



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

www.afscmemn.org

Keapproth Wins Volunteer Award

Local 915's Mike Keapproth is the winner of the 2014

Terrel D. Merriman Community Services Award from the Minnesota AFL-CIO. Keapproth was honored for his leadership of Council 5's Veterans Initiative.

In its first six years, the Initiative has raised more than \$100,000. The money improves facilities and services at Minnesota's state-run Veterans Homes in Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, Minneapolis, and Silver Bay. Keapproth is a Navy veteran, was chair and a co-founder of the Veterans Initiative, and was president of Oak Park Heights Corrections Local 915 before retiring this summer after 30 years as a correctional officer.

It's Never Too Early to Vote

- **Vote absentee:** You can vote absentee in person or by mail anytime before Election Day, Nov. 4. This year, you don't need an excuse. To find out how, go to www.mnvotes.org; click "Vote Absentee," then click the link that applies to you.
- **Register online:** You can register to vote until Tuesday Oct. 14. Go to: www.mnvotes.org; click "Register to Vote," then click "Register Online."
- **Register at the polls:** If you miss the Oct. 14 deadline, you can still register in person when you vote. For details on the identification or verification you need, go to www.mnvotes.org; click "Register to Vote," 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 the "Political" tab, click "AFSCME Election Endorsements."
- **Volunteer:** If you want to join other AFSCME members and retirees to support candidates who support us, call Jon Grebner: 651-287-0587.

Watch Debates on Your Schedule

Council 5 is sponsoring web streaming of 17 candidate debates from now through Election Day, Nov. 4. You can view the debates "on demand" at no charge on The Uptake (www.theuptake.org).

- For a complete schedule of the debates, see Council 5's website: afscmemn.org.

Kicking the Election into Gear

It was only two years ago that the Tea Party faction of the Legislature shut down our state and threw 22,000 public employees out of work. To guarantee they don't take over the Legislature or the governor's office again, Minnesota unions are launching "Labor 2014 Days of Action."

Volunteers will call or visit other union members, and emphasize the importance of voting on Nov. 4.

The next "Day of Action" is Sunday Oct. 19 from noon-4:30 p.m. Activities take place in Apple Valley, Duluth, Eveleth, Mankato, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

Find the action near you: Go to: www.mnaflcio.org/news/labor-2014-days-action.

Locals Ratify New Contracts

Dakota County Library: Members of Local 693 ratified a two-year contract through Dec. 31, 2015. The agreement provides across-the-board pay raises of 2 percent each year: first, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2014, then again on Jan. 1, 2015.

Members also receive a \$1,000 lump-sum payment, and can get additional raises of up to 2 percent based on performance. The agreement also switches to a health savings account in which the employer pays half the initial out-of-pocket deductible.

Sodexo (Minnesota State University Moorhead):

Members of Local 602 ratified a three-year contract through July 31, 2017.

The agreement provides pay raises of 25 cents an hour effective Aug. 1, 2014, 2015, and 2016. It increases footwear allowances by \$5 this year and by \$10 more in 2016; provides parking reimbursement for long-term employees beginning in 2015; increases the bonus for perfect attendance; requires effects bargaining over benefit changes; increases eligibility for health insurance; and improves language in areas such as job postings.

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

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 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.

Other labor history events in October:

- "The Labor Movement and the Struggle for Democracy in Minnesota": Wednesday Oct. 15, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne Ave., St. Paul. Free.
- "Four Voices for Labor: Making St. Paul Work for Working People": Saturday Oct. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., East Side Freedom Library. This event, co-sponsored by the Farmer Labor Education Committee, highlights the impact of labor leaders Frank Boyd, Joe Karth, William Mahoney, and Florence Rood. Free.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Minnesota Young Workers: Oct. 4, 10 a.m., Minneapolis (Glass Molders Local 63B, 2520 Kennedy St. NE)

Labor Movie Night: "North Country": Oct. 17, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)

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

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

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

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

Council 5 Day on the Hill: March 24, 2015, St. Paul

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.