



AFSCME Retirees United volunteered a total of 36 hours at Fare For All this month, distributing reduced-price holiday meal packages to help people stretch their food budgets. Volunteers include (left to right) Jeff Birttnen; Mary and Jim Lee and son, Andrew; Mary Pat Flanagan; Jerry Serfling; and Carole Gerst.

Locals Approve Contracts

Local 66 (Housing and Redevelopment Authority) approved a three-year contract that includes 2 percent annual raises; pays out for vacation above the accrual cap; removes language that had allowed the employer to request a note for a single sick day; expands bereavement leave; makes Christmas Eve into a full-day holiday rather than a half-day when it falls mid-week; and removes a step on the pay grid for disciplinary action rather than suspending overtime.

Local 224 (City of Shorewood) approved a contract that increases steps and ranges by 2.5 percent the first year and 3 percent the second year; expands the list of relatives who workers can use sick leave to care for; adds safety leave for sexual assault, domestic abuse or stalking; provides \$100

for prescription safety eyewear; and pays \$30 more toward insurance, with a reopener in 2018.

Local 224 (City of Wayzata) ratified a three-year contract that includes a yearly raise of 2.5 percent; expanded sick leave; paid funeral leave; double-time for working on holidays; a \$2 pay differential starting 2018 for hours worked outside of a regular shift, before 6 a.m. and after 3:30 p.m.; increased on-call rates; double-time for work on New Year's Day on a weekend; and a safety boots allowance.

Local 517 (City of Oak Park Heights) has ratified a two-year contract with a 2.75 percent wage hike each year; increased vacation accrual; and an extended sunset for longevity pay. The employer will cover 70 percent of healthcare cost increases and lower the Health

Show Respect to Workers

When Donald Trump ran for president, he promised to respect working people and our families. He's not in office yet, and he's already violated that promise.

Trump tried to take credit for saving 1,100 union jobs at Carrier with \$7 million in tax credits. When Chuck Jones, the president of the United Steelworkers local, said the numbers were inflated, Trump attacked him on Twitter. It was a remarkable act of disrespect – an incoming president lashing out at a private citizen for speaking the truth. The day after the Twitter attack on Jones, Trump picked a Secretary of Labor who is hostile to working people: <http://afscmemn.org/trump>.

Tell Trump to show respect for America's working families at: <http://tinyurl.com/zwx2yqo>.

Savings Account deductible and balance requirement.

Local 3481 (St. Joseph's Home for Children) ratified a two-year contract that includes a 4 percent raise retroactive to Nov. 3 and a wage reopener; \$250 in longevity pay on the first paycheck in December, replacing the existing system; a shift differential of 25 cents an hour for afternoon and weekend shifts and 50 cents for overnights; a shorter waiting period for short-term disability; and improves how the employer's contribution to part-timers' health insurance is calculated.

Help Injured Worker

Jill Davis of Local 1574 was hit by a drunken driver Friday while coming home from work at the Pillager Creek group home. She's in stable condition at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd with many broken bones and surgeries to come. Send her messages of support and learn how to help (donation information is expected shortly) at: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jilldavis>.

Locals Show Holiday Spirit

Numerous AFSCME Council 5 locals have donated generously this season, including:

Local 404 (St. Peter Security Hospital) donated \$1,200 to The Kitchen at Trinity Lutheran Church that serves a free weekly meal; \$200 to Toys for Tots; \$350 to the Mankato Area Mountain Bikers Association, which grooms and develops trails; \$200 each to the St. Peter Area Food Shelf and the ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato; and \$200 to the Holiday Sharing Tree. "We try to do our best to donate to at least four to five organizations that help kids and the elderly and that provide meals," says local president Tim Headlee. "We take pride in it."

Local 638 (Minnesota State University, Mankato) took part in the Unions United Food Drive. Together, they donated 546 pounds



A dozen correctional officers gather at AFSCME Council 5 to action plan for 2017. They include (left) Kyle Perlich, Local 1988; and from Local 600 Dan Gorman and John Hillyard (who's also a Council 5 Executive Board member).

of food and \$1,202.45 in cash to the ECHO Food Shelf.

Local 306 (Dakota County Human Services) donated \$150 each to Hastings Family Service, Neighbors Inc., the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and 360 Communities.

Local 280 (Mankato MnDOT) donated \$275 to food banks in seven counties. Several members also are ringing bells for the Salvation Army. "We're part of this community, and we want to contribute to it," says local president Mike Hanly.

Council 5 Offers Social Media Training

Did you know the Council 5 Communications Department offers customized one-on-one and small group trainings to help your local make the most out of social media? The trainings are free and flexible. It's a great way to build solidarity

within your local. Email Trisha Harms at trisha.harms@afscmemn.org to get started.

Minnesota Named Second Best-run State

The website *24/7 Wall St.* is once again touting Minnesota's governance, naming it the second best-run state in our nation, based partly on

"economic and social prosperity." The site considered our low unemployment and poverty rates; excellent credit rating; high median household income; and the low number of uninsured. Our pro-worker policies work. Learn more: <http://tinyurl.com/hkxxg5d>.

Register for Labor Class

The Labor Education Service is offering an online class called "Intro to the Labor Movement" from Jan. 30 to March 31. The registration deadline is **Jan. 20**. Tuition is \$50. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/hprj2v2>.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board at www.afscmemn.org or share news by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Free College Spring Semester	Classes start Jan. 17	http://freecollege.afscme.org/
AFSCME Family Scholarship deadline	Dec. 31	www.afscme.org/family