



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

afscmemn.org

Walker Workers Keep Their Union

Workers at Walker Methodist Health Center chose to keep their union by an overwhelming vote of 2 to 1. LPNs and direct care workers fighting for respect and a living wage refused to be divided by their boss and rejected attempts to bust their union. Their bad boss is barred from another attempt to decertify for a year.

Rochester Workers Celebrate Victory

Local 4001 played a pivotal role in pressuring embattled RCTC President Leslie McClellon to resign. They protested McClellon's lack of communication and her poor hiring and spending decisions, including shelling out \$10,000 on a mace and gold chain. She'll step down Jan. 8, following months of actions by AFSCME and our sister unions.

Locals Reach Tentative Agreements

Local 3937 (U of M technical unit) reached a two-year agreement with a 1.5 percent raise each year, plus steps; in year two, members at the top of the range get 2 percent; six weeks of paid maternity leave for birth mothers; plus no changes in health insurance.

Local 3800 (U of M clerical unit) reached a two-year agreement with a 1.5 percent raise each year plus steps, and 2 percent for those at the top of the range the second year; four more weeks of paid maternity leave for birth mothers (for a total of six); minimum wage of \$15/hour; and no changes in health insurance. Under a memorandum of understanding, labor management meetings will address issues related to bullying.

Local 3260 (U of M health care unit) has a two-year agreement with 1.5 percent a year plus steps; six weeks of paid parental leave for birth moms; and no changes in health care. Under a memorandum of understanding, a labor management committee will address issues related to attendance at diversity enrichment events.

Stop Fat Cat Union Busters

Are you fed up with billionaires who want the Supreme Court to make it tougher for public service workers to raise our voices and get ahead? A case called *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* seeks to end fair-share fees (which non-union members pay to help fund contract negotiations), even though all of us benefit from the higher wages and a better quality of life. [Sign this MoveOn.org petition](#) to tell the Center for Individual Rights to stop attacking working people.

Workers gain 8 percent raise

Local 3558 (Viewcrest Health Center) entered into a letter of understanding that gives workers an 8 percent pay hike and 2 percent the following year; provides health insurance to those working more than 30 hours a week and to current employees at 56 hours a pay period; provides a first-ever Health Savings Account; plus a hike in pension contributions.

Register for Safety Conference

Injuries are up for AFSCME members who work in human services and health care, while management gives us lip service. Attend our Safety Conference to learn about your rights and how to be safer on the job. What's "imminent danger?" When can you defend yourself? What does "person-centered care" really mean? How can we work with OSHA to record and report injuries?

Details: The AFSCME Safety Conference is Wednesday, **Jan. 20**, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ramada Mall of America in Bloomington (2300 East American Boulevard). It's free to AFSCME members in health care and human services. Lunch will be provided. Participants are responsible for the cost of lodging. Book a room at the Ramada at 952-854-3411.

To RSVP: Contact Melinda Pearson at Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0524, or search for "[Safe Staffing MN](#)" on Facebook.



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OSHA Fines St. Peter Hospital

Citing nine instances of workplace violence, [safety regulators fined the Minnesota Security Hospital](#) located in St. Peter \$63,000. OSHA levied the highest possible fines for “serious” violations, where death or serious physical harm has or could result from an employer’s violation. Hospital staff have suffered 111 work-related injuries just through October, compared with 101 in 2014 and 83 in 2013.

DHS Head Prioritizes Safe Staffing

The Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter and Anoka Regional Treatment Center are on new state DHS Commissioner Emily Johnson Piper’s radar:

Q: What do you see as other major challenges facing your agency?

A: I am focused on [the Minnesota Security Hospital in] St. Peter and the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center. I’ve been involved in the governor’s office in those issues and the systemic problems that are facing direct care and treatment [facilities and programs for people with mental illness and disabilities]. That’s one area that I see as an immediate challenge.

Learn more in [this interview with the Star Tribune](#).

Special Election Coming Up

A special election for House District 50B in Bloomington is **Feb. 9**. We’ve endorsed Andrew Carlson.

Council 5 Is Hiring

The South St. Paul office is [seeking applicants](#) for a full-time accounting specialist. Application deadline is Thursday, **Dec. 31** at 4 p.m.

MSRS Candidates Endorsed

Council 5 recommends these candidates for the Minnesota State Retirement System board: general plan, Michael Schweyen, MnDOT, and Joe Sullivan, Department of Revenue; correctional plan, Joe Strunk, Corrections; and retiree, Wes Skoglund.

Probation Officers Vote to Unionize

We welcome 54 Anoka County probation officers. Their unit just voted to join Council 5.

Regional Presidents Meeting

Council 5 is holding Regional Presidents’ Meetings on Jan. 12-15 to share plans for AFSCME Strong, precinct caucuses and Day on The Hill. The meetings are from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with a box lunch provided.

Details: Jan. 12, AFSCME Council 5, 1305 1st St. S., Willmar

Jan. 13, Sawmill Inn, Hwy. 169 S., 2301 S. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids

Jan. 14, Mayo Civic Center, Legion Meeting Room, 30 Civic Center Drive SE, Rochester

Jan. 15, Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul
Email melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org to register.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. If you have an event people should know about, email Lynette Kalsnes at Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

For the most current AFSCME news and events, and to download and print a copy of Action Update to distribute or post on your bulletin board, visit www.afscmemn.org.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

AFSCME Council 5 Safety Conference: Jan. 20, 2016, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Bloomington (Airport Ramada)

AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill: April 5, 2016, St. Paul (RiverCentre)

Council 5 Retirees United Convention: April 19, 2016

SEPC Spring Conference: April 29, 2016

AFSCME 42nd Annual International Convention: July 18-22, 2016, Las Vegas, Nevada. Council 5 will be staying at the Paris Hotel, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S.