



# ACTION UPDATE

**One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

afscmemn.org

## Put Our Words into Action on April 25

Council 5 wraps up a month of volunteer action with a celebration, march, and community service project in St. Paul on Saturday April 25.

The activities honor our union's legacy with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike, and our continuing fight for workers' rights and social and economic justice.

Members, families, and friends can join us for a spring clean-up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. Then, we'll gather for lunch and a program that includes AFSCME's Bill Lucy (who helped the sanitation workers gain a union) and the film "At the River I Stand" (which chronicles Dr. King's last days).

**Details:** Meet at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 N. Kent St., Saint Paul, at 10 a.m.

## Join Fast-Food Workers April 15

AFSCME locals at the University of Minnesota help lead a "unity march" on Wednesday April 15 to support fast-food workers in their "Fight for 15." Fast-food workers are seeking policies that guarantee wages of at least \$15 an hour, earned sick time, fair scheduling, and an end to wage theft.

**Details:** The march begins at 4:30 p.m. at Northrup Auditorium on the Twin Cities' East Bank campus. It ends at the Dinkytown McDonald's, 407 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

## Wisconsin's Glorious Moment

It was only four years ago when hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin workers and allies mesmerized the nation. They rose up to fight Gov. Scott Walker as he stripped the state's public workers of collective bargaining. "Wisconsin Rising" captures that hopeful moment in time, before things went completely downhill.

Filmmaker Sam Mayfield will lead a panel discussion as Labor Movie Night holds a special showing on the University of Minnesota's East Bank.

**Details:** "Wisconsin Rising" begins at 6 p.m. Friday April 17 at the Bell Museum, 10 Church St., Minneapolis. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

## Rubber Meets the Road April 16

Time is running out to make our voices heard about the urgent need for reliable transportation funding for Minnesota. We've got two chances to do that on Thursday April 16.

- Move MN holds a lunch-hour rally on the Capitol lawn from noon-1 p.m. Move MN is a statewide coalition of AFSCME and more than 200 other organizations pushing a comprehensive, long-term transportation solution for Minnesota.
- Afterward, the Minnesota AFL-CIO pushes transportation as a priority during its "Working Families Day on the Hill," from 1-3:30 p.m. Meet at 175 W. Aurora Ave., St. Paul.

## SEPC Deadline is April 17

Delegate credentials must be submitted no later than this Friday, April 17, for the annual spring conference of the State Employee Policy Committee.

The conference takes place on Friday May 1 at the Ramada Airport/Mall Hotel in Bloomington. The agenda includes election of one SEPC trustee. Events are expected to run from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Information:** Contact Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524; toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524; or by email at [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org).

**Lodging:** Friday April 17 is also the deadline to guarantee the conference room rate of \$99/night, plus tax. To receive this AFSCME rate, call 952-548-3600.

## Retirees Know How to Have Fun

The annual Fun(d)Raiser for the Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retiree Council takes place April 25. The free event features food, music, games, a silent auction, hourly raffles, and more. Proceeds support the council's advocacy and organizing work.

**Details:** The Fun(d)Raiser is Saturday April 25, from 3-7 p.m., at the hall of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10, 1681 Cope Ave., Maplewood.

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## Don't Blow the Budget Surplus

We've worked hard to turn a decade of deficits into a \$2 billion state surplus. But House Republicans want to "give it all back" – mostly to their corporate donors. If they repeat their mistake, it puts our jobs at risk. There will be nothing left to invest in the work we do, or in our kids. It leaves hard-working families behind.

**What you can do:** Contact your state representative. Text INVEST to 237263. Or call 1-855-982-3046 and follow the prompts. Urge your legislator: Invest in opportunity for *all* Minnesotans. Don't blow the surplus on unnecessary tax breaks for giant corporations.

## Financial Training Heads to Duluth

May 1 is the deadline to register for AFSCME's next Financial Responsibility Training class. Training takes place on Thursday June 4, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Duluth Holiday Inn, 200 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

The specialized training makes sure locals handle dues and expenses legally and transparently. The training is recommended for any local officer who signs checks or conducts audits. Cost is \$20 per person, which covers lunch and materials.

**To register:** Contact Council 5's Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524; toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524; or by email at [jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org).

## Labor Bowl Rolls on April 30

The annual St. Paul Labor Bowl takes place Thursday April 30. The event benefits the St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, a nonprofit arm of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation that assists union families in need.

Teams and individuals are welcome; participants are expected to raise at least \$100 each.

**Details:** The event takes place April 30 at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 University Ave. W. You can bowl at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., or 6 p.m.

To reserve a slot or for other information, contact Laura at 651-222-3787 x17, or [ltestor@stpaulunions.org](mailto:ltestor@stpaulunions.org).

## Council 5 Seeks Field Director

Council 5 is accepting applications for a field director based in South St. Paul. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Monday April 27. For a complete job description and application details, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click the "Work for Us" tab.

## Uncover Labor's Untold Stories

St. Paul's annual Untold Stories labor history series returns April 28 with events focusing on jazz and classical musicians, railroad workers, slave labor in Minnesota, the impact of immigrants, and a riverboat tour of key Dakota Indian sites.

All events are free. For details on the entire series, go to [www.thefriends.org/untoldstories](http://www.thefriends.org/untoldstories). The first two events:

**Tuesday April 28:** "Playing at Work" looks at the activism and issues facing Twin Cities orchestra musicians. 7 p.m., Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

**Thursday April 30:** "Running the Rails: Stories of African-American Railroad Workers" looks at the leadership roles that unionized porters and other rail staff played in St. Paul communities and the local civil rights movement. 7 p.m., Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St.

## Learn How Economics Really Matters

A free session on "Common Sense Economics" takes place Monday April 27 in Worthington. The program explains what's behind growing economic inequality, discusses what kind of immigration system aligns with workers' values, and highlights the kind of policies we need to make the economy work for more Americans.

**Details:** The program runs from 6-8 p.m. April 27 at Minnesota West Community & Technical College, 1450 Collegeway, in the Academic and Technical Resources/LARC Building, upstairs from the library. The program is sponsored by the Minnesota AFL-CIO, West Area Labor Council, and UFCW Local 1161.

**Reserve a spot:** Email Dale Moerke at [d.moerke@knology.net](mailto:d.moerke@knology.net).