underlying theme in the documentary featured in May's Labor Movie Night.

"Morristown: In the Air and Sun" follows workers in a Tennessee manufacturing town and in Ciudad Juarez as it examines off-shoring, immigration, and the impact of trade policies on both sides of the border.

Details: Labor Movie Night takes place Friday May 16 at 6 p.m. in Room 356 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free.

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The Untold Stories You Didn't Learn

The annual Untold Stories series continues in St. Paul with sessions that focus on parts of labor history they don't teach you in school.

A quick look at the final events:

- **Monday May 12:** Historian William P. Jones explains how unions, churches, and women's groups were the behind-the-scenes power that made the 1964 Civil Rights Act possible.
- **Wednesday May 14:** For the 80th anniversary of the historic Teamsters strike in Minneapolis, historian Mary Lethert Wingerd discusses why the same upheaval never occurred in St. Paul.

Details: All events are free. A detailed Untold Stories schedule is available from The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. Go to: www.thefriends.org; click "Events," then "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.

Handle Money the Right Way

Financial Responsibility Training for local officers takes place Wednesday June 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.

AFL-CIO Seeks Standout Volunteers

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is accepting nominations of labor groups, individual union members, and 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."

Nominations must be submitted by Friday May 30.

LES Invites Leadership Applicants

Labor Education Service is accepting applications for its 2014-2015 Minnesota Union Leadership Program. The application deadline is Friday May 23.

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.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

- **MnSCU Frontline Conference:** May 28-29, Duluth (Lake Superior College)
- **Hennepin County Labor Lunch:** June 12, Noon-1 p.m. (Government Center Auditorium, Minneapolis)
- **Labor Movie Night:** "Live Nude Girls Unite!" June 20, Minneapolis, 7 p.m.
- **Golf for Vets Tournament:** July 11, Stillwater, 11 a.m. (Applewood Hills)
- **AFSCME International Convention:** July 14-18, Chicago (McCormick Place North)