



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

afscmemn.org

State Workers Vote Week of Aug. 17

Members who work for the State of Minnesota Executive Branch will vote the week of Aug. 17 on a proposed two-year contract. A complete list of locations and times for in-person voting, plus details of the tentative agreement, will be posted on afscmemn.org; under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

Mail ballots: Members who need to vote by mail must file a Request for Mail Ballot no later than Monday Aug. 3. The request forms can be downloaded from Council 5's website: Go to afscmemn.org; under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

Basic information: AFSCME's master bargaining team is unanimously recommending ratification. The elected Delegate Assembly will vote on that recommendation on Monday Aug. 3 in Bloomington.

The proposed contract would cover 15,500 employees in Unit 2 (craft and maintenance), Unit 3 (service), Unit 4 (health care), Unit 6 (clerical), and Unit 7 (technical).

- Negotiations for Unit 8 (Corrections) continue this week. Negotiations for Unit 25 (Radio Communications) have not yet been scheduled.

2 Members Need Vacation Donations

State employees may make vacation donations for two AFSCME members: **John Gaither**, of St. Cloud DOT Local 604, and **Macy Kujava**, of DHS Local 2181.

The donations will help Gaither and Kujava maintain their salary and insurance benefits while they deal with serious medical conditions. Both have exhausted their paid vacation and sick days.

Gaither was diagnosed with Stage 3 cancer in April.

Kujava suffered severe injuries when a pickup truck hit her vehicle head-on in January.

To make a donation: Go to mn.gov/mmb. Click the "Self Service" link in the upper right corner.

After logging in, click on "Other Payroll," then "Leave Donations." Select "Input Leave Donations," select the magnifying glass next to "Reserve Bank," then select John's or Macy's name.

State employees who accrue vacation may donate up to 40 hours in the fiscal year that began July 1.

Talk Up Your Union at State Fair

Want to get into the State Fair for free – and share union pride while doing it? Then volunteer at AFSCME's kiosk at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion.

This year, Council 5 members and retirees will celebrate the good things unions do for workers and communities. Volunteers staff our kiosk for 3-1/2 hours; the rest of the day is yours. You 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 also provide training in advance.

If you want to join us, email the day and shift you prefer to: michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org, or call 651-287-0537.

Picnic in the Park on 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 to this day of fellowship, food, water, singing, raffles, and more.

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

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

Executive Board Picks Da Cruz, Kelly

The Council 5 Executive Board has selected Koami Da Cruz and Kathy Kelly to join the board.

- Da Cruz, of St. Paul Technical Local 1842, fills the City Sector seat vacated by John Ross.
- Kelly, of Hennepin County Social Services Local 34, fills the County Sector seat vacated by Steve Reeves.

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Judicial Members Voting by Mail

Members of Local 3688 in Judicial Branch Districts 2, 4, 6, and 10 must return ballots no later than Friday July 31 on a proposed two-year contract with the state.

In the first year, the tentative agreement includes a 4 percent pay raise retroactive to July 1, but no steps. It does add a new top step.

In the second year, steps return. Employees who are eligible, based on performance, will receive a step increase on July 1, 2016, which includes an additional 1 percent pay raise.

In each year, employees who are "red circled" above their pay band will receive a lump sum payment equal to 4 percent of their base pay.

- The guardians ad litem unit of Local 3688 began negotiations on their next contract on July 24.

E Board Recruits for 2 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). This seat is left open by the resignation of Sue Urness.
- 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). This seat is left open by the resignation of Melinda Pearson.

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

Robbinsdale Members Join Local 2454

City of Robbinsdale members in Local 3823 have merged into Local 2454. The amalgamated local also represents city employees in Champlin, Dayton, Lexington, Lino Lakes, and Ramsey.

Locals Achieve New Contracts

Brooklyn Park Fire Department. Members of Local 2839 have their first contract: a two-year agreement through Dec. 31, 2016. The agreement for the city's part-time firefighters includes, for the first time, seniority protections and preferences, just cause and grievance requirements in disciplinary cases, and scheduling guarantees.

It also includes pay scales that match full-time firefighters; a pay raise of 2.5 percent on Jan. 1, 2016; time-and-a-half pay for holiday work; and higher pay for working out of classification.

Community Employment Services. Members of Local 1337 at the former Transitions have ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2017. The deal provides a 2.5 percent pay raise on Aug. 1, and another 2.5 percent raise on Aug. 1, 2016.

City of Lexington. Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a three-year contract through April 30, 2018. The contract provides a pay raise of 2.5 percent retroactive to June 1, plus additional pay raises of 2.5 percent on June 1, 2016; 2.5 percent on June 1, 2017; and 0.5 percent on Dec. 1, 2017.

The contract also increases standby pay, increases the employer's health-insurance contribution by \$50 a year; adds Good Friday as a permanent paid holiday; adds July 3 as a paid holiday in 2017; and creates a pilot program for 2016 that allows a flexible work schedule between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

It's Time to Reward Great Effort

Friday Aug. 7 is the deadline to submit nominations for Council 5's annual Achievement Awards.

The awards honor individual members, an AFSCME local, or a group of members or locals who made outstanding contributions in the last year in any of these four areas: communications, local union development, organizing, or political activism.

For details on each award, and how to submit nominations, see the story on afscmemn.org.