



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

afscmemn.org

Getting Hurt? Not Part of the Job

AFSCME members who are assaulted by clients, patients, or inmates don't have to suffer in silence anymore.

Council 5 has set up a Facebook community so we can organize around safe-staffing issues.

The online community is a place to share stories of attacks, injuries, and their impact. The goal is to:

- Eliminate the belief that getting hurt is part of the job
- Eliminate the belief that we are disposable
- Get the safe staffing we need

To add your story – and see what fellow members deal with – go to www.facebook.com; type "Safe Staffing MN" into the "Search Facebook" field.

Join Day on the Hill March 24

Hundreds of AFSCME members from around the state will gather March 24 to make sure elected officials value our work and don't reverse the progress Minnesota has made the past two years.

At this year's Day on the Hill, we'll urge our local legislators to move forward on transportation, reinvest in the work we do, and staff up for safe workplaces.

Sign up! Locals and individuals can register at afscmemn.org; select the "Political" tab and click "Day on the Hill 2015."

Keep the Dream Alive: Volunteer!

Council 5 is organizing "Keep the Dream Alive" – a month of volunteer action to honor our union's legacy with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike, and our continual fight for workers' rights and social and economic justice.

Our goal is a statewide effort that publicly demonstrates how we improve lives not only on the job, but also on our own, in our own communities.

What you can do. We're encouraging individual members and locals to take part in volunteer activities this spring where we live and work. It can be something you're already doing. It can be something entirely new. For a list of ideas, go to afscmemn.org; click the link in the story "Keep the Dream Alive: Volunteer!"

Survival Training for Your Local

Presidents, chief stewards, and other local leaders are urged to attend regional trainings to learn about strengthening allegiance to each other and our union.

The trainings will hash out practical steps to fight legal threats that would undermine the ability of AFSCME members to provide a good life for themselves and their families.

Trainings take place in:

Grand Rapids: Monday Feb. 23, Sawmill Inn, 2301 S. Highway 169

Rochester: Monday March 2, Rochester Community and Technical College, Coffman Hall, Room CF 206-208

South St. Paul: Friday March 6, Council 5 office, 300 Hardman Ave. S

Willmar: Wednesday March 4, Council 5 office, 1305 1st St. S

The free training is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations are required. Contact Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524; toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524; or by email at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org

Every Worker Deserves Sick Leave

No one should have to choose between caring for a loved one or losing a paycheck. But that's the impossible choice facing the more than 1 million hard-working Minnesotans, because they don't have paid sick days.

To fix that, AFSCME is part of Minnesota Benefits, a coalition fighting to guarantee earned safe and sick time for every Minnesota worker.

What you can do. Call your legislators. Ask them to support Senate File 481 and House File 549. Tell them no worker should have to choose between a paycheck and a loved one.

- Senate: Call 651-296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112
- House: Call 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Benefit Planned for Injured CO

A benefit will be held Feb. 28 for Mark Baker, a member of Rush City Corrections Local 1539. Baker is recovering from an auto accident in which he was trapped in an icy creek in Pine County for four hours. At this point, his family has no income to cover day-to-day expenses or their share of \$145,000 in medical bills.

Details. The benefit is Saturday Feb. 28 from 4-7 p.m. at Hacker's Banquet Center, 413 Wisconsin Ave. S (Highway 35) in Frederic, Wis.

- To make a donation, go to www.youcaring.com; type "Mark Baker" in the search field.

Fund Set Up for Crash Victims

Donations are being accepted at every Bremer Bank in Minnesota for Macy Kujava, a member of DHS MinnesotaCare Local 2181. Kujava, 24, and her 4-year-old daughter, Sophia, remain hospitalized with severe injuries suffered when their car was hit head-on by a pickup truck north of Brainerd on Jan. 15.

Donations. To find a bank branch near you, go to www.bremer.com; click "Our Locations." Make checks payable to "Macy-Sophia Kujava Benefit Fund."

Way to Go, Sharon!

Congratulations to Local 2672 president Sharon Kirscher, who was honored as "employee of the year" at the Department of Labor and Industry.

Freedom Rider Tells Her Story

In June 1961, 20-year-old University of Minnesota student Claire O'Connor was one of six Minnesotans who boarded a bus to challenge racist Jim Crow laws in the South. Like other Freedom Riders, she stared down violence, arrest, and 28 days in prison in Mississippi, in the quest of ending legal segregation and gaining voting rights for Southern blacks.

O'Connor tells her story on Saturday Feb. 14, at 3 p.m., at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier, St. Paul. Admission is free.

Film Examines Race and Class

The tension between class and race in America is highlighted in February's Labor Movie feature, "The Killing Floor."

The 1984 film is based on events in 20th-century Chicago. Black workers try to team with immigrants from Europe to form an interracial union at the city's stockyards. But in the neighborhoods where they live, conflict erupts into a race riot that kills dozens, injures hundreds, and leaves thousands homeless.

Details. The movie begins at 6 p.m. Friday Feb. 20 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave.

Women's Retreat Opens Registration

Registration is now open for the Minnesota Union Women's Retreat, April 22-24 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge near Brainerd. The retreat features issues such as moving up in union leadership, stopping bullying in the workplace, mobilizing on the job and in the community, and bridging generation gaps.

The retreat is organized by the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service. The conference fee is \$200.

To register. See the link at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/LES. The registration deadline is March 20.

Young Workers to Meet in Chicago

Friday Feb. 20 is the deadline to register for the national AFL-CIO's Young Worker Summit. If you register before Sunday Feb. 15, you'll pay \$45. If you wait until Feb. 16-20, it will cost you \$60.

The summit takes place March 19-22 in Chicago. For details, go to www.nextupsummit.org.

Save the date: AFSCME International's Next Wave convention takes place June 12-14 in St. Louis, Mo.

AFL-CIO Podcast Makes Its Debut

The Minnesota AFL-CIO has launched a podcast covering issues affecting Minnesota workers and their unions.

Go to: www.mnafcio.org, then click the link for "Minnesota Works Podcast."