



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

afscmemn.org

Expect an Action-Packed Convention

AFSCME Strong training for every delegate, a rally in support of union jobs in Duluth, and a speech by Gov. Mark Dayton are highlights of Council 5's annual convention this week.

The convention, "Stronger Together," runs Thursday Oct. 1 until Saturday Oct. 3 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Key events:

- A **Safe Staffing** strategy session occurs Wednesday Sept. 30 at the Holiday Inn, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Lake Michigan/Huron Room.
- New delegate **orientation** is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.
- **Workshops** run Thursday morning at the DECC.
- The **convention** officially opens Thursday at 1:45 p.m. AFSCME Strong training and the rally happen Friday; Gov. Dayton speaks to delegates Saturday. Business concludes by noon Saturday.

Communications Job Open at Council

Council 5 is seeking an experienced Communications Coordinator. The position is responsible for writing Action Update and Stepping Up, for overseeing AFSCME's presence at the State Fair, and for other membership communication duties.

A full job description is at <http://afscmemn.org/jobs>.

To apply: Applications are due no later than Friday Oct. 2 at 4:30 p.m. Submit a resume and cover letter to: Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075; fax them to 651-455-1311; or email them to michelle.stein@afscmemn.org.

Move MN Takes Dual Paths

The Move MN coalition is redirecting its efforts in two distinct ways as members continue pushing for a long-term, comprehensive transportation solution.

- Progress in Motion will focus on roads and bridges. To get involved, go to www.transportationalliance.com; click the "PIM" tab.
- Transportation Forward will focus on transit, walking and bicycling needs. To get involved, go to www.transportationforwardmn.org.

Legislators to Act on Contract

The Legislature's Subcommittee on Employee Relations is scheduled to meet on Thursday Oct. 22 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 committee's actions will determine when the contracts legally take effect. That will determine when AFSCME members can expect retroactive pay raises.

Corrections Unit 8: The table team will meet with a mediator for the first time on Oct. 26 to try to settle the unresolved contract for the 1,800 Council 5 corrections members in Unit 8.

Executive Board Fills 3 Vacancies

Congratulations to the following activists, elected to fill vacancies on the Council 5 Executive Board:

- **Jenny Foster**, Department of Revenue Local 3141, representing District 5 (East Metro)
- **Jessica Langhorst**, Moose Lake DHS Local 1092, representing District 1(Northeast)
- **Jacqueline Terry**, DEED Local 22, representing District 5 (East Metro)

Retirees Plan Riverboat Cruise

The East Metro chapter of Council 5's Retirees United is organizing a riverboat cruise on the St. Croix on Wednesday Oct. 7. The casual excursion aboard a covered paddle-wheeler leaves Stillwater at 11:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.50 per person, which includes lunch.

To reserve a ticket: Call 651-430-1234 or order online at www.stillwaterriverboats.com.

Questions? Call Susan Racine at 651-731-1865.

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Seide Joins White House Summit

Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide will be part of a televised White House summit on Oct. 7 about how workers can strengthen their power on the job.

"The labor movement has long served as a powerful force for ensuring that workers' voices are heard and for strengthening the middle class," President Obama says. "The Summit on Worker Voice will energize a new generation of Americans to come together and recognize the potential power of their voice at work."

Details: Seide joins a panel discussion on Wednesday Oct. 7 from 1:15-2:30 p.m. You can watch live at www.whitehouse.gov/live.

LES Launches New Skills Courses

Labor skills courses from the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service start this month.

The classes run on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Twin Cities' West Bank campus. Tuition for the noncredit classes is \$50. The fall schedule includes:

- "Introduction to the Labor Movement," Oct. 24. Register by Oct. 16.
- "Social Media for Organizing and Mobilizing," Nov. 7. Register by Oct. 30.

To register: Call 612-624-5020 or email les@umn.edu. For full class details, click the "Labor Education" tab at www.workdayminnesota.org.

State AFL-CIO Seeks Field Organizers

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is creating one-year, full-time field organizing positions based in Albert Lea and Willmar. The organizers will work with area labor councils and other organizations on political, legislative, and issue campaigns. The positions last through Nov. 15, 2016. For a full job description, go to www.mnafcio.org; click the "Get Involved" tab, then click the "Job Openings" headline.

To apply: Submit a resume and cover letter no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday Oct. 16. Send applications to Minnesota AFL-CIO, President Shar Knutson, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55103.

AFSCME Candidates Win in Duluth

AFSCME-endorsed candidates prevailed in Duluth's primary elections this month and now move on to the Nov. 3 general election. AFSCME is supporting:

- Duluth Mayor: **Emily Larson**
- Duluth City Council: **Gary Anderson**, District 1; **Joel Sipress**, District 2; **Em Westerlund**, District 3; **Janet Kennedy**, District 5; **Elissa Hansen and Noah Hobbs**, At Large.

For other endorsements in November – including school boards in Duluth, Eden Prairie, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan, and St. Paul; the Maplewood City Council; and the St. Paul City Council – go to afscmemn.org. Click the "Political" tab, then click "AFSCME Election Endorsements."

Labor Looks Ahead to 2016

The Minnesota AFL-CIO holds its Legislative and Political Conference Nov. 12-13 in St. Paul. The conference focuses on labor's 2016 legislative priorities, policy initiatives, and the work necessary to win 2016 elections. Cost is \$75.

To register: Go to www.mnafcio.org; click the story on the home page.

AFSCME Puts Video Webinars Online

AFSCME International has opened an online video library on basic union practices for local officers and activists. The videos cover topics such as Weingarten rights, fair representation, and just cause.

To watch any of the webinars, go to www.afscme.org; click the "Video" tab and, from the "Categories" menu, select "AFSCME's Got Skills Webinars."

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

AFSCME Women's Conference: Oct. 9-11, Indianapolis

Labor Move Night: "The Delano Manongs," Oct. 16, 6 p.m., Minneapolis (United Labor Centre)

General Election: Nov. 3, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., polls open statewide for municipal elections