



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

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

## **Safety Conference Happens Jan. 20**

Injuries are rising for AFSCME members who work in human services and health care. Violent clients are assaulting us and sending us to the hospital.

Meanwhile, management is giving us lip service.

Attend our Safety Conference to learn about your rights and to find real solutions to fix the problems.

**Details:** The AFSCME Safety Conference takes place on Wednesday, **Jan. 20** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ramada Mall of America in Bloomington (2300 East American Boulevard). Participation is free to AFSCME members who work in health care and human services. Lunch will be provided.

**To RSVP:** Contact Melinda Pearson at [Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org) or 651-287-0524, or search for "Safe Staffing MN" on Facebook.

**Lodging:** Participants from outside the metro are responsible for their own accommodations. To book a room at the Ramada, call 952-854-3411.

## **Hennepin County Reaches T.A.**

After a months-long contract campaign, which included multiple informational pickets and culminated in a pre-negotiations rally last Monday, AFSCME members who work at Hennepin County have reached a tentative contract agreement with the employer. The new contract language maintains step increases for the next three years and implements a base wage of \$15.00 per hour for all employees. That means all job classes with current wages below \$15.00 an hour will automatically get an increase to \$15.00 effective 2016.

The T.A. also includes a general wage adjustment of 2.5 percent per year for workers at the top of the wage range. Workers in the range will get a general adjustment of 1.5 percent in 2016 and 2017, and 2.5 percent in 2018. Additionally, the offer provides market adjustments to 18 job classifications.

The contract vote is scheduled for **Dec. 3** at 18 sites around the county. Voting sites will be posted at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org) as they become available. A complete summary of the offer will be available to bargaining unit members this week.

## **Justice for Walker Caregivers**

Caregivers at Walker Methodist are fighting for a fair contract. Dozens of Walker workers, alongside community activists and allies from the labor movement, held an informational picket outside Walker Methodist Health Center on Sunday afternoon. A recap of the event, including photos, is available at [www.afscmemn.org/walker](http://www.afscmemn.org/walker).

To show your solidarity, call Scott Riddle, Walker CEO, at 612-827-5931. Tell him it's time to stop breaking the law and start negotiating fairly.

## **Public Unions Keep Everyone Safe**

An opinion article by AFSCME field representative and former bridge inspector Bart Andersen was featured in the Duluth News Tribune last week. Andersen was on the front lines when the 1-35W bridge collapsed in 2007, and with the help of our union, spoke out to secure transportation funding for safe roads and bridges.

Andersen's article emphasizes the important role public unions play in keeping Minnesotans safe. Special-interest attacks on unions will result in the deterioration of our infrastructure and put working families in danger. To read and share the article, visit [www.duluthnewstribune.com](http://www.duluthnewstribune.com) and search for "Bart Andersen."

## **Mankato Unions Unite for Food Drive**

AFSCME Local 638 has joined a coalition of unions at Minnesota State University Mankato in collecting food and monetary donations for the ECHO Food Shelf **Nov. 23 – Dec. 11**. Donations are being collected at the Career Development Center (WA 209); Faculty Association Office (MH 240B); ITS Breakroom (ML 3010); Library Administration (MN 3104); and in the Wiecking Lobby at MSU Mankato. For more details, email Pat Pearce at [Patrick.Pearce@mnsu.edu](mailto:Patrick.Pearce@mnsu.edu).

## **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.



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## Locals Ratify Contracts

**Local 56** (Minneapolis Public Schools) ratified a three-year contract that includes 1.5 percent in 2016 and 1 percent in 2017 and 2018, plus steps and added language for longevity and shift differentials.

**Local 517** (Washington County Housing and Redevelopment) reached a two-year agreement that includes a 2.55 percent wage increase per year.

**Local 517** (Washington County) ratified a health insurance reopener agreement.

**Local 636** (Good Samaritan Home) has reached a one-year agreement which gives employees with less than 10 years seniority a 15 percent hourly wage increase. Those with more than 10 years seniority will receive a \$1 hourly raise, plus a longevity differential at 10 or more years. The agreement also includes a uniform stipend and improved scheduling options.

**Local 1337** (Earle Brown Terrace) has reached a tentative agreement that includes a 2 percent wage increase, plus seniority and access language.

**Local 1854** (St. Paul Public Housing) reached a three year agreement including a 3 percent wage increase each year. Additionally, all employees currently earning less than \$15.00 per hour gained an automatic increase. The contract also includes increases in transportation reimbursement.

**Local 3481** (Crisis Connection) ratified a wage reopener for a 1 percent increase.

**Local 3815** (City of Farmington) has ratified a new three-year contract that includes 2 percent in 2016, 2.5 percent in 2017, and 2.75 percent in 2018, as well as increases in vacation accrual, pager pay, and premium pay for specified duties.

## Apply for AFSCME Scholarships

AFSCME International is accepting applications for its annual Family Scholarship. The renewable, \$2,000 scholarship is for current high-school seniors in AFSCME families who will graduate in 2016. The application deadline is **Dec. 31**. Get application materials and eligibility requirements at [www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org).

## Pensions Drive Our Economy

The 2015 annual financial reports of Minnesota's four public pension funds illustrate the significant contributions our pensions make to strengthen our economy. In total, public pensions fed nearly \$4 billion into Minnesota's economy in fiscal year 2015. Download the full report at [www.afscmemn.org/pensions](http://www.afscmemn.org/pensions).

## Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

**Labor Movie Night:** "Chicken Run," Dec. 18, 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 (RiverCentre)

**Council 5 Retirees United Convention:** April 19, 2016

**SEPC Spring Conference:** April 29, 2016

## 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 at [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 to distribute or post on your bulletin board, visit [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).