



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

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

## **Unit 8 Contract Vote Nov. 30 – Dec. 4**

Delegates for Unit 8 (corrections) voted this morning to bring a tentative contract agreement and mediator's proposal to the full membership for a vote. After 8 hours of mediation, the union and employer couldn't reach agreement, so the mediator offered a proposal. The compromise would give union members five additional shift exchanges, up to a maximum of 33 exchanges a year. That gain was ranked as a top priority for delegates going into negotiations. The compromise would give the employer one shift of an employee's accumulated vacation balance in lieu of the employee serving an unpaid suspension. The employer's goal was to save money with this change in discipline.

The tentative contract agreement negotiated by Unit 8 includes a pay raise of 2.5 percent retroactive to July 1, 2015; another 2.5 percent raise on July 1, 2016; plus steps in both years. That means employees still eligible for annual steps could see their pay increase by 10 percent by the time the two-year contract expires. The annual pay raises would more than offset modest increases in health-insurance costs.

A summary of the tentative agreement and the mediator's proposal can be viewed at [www.afscmemn.org/unit-8](http://www.afscmemn.org/unit-8). Members will be able to vote on the deal **Nov. 30 through Dec. 4**. Stay tuned for information about voting sites and absentee ballots.

## **UMN Locals Picket at Morrill Hall**

Unions on campus have been in contract negotiations since late June. The U of MN has yet to propose an acceptable wage increase. Their current offer is between 0.25 and 0.75 percent. On **Tuesday, Nov. 17**, join us to let the University administration know we deserve Raises and Respect. We'll picket outside Morrill Hall (100 Church St. SE in Minneapolis) at 2 p.m.

## **Dec. 24: State Employees Get Backpay**

The 15,600 state employees covered by the new contract can expect to see their backpay (to July 1, 2015) included in paychecks on Dec. 24. Direct further inquiries to Jo Pels at [Jo.Pels@afscmemn.org](mailto:Jo.Pels@afscmemn.org).

## **State Contracts Approved**

The Legislature's Subcommittee on Employee Relations met on Oct. 29 to consider approval of contracts that cover 15,600 AFSCME members who work for the Executive Branch in Unit 2 (craft and maintenance), Unit 3 (service), Unit 4 (health care), Unit 6 (clerical), Unit 7 (technical) and Unit 25 (radio communications). The end result was a tie vote along party lines. You can listen to an audio recording of the two-hour committee hearing at the SER website: [www.ser.leg.mn/audio](http://www.ser.leg.mn/audio).

The tie vote means the SER took no action, so the contracts will go to the Legislature for final approval during the 2016 session. Our executive director, Eliot Seide, went on the air at AM 950 last week to discuss the tie vote and what it means for state employees. Listen to the podcast at [www.am950radio.com](http://www.am950radio.com).

The contracts will go into effect Dec. 1, 2015. If you have questions, email Jo Pels at [Jo.Pels@afscmemn.org](mailto:Jo.Pels@afscmemn.org).

## **Walker Employees Hold Picket**

AFSCME members at Walker Methodist Health Center are asking for a fair contract. Join us outside Walker (3737 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis) on **Sunday, Nov. 15** for a solidarity rally and leafleting, and on **Sunday, Nov. 22** for an informational picket. Both events take place at 11:00 a.m. Email Michael LaCoste at [Michael.Lacoste@afscmemn.org](mailto:Michael.Lacoste@afscmemn.org) for more details.

## **Hennepin County Locals Stand United**

Last week, Hennepin County employees and supporters rallied to demand fair wages and respect. The employer's current offer of a 1 percent increase for some employees and 1.75 percent for others is an attempt to divide and conquer our bargaining unit. Follow progress on Facebook by searching for "Hennepin AFSCME Action."



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## Trumka Visits Humphrey School

AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka will give a public lecture titled 'The Right Deal for America: Why It's Time to Rewrite the Economic Rules' at the Cowles Auditorium on **Wednesday, Nov. 18**. Reception at 4 p.m., followed by the lecture from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but online registration is required. Visit [events.umn.edu](http://events.umn.edu) for details.

## Eat, Drink, Debate with MN for Hillary

Hillary Clinton has earned our union's endorsement in the 2016 presidential race. Watch the democratic presidential primary debate with Hillary for MN at the Crooked Pint Alehouse at 7:30 p.m. on **Saturday, Nov. 14**. You can get more details and RSVP on Facebook by searching for "MN for Hillary."

## Special Election Dec. 8

A special election for House District 3A (Koochiching County) will take place on **Dec. 8**. We've endorsed Rob Ecklund. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Labor Movie Night Heats Up

Chico Mendes was a Brazilian rubber tapper, unionist, and environmental activist who was murdered in 1988. Join us **Friday, Nov. 20** for a screening of "Burning Season," a film focused on Mendes' dedication to preserving the Amazon rainforest and his murder in a drive-by shooting by a disgruntled rancher. Labor Movie night takes place at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis.

## Council 5 Seeks Political Organizer

Council 5 is accepting applications for a political organizer based in Duluth. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on **Monday, Nov. 23**. For a complete job description and application details, go to [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org); click the 'Work for Us' tab.

## AFSCME Members Got Out the Vote

In Duluth, we helped elect Emily Larson as Mayor; Elissa Hansen, Noah Hobbs, Gary Anderson, Joel Sipress, and Em Westerlund were successfully elected to the Duluth City Council; David Kirby and Nora Sandstad were victorious in their Duluth School Board races. School Board candidate Renee VanNett came in just short of winning her race.

We swept the City Council races in Maplewood, helping to elect Tou Xiong and Bryan Smith.

St. Paul City Council President Russ Stark and Members Dai Thao, Chris Tolbert, Dan Bostrum and Jane Prince were elected. Our Ward 2 candidate Darren Tobolt was narrowly defeated. All of our candidates for St. Paul School Board – Zuki Ellis, Steve Marchese, Jon Shumacher, and Mary Vanderwert – won their races.

In the District 46A special election, our endorsed candidate Peggy Flanagan was successfully elected.

## No Federal Shutdown

President Obama signed a spending package on Nov. 3 that will fund the federal government through Sept. 30, 2017. The deal also raises the debt limit until March 2017. This means all federally funded programs and services supported by the State of Minnesota will continue. No state employees will be laid off due to a federal shutdown.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. If you have an event people should know about, email Jennifer Munt: [Jennifer.Munt@afscmemn.org](mailto:Jennifer.Munt@afscmemn.org).

For the most current AFSCME news and events, and to download and print a copy of Action Update, visit [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

### Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

**Labor Movie Night:** "Chicken Run," Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)  
**AFSCME Council 5 Safety Conference:** Jan. 20, 2016, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Bloomington (Airport Ramada)  
**AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill:** April 5, 2016, St. Paul (Xcel Center)  
**Council 5 Retirees United Convention:** April 19, 2016  
**SEPC Spring Conference:** April 29, 2016