AFSCME Minnesota Council 5

ACTION *UPDATE*

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Wednesday May 27, 2015 afscmemn.org

Special Session, Yes. Shutdown, No.

Gov. Mark Dayton is expected to call legislators back for a special session within the next few weeks.

Legislators adjourned May 18, but the governor vetoed three of their budget bills. His objections: Not enough pre-kindergarten money; weakened environmental protections; and inadequate funding to protect consumers, to assist people with disabilities, and to adjudicate unfair labor practices.

If those budget measures are not resolved, notices warning of possible layoffs will go out to 10,000 state employees on June 1.

"Non-essential" state employees whose jobs are in K-12 education, economic development, agriculture, and environmental sections could be locked out of work on July 1 – if the Legislature and governor do not agree on bills to fully fund state government functions.

AFSCME's position is clear: With $1 billion of the state surplus still available, there is no need for a shutdown or layoffs. We expect Gov. Dayton and the Legislature to reach a deal without another state shutdown.

For updates: See afscmemn.org.

Ride Helps Out Veterans Home

The annual 2 Wheels 4 Heroes motorcycle ride will raise money for the Poly Trauma Center at the Minneapolis Veterans Home on Saturday June 6.

The ride begins at 10 a.m. at American Legion Post 566, 7731Lake Drive, Lino Lakes. Riders stop in Marine on St. Croix and Chisago City before ending at Route 65 Pub and Grub in East Bethel. The ride is free, and takes place rain or shine.

All proceeds from donations, raffles, and live and silent auctions go to the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

Details: Go to www.2wheels4heroes.com.

Women's Academy Selects McCain

Congratulations to Sharice McCain, of University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800. McCain was accepted into AFSCME International's Women's Leadership Academy. McCain will take part in training and special projects between June and December.

ALEC Exposed – Again

A TV station shows firsthand how corporate lobbyists, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and state legislators cozy up behind closed doors to write and pass laws that are written and paid for by those very corporations.

Watch the video expose: Go to www.11alive.com. In the Search field, type "Legislators, lobbyists meet behind closed doors."

Picnic Invites Donations, Volunteers

The planning committee for the 2015 AFSCME Family Picnic is now accepting donations. This annual rank-and-file picnic relies on contributions from AFSCME locals and volunteers to make the picnic a success.

Organizers are seeking:

- Pledges for potluck food and desserts
- Cash donations to acquire meat to grill, to buy discounted Water Park tickets, and to rent the Pavilion
- Volunteers to staff the picnic

To learn more: Contact Duane Gatzke at 651-472-2787 or kkirk77dg@comcast.net. Make checks payable to: "AFSCME Family Picnic / Duane R. Gatzke."

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

LES Seeks Leadership Candidates

Monday June 1 is the deadline to apply to the 2015-2016 Minnesota Union Leadership Program through the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service.

Participants take six full-day classes over a nine-month period. Through classwork and projects, they develop the knowledge, skills, and strategic-thinking abilities necessary to move into leadership roles in their unions.

Details: For full information and application forms, go to www.workdayminnesota.org. Click the "Labor Education" tab, then find the article about the Union Leadership Program.

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Field Rep Jobs Open at Council 5

Friday May 29 is the deadline to submit an application for one of three field representative jobs based in South St. Paul.

For a complete job description and application details, go to afscmemn.org, then click the "Work for Us" tab. Applications are due by 4 p.m.

Recognition is in Their Blood

North Memorial Blood Centers have named Local 66's Judy Thorson "coordinator of the year" for her work in organizing blood drives at St. Louis County's Northland Office Building.

Thorson's efforts and the generosity of AFSCME Local 66 members in Virginia made them one of North Memorial's top 10 donation sites this past year.

Farber Named to DFL Hall of Fame

AFSCME retiree Katie Farber will be inducted into the DFL's Hall of Fame at a ceremony on Sunday June 14. Farber is a former member of Hennepin County Human Services Local 34 who has been a tireless political activist for AFSCME and the DFL.

Details: The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington. See www.womenssummitcommittee.com.

We Have a (Scholarship) Winner!

Congratulations to Parsa Najmaie, daughter of Sima Taheri, a member of Hennepin County Medical Center Local 2474. Parsa won a 2015 Family Scholarship from AFSCME International.

The $2,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors and can be renewed annually for undergraduate studies. Rarsa is graduating from Breck School in Golden Valley and will attend Barnard College in New York City in the fall.

CEO Pay Keeps Climbing

Did you get a 15.6 percent pay raise last year? Well, that's what CEOs at America's biggest corporations got in 2014.

S&P 500 corporations paid their CEOs an average of $13.5 million last year, according to the AFL-CIO's annual Executive Pay Watch. In terms that we can comprehend, it means the average American worker works all year to make what the average CEO makes in 6 hours. Overall, the top CEOs make 373 times what the average American worker makes in a year.

In Minnesota, average pay for CEOs at big corporations is even higher – $13.9 million. Minnesota's highest-paid CEO is Brian Cornell of Target; he pulled in almost $28.2 million in 2014 – or $13,540 an hour.

To get all the details, go to www.paywatch.org.

Benner Elected Chair of MNsure

Congratulations to Peter Benner, retired director of Council 6. Benner was elected board chair of MNsure, Minnesota's publicly run health insurance exchange.

Benner has been a board member since MNsure's creation.

Have You Got It on Your Calendar?

Financial Responsibility Training: June 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Duluth (Holiday Inn)

AFSCME Next Wave Assembly: June 12-14, St. Louis

Minnesota AFL-CIO at the 2015 Pride Parade: June 28, 11 a.m., downtown Minneapolis

AFSCME Family Picnic: Aug. 16, Maplewood (Battle Creek Regional Park)

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)

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