



Day on the Hill 2016 was a great success. Dennis Frazier, the president of Local 66, joins in the applause during a packed rally.

## Huge Day on the Hill Turnout

Day on the Hill was a rousing success. About 800 members of AFSCME Council 5 descended on lawmakers to push for change for workers and all Minnesotans.

Members from across the state met with their own representatives and senators, as well as lawmakers who play key roles in passing legislation of particular importance to AFSCME members.

Those issues include: safe staffing, banning private prisons, reinvesting in the work we do, making education affordable, funding transportation and protecting retirement security.

Learn more and see photos at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/workers-crowd-legislative-offices-during-day-hill>.

## SEPC Venue Change

If you're attending the SEPC Conference on **April 29**, please note that the location has changed to the Radisson Blu Mall of America. That's because the Ramada MOA (the old Thunderbird) is closing. The Radisson is a union hotel and offers free parking. Registration starts at 7 a.m., and the conference at 9 a.m. The hotel room rate is \$129. Got questions? You can email [melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org) or call 651-287-0524.

## Help Recognize Volunteers

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is seeking nominations to honor union members with strong community involvement. The Bea Kersten Community Services Project Award honors an affiliated union that has made significant community contributions, while the Terrel D.

## Support Safe Staffing

Clocking in shouldn't mean putting your life on the line. That's why AFSCME members who work with violent patients are standing up for safe staffing. State-run mental health hospitals are so understaffed and so overworked, it's downright dangerous. See their stories on Facebook at Safe Staffing MN.

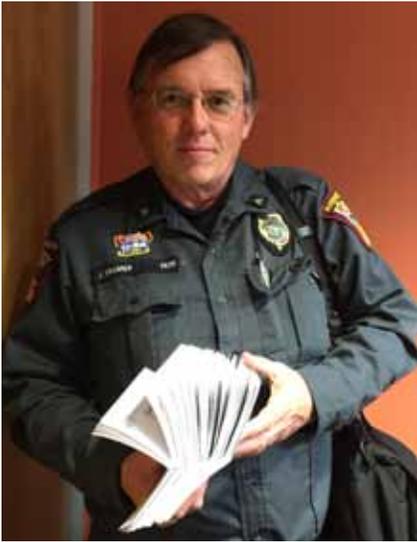
Gov. Dayton has answered our cry for help. His \$177 million plan for safe staffing would add 335 full-time staff at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter; 33 new staff at Anoka Metro-Regional Treatment Center; and safety renovations at both facilities. Six of the state's smaller hospitals would get funding to operate at their full, 16-bed capacity. The seventh, in St. Peter, would be converted to a CARE facility without job loss.

Legislators must make it a priority to protect public workers who protect the public.

**Text SAFE to 237263** to be connected to your senator and state representative, or call your state representative at **855-790-8847** and your senator at **855-420-7709** and follow the prompts.

**ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:** Support Governor Dayton's budget for safe staffing at state-run psychiatric hospitals.

Merriman Community Services Award honors individuals, and the Youth Volunteer Award recognizes a young union member or dependent. Get nomination forms online at [www.mnafcio.org](http://www.mnafcio.org). The deadline is **June 30**.



## AFSCME Strong Trek

This is what AFSCME Strong looks like! Jim Ullmer traveled 1,009 miles, from Worthington to Thief River Falls, talking with workers about issues that matter to them in their workplaces. Jim and Public Safety Local 3142 got 500 workers to sign a maintenance-of-membership card. It's a commitment to protect our jobs and our rights, and to preserve the quality of the public services we provide.

"You can't quit," says Jim. "Doing it is the only way to get the job done." It's how we build a stronger union with members who are more engaged. #AFSCMEstrong

## Vacation Donation Request

AFSCME member Connie Kiffmeyer (Local 2829), who's worked at the Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State for 29 years, is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for a recurrence of breast cancer. She's used up her sick and vacation leave battling her illness, and needs vacation donations to keep getting her salary and medical insurance. State workers can help by donating some of their vacation leave online at [www.state.mn.us/employee](http://www.state.mn.us/employee).

## AFSCME is Hiring

Council 5 is looking for a political organizer who can work within our membership, allied organizations and diverse communities to engage and mobilize support for electoral and legislative activities and priorities. The organizer will work out of the South St. Paul office and focus on the western region, from Minneapolis to the Dakota border, south of I-94 and west of Mankato. Find details online at: [www.afscmemn.org/job\\_listing](http://www.afscmemn.org/job_listing). The deadline is **Friday, April 15**.

## Stamp Out Hunger

Help our brothers and sisters in the National Association of Letter Carriers aid fellow Americans struggling with hunger. Just put a

non-perishable food item by your mailbox on **May 14**, and they'll deliver it to a local food bank. They collected 70.6 million pounds of food in 2015. Ask your letter carrier for more information or go online to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org).

## Bowling for Organized Labor

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation is hosting the Sixth Annual Labor Bowl **May 5** to benefit the Labor Studies and Resource Center. Make donations to: LSRC, 2016 Labor Bowl, Attn: Laura, 353 W. 7th St., Suite 201, Saint Paul, 55102. Call Laura at 651-222-3787 to book a bowling time by **April 28**.

## Labor Movie Night

*Northern Lights*, the bittersweet story of young lovers caught up in farmers' struggles against the grain trade, the banks and the railroads screens Friday at 7 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library in Saint Paul.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. You can email [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org) to share an event, or download a copy for your workplace bulletin board at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

## Upcoming AFSCME Council 5 EVENTS

| Event                                       | Date             | Place   |
|---|------------------|---|
| Labor Movie Night                           | April 15, 7 p.m. | East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul                                       |
| Council 5 Retirees Convention               | April 19         | AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul  |
| SEPC Spring Conference                      | April 29         | Radisson Blu Mall of America, Bloomington                                   |
| Sixth Annual Labor Bowl                     | May 5            | Midway Pro Bowl, Saint Paul   |
| AFSCME 42nd Annual International Convention | July 18-22       | Las Vegas, Nevada. Council 5 will be staying at the Paris Hotel, Las Vegas. |
| AFSCME Family Picnic                        | Aug. 21          | Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood                                       |