



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

afscmemn.org

Demanding Respect – and a Raise

You might think a budget surplus would make bargaining easier. But that's not happening as negotiations ratchet up for new contracts that cover 17,500 AFSCME members at the State of Minnesota.

So state locals aren't sitting back. They're spreading Respect/Disrespect signs in workplaces. They've declared Wednesdays "green" days. And they've started a Facebook community to stay in touch about how they've earned respect and a raise.

- To keep up, go to www.facebook.com/mnrising.
- For signs and buttons for your workplace, contact your field representative.

Negotiations resume May 18. Contracts expire June 30.

Podcast Features Safe Staffing Action

Local 1307 president Jackie Spanjers and Local 404 president Tim Headlee are guests on the Minnesota AFL-CIO's latest podcast. They talk about the campaign by DHS locals for safer working conditions in state mental-health facilities.

To listen online or to download the podcast, go to www.mnafcio.org. Click the "Podcast" tab and listen to Episode 5

Fill out our survey: If you or one of your co-workers has been assaulted by an abusive patient, let us know.

Fill out our safety survey at <http://afscmemn.org/safety-survey>. Let us know what happened, the extent of injuries, and management's response.

Next Wavers: May 15 is the Deadline

Friday May 15 is the deadline to register for AFSCME International's 2015 Next Wave Assembly.

The Assembly takes place June 12-14 in St. Louis, Mo. For registration, lodging, and other information, go to www.afscme.org; click the "Next Wave Assembly" link under "Upcoming Events" on the home page.

Women's Academy Selects Foster

Congratulations to Jenny Foster, of Department of Revenue Local 3141. Foster was admitted into AFSCME's Women's Leadership Academy.

A Fair Budget for One Minnesota

Minnesota has a \$2 billion budget surplus. There's no need for draconian cuts or yet another government shutdown.

But House Republicans have other ideas. Their budget slashes state aid to cities, eliminates health insurance for working families, and increases tuition for college students – all so they can pay for billions in unnecessary tax giveaways to millionaires and corporations.

The Legislature has less than a week to reach a budget compromise that benefits everyone.

What you can do: Tell your legislators, "Don't put millionaires ahead of Minnesotans. Invest in public services and provide tax relief to working families who truly need it."

- Text FAIRBUDGET to 237263. Or, call toll-free 1-888-833-9154 and follow the prompts to connect with your state representative.

Hunted Down for What They Think

This month's Labor Movie night features "No Master, No God." The 2014 feature film dramatizes the Palmer Raids – a now-squelched piece of American history in which the U.S. arrested 10,000 people (often without warrants) for their labor and leftist ties.

Details: Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday May 15 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Happy Hour Adds a Stiff Twist

It is indeed a "happy hour," but the subject is serious. On Thursday May 14, AFSCME's Hennepin County locals set up appetizers, a band, and a cash bar as Local 8's Angela Marlow give a first-hand account of what it was like working in Scott Walker's Wisconsin.

Details: "Union Busting in Wisconsin: A Cautionary Tale" runs from 5-7 p.m. May 14 at the Crowne Plaza Northstar, 618 2nd Ave. S, Minneapolis.

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Benefit Set for Local 2181 Member

A benefit for the Macy Kujava family takes place in Brainerd on Saturday May 16.

Kujava is a steward in DHS MinnesotaCare Local 2181. She and her 4-year-old daughter, Sophia, remain hospitalized with severe injuries they suffered when their car was hit head-on by a pickup truck near Brainerd in January.

Details: The benefit runs from 5-11 p.m. May 16 at the Brainerd Armory, 1115 Wright St. The evening includes dinner, silent auction, raffle, cash bar, and live music. Admission is \$8 for teens and adults; \$5 for children ages 4-12.

Monetary donations can be made to the "Kujava Family Benefit" account at any Affinity Plus Credit Union.

Put the Brakes on Fast Track

If you've never heard of fast track or the Trans-Pacific Partnership, here's all you need to know: Fast track and TPP are like ALEC. They let corporations and Wall Street write laws in secret.

TPP, if ratified by Congress, would give corporations more chances to ship jobs overseas, to drive down wages for the American workers who remain, and to privatize public services.

Fast track makes passage easier: It forces Congress to vote on the trade deal without the ability to change it.

How to stop fast track: Call Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Urge her to vote "no" on fast track. Tell her we don't need more trade deals written by the 1 percent for the 1 percent.

Call 1-855-980-2349 toll-free to be patched through.

Learn about '\$15 Now' and More

In big box stores, fast-food restaurants, airports and more, unions, worker centers and industry-wide campaigns are grabbing headlines and achieving big change for low-wage workers.

Learn about such campaigns as "\$15 Now" and "Our Walmart" during a forum on Wednesday May 27 at 7 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1101 Greenbrier St., St. Paul. The event is free.

Postal Workers Need Allies

The U.S. Postal Service is at risk as members of Congress try to privatize more of the post office's work. AFSCME has joined "A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service."

Learn more: Go to <http://agrandalliance.org>.

Stand with Duluth postal workers: Join a demonstration on Thursday May 14 from 3:30-5 p.m. outside the main post office in Duluth, 2800 W. Michigan.

Last Chance to Catch Untold Stories

St. Paul's annual Untold Stories labor history series wraps up with two final events:

Wednesday May 13: "From There to Here: Immigration and Migration in the Making of St. Paul," 7 p.m., East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St.

Tuesday May 19: "History, Memory, and Forgetting: Minnesota's Metis and French Canadians," 7 p.m., Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St.

Events are free and open to the public. For full details, go to www.thefriends.org/untoldstories.

LES Seeks Leadership Applicants

The University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service is accepting applications for its 2015-2016 Minnesota Union Leadership Program.

Participants take six full-day classes over a nine-month period. Through classwork and projects, they develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to move into leadership roles. Unions agree to support their participation and to pay the \$1,500 tuition.

Details: Go to www.workdayminnesota.org. Click the "Labor Education" tab, then find the article on the Union Leadership Program. The application deadline is Monday June 1.

Are You Up to Date?

Can your union reach you when you're not at work?

To make sure we can, we need your personal – not work – email and phone. Simply fill out the form on our website: Go to afscmemn.org/signup.