



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

afscmemn.org

Friedrichs Update

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away on Saturday. While we don't yet know the exact impact that his death will have on cases currently before the Court, here is what we know:

- If the final vote on *Friedrichs* is 4-4, the 9th Circuit Court ruling will stand, which means that *Abood* remains the law of the land; or
- The Court may rehear the case in the coming term, once a new justice has been confirmed.

Remember that even if *Abood* is upheld in the short term, a number of cases that affect fair share and other issues of top concern to us remain in the pipeline. Further, our enemies continue to press their attacks at the state and local level, as evidenced Friday by West Virginia becoming the 26th state to go "right-to-work."

All of this means one thing: We can never quit our AFSCME Strong effort to create an even stronger union with members who are more engaged. With the next President set to nominate multiple justices to the Supreme Court, now is the time to double down on our organizing efforts with a sharper focus on the upcoming election.

Register for Day on the Hill

AFSCME's Day on the Hill on **Tuesday, April 5** is approaching quickly. Members will gather at the state Capitol and at St. Paul's RiverCentre to stand strong for worker rights.

We will be calling on lawmakers to build "One Minnesota" because everyone across our state deserves a shot at a better future, no matter who they are or where they live. Workers also will be asking them to re-invest our \$1.9 billion surplus wisely, instead of giving it away to the rich. Our work strengthens all communities, and our legislative priorities make life better for all working families. Our lawmakers need to remember that.

Check out the details and register at <http://afscmemn.org/story/afscme-day-hill-april-5>. If you register and bring a friend, you'll both get free AFSCME water bottles.

Take Action at Precinct Caucuses

Work for labor-friendly policies and show support for AFSCME-endorsed presidential candidate Hillary Clinton by attending your precinct caucus on Tuesday, **March 1**, at 7 p.m. Find your caucus at caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/. Learn more about the system at www.dfl.org/about-our-party/caucuses-conventions/ or mngop.com/precinct-caucuses/. Check out this powerful video of Clinton listing all the barriers she wants to tear down for working people: tinyurl.com/jllu5un.

Governor Supports Parental Leave

Gov. Dayton wants to offer paid leave to new biological and adoptive parents who are state workers. About 35,000 state workers would be eligible for the benefit worth \$6,200 to the average worker who takes six weeks of leave. Top Democrats say they hope it's the first step toward paid sick and parental leave for all.

Locals Ratify Contracts

Locals 977 and 2474 (HCMC) approved two-year contracts that include a \$15 minimum wage; 2 percent raises in 2016 and 1.75 percent in 2017; step increases; various market adjustments; and expanded AFSCME dental to all employees.

Candidate Wins Special Election

AFSCME-endorsed GOP state Senate candidate Jim Abeler won 73 percent of the vote. His district includes Anoka, Ramsey and parts of Andover and Coon Rapids.

Mediation Training

The Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services is holding a regional conference for labor and management advocates. The free training includes an introduction to agency programs, a mediation overview and a discussion of the current collective bargaining climate. The event's from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, **March 11** at the MnDOT Training Center, 3725 12th St. N., St. Cloud. RSVP by **Feb. 29** to mn.gov/admin/bms.



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MSRS Candidates Endorsed

Four positions are open on the Board of the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), which provides retirement benefits to state employees, Metropolitan Council employees and many non-faculty employees at the University of Minnesota. Active members should already have received a ballot in the mail.

AFSCME Council 5 has endorsed four candidates who will protect our defined benefit pensions: **Michael Schweyen** and **Joe Sullivan** for the General/Unclassified Plan; **Joe Strunk** for the Correctional Plan; and **Wes Skoglund** for the retiree seat.

Postmark ballots by **Tuesday, March 1** or vote online.

Questions? Email sally.kupferschmidt@state.mn.us of MSRS or call 651-284-7882.

Bring Labor History to Life

Governor Dayton and the Legislature have authorized a bust of Nellie Stone Johnson, a nationally known labor leader and civil rights activist, in our state Capitol. She was the first African-American elected official in Minneapolis and helped found the DFL Party.

Her statue will be the first of a woman or an African-American at the state Capitol. We need your matching funds to make it happen.

Please help us recognize labor's legacy. Make checks to the NSJ Capitol Fund and mail them to: Union Bank and Trust, 312 Central Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

Apply for Labor Scholarships

Applications are open for several scholarship funds. AFSCME Council 5 offers two awards for high school seniors, and one for members continuing their education. The awards range from \$250 to \$1,000.

The deadline is **May 6**. Find details at afscmemn.org/afscme-council-5-scholarships.

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship is open to minority students from union families who are attending or will attend a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities school. Learn more at <http://www.nelliestone.org> or call 866-738-5238. Applications must be postmarked by **June 1**. Support the scholarship by purchasing tickets for a **March 31** dinner by emailing nsjscholarship@gmail.com or calling 651-738-1404.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is giving out scholarships to high school seniors who are union members or the dependents of members, and to union members affiliated with the AFL-CIO. The application deadline is **April 30**. Learn more at www.mnafcio.org or contact Lori Williams at 800-652-9004.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. If you have an event people should know about, email Lynette Kalsnes at Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org. Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board or check out the latest news and events at www.afscmemn.org.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

Friedrichs Discussion Panel: Feb 18, 6-7:30 p.m., East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., St. Paul

Labor Movie Night: Feb. 19, 6 p.m., East Side Freedom Library

Precinct Caucuses: March 1, 7 p.m.

AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill: April 5, St. Paul (RiverCentre)

Council 5 Retirees United Convention: April 19

SEPC Spring Conference: April 29

AFSCME 42nd Annual International Convention: July 18-22, Las Vegas, Nevada. Council 5 will be staying at the Paris Hotel, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S.