



Celebrate and learn more about labor history at Council 5's website, www.afscmeroots.org.

AFSCME Launches Labor History Site

The website www.afscmeroots.org showcases taped live performances about labor history from the Council 5 Convention. AFSCME members portrayed labor leaders Mother Jones, Eugene Debs, Bayard Rustin, Pauline Newman, Sojourner Truth and AFSCME's own Jerry Wurf. The site contains reflections by each of these performers.

Their monologues were paired with powerful music by Larry Long, noted Nakota singer Georgia Wettlin Larsen, Billy Steele and Sharice McCain of Local 3800.

The site also features the labor history postcard series AFSCME gave out during the Minnesota

State Fair, for printing or downloading.

It's a great resource for sharing labor history with fellow union members and children.

Help Keep Kids Safe

We know that child protection workers protect kids, but they can't do it alone. We need to ensure they have adequate staffing so that at-risk children don't fall through the cracks.

That's why Council 5 has started a new Facebook campaign, Safe Kids MN, to help track the issue and protect children.

The Facebook page [@safekidsmn](https://www.facebook.com/safekidsmn) features news, worker stories and other important information. Each

Support Bakery Workers

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is calling attention to union-busting tactics by Franklin Street Bakery in Minneapolis.

According to unfair labor practice filings, management allegedly is threatening employees with plant closure or the loss of their jobs; preventing people from going to the breakroom or bathroom to discourage participation in a union rally; warning them to stop discussing a union or share workplace concerns; sending workers home early without pay or threatening to do so; and prohibiting workers from giving out union information while on breaks.

Workers say they want to form a union because they face poor working conditions including unaffordable health coverage, low wages and a lack of time off for illness or funerals. They want to improve these conditions and gain a voice by forming a union with BCTGM Local 22.

We can help our brothers and sisters at the bakery by signing a petition, which asks bakery owners to respect workers' rights to unionize. <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stand-with-franklin-street-bakery-workers>.

week, there's a poll with different questions for case workers, investigators and screeners.

Please join the conversation at: <https://www.facebook.com/safekidsmn/>.

Local Ratifies Contract

Local 2454 (city of Ramsey) ratified a two-year contract featuring a 5 percent wage hike over that time period; significantly more affordable health insurance premiums; and improvements to on-call pay.

Make it a Union Holiday

We've made it through Thanksgiving, and we're heading rapidly toward Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. As you plan your holiday feasts and shopping, it's easy to support our union brothers and sisters:

- Shop from union stores.
- Seek out food and other items that are union-made.

You can also figure out which stores to avoid, where anti-union activities are common.

Find handy lists of union-friendly stores, goods and other resources here: <http://afscmemn.org/story/make-it-union-holiday>.

Council 5 is Hiring

AFSCME is taking applications for a field representative based out of the South St. Paul office to build local union capacity and empower

members. The deadline is **Dec. 14** at 4 p.m. Find details online at www.afscmemn.org under the Jobs tab.

Paid Parental Leave for State Workers

Minnesota state workers in the Executive Branch can now take up to six weeks of paid parental leave. This applies to both mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive parents. It will save families an average of \$6,200 when they need it most.

The Dayton-Smith administration worked closely with workers and their unions, including AFSCME and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, which took the lead in winning the benefit (currently available on an interim basis). It needs approval by the state Legislature to become permanent.

Learn more about parental leave at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/state-workers-win-paid-leave>.

Free College is Changing Lives

Spring enrollment is still open for AFSCME members and their families to earn a free online associate degree in the arts, business

management, criminal justice or early childhood education at Eastern Gateway Community College. More than 2,000 people already have enrolled, and more than 5,000 have applied.

The free college benefit applies to AFSCME members, retirees and their families. Family is defined as children (or step-children and in-laws), grandchildren and step-grandchildren, spouses, domestic partners and financial dependents.

Learn how it's already changing lives at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/afscmes-free-college-benefit-can-change-lives>.

Classes start **Jan. 17**. Get details at: <http://freecollege.afscme.org/>. You'll need your AFSCME International number to apply. If you don't have one, call AFSCME International at 202-429-1000.

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 an event by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Unions United Food Drive	Through Dec. 8	Various locations at Minnesota State University, Mankato
Labor Movie Night	Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.	East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul
AFSCME Family Scholarship deadline	Dec. 31	www.afscme.org/family