



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

afscmemn.org

## Minnesota Rises Above the Tide

Victories by Gov. Mark Dayton, Sen. Al Franken, and Congressman Rick Nolan showed the rest of the country that bold champions of working families win elections. Minnesota bucked the red tide of corporate money that gave Republicans control of Congress and the governors' offices in all other Midwestern states.

Minnesota unions ran their biggest midterm electoral program ever – and it made a difference. AFSCME members alone put in more than 1,000 shifts on the phone or knocking on doors to get out the vote.

There weren't enough of us to overcome the outside money and negative advertising in 10 House districts in Greater Minnesota. That makes it harder to move initiatives such as fixing transportation. But our efforts won all but one competitive House district in the Twin Cities suburbs, and every statewide office. We know that Gov. Dayton and a pro-worker Senate will protect our right to bargain collectively for a better life.

Executive director Eliot Seide says, "We're living proof that when union members vote, working families win."

## SEGIS Open Enrollment Ends Nov. 13

Open enrollment for members and retirees in the State Employee Group Insurance Plan continues through Thursday Nov. 13. Open enrollment is the time to:

- Check for changes in plan levels, insurance carriers, and primary care providers available in your area.
- Enroll in or change health and dental plans, child life insurance, disability and long-term care coverage, or accidental death and dismemberment insurance.
- Add or remove dependents.
- Enroll in or renew pre-tax and flexible spending accounts for out-of-pocket costs – including increasing your contribution to the Medical and Dental Expense Account, which has a new maximum of \$2,550.
- Complete an online health assessment that will cut your office co-pays in 2015 by \$5 each visit.
- Enroll in a pilot program to manage diabetes.

**Complete details:** Available at <http://mn.gov/mmb/segip/open-enrollment>.

You can get the forms you need at work, or enroll online by logging in at [www.state.mn.us/employee](http://www.state.mn.us/employee).

## Who Needs a Reason to Party?

The second annual Labor Ball takes place Friday Nov. 14 in St. Paul. The event is dubbed "a party for the working class" – to celebrate our victories and toast the future.

The evening features food, drink, and entertainment, including DJ Advance, d'andersonville, Mary Allen and the Percolators, and Manny Phesto.

**Details:** Labor Ball runs from 7 p.m.- 1 a.m. at Wabasha Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St., Saint Paul. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Proceeds will support hardship funds that support union workers left jobless by the closing of Rainbow grocery stores.

Labor Ball is organized by Council 5's Next Wave and Minnesota AFL-CIO Young Workers.

## Council 5 Seeks Field Reps

Council 5 is accepting applications for four field representatives based in South St. Paul. Field staff help locals build capacity and strength through organizing, collective bargaining, and member empowerment campaigns.

**Details:** Applications are due by 4 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 18. Submit a resume and references by mail to: Michelle Stein, AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075; by fax to 651-455-1311; or by email to [michelle.stein@afscmemn.org](mailto:michelle.stein@afscmemn.org).

## The Groundwork for Negotiations

State locals must submit credentials no later than Wednesday Dec. 10 for delegates they elect to the State Negotiations Assembly.

The Negotiations Assembly oversees bargaining for a 2015-2017 state contract. Delegates will meet on Friday Jan. 30 and Friday March 13 at the Ramada Airport Mall hotel in Bloomington. A block of rooms is available for \$89/night, plus tax.

**For reservations:** Call 952-548-3600; ask for the AFSCME rate.

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## From the Page to the Stage

"Of Fathers and Friends" – the stage adaptation of a novel by Local 34 member Gary Armstead – debuts Nov. 13 at the Capri Theater in Minneapolis.

**Details:** Performances are Thursday Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.; Friday Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for children). To reserve tickets, call 612-244-0376.

The Capri is at 2027 W. Broadway Ave. (near Broadway and Penn).

## Movie Night Shows 'Molly Maguires'

In "The Molly Maguires," Irish miners form a secret group to fight mine owners, while Pinkerton detectives try to infiltrate their ranks. November's Labor Movie drama, starring Sean Connery and Richard Harris, is based on true events from 1870s Pennsylvania.

**Details:** Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday Nov. 21 in Room 467 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Labor Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave.

## Knocking Down More Barriers

A Women's Economic Security Summit takes place Thursday Jan. 29 in St. Paul. Following the successful passage of the 2014 Women's Economic Security Act, the summit will discuss additional policies and actions necessary to break down barriers to work-family balance and economic security for women in Minnesota.

**Details:** The summit runs 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 29 at the Kelly Inn, 161 St. Anthony Ave. Admission is free, but space is limited.

Register at <https://wess2015.eventbrite.com>

## The ABCs of Workplace Power

"People Power: Building Union Strength through Member Engagement" is the next Labor Studies Skills Course offered by the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service. The course compares the "business" and "organizing" models of unionism, and explores effective ways for unions and members to build capacity and power.

**Details:** The non-credit course is Saturday Dec. 6, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on the university's Minneapolis campus. Tuition is \$50.

The registration deadline is Wednesday Nov. 26. To register, call 612-624-5020 or email [les@umn.edu](mailto:les@umn.edu).

## Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are available for AFSCME's Family Scholarship. The renewable, \$2,000 scholarship is for current high-school seniors who will graduate in 2015.

**Details:** For application materials and full eligibility requirements, go to [www.afscme.org/family](http://www.afscme.org/family). The application deadline is Dec. 31.

## Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

### State Negotiations Delegate Credentials Deadline:

Must be submitted to Council 5 by Dec. 10

**Labor Movie Night: "Antz":** Dec. 19, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)

**Legislature Convenes:** Jan. 6, 2015, St. Paul

**State Negotiations Assembly:** Jan. 30, 2015, Bloomington (Ramada Airport Mall Hotel)

**State Negotiations Assembly:** March 13, 2015, Bloomington (Ramada Airport Mall Hotel)

**Day on the Hill:** March 24, 2015, St. Paul

**Minnesota Union Women's Retreat:** April 22-24, 2015, Brainerd (Rutger's Bay Lodge)

**Council 5 Convention:** Oct. 1-3, 2015, Duluth (DECC)