



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Open Enrollment Meetings Begin

Informational meetings are taking place now at job sites around Minnesota for state workers seeking health insurance for 2015. For the most-up-to-date list of dates, times, and locations of the two-hour sessions, go to: <http://mn.gov/mmb/segip/open-enrollment>. Actual open enrollment begins in November for SEGIP, the State Employee Group Insurance Plan.

It's Never Too Early to Vote

Vote absentee: You can vote absentee in person or by mail any time before Election Day, Nov. 4. This year, you don't need an excuse. To find out how, go to www.mnvotes.org; click "Vote Early by Absentee," then click the link that applies to you.

Register at the polls: If you are not already registered to vote where you live, you can register at your polling place – and vote – on Election Day. For details on the identification or verification you'll need to provide, go to www.mnvotes.org; click "Register to Vote," click "More Registration Information," then click "Register on Election Day."

Who's endorsed? For a list of candidates endorsed by your local AFSCME PEOPLE committee, go to: afscmemn.org; under "Political," click "AFSCME Election Endorsements."

Which Legislators Make the Grade?

In the last two years, Gov. Mark Dayton and the DFL Legislature did big things to make a difference for workers. They ratified our contracts (with annual raises and steps), protected our pensions, expanded collective bargaining, raised the minimum wage, helped improve women's rights at work, reduced middle-class property taxes, and expanded education funding for preschool through college.

It's a big change from the days when legislators shut down the government and held our jobs, wages, and benefits hostage.

To check out AFSCME's report card of which legislators are with us – and which are not – go to afscmemn.org; under "Political," click "2014 Legislative Report Card."

Help Get Out The Vote!

It's election crunch time. We need volunteers to phone bank and door knock for AFSCME-endorsed candidates. To sign up at an Action Center near you, click the link at afscmemn.org/GOTV. Four-hour shifts are available on:

- Saturday Nov. 1, beginning at 10 a.m.
- Sunday Nov. 2, beginning at noon
- Monday Nov. 3, beginning at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday Nov. 4, beginning at 8 a.m.

These locations are our priority. Winning these districts is essential if we are going to retain a pro-worker majority in the Minnesota Legislature.

- **Aitkin** (District 10B), 301 Minnesota Ave. N.
- **Albert Lea** (District 27A), 400 S. Broadway
- **Bemidji** (Districts 2A, 5A), 908 Paul Bunyan Drive S., Suite 1
- **Hopkins** (Districts 44A, 44B, 45A, 45B, 46A, 48A, 48B), 915 Main St. W.
- **Little Canada** (Districts 41A, 41B, 42A, 42B), 3205 County Drive
- **St. Cloud** (Districts 13A, 13B, 14A, 14B), 54 N. 28th Ave., Suite G
- **Willmar** (Districts 16A, 17A, 17B), 1630 E. Highway 12

Volunteers are also needed in Brainerd, Edina, Grand Rapids, Moorhead, and Oakdale/Woodbury.

Questions? Contact Council 5's Jon Grebner: jon.grebner@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0587.

Watch Debates on Your Schedule

Council 5 is sponsoring web streaming of candidate debates in the campaigns for governor, U.S. Senate, the 1st and 8th Congressional Districts, and others.

- You can watch upcoming debates, or debates you missed, for free on The Uptake (www.theuptake.org).
- For a complete schedule of what's available, see Council 5's online calendar at afscmemn.org.

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Pitch In for a Better Contract

The State Employee Policy Committee is looking for volunteers and ideas to build the actions necessary for a better state contract next year.

Members interested in being part of a contract campaign committee should submit their names to SEPC president John Hillyard (john.hillyard@state.mn.us) or Council 5's Jo Pels (jo.pels@afscmemn.org). The deadline is Monday Nov. 10.

Negotiations begin next year for the 2015-2017 state contracts that cover more than 17,000 AFSCME members.

Learn Organizing Skills That Matter

The AFL-CIO Organizing Institute will hold a three-day training in St. Paul Nov. 14-16. Training runs from 10 a.m. Friday until noon Sunday.

The training teaches basic organizing skills that union activists can use for helping unrepresented workers form a union. In order to participate, individuals must be sponsored by their union. Registration is \$125, which covers the training, materials, and meals.

Details: Go to www.mnaflcio.org/events/2014-organizing-institute-training.

Library Hosts Labor History Events

St. Paul Public Schools and the East Side Freedom Library are teaming up for a six-part community education class on the history of labor in Minnesota.

Details: The class will run on Thursdays, Oct. 16-Nov. 20, from 6-8 p.m. at the library, 1105 Greenbrier St. Cost is \$50. To register, call 651-767-8179.

- The library and the Farmer Labor Education Committee are co-sponsoring another labor history event: "Four Voices for Labor: Making St. Paul Work for Working People." The free forum takes place Saturday Oct. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the library. It highlights the impact of labor leaders Frank Boyd, Joe Karth, William Mahoney, and Florence Rood.

Movie Night Screens 'North Country'

October's Labor Movie Night turns its focus to Minnesota.

The 2005 drama "North Country" is based on the first women to work the taconite mines of the Iron Range. The abuse they endured in the 1970s for working "a man's job" led to the first class-action sexual harassment lawsuit in U.S. history.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. on Friday Oct. 17 in Room 467 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Snacks and beverages are available. Labor Movie Night is sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800, and by Council 5 Next Wave.

Grants Help Activists Get Training

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is accepting applications for its 2014 Labor Leadership Grants, which help activists develop their abilities and skills as union leaders.

The grants can offset the costs of classes, programs, or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations. Tobey Lapakko grants go to women; Charles McKenna grants go to men.

Download an application: Go to www.mnaflcio.org; click "About Us," then click "Scholarships & Awards."

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Election Day: Nov. 4. You can vote absentee now.

Labor Lunch "Strikes": Nov. 12, noon-1 p.m., Minneapolis (Hennepin County Government Center Auditorium)

Labor Ball: Nov. 14, 7 p.m.-1 a.m., St. Paul (Wabasha Caves)

Labor Movie Night: "Molly Maguires": Nov. 21, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)

State Negotiations Delegate Credentials Deadline: Must be submitted to Council 5 by Dec. 10.

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)