



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Welcome Council 5's Newest Members Workers at Stepping Stones for Living in Hermantown voted by a 4-1 margin on Sept. 3 to join AFSCME. The 173 new members work at group homes and a day program run by the private, for-profit company. They provide residential and support services for adults with traumatic brain injury or mental illness. The Stepping Stones workers are among the 1,065 members organized in Council 5 so far in 2014.

FIVE FOR THE FIGHT is a Go

If you weren't at Council 5's 10th anniversary convention in person, here's some of what you missed:

- Delegates overwhelmingly approved the FIVE FOR THE FIGHT per capita increase.
- Members learned what's at stake in the Nov. 4 elections by hearing firsthand accounts of the stark differences between being a public employee in Minnesota vs. Scott Walker's Wisconsin.
- Individuals and locals donated \$11,271.63 – and counting – to the food shelf at Neighbors Inc.
- Delegates elected officers and nine new Executive Board members, and re-elected 29 board members.
- **Scott County Local 2440** received the Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award.
- **Cindy Yund**, of Cambridge DHS Local 390, received the Jerry Wurf Organizing Award.
- **Dennis Frazier**, of Arrowhead Region Local 66, received the Communications Award.

Get the Details on Convention Events

Stories: See in-depth coverage at afscmemn.org.

Videos: Highlights include:

- Delegates pledging to fight for our union's future.
- Warnings from Wisconsin AFSCME officer Boyd McCamish about life without collective bargaining.
- Speeches from Gov. Dayton, AFSCME president Lee Saunders, and Council 5 president Judy Wahlberg.

You can view the videos at afscmemn.org; scroll down the left column, then click the You Tube icon.

Photos: Go to: www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn/; click "Albums," then "2014 Council 5 Convention."

Kicking the Election into Gear

It was only two years ago that Tea Party legislators shut down our state and threw 22,000 state employees out of work, all so the legislators could protect tax breaks for the rich.

To guarantee that doesn't happen again, Minnesota unions are organizing "Labor 2014 Days of Action." Volunteers will make phone calls, visit other union members, and emphasize the importance of voting on Nov. 4.

Details: The next Day of Action is on Saturday Sept. 27. Activities run from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Apple Valley, Brainerd, Elk River, Mankato, Minneapolis, St. Cloud, and Willmar.

For details on the action near you, go to:

www.mnaflcio.org/news/labor-2014-days-action.

It's Never Too Early to Vote

- You can vote absentee – without making up excuses – beginning this Friday, Sept. 19. For information on how to cast an absentee ballot for the Nov. 4 election, go to www.mnvotes.org; click "Vote Absentee."
- For a list of candidates endorsed by local AFSCME PEOPLE committees, go to afscmemn.org; under the "Political" tab, click "AFSCME Election Endorsements."
- If you want to volunteer with other AFSCME members and retirees to support candidates who support us, call Council 5's Jon Grebner: 651-287-0587.

Put It on Your Calendar

Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention: Sept. 21-23, St. Paul (Crowne Plaza)

Labor 2014 Day of Action: Oct. 19, noon-4:30 p.m.

General Election: Nov. 4.

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

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

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Movie Retells a Forgotten Fight

In 1939, a thousand Missouri sharecroppers – a rare alliance of black and white – walked off the land to take a stand against their desperate conditions and the legal loopholes that allowed land owners to cheat them. The documentary “Oh Freedom After While” retells the fight of these farm families and their Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins Friday Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. in Room 356 of the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Snacks and beverages are available.

Now is the Time for Contract Ideas

Time is running out for state employees who want to suggest new contract language or pay inequity adjustments. Proposals are due by Oct. 1; the forms to do so are available online.

All ideas go to the statewide Negotiations Assembly, which drafts the initial AFSCME proposal for a 2015-2017 collective bargaining agreement with the state.

Details: To download the forms and other bargaining information, go to afscmemn.org; under the “Bargaining” tab, click “State of Minnesota.”

Library Hosts Labor History Class

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 is held 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.

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 afscme.org/family. The application deadline is Dec. 31.