



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

afscmemn.org

State Workers Vote Week of Aug. 17

Members who work for the State of Minnesota Executive Branch can vote in person Aug. 17-21 on the proposed two-year contract with the state. In-person voting takes place in more than 60 cities.

Any member in good standing can vote at any location during the week. Members should bring their union card to the voting site. Fee-payers who want to vote can sign a membership card at any voting site and become eligible to cast a ballot.

Details: Go to: afscmemn.org; click the "Bargaining" tab, then click "State of Minnesota." You'll find contract highlights, a complete schedule of when you can vote where, and other contract information.

Mail ballots will be sent on Aug. 14 to members who met the request deadline. Mail ballots must be back at Council 5's South St. Paul office no later than Monday Aug. 24.

Basic information: The proposed master contract covers 15,500 AFSCME employees who work for the Executive Branch in Unit 2 (craft and maintenance), Unit 3 (service), Unit 4 (health care), Unit 6 (clerical), and Unit 7 (technical). The State Employee Policy Committee's elected Delegate Assembly voted Aug. 3 to recommend ratification.

Corrections Negotiators Reach TA

The 1,900 members in Unit 8 will vote on a separate tentative agreement that was reached on July 28. Delegates to the Corrections Policy Committee voted Aug. 7 to recommend ratification. In-person voting takes place Aug. 17-22, at the same times and sites available to members of Units 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7.

The corrections agreement is similar in economics to the master contract. It also includes changes in such areas as probation, promotions, and removing items from disciplinary files.

Mail ballots: Corrections members who need to vote by mail must submit their ballot request no later than Thursday Aug. 13. To download a request form, go to: afscmemn.org; click "Negotiations," click "State of Minnesota," then click the download link.

Mail ballots must be returned by Monday Aug. 24.

Get into the State Fair for Free

Share your union pride – and we'll get you into the State Fair for free. It's what happens if you volunteer during the Fair at AFSCME's kiosk at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion.

Council 5 members and retirees will promote the good things that AFSCME and other unions do for workers and for our communities. Volunteers help staff our kiosk for 3-1/2 hours; the rest of the day is theirs. Volunteers get free admission and an AFSCME t-shirt.

Details: This year's Fair runs from Thursday Aug. 27 until Labor Day, Monday Sept. 7. We've got shifts available on most days from 12:30-4 p.m. or from 4-7:30 p.m. We'll provide training. If you want to join us, email your preferred day and shift to: michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org.

Lock in Your Plans for Convention

Council 5 has mailed the official call to locals for our 2015 convention, "Stronger Together." Here's a rundown of key information:

- The 2015 convention takes place Oct. 1-3 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. The convention's general session **opens** at 1:45 p.m. Thursday Oct. 1. It **closes** at noon Saturday Oct. 3.
- New delegate **orientation** takes place Wednesday Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Workshops** run the morning of Thursday Oct. 1.
- **Resolutions** must be submitted by Friday Sept. 11.
- Locals must submit **delegate credentials** no later than Monday Sept. 21.
- Requests for child care, interpreters, dietary needs, or other **special accommodations** must be submitted by Monday Sept. 21.

Housing: For rooms at unionized hotels downtown:

- Call the Holiday Inn at 1-800-477-7089 by Sunday Aug. 30. Rates begin at \$117/night plus tax.
- Call the Radisson at 1-800-333-3333 by Monday Aug. 31. Rates begin at \$139/night plus tax.

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Stop the Assaults at Work

Assaults by violent clients are rising for AFSCME workers in human services and health care. But managers continue giving us lip service instead of safety.

As part of our "Safe Staffing" campaign, members are planning a Safety Conference to create real solutions that fix the problems. You can share your concerns at an open meeting the day before Council 5's annual convention.

Details: Join us on Wednesday Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in downtown Duluth. Learn more on Facebook at "Safe Staffing MN." Questions? Contact JoAnn Holton at 651-287-0506 or by email at joann.holton@afscmemn.org.

Picnic in the Park Aug. 16

The 2015 AFSCME Family Picnic takes place Sunday Aug. 16 from 1-5 p.m. at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. Members and retirees are invited to bring family, friends, and co-workers for a day of fellowship, food, singing, raffles, and more.

The picnic's volunteer organizers provide free burgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks, plus free water park passes for the first 100 children. You provide the rest of the fun.

The picnic is in the main pavilion, north of Upper Afton Road and east of McKnight.

'Citizen Koch' Tells the Truth

Want to know more about the notorious Koch Brothers?

The documentary "Citizen Koch" is a good place to start. It focuses on how David and Charles use their enormous wealth to support Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, fund tea party extremists and corporate front groups, and try to buy elections everywhere.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday Aug. 21 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Snacks and beverages are available.

Council 5 Next Wave and AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800 help co-sponsor Labor Movie Night.

Locals Ratify New Contracts

Regions Hospital. Members of Local 722 in the service support unit ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2017. The agreement includes across-the-board raises on July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016. Pay at the top of each pay range rises by 2 percent; that increase is converted to a "cents per hour" raise that every worker in the pay range receives. As a result, the across-the-board provision translates into an average pay raise of 2.51 percent each year.

The new contract also delivers an additional 1 percent pay raise this year for food service and "guest experience" workers; keeps performance-based raises; and increases monthly health-insurance premiums by only \$2.50 for individual coverage, and \$5 for family coverage.

St. Scholastica. Members of Local 3558 in the monastery's dietary unit ratified a three-year contract through June 30, 2018. The agreement provides pay raises of 40 cents an hour retroactive to July 1, then 35 cents an hour on July 1, 2016, and 35 cents an hour on July 1, 2017. It also adds a floating holiday for all members; adds parental leave language; adds a pay premium of 50 cents an hour when members train new workers; and allows members to cash out unused vacation twice a year.

E Board Recruits for Vacancies

Council 5's Executive Board is accepting nominations to fill vacancies from District 1 (Northeast) and District 5 (East Metro). The terms run through fall 2016.

- Nominees for District 1 must live in Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, or St. Louis County (or work in one of the counties if they do not live in Minnesota).
- Nominees for District 5 must live in Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey, or Washington County (or work in one of the counties if they do not live in Minnesota).

Submit names to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075. The application deadline is Friday Sept. 4.