



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday October 28, 2014

afscmemn.org

Vote Nov. 4 ... or Even Sooner!

Election basics: Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 4. Polling places are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

For information on where you vote and who is on your ballot, go to: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

Vote absentee: You can vote absentee in person or by mail before Nov. 4. You can vote absentee in person at your local election office:

- During normal weekday hours through Oct. 31
- On Saturday Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- On Monday Nov. 3 until 5 p.m.

For details, 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 where you live, you can register at your polling place – and vote the same day. For details on the kinds of 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 AFSCME in federal, state, and local races, go to: afscmemn.org/endorsements.

Catch Up on Debates

Council 5 is sponsoring and archiving web streaming of candidate debates, including governor, U.S. Senate, and the 1st and 8th Congressional Districts.

To watch debates you missed, go to afscmemn.org/debates.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

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.

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)

There's No Second Chance

It's crunch time. If we don't re-elect Gov. Mark Dayton, if we lose the House majority, our jobs, wages, benefits, and union all are at risk.

The consequences are huge – whether we work at the state, in a local government or school district, at a college or university, in health care, or at a nonprofit. That's why we need volunteers to phone bank and door knock, to make sure our fellow union members (and their families) vote.

Sign up: 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.

The following Action Centers are our priority:

Aitkin, 301 Minnesota Ave. N

Albert Lea, 338 S. Broadway

Bemidji, 908 Paul Bunyan Drive S., Suite 1

Hopkins, 915 Mainstreet

Little Canada, 3205 County Drive

St. Cloud, 54 N. 28th Ave., Suite G

Willmar, 1630 E. Highway 12

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

Questions? Contact Council 5's Jon Grebner:

jon.grebner@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0587.

'Labor Lunch' Focuses on Strikes

Ever wonder what it is really like to be on strike? Labor activists will tell all during a free lunchtime forum on Wednesday Nov. 12, from noon to 1 p.m.

The event is organized by the Education, Engagement and Outreach Committee of AFSCME's Hennepin County locals. The event is in the Hennepin County Government Center Auditorium, on the A Level at 300 6th St. S, Minneapolis. Pizza will be served.

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday October 28, 2014

Crash Kills Local 1574 President

Michael Dolney, a Council 5 Executive Board member and president of Brainerd DHS Local 1574, was killed Oct. 25 when a pickup truck hit his motorcycle on Highway 10 near his home in Randall. Dolney was 45. His funeral service is Thursday Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. at Living Hope Assembly of God in Little Falls. Burial follows at Oakland Cemetery in Little Falls. Visitation is Wednesday Oct. 29 from 4-8 p.m. at Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, and on Oct. 30 from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

SEGIP Begins Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for members and retirees in the State Employee Group Insurance Program runs from Friday Oct. 31 through Thursday Nov. 13.

Complete details are available at <http://mn.gov/mmb/segip>; click the "Open Enrollment" tab. Enrollment can be done online at www.state.mn.us/employee.

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 your health and dental plans, child life insurance, long-term or short-term disability coverage, long-term care coverage, or accidental death and dismemberment insurance
- Add or remove dependents
- Renew or open pre-tax and flexible spending accounts to help cover out-of-pocket costs
- Complete an online health assessment that will cut your office co-pays by \$5 in 2015

Have diabetes? Open enrollment is also your chance to sign up for SEGIP's Diabetes Medication Therapy Management Program. Participants receive a free medication and health review; will be exempt from co-pays for formulary diabetes prescriptions, test supplies, and syringes; and can receive up to \$250 in contributions to their health reimbursement account.

- For details, go to: <http://mn.gov/mmb/segip>. Click the "Health Solutions" tab, click "Health & Well Being," then click the Diabetes MTM link.

Benefit Boosts Ebola Relief

A bake sale for Ebola relief takes place Friday Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Affinity Plus Credit Union in Coon Rapids.

The event's organizer, Vivienne Bambara of Anoka DHS Local 1307, will use the money to purchase gloves and other life-saving supplies that she can ship to Liberia, where a dozen of her relatives already have died of the disease.

How to help: Send a check payable to Vivienne Bambara. Mail it to: Affinity Plus Credit Union, 13025 Riverdale Drive NW #100, Coon Rapids, MN 55448.

County Locals Ratify Contracts

Dakota County Community Corrections. Members of Local 450 ratified a two-year contract through Dec. 31, 2015. The contract includes a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to this Jan. 1; a 2 percent raise on Jan. 1, 2015; and additional raises and lump-sum payments of up to 2 percent each year, based on performance evaluations.

Dakota County Human Services. Members of Local 306 ratified a two-year contract through Dec. 31, 2015. The contract includes a 1 percent pay raise retroactive to this Jan. 1; a 1 percent raise on Jan. 1, 2015; and additional raises and lump-sum payments that can exceed 2 percent each year, based on performance evaluations.

The agreement retains previous health-insurance plans, including individual coverage with fully paid premiums.

Lake County Human Services: Members in this unit in Local 66 ratified a three-year contract through Dec. 31, 2016. It includes pay raises of 2 percent retroactive to January 2014; 40 cents an hour effective January 2015; 2 percent in January 2016; and commits the employer to a compensation study.

The deal also allows probationary employees – for the first time – to use vacation they have accrued, and allows the bargaining unit to opt for different health coverage if a more-favorable plan is offered to other county employees.