



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

afscmemn.org

Counting the Days 'til Day on the Hill
Day on the Hill is less than two weeks away. On Tuesday March 24, hundreds of Council 5 members converge on the Capitol to urge legislators to reinvest in the work we do, staff up for safer workplaces, and move Minnesota forward on transportation.

The base of operations, as usual, is the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. The agenda:

- Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m.
- Workshops start at 9 a.m.
- Legislative district meetings begin at 10:15 a.m.
- General session opens at 11:30 a.m.
- Visits with legislators take place from 1:15-5 p.m.

To register in advance: Go to afscmemn.org; select the "Political" tab, scroll down to "Day on the Hill 2015," then click "DOH Registration."

To ride a bus from Greater Minnesota: Buses are scheduled from Brainerd, Cloquet, Duluth, Hinckley, Mankato, Moose Lake, North Branch, Red Wing, St. Peter, Sandstone, Virginia, Willmar, and Winona.

To find out where to catch your bus, when it leaves, and how to reserve a seat, go to afscmemn.org; select the "Political" tab, scroll down to "Day on the Hill 2015," then click "DOH Transportation."

Dinner Keeps Nellie's Legacy Alive

The 2015 Nellie Stone Scholarship Dinner, which raises money for scholarships for union and family members attending MnSCU colleges and universities, takes place on Thursday March 26. It begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave. N, Oakdale.

Tickets are \$65 each, or \$490 for a table of 8. To reserve yours, email nsjscholarship@gmail.com.

AFSCME Nurses Meet May 3-6

AFSCME International's National Nurses Congress takes place May 3-6 at the Hilton San Diego Resort. The registration deadline is Thursday April 2.

To register online – and for details on the agenda, room reservations, and discounts on air and ground transportation – go to www.afscme.org/nursescongress.

Stop the Attack on Minimum Wage
House Republicans think waitresses make too much money. Two House committees have voted to create a sub-minimum wage for service industry workers who rely on tips. Their legislation then freezes that lower wage even when the state minimum increases for other workers.

As it is, restaurant workers already are three times more likely to live in poverty. Here's a tip: This bill only makes that situation worse.

What you can do: Call your state representative. Urge them to vote *against* House File 1027

- Call toll-free 1-855-982-3046

SEPC Holds Annual Meeting May 1

The State Employee Policy Committee holds its annual spring conference on Friday May 1 at the Ramada Airport/Mall Hotel in Bloomington. The agenda includes election of one SEPC trustee.

Delegate credentials must be submitted no later than Friday April 17. For information, contact Jackie O'Shea at jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org; by phone at 651-287-0524; or toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524.

Lodging: A block of rooms is reserved at \$99/night. Make your reservation by April 17; call 952-548-3600.

Keep the Dream Alive: Volunteer!

Council 5 is organizing "Keep the Dream Alive" – a month of volunteer action that publicly demonstrates how we, as AFSCME members, improve lives not only on the job, but also on our own, in our own communities.

What you can do: First, organize a volunteer activity where you live or work. Do this between March 25 and April 24. For ideas, go to afscmemn.org; click the link in the story "Keep the Dream Alive: Volunteer!"

Second, plan to join us for a celebration, march, and community service project in St. Paul on April 25.

Watch for details on our website and Facebook page.

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E Board Opens Nominations

Council 5's Executive Board is accepting nominations for three vacancies:

- **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).
- **State Sector:** Nominees must be a State of Minnesota employee.
- **West Metro District 6:** Nominees must live in Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Scott, or Wright County (or work in one of the counties if they do not live in Minnesota).

Friday March 13 is the deadline to submit nominations for the District 5 vacancy.

Friday April 10 is the deadline to submit nominations for the State Sector and District 6 vacancies.

Submit names to: AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

The term for all the seats runs through fall 2016.

Council 5 Seeks Field Representative

Council 5 is accepting applications for a field representative based in Duluth. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Friday March 27.

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

Women Refuse to Take a Back Seat

The never-ending battle to achieve equal pay for equal work flares at different times in different places. "Made in Dagenham" commemorates one of them.

The 2010 movie looks at the 1968 strike by female workers in Ford's largest auto assembly plant in Britain. There, the few hundred women – isolated in the upholstery department – rise up against the discrimination that is their daily routine, including wages that are a fraction of what men make.

Details: March's Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday March 20 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Snacks and beverages are available.

Locals Ratify New Contracts

Columbia Heights. Members of Local 495 ratified a two-year contract through 2016. It provides a 2.25 percent raise, retroactive to Jan. 1, and a 2.5 percent raise in 2016. Beginning in 2016, the employer will contribute \$30 a month to a health savings account for workers in a high-deductible insurance plan.

Lino Lakes. Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a one-year contract for 2015. It provides a 2 percent pay raise, retroactive to Jan. 1. Members and the city will split increases in health insurance premiums 50-50.

Roseville Area Schools. Members in the clerical unit of Local 1129 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2016. It provides pay raises of at least 50 cents an hour retroactive to July 1, 2014, and again on July 1, 2015. Employees at the top of their pay range receive raises of 2.75 percent each July 1. The district will continue to pay full premiums for individual health insurance.

Viewcrest Care Center. Members in this unit of Local 3558 ratified a three-year contract through Sept. 30, 2017. The agreement provides a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to Oct. 1, 2014, plus wage reopeners in 2015 and 2016. It also creates premium pay of 15 cents an hour for work between 6 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

State Negotiations Assembly: March 13, Bloomington (Ramada Airport/Mall Hotel)

Labor Lunch – Wage Theft: March 19, noon-1 p.m., Minneapolis (Hennepin County Government Center Auditorium)

Minnesota Union Women's Retreat: Registration deadline is March 20. For details, see the link at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/LES. The retreat is April 22-24 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge near Brainerd.

AFL-CIO Young Worker Summit: March 19-22, Chicago (Hilton Chicago Hotel)

CCPT Professional Development Day and Annual Convention: April 17-19, Bloomington (Ramada Airport/Mall Hotel)