



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

afscmemn.org

Join Day on the Hill March 24

Hundreds of AFSCME members gather from around the state March 24 to make sure legislators 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." The registration deadline is March 6.

St. Paul Holds Caucuses Feb. 3

St. Paul DFL caucuses take place Tuesday Feb. 3. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; caucuses start at 7. To make your voice heard and support candidates we can count on:

- Attend your precinct caucus
- Raise your hand to become a delegate to the Ward Convention

Local AFSCME Council 5 members have endorsed these candidates:

- **Ward 2:** Darren Tobolt
- **Ward 3:** Chris Tolbert
- **Ward 6:** Dan Bostrom
- **Ward 7:** Jane Prince

To find your caucus, see the story at afscmemn.org.

Young Workers Meet in Chicago

The AFL-CIO is holding a national Young Worker Summit March 19-22 in Chicago. Registration is \$45 before Feb. 15, \$60 between Feb. 16 and Feb. 20, which is the online registration deadline. 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.

Council 5 Seeks Field Director

Council 5 is accepting applications for a new field director based in South St. Paul. Applications must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. Friday Jan. 30.

For a full job description and application details, go to afscmemn.org; click the "Work for Us" tab.

Make Safe Staffing a Priority

Clocking in shouldn't mean putting your life on the line. But that's not the case for DHS members in security hospitals and psychiatric facilities; for corrections members in state prisons; or for health-care members in hospitals such as Regions, HCMC, or the University of Minnesota Medical Center. The fact is, violent assaults on staff are increasing.

That's why the Legislature needs to increase funding to ensure safe staffing. We believe lawmakers should protect workers who protect the public.

What you can do: Call your legislators. Ask them to invest in safe staffing so our members can return home safely to their families every day.

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

Keep the Dream Alive

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and striking sanitation workers in Memphis marched for basic workers' rights and human dignity. Today, AFSCME in Minnesota is still marching for social and economic justice.

To commemorate our legacy, Council 5 is organizing "Keep the Dream Alive" – a month of volunteer activities. The goal is a statewide effort that publically 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 where we live and work. It can be something you're already doing. It can be something entirely new. It can include you, co-workers, friends, or family.

Do this between March 25-April 24. We'll promote and unite your activities with T-shirts, publicity, and more. It all concludes with a one-day project and celebration in the Twin Cities on Saturday April 25.

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U of M Unions Find Common Cause

University Unions United – an alliance between AFSCME and Teamsters locals at the University of Minnesota – is sponsoring a “workers summit” on Friday Feb. 6. The forum will discuss the reality of working at the U. It will explore increasing inequalities on campus, and how to create meaningful access and advancement opportunities for undervalued front-line staff.
Details: The summit, which is free, takes place from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Union, on the Twin Cities’ East Bank campus.

Giving Women Leaders Opportunity

AFSCME International is accepting applications from local officers and activists for the 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 and other networking.
Details: For more information on qualifications, who is responsible for which costs, and the application process, go to www.afscme.org/WLAapplication. Applications are due March 7.

Did You Get Our Text?

Council 5 is launching a text message alert system. Messages will update you about legislative action you can take – and help us coordinate actions and locations during rallies and other events. Your only cost is if your cellular provider charges texting rates.
To sign up: Text MN5 to 237263, then follow the prompts.

Do the Super Bowl the Union Way

The Feb. 1 Super Bowl has “union” stamped all over it – from the players on the field to the television crews to the stadium workers. You can run the table by making sure the food, snacks, and beverages at your Super Bowl party also are “union made.”
For a list of what qualifies, see <http://bit.ly/1CrUXMd>

Locals Ratify New Contracts

City of Bloomington. Technical and Parks members of Local 2828 ratified three-year contracts through 2017. The agreements increase pay by 2.5 percent on Jan. 1 in 2015 and 2016, and by 2.75 percent on Jan. 1, 2017. The city increases its health insurance contributions in 2015 and 2016, with a re-opener for 2017. The contracts also update language in such areas as changes of work schedules, tuition reimbursement, and safety equipment.

City of Two Harbors. Members of Local 1123 ratified a two-year contract for 2015 and 2016. It raises pay by 2 percent each Jan. 1, adds a paid meal for members working overtime, and increases annual allowances by \$100 for work clothing and \$25 for safety glasses for workers in designated jobs.

St. Louis County. Local 66 members in the Merit and Basic units ratified a two-year contract for 2015 and 2016. The agreement provides raises of 1.75 percent this month; 1.75 percent in January 2016; and 0.5 percent on Dec. 24, 2016. Other highlights include higher shift differentials and on-call rates for some workers; a shorter wait to reach higher pay grades for information specialists; a cash-out option for unused comp time; and \$30 more per year for safety shoes.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Women’s Economic Security Summit: Jan. 29, 8 a.m.-noon, St. Paul (Kelly Inn)

Council 5 President’s Meeting: Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bloomington (Ramada Airport Mall Hotel)

State Negotiations Assembly: Jan. 30, 9 a.m., Bloomington (Ramada Airport Mall Hotel)

Financial Responsibility Training: Feb. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., South St. Paul (Council 5)

The Wonderful World of Google: March 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Minneapolis (Labor Education Service)

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner: March 26, 5:30 p.m., Oakdale (Prom Center)

Minnesota Union Women’s Retreat: April 22-24, Brainerd (Rutger’s Bay Lodge)