



# ACTION UPDATE

**One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers**

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016

afscmemn.org

## Locals Ratify Contracts

**Local 517** (Stillwater Public Library) ratified a two-year agreement that includes a raise of 3 percent in 2016 and 2.75 percent in 2017, plus a \$35 increase in the employer's contribution to family medical.

**Local 3857** (city of Rosemount) ratified a two-year contract that includes a 2.5 percent increase in 2016 and 2.5 percent in 2017, with no changes in health insurance over that time period. The employer agreed to meet and confer on new job descriptions. The city approved the contract.

**Local 3532** (Walker Methodist Care Suites) ratified a wage and insurance reopener that resulted in a 2.25 percent wage increase and no changes to insurance. Care Suites will be back in negotiations beginning in February to negotiate a full agreement.

## Victory in Primary

AFSCME members worked phone banks and sent mail to help former state Rep. Jim Abeler win the GOP special primary for state Senate, with more than 60 percent of the vote. Abeler signed on to a brief opposing the Supreme Court *Friedrichs* case and voted to override then-GOP Gov. Pawlenty's gas tax veto. The Freedom Club State PAC ran an attack website saying Abeler was too pro-union; the Republican party endorsed his opponent in the primary. The [Special General Election](#) is on Tuesday, Feb. 9. The district includes Anoka, Ramsey and parts of Andover and Coon Rapids

## Corrections Contract Approved

The Subcommittee on Employee Relations approved the contract for Unit 8 (State Corrections). The two-year contract includes a 2.5 percent a year raise, with more information on back pay and implementation to come.

## Help AFSCME House Fire Victim

AFSCME member Kelly Darwin lost everything in a recent fire, including her cat. She didn't have any insurance. Darwin's a steward with Local 4001 and works at Pine Technical and Community College as a parent services coordinator with Child Care Aware Minnesota. You can help by sending checks and cards to Mary Falk, 650 Garfield St. E., #204, Anoka, MN 55303. Make checks out to AFSCME Local 4001, with "Kelly Darwin Fund" in the notes field.

## Court Considers Anti-Worker Case

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* on Jan. 11. This landmark case could undermine our right to negotiate together for better wages and benefits and make it harder for working people to sustain our families and our way of life.

Learn more about how we can make our union even stronger at [www.afscmemn.org/Friedrichs](http://www.afscmemn.org/Friedrichs). Check out the arguments before the court at: <http://tinyurl.com/zvkaaqz>.

## Precinct Caucuses' Approaching

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on March 1. That's when the Democratic and Republican parties in Minnesota are hosting precinct caucuses. Get politically active and help work for labor-friendly policies. State law lets residents take time off from work without pay to attend as long as employers get written notice at least 10 days in advance. Find your precinct location at [caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

## Financial Training for Locals

AFSCME Council 5's Education Department is holding a financial responsibility training for anyone in the local who signs checks or conducts audits. It costs \$20, which includes lunch and materials. The trainings run from 9-4.

**Details:** Feb. 23, AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul  
May 18, AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul  
Aug. 4, Holiday Inn – Duluth, 200 W. 1st St.  
(To arrange for a hotel room in Duluth, call 218- 727-7492 and ask for the AFSCME Council 5 rate.)

Nov. 16, AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul  
**Register:** Call Melinda Pearson at (651) 287-0524 or (800) 652-9791, ext. 524, or email at [melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org).

## 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](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org). Download a copy or see the latest news at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

## Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

**Labor Movie Night:** Feb. 19, 6 p.m., East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., St. Paul

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