



More than 60 St. Louis County workers in Hibbing (above) and Virginia protested understaffing in Public Health and Human Services. In response, county commissioners approved hiring 30 employees, including six new social workers in the Initial Intervention Unit, 10 child protection staff, five financial workers and four supervisors, plus five correctional officers. "It's not the solution, but it's a step in the right direction," says Local 66 president Dennis Frazier.

Vote on Paid Parental Leave

State workers, including those at MnSCU, will vote **Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1** on ratifying paid parental leave. Under a memorandum of understanding, state workers who are birth or adoptive parents would get six weeks of paid leave. That would save the average state worker \$6,200 in lost time, along with giving new parents time to bond with their children. Providing this leave would benefit the state, too, making it easier to recruit and retain workers.

If a simple majority of AFSCME members ratify the MOU, it goes to the Subcommittee on Employee Relations for interim approval and then to the state Legislature. To vote, bring your AFSCME card for verification. Only AFSCME members are eligible.

Fee payers can become eligible to vote by signing a membership card at a voting site. Cast your ballot at any location listed here: <http://tinyurl.com/hvwbzux>.

Free College for Members

AFSCME is excited to announce a new benefit for members, families and retirees: a free associate degree from Eastern Gateway Community College.

We want to help you and your family succeed without piling on thousands of dollars in student debt. An associate degree can be your pathway to new opportunities, greater responsibility, a better job and higher wages. This program is also designed to be flexible: You can take online classes that fit your schedule. The AFSCME Free College Benefit is one more way

Labor 2016 Day of Action

Please help elect candidates who support working families and share our values this fall. Join us in kicking off our first Labor 2016 Day of Action by door knocking on **Wednesday, Aug. 17**. Together, we can protect the Minnesota Senate, take back the State House and win in the 2nd and 8th congressional districts.

The First Day of Action runs from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at these locations:

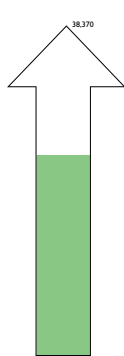
- Albert Lea - Union Center, 1407 MN-13
- Blaine - Teamsters 120, 9422 Ulysses St. NE
- Duluth - Wellstone Hall, 2002 London Road
- Faribault - Sheet Metal Workers 480, 16 3rd St. NE
- Grand Rapids - IBEW 160 Hall, 300 17th St SE
- St. Cloud - East Central ALC, 4140 Thielman Lane
- St. Paul - St. Paul RLF Office, 353 West 7th St.
- Willmar - AFSCME Council 5, 1305 1st St. S

For more information, contact Bethany at 320-296-5853 or bwinkels@mnaflcio.org. Future action dates include **Sept. 8, Oct. 1 and Oct. 15**.

AFSCME helps members secure the opportunities and the respect you deserve. Get the details here: <http://tinyurl.com/jtwth85>.

AFSCME Strong Update

AFSCME Strong is our program



to determine our own destiny by building a stronger union with members who are more engaged. Sign a membership card to protect your job, defend our rights and preserve the quality of services we provide our communities.

To reach our goal of 94 percent membership, we need to sign up **16,422** more workers.

Local Ratifies Agreement

Local 66 (ISD 709 Food Service) approved a one-year contract that includes a 2% wage hike; a commitment to fill a long-vacant cook position; and minor language changes.

Primary Election Wins

AFSCME Council 5 and 65 volunteers worked the phones and knocked on doors across the state to get our members to the polls with great results. Before the primary, our members made 14,053 calls and sent mail to 4,156 members. They also worked hard to screen for candidates with values that are worker friendly.

All but two of the candidates we endorsed in the primaries won their races.

Minnesota Senate:

- District 24 - Vicki Jensen, 89.8%
- District 52 - Matt Klein, 69.2%
- District 59 - Bobby Joe Champion, 82%
- District 62 - Jeff Hayden, 72.6%

Minnesota House:

- District 7B - Liz Olson, 89%
- District 40B - Deb Hilstrom, 86%
- District 50B - Andrew Carlson, 88.6%
- District 59A - Joe Mullery, who we endorsed, lost to Fue Lee by 315 votes.
- District 60B – Phyllis Kahn got 29.4%, 678 votes behind winner Ilhan Omar.

County Board:

- Dakota District 4 - Joe Atkins, 55%
- Hennepin District 5 - Debbie Goettel won 49.9% in a six-way race to replace retiring Commissioner Randy Johnson.
- St. Louis County District 3 - Beth Olson won 50%, with just 92 votes separating the two highest finishers. This reminds us how close this race could be in November, and why every vote counts.

Join AFSCME at the State Fair

The State Fair starts next week, running **Thursday, Aug. 25** through **Sept. 5**. Join us at the Labor Pavilion at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper, where you can hear music, win a prize during hourly drawings between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and help us celebrate labor achievements throughout history.

Coming to the Fair? Let us know on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1556354814672794/>.

Interested in volunteering? Along with doing fun and important work for AFSCME, you get a free T-shirt and fair admission ticket. There are only a handful of slots left: **Aug. 25 and Sept. 4** from 12:30 to 4 p.m.; and **Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 2 and 4** from 4 to 7:30 p.m. For details, call 651-287-0537 or email: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. You can share an event by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org or download a copy at www.afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Event	Date	Place
Labor Day of Action	Aug. 17	Various sites across the state
Labor Movie Night	Aug. 19 at 7 p.m.	East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
AFSCME at the State Fair	Aug. 25 to Sept. 5	State Fairgrounds, Saint Paul
AFL-CIO Central Labor Body Labor Day Picnic	Sept. 5	Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth
Solidarity Day Picnic	Sept. 5 from noon to 4 p.m.	Riverside Park, St. Cloud