



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

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

## Convention Credentials Due Sept. 21

Locals attending Council 5's 2015 convention must make sure delegate credentials are postmarked no later than Monday Sept. 21.

The convention, "Stronger Together," runs Oct. 1-3 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. The general session opens at 1:45 p.m. Thursday Oct. 1. Business concludes by noon Saturday Oct. 3.

Here's a rundown of other key information:

- **Resolutions** are due by Friday Sept. 11.
- Requests for child care, interpreters, dietary needs, or other **special accommodations** must be submitted by Monday Sept. 21.
- New delegate **orientation** is Wednesday Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Workshops** run the morning of Thursday Oct. 1.

## Duluth Primaries Take Place Sept. 15

Primary elections take place in Duluth on Tuesday Sept. 15 for mayor, city council, and school board. Polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. To find out where you vote, go to <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

In contested primaries, AFSCME members are endorsing these candidates to advance to the Nov. 3 general election. (In most districts, there is no primary race.)

- **Mayor:** Emily Larson
- **City Council District 5:** Janet Kennedy

For a complete list of AFSCME endorsements for November, go to: [afscmemn.org/afscme-endorsed-candidates](http://afscmemn.org/afscme-endorsed-candidates).

## Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

Immigrant workers are often invisible – a concept that "A Day Without a Mexican" takes to a literal extreme. Using plenty of farce and satire, the film imagines the political, personal, and economic fallout if immigrant workers suddenly vanished. Kind of like if Donald Trump gets his way.

**Details:** Labor Movie Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday Sept. 18 at the Minneapolis Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Snacks and beverages are available.

## Pass the Word about Labor Ball

The third annual Labor Ball, co-sponsored by Council 5's Next Wave, takes place Saturday Sept. 12 with a new theme at a new location. This year's party, "Speakeasy 15," includes food, a cash bar, live music, deejays, and dancing. It's a come-as-you-are event – but the speakeasy theme suggests all kinds of opportunities for costumes and creative attire.

**Details:** Labor Ball is Sept. 12, from 7 p.m.-1 a.m., at the IBEW Local 110 hall, 1330 E. Conway, St. Paul. Admission is free, but donations will be taken to support the East Side Freedom Library.

## New Retirees Can Get Back Pay

State employees who retire after July 1 but before AFSCME's new contract officially goes into effect are entitled to retroactive back pay on raises for which they are eligible. New retirees should request the back pay from their appointing authority, according to Minnesota Management and Budget.

## Worker Center Holds Ball Sept. 12

A fundraiser for the Greater Minnesota Worker Center takes place Saturday Sept. 12 in St. Cloud. The featured guest is Saru Jayaramen, co-founder of ROC United, which has used ground-breaking ideas to improve careers for restaurant workers in New York City and elsewhere.

The St. Cloud workers center is a union-sponsored initiative to organize low-wage workers in central Minnesota.

**Details:** The fundraiser, a masquerade ball, features dinner, dancing, and more. It runs from 6-10 p.m. in the Cascade Ballroom at the Atwood Memorial Center Student Union, 651 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S., on the campus of St. Cloud State University. Individual tickets are \$25; sponsorship levels and tables also are available.

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## Fergus Falls Lines Up Motorcycle Run

A motorcycle fun run on Saturday Sept. 19 benefits the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. The "Boots on the Ground" run begins at noon at the veterans home, 1821 N. Park St. All donations benefit the home's recreation fund, which supports outings for residents.

**Information:** Call Local 735's Darcy Soland at 218-731-8246. Make donations payable to "Boots on the Ground."

## Don't Miss Women's Event Deadline

Monday Sept. 14 is the deadline to register for the 2015 AFSCME Strong Women's Conference. The conference runs from 9 a.m. Friday Oct. 9 until noon on Sunday Oct. 11 in downtown Indianapolis, Ind.

Lodging at the JW Marriott hotel is \$194.22 per night (including tax). For details on registration, lodging, travel discounts, the tentative agenda, and more, go to [www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org). Under "Upcoming Events," click the link for "2015 Women's Conference."

## 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.

**Full class details:** Go to [www.workdayminnesota.org](http://www.workdayminnesota.org), then click the "Labor Education" tab.

**To register:** Call 612-624-5020 or email [les@umn.edu](mailto:les@umn.edu).

## Stop the Assaults at Work

As part of Council 5's "Safe Staffing" campaign, members are planning a safety conference to create real solutions to the number of assaults by violent patients. You can share your concerns at an open meeting the day before Council 5's annual convention.

**Details:** Join us on Wednesday Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in downtown Duluth. Learn more on Facebook at "Safe Staffing MN."

**Questions?** Contact JoAnn Holton at 651-287-0506.

## Locals Lock in New Contracts

**Aramark.** Members in the food-service unit of Local 1949 at Bemidji State University ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2017. They will receive raises of 20 cents an hour retroactive to July 1, then additional 20-cent raises on Jan. 1, 2016; July 1, 2016; and Jan. 1, 2017. The new contract also expands eligibility for bereavement and sick leave, and improves retirement, severance, and seniority language.

**City of Farmington.** Members in both units of Local 3815 have an early agreement on a three-year contract through 2018. They will receive raises of 2 percent on March 1, 2016; 2.5 percent on Jan. 1, 2017; and 2.75 percent on Jan. 1, 2018. The contract increases vacation accrual; doubles "pager" pay for time on-call on Fridays through Sundays; and provides premium pay for parks workers performing specified duties.

**Radio Communications Unit 25.** Members of Local 3142 ratified their two-year contract with the State of Minnesota. The contract is similar to the state master contract, with annual step increases, annual pay raises of 2.5 percent, plus additional premium pay.

## 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 place an order at [www.stillwaterriverboats.com](http://www.stillwaterriverboats.com).

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

## Scholarship Applications Available

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.

**Details:** For application materials and full eligibility requirements, go to [www.afscme.org/family](http://www.afscme.org/family). The application deadline is Dec. 31.