



# ACTION UPDATE

**One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers**

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

[afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org)

## TA with State Includes Raises, Steps

A tentative agreement on a new two-year contract for State of Minnesota employees includes a 2.5 percent raise effective July 1; another 2.5 percent raise on July 1, 2016; and steps in both years. That means employees with annual step increases could see their pay increase by 10 percent by the time the proposed contract expires on June 30, 2017.

AFSCME's master bargaining team is unanimously recommending ratification. Their recommendation first goes to the elected Delegate Assembly, which meets Monday Aug. 3 in Bloomington. Members then will vote on the proposed contract the week of Aug. 17.

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

**Details:** Contract highlights and more information about ratification dates and voting sites will be posted on Council 5's website as they become available; go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); under the "Bargaining" tab, click "State of Minnesota."

## Good News from the Legislature

We increased state agency budgets to pay for raises for state employees. We gained more money for nursing homes, state prisons, and child protection services. We saved jobs in DHS, MinnesotaCare, and in local governments. And we fought off attacks on our pensions and attempts to expand tax giveaways for corporations. In other words, AFSCME members accomplished a lot at this year's Legislature.

**Details:** Go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); under the "Political" tab, click "2015 Session Report."

## E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Council 5's Executive Board is accepting nominations to fill a vacancy from the County Sector. Applicants must work for a county government in the State of 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 Monday July 13.

## Make Overtime Pay Overtime

Forty years ago, 62 percent of "salaried" workers were eligible for overtime pay. Today, only 8 percent are. That means more workers are putting in longer and harder hours – but not getting the time-and-a-half pay they've earned. Now, President Obama and the Department of Labor want to fix that – and they don't need Congress to do it. They would guarantee that every worker who earns less than \$50,440 a year would qualify for overtime pay. That will give a big pay boost to 5 million middle-class workers.

**Make it happen:** Show your support. Sign the petition at [www.fixovertime.org](http://www.fixovertime.org).

## The More Things Change ...

Charlie Chaplin's classic "Modern Times" is based in the Great Depression, but remains timeless in its portrayal and critique of work and social barriers.

**Details:** Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday July 17 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Labor Movie Night is co-sponsored by AFSCME Locals 34, 1164, 2822, and 3800; Council 5 Next Wave; Minneapolis Labor Review; Teamsters Local 638; and UNITE-HERE Local 17.

## Here's Something to Sing About

Before there was karaoke, there was Joe Hill. The Twin Cities Labor Chorus and musician Emmitt Doyle combine both traditions with a concert and sing-along of labor songs on Tuesday July 28.

The annual "Labor Sing" begins at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion, at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper on the State Fairgrounds. Admission and parking are free. The chorus will pass the hat to raise funds so they can perform at the Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival in 2016 in California.

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## 1934 is Now More than a Memory

After 81 years, the first plaque ever to commemorate the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes will be unveiled on Saturday July 18.

The plaque recalls the series of strikes that broke the power of the business cabal known as the Citizens Alliance, made Minneapolis a union town, and helped change labor law nationwide.

The plaque is installed near the site of Bloody Friday, in the North Loop, where Citizens Alliance forces shot 67 workers, killing two of them.

**Details:** The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. July 18 at 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N in Minneapolis. For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/remember1934](http://www.facebook.com/remember1934)

## Talk Up Our Union at the State Fair

Want to get into the State Fair for free? 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 for our communities. Volunteers help staff our kiosk for 3-1/2 hours; the rest of the day is theirs. Volunteers 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 your preferred day and shift to: [michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org](mailto:michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org).

## Local 668 Activist JoAnn Fetsch Dies

JoAnn Fetsch, a recently retired activist from Metropolitan Council Local 668, died June 23 while on vacation in Las Vegas. She was 70.

By all accounts, whether she was on or off the job, Fetsch was one of the most helpful persons you'd ever hope to run across. Fetch was also a vice president in her local, served on several bargaining teams, and was a delegate to several AFSCME International conventions. Services were held July 2.

## It's Time to Reward Great Effort

Council 5 is accepting nominations for its 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 these four areas:

- Communications
- Local union development
- Organizing
- Political activism

All nominations must be received by Friday Aug. 7. For details on each award, and where to submit nominations, see [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org)

## Picnic Seeks Donations, Volunteers

The 2015 AFSCME Family Picnic needs donations. This annual rank-and-file picnic relies on contributions from AFSCME locals and volunteers to make the day a success. Organizers are asking for:

- Pledges for potluck food and desserts.
- Volunteers to staff the picnic.
- Cash donations to buy meals to grill, buy discounted Water Park tickets, and pay for the Pavilion.

To learn more, contact Duane Gatzke at 651-472-2787 or [kkirk77dg@comcast.net](mailto:kkirk77dg@comcast.net). Make checks payable to: "AFSCME Family Picnic / Duane R. Gatzke."

The picnic is Sunday Aug. 16 at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood.

## Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

**Council 5 Next Wave Meeting:** July 11, 11 a.m., South St. Paul

**Labor Movie Night, "Citizen Koch":** Aug. 21, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)

**Labor Ball: Speakeasy 15:** Sept. 12, 7 p.m., St. Paul (IBEW Local 110)

**Boots on the Ground Motorcycle Run:** Sept. 19, noon, Fergus Falls (Veterans Home)

**Financial Responsibility Training:** Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., South St. Paul (Council 5)

**Council 5 Convention:** Oct. 1-3, Duluth (DECC)