



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

afscmemn.org

Stand with Retail Workers

Walmart workers who dare to speak out for better wages, schedules, and benefits are still facing retaliation.

Janitors who clean big-box stores are still waiting for bosses to live up to their promises to raise standards.

So, once again this year, workers will go public in a big way on the biggest shopping day of the year. Here's where you can join them on Friday Nov. 28:

- **Minneapolis:** The Quarry, 1520 New Brighton Blvd., 6-9 a.m.
- **St. Paul:** Walmart, 1450 W. University Ave., 10 a.m.

Mankato Unions Join Food Drive

The annual "Unions United" food drives takes place Nov. 25-Dec. 15. Donations from Local 638 and other unions will go to ECHO Food Shelf of Mankato.

Collection sites are at South Central College and on the MSU-Mankato campus at the Career Development Center Room WA209; the Wiecking lobby; Faculty Association Office MH240B; ITS Break Room ML3010; and Library Administration Room ML3104.

Getting Us from Here to There

Ideas for adequate and sustainable transportation funding will be the focus of a free forum Dec. 9 in Oakdale.

A panel will look at the state's gap in funding roads, bridges, transit, and bike and pedestrian connections – especially in the East Metro – then suggest what the 2015 Legislature can do to fix it.

Details: The forum is Tuesday Dec. 9, from 7-8:30 p.m., at Guardian Angels Church, 8260 4th St. N, Oakdale. The forum is organized by River Valley Action.

Here's Something to Tweet About

Interested in maximizing your social media skills? Then sign up for Council 5's Social Media Workshop. The hands-on training will show you how to get the most out of Facebook and Twitter to strengthen our union.

Details: The free workshop is Friday Jan. 23, 2015, from 1-4 p.m., at Council 5's South St. Paul office.

To register, contact Jackie O'Shea by phone at 651-287-0524; or by email at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

Do Your Festivities the Union Way

When you're gathering for any holiday this season, make sure the food and drinks you serve are union-made in the USA. That helps workers thrive, not just survive. Find union-made:

- **Meats and treats** at www.unionplus.org; click the "Union Made Thanksgiving" graphic on the home page.
- **Candy and snacks** at www.unionplus.org/union-made/halloween-treats
- **Juices, soft drinks, and bottled water** at labor411.org/category/34-beverages
- **Beer** at www.unionplus.org/union-made/beers
- **Wine and liquor** at labor411.org/category/32-alcohol

Executive Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Nominations are being accepted to fill a vacancy on the Council 5 Executive Board. The District 4 seat is open because of the death of Michael Dolney.

Nominees must live in Aitkin, Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hubbard, Isanti, Kanabec, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Renville, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Todd, or Wadena County. (Nominees who do not live in Minnesota are eligible if they work in one of these counties.)

Submit names to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075. Nominations are due Jan. 5, 2015; the term runs through fall 2016.

Negotiations Credentials Due Dec. 10

State locals must submit credentials for delegates elected to the State Negotiations Assembly no later than Wednesday Dec. 10. The Negotiations Assembly oversees bargaining for a 2015-2017 state contract.

The Assembly's first meetings are on Friday Jan. 30 and Friday March 13 in Bloomington.

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Locals Ratify New Contracts

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. Members of Local 3481 ratified a three-year contract through 2017.

The contract, which takes effect Jan. 1, provides pay raises of 1 percent on Oct. 1, 2015; 1.5 percent on July 1, 2016; and 2 percent on July 1, 2017. Starting pay increases as much as \$1.74/hour (based on qualifications). When employees pass probation, the automatic pay raise doubles to 40 cents an hour.

The contract also creates a dental insurance plan, expands health-insurance eligibility, and requires workers to pay union dues or fair-share fees as a condition of employment once they pass probation.

City of Ramsey. Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a two-year contract through 2016. The deal includes pay raises of 2 percent on Jan. 1, 2015, and on Jan. 1, 2016; continues fully paid individual health insurance; increases the annual clothing stipend; and requires the employer to provide safety boots and coats to employees in four job classifications.

City of Robbinsdale. Members of Local 3823 ratified wage and insurance re-openers. The agreement raises wages by 2.5 percent on Jan. 1, 2015; by 2 percent on Jan. 1, 2016; and raises the employer's contribution to monthly health-insurance premiums by \$60 in 2015, with another re-opener for 2016.

Timeless Images of Labor Ball

More than 250 people attended the second annual Labor Ball, co-sponsored by Council 5's Next Wave.

For photos, log in to www.facebook.com; search for photographer Uchechukwu Iroegbu, then check out the "Labor Ball 2014" album.

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. The application deadline is Dec. 31.

Add This to Your Yule Log

St. Paul's Bedlam Theater gives holiday musicals a zany twist with "Beaverdance," running through Dec. 21. As Bedlam describes it, Karl Marx impersonates Santa Claus and travels back in time to study beavers as an idyllic worker collective in the not-yet-Minnesota wilderness of 1804. The question is: Can he organize them in time to stop the voyageurs, Ojibwe, and capitalists who are after their hides?

Details: "Beaverdance" takes the stage at 7 p.m. on Nov. 28, 29, and 30, and on Dec. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Tickets are \$18 for the show, or \$35 for a dinner package that includes a four-course, Minnesota menu. Group discounts are available. For full information, see <http://bedlamtheatre.org/beaverdance>.

How Heavy is Your Student Debt?

Are you struggling with student loan debt – either your own loans or helping to pay down the debt of a spouse, child, grandchild, or family member?

AFSCME International has a short survey about the student loan debt held by members, how it affects your financial health, and how many members utilize programs that help public workers pay down their loans.

Take the survey: Go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/OVLDXPR

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

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

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

Women's Economic Security Summit: Jan. 29, 2015, 8 a.m.-noon, St. Paul (Kelly Inn)

State Negotiations Assembly: Jan. 30, 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)