



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

afscmemn.org

## A 'Day' Like No Other

Construction shut down the Capitol Rotunda, dozens of legislators' offices, and even most bathrooms. But those were speed bumps, not barriers, for the 750 Council 5 members and retirees at Day on the Hill. Safe staffing was a priority – especially among DHS members who wore green bandages to symbolize their need for safety at work. Members also pushed legislators to invest in the work we do, protect pensions, adopt policies that promote paycheck stability for working parents, and sign on to a long-term, comprehensive transportation plan.

See **photos of members in action**: Go to [www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn](http://www.flickr.com/photos/afscmemn), click "Albums," then click "Day on the Hill 2015."

## Put Words into Action on April 25

Council 5 wraps up a month of volunteer action with a celebration, march, and community service project in St. Paul on Saturday April 25.

The activities honor our union's legacy with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike, and our continuing fight for workers' rights and social and economic justice.

Members, families, and friends can join us for a spring clean-up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. Then, we'll gather for lunch and a program that includes AFSCME's Bill Lucy (who helped the sanitation workers gain a union) and the film "At the River I Stand" (which chronicles Dr. King's last days).

**Details:** Meet at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 N. Kent St., Saint Paul, at 10 a.m.

You can RSVP and get more details from the "Events" section of our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5](http://www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5).

## Council 5 Seeks Field Director

Council 5 is accepting applications for a field director based in South St. Paul. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Monday April 27.

For a complete job description and application details, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click the "Work for Us" tab.

## Move MN Gets It in Gear April 16

It's time to turn up the volume and show we're serious about a serious, long-term transportation solution for Minnesota's future. The Minnesota AFL-CIO and Move MN make that happen on Thursday April 16.

- The AFL-CIO's "Working Families Day on the Hill" holds training from 10:30-11:45 a.m., then visits legislators from 1-3:30 p.m. Meet at 175 W. Aurora Ave., St. Paul.
- In between, there's a Move MN rally on the Capitol lawn, from noon-1 p.m.
- Afterward, a labor phone bank for transportation runs from 6-9 p.m., at the Minneapolis United Labor Center, 312 Central Ave., Room 542.

In the meantime, sign a petition to your own legislator. Go to [www.movemn.org/take-action](http://www.movemn.org/take-action), then click the "Sign a Petition" tab.

## Executive Board Opens Nominations

Council 5's Executive Board is accepting nominations to fill two vacancies through fall 2016:

**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 April 10 is the deadline to submit nominations. (Note: Members eligible for both offices cannot run for both offices; they must choose one or the other.)

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

## Board Elects Local 8's Marlow

Angela Marlow, of Ramsey County Local 8, was elected March 19 to fill an Executive Board vacancy from East Metro District 5.

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## Wisconsin's Glorious Moment

It was only four years ago when hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin workers and allies mesmerized the nation. They rose up to fight newly elected Gov. Scott Walker as he stripped the state's public workers of collective bargaining. "Wisconsin Rising" captures that hopeful moment in time, before things went completely downhill for Wisconsin's workers.

Filmmaker Sam Mayfield – who started the documentary while working at The UpTake in Minnesota – will join a panel discussion as Labor Movie Night holds a special showing on the University of Minnesota's East Bank.

**Details:** "Wisconsin Rising" begins at 6 p.m. Friday April 17 at the Bell Museum, 10 Church St., Minneapolis. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Snacks and beverages are available.

## Maplewood Local Ratifies Contract

City of Maplewood members in Local 2725 ratified a two-year contract through 2016. The agreement raises wages by 2 percent retroactive to Jan. 1, then raises wages three times in 2016: 1 percent on Jan. 9, 1 percent on June 11, and 1 percent on Sept. 3.

The agreement also increases tool reimbursement to \$500 per year; expands opportunities for premium pay; and maintains existing health-insurance contributions through this year, with a re-opener in 2016.

## Labor Bowl Rolls on April 30

The annual St. Paul Labor Bowl takes place Thursday April 30. The event benefits the St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, a nonprofit arm of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation that assists union families in need.

Teams and individuals are welcome; participants are expected to raise at least \$100 each.

**Details:** The event takes place April 30 at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 University Ave. W. You can bowl at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., or 6 p.m. To reserve a slot or for other information, contact Laura at 651-222-3787 x 17, or [ltestor@stpaulunions.org](mailto:ltestor@stpaulunions.org).

## SEPC Holds Annual Meeting May 1

The State Employee Policy Committee holds its annual spring conference on Friday May 1 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](mailto:jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org); by phone at 651-287-0524; or toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 x524.

The conference, at the Ramada Airport/Mall Hotel, is expected to run from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Lodging:** A block of rooms is reserved at \$99/night, plus tax. To receive this AFSCME rate, call 952-548-3600; make your reservation no later than Friday April 17.

Other deadlines:

- Requests for an interpreter or other reasonable accommodation: Wednesday April 1
- Resolutions: Friday April 10
- Special dietary requests: Friday April 17

## It's Scholarship Season

Council 5 is now accepting applications for three scholarships.

- The \$1,000 Richard E. Patterson Scholarship and the \$500 Clarence J. Moss Scholarship are for children of Council 5 members who will be entering college.
- The \$250 Robert Norberg Scholarships are for AFSCME members continuing their own education.

**Details:** Go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); from the "Resources" tab, click "Scholarships" from the drop-down menu. Applications are due by Friday May 8.

**There's more:** Our website also has details about other scholarships for AFSCME family members. These include scholarships from:

- The Minnesota AFL-CIO, for union members advancing their own education, or for children of union members attending a college or trade school in Minnesota (deadline is Thursday April 30)
- The Nellie Stone Johnson Foundation, for students in union families enrolled at a MnSCU campus (deadline is Monday June 1)
- AFSCME International, for current college students