



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

afscmemn.org

Day on the Hill is Coming Fast

Day on the Hill is only a month away. On Tuesday March 24, hundreds of AFSCME members from around the state will gather to urge our local legislators to move forward on transportation, reinvest in the work we do, and staff up for safe workplaces.

To register: Locals and individuals can register at afscmemn.org. Select the "Political" tab, scroll down to "Day on the Hill 2015," then click "DOTH Registration."

To ride a bus from Greater Minnesota: Charter buses are scheduled from Duluth, Red Wing, Virginia, Willmar, and Winona. Some will make additional stops along the way, as needed.

To find out where to catch the bus, when they leave, and how to reserve a seat, go to afscmemn.org. Select the "Political" tab, scroll down to "Day on the Hill 2015," then click "DOTH Transportation."

E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Council 5's Executive Board is accepting nominations to fill a vacancy in East Metro District 5. Nominees must live Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey, or Washington County (or work in one of the counties if they do not live in Minnesota). The term runs through fall 2016.

Submit names to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075. The application deadline is Friday March 13.

Benefit for Injured CO is Feb. 28

A benefit takes place Saturday Feb. 28 for Mark Baker, 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 medical bills, which are \$145,000 and climbing.

Details. The benefit, which includes food and music, runs 4-7 p.m. at Hacker's Banquet Center, 413 Wisconsin Ave. S (Highway 35) in Frederic, Wis.

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

Stop Tax Breaks for Billionaires

House Republicans in the Legislature are up to their old tricks. They want to give tax breaks to billionaires and giant corporations. That would stick hard-working families with the tab.

House proposals would:

- Eliminate \$1.8 billion in corporate property taxes
- Cut income taxes for business owners by \$250 million
- Eliminate the estate tax for wealthy families if they inherit more than \$1.2 million

What you can do: Urge your legislators to stop the tax breaks for billionaires and big businesses.

Tell them: "Helping the rich get richer at the expense of the middle class is simply wrong."

- To reach your state representative: Call 651-296-2146 (or 1-800-657-3550 toll-free)
- To reach your state senator: Call 651-296-0504 (or 1-888-234-1112 toll-free)

Last Call for Women Leaders

Saturday March 7 is the deadline for local officers and activists to apply for AFSCME International's 2015 Women's Leadership Academy.

The academy includes a five-day orientation June 22-26 and a three-day finale in December. In between, participants must complete a campaign project in their local or council, and take part in frequent webinars.

Details: For more information on qualifications, who is responsible for which costs, and the application process, go to www.afscme.org/WLAApplication.

Policy Committee Wins Award

Congratulations to the Corrections Policy Committee. Members won Council 5's Rick Scott Political Action Award, in honor of their relentless and effective presence at the Legislature. The award was presented during the state Negotiations Assembly.

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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!"

Use Google to Your Advantage

Friday March 6 is the deadline to register for a new skills class from the Labor Education Service. The class gives an overview of how to use the vast array of Google products for union and personal tasks.

The noncredit class will cover Google Docs (creating and editing documents), Google Drive (saving and sharing files), YouTube (videos), Picasa (photos), Google+ (similar to Facebook), Slides (presentations), Hangouts (live video meetings), and Blogger (web journaling).

Details: "The Wonderful World of Google" will be taught on Saturday March 14, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in Carlson Room L-117 on the University of Minnesota's West Bank campus in Minneapolis. Tuition is \$50.

To register, call 612-624-5020 or e-mail les@umn.edu.

Yes, You Know That Face

Pat Guernsey, a probation officer in Hennepin County Local 552 and a Council 5 Executive Board member, is among those featured in a magazine ad from AFSCME International. The ad is running in Mother Jones and other national publications.

Survival Training for Your Local

Regional trainings take place the first week of March to help local leaders strengthen members' allegiance to each other and our union. The trainings will hash out practical steps to fight court threats that would undermine the ability of AFSCME members to provide a good life for themselves and their families.

Trainings take place in:

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 trainings are 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

Endorsed Candidates Win PERA Seats

AFSCME-endorsed candidates won three seats on the board of the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA), which oversees pensions for 250,000 current and retired local government employees.

- Ross Arneson was elected to a retiree seat
- Thomas Stanley, of St. Louis County Attorneys Local 3761, and Paul Bourgeois won general seats

Women's Retreat Takes Applications

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.