



Local 66 president Dennis Frazier testifies for Earned Sick and Safe Time as community members, including AFSCME, stand in support at a packed Duluth City Council meeting.

Sick and Safe Time

AFSCME members who are part of a coalition effort to win Earned Sick and Safe Time in Duluth (which includes time off after experiencing an act of violence) are one step closer to their goal. Twenty people spoke in favor of the policy at a July 18 City Council meeting. About 100 supporters, including more than a dozen AFSCME members, stood to show solidarity each time someone spoke. The City Council voted 8-1 to create a task force to study the issue.

AFSCME and our partners will keep working to ensure the makeup of the task force reflects workers and that the process remains transparent. Local 66 member Laura Birnbaum is the coalition's co-chair. Going into the municipal elections last year, AFSCME and the Northeast Area Labor Council screened candidates based on their support for the policy. Labor-endorsed candidates won all but one race. Local elections matter!

Locals Ratify Contracts

Local 2454 (city of Champlin) approved a contract that includes

raises of 2 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.75 percent respectively over three years; protects uniform allowances the employer wanted to severely cut; increases employer insurance contributions; and increases the amount of earned sick leave that can be converted into Health Savings Accounts.

Local 1877 (Minnetonka Public Schools) ratified a two-year agreement that includes raises of 2.5 percent a year; a longevity stipend of \$500 each year for members with 20 or more years of service; additional pay of 65 cents an hour for positions requiring a two-year degree; an additional floating holiday for full-time employees; and a program being developed to increase pay for continuing education credits.

AFSCME Organizer Dies

Tony Ogundiran, a former LPN at Walker Methodist who went on to fight for workers at AFSCME International, died July 21 after battling lymphoma. He loved America and his homeland of Nigeria. He was a huge Vikings fan. A beloved figure at Council 5, Ogundiran

Vote, Phone Bank for Change

AFSCME members and retirees across the state have worked hard to screen candidates for U.S. Congress, state House, state Senate, and county and municipal office who share our labor values.

Please vote in the Minnesota state primary on **Tuesday, Aug. 9**. Check out this list of AFSCME-endorsed candidates: <http://afscmemn.org/afscme-endorsed-candidates>.

These races are especially key: SD24 (senate district) Vicki Jensen; SD52 Matt Klein; SD59 Bobby Joe Champion; SD62 Jeff Hayden; HD7B (house district) Liz Olson; HD40B Debra Hilstrom; HD50B Andrew Carlson; HD59A Joe Mullery; HD60B Phyllis Kahn; HD65A Rena Moran; Hennepin County Board District 5 Debbie Goettel; and St. Louis County Board District 3 Beth Olson.

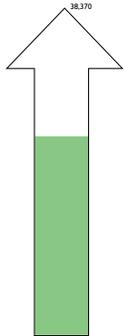
Can't make it to the polls? Just vote absentee. Find details here: <http://tinyurl.com/hpnvmdg>.

The Council is holding phone banks every Monday and Thursday until the primary, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and calling from 6-8 p.m. at the South St. Paul and Duluth offices. To attend in South St. Paul, email Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org or Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org in Duluth.

believed we must live with purpose. He was passionate about equality, justice and fairness. He always saw the good in people and put workers first. His full obituary is online: <http://tinyurl.com/jkb5ym5>.

AFSCME Strong on the Rise

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 16,666 more workers.

New Laws Take Effect

Correctional officers fought hard alongside AFSCME and our community partners to halt plans for the lease of a private prison, and instead won sentencing reforms to help ease prison overcrowding. These reforms were the first major changes to the state's drug sentencing guidelines in nearly 30 years.

They went into effect **Aug. 1**, along with several new laws related to the safety of law enforcement personnel. A summary of selected new laws that take effect Aug. 1 can be accessed at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/leginfo/0816nlrelease.pdf>. A complete summary of all laws passed by the Legislature is available at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/newlaws/#/search/2016>.



AFSCME Council 5 president Judy Wahlberg links arms with (from left to right) Andrea Lazo-Rice from Local 34, Tim Danger from Local 3887, and Loretta Meinke (Council 5) to show unity at the recent AFSCME International Convention.

State Fair Volunteers Sought

Thanks to our wonderful members and retirees, many shifts at the State Fair are full. We could still use a few great men and women at AFSCME's kiosk. Have fun sharing labor values, get free admission into the fair and a spiffy limited-edition AFSCME T-shirt to boot.

Interested in joining the fun? We still need people on the afternoon shift (12:30-4 p.m.) **Sept. 4 and 5**; and on the evening shift (4-7:30 p.m.) **Aug. 29, 30 and 31, and Sept. 2, 4 and 5**.

Let us know what date and shift you can volunteer, your T-shirt size and your cell phone number. Email the details to: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org or call 651-287-0537 for more information.

Memorial for Late Governor

A public memorial for Wendell Anderson, former Minnesota governor,

will be held on **Monday, Aug. 15** at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Anderson died July 17.

The memorial reception for Anderson is at 1 p.m. and the service is at 2 p.m. As governor, he signed the bill that established the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) in 1973, which gave state and local government workers the right to join unions and bargain. He was known for the "Minnesota Miracle," which reformed school financing and helped level disparities between districts.

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
Primary Election	Aug. 9	Polling places across Minnesota
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