



AFSCME Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide helps former Minnesota AFL-CIO president David Roe mark the opening of a new mural honoring Minnesota workers at the Capitol.

## Workers Memorial Opens

Former Minnesota AFL-CIO president David Roe spent three decades ensuring that workers who built our state would be honored at the Capitol. His dream became a reality on Memorial Day, when more than 500 people gathered along with luminaries like Walter Mondale to dedicate the Minnesota Workers Mural. It depicts the history of Minnesota labor all the way back to pioneer days and looks ahead into our future. It's on Cedar Street, just north of I-94.

## State Contracts Approved

Gov. Mark Dayton has signed off on three state contracts covering corrections, radio communications and the multi-unit. Council 5 beat back GOP Rep. Steve Drazkowski's attempt to hold state workers' contracts hostage to Wisconsin-style anti-union efforts. In exchange for ratifying the state contracts, Drazkowski tried to repeal the authority of public sector unions to collect fair share fees; make the

state negotiate our contracts in public; prohibit state employees from bargaining for retroactive pay increases; and restrict state workers from taking part in political activities on their own time. His poison pills failed: All three contracts passed in clean bills, thanks to the leadership of DFL Sen. Jim Metzen and Rep. Leon Lillie.

## Harmful Pension Bill Vetoed

Gov. Mark Dayton has vetoed a bad pension bill that would have reduced the retiree COLA for MSRS. During the last week of the session, GOP Rep. Tim O'Driscoll masterminded the pension attack, proposing a "sustainability measure" to cut the cost of living adjustment for current retirees in the MSRS plans, and he said that's only a start. Gov. Dayton vetoed the pension bill, writing, "It is not fair, and I cannot agree to it."

## Fighting for Safe Staffing

The Governor put Safe Staffing at the top of his must-have list, sharing

## Rally for social workers

Supporters are rallying behind our child protection social workers in Hennepin County on **June 21**. Due to high turnover and an increasing number of abuse reports, social workers are overwhelmed by heavy caseloads.

Please join AFSCME Council 5 in rallying for our child protection social workers and the families they serve. Workers are calling for improved training and retention of workers; lower caseload sizes; and a supportive work environment.

The rally is from 1-2 p.m. at the Hennepin County Government Center. Meet at the indoor atrium on the skyway level by the water fountain. We'll march outside and then rally in the atrium, raising our voices to be heard by County Commissioners who are meeting upstairs.

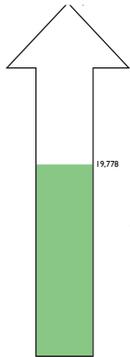
AFSCME's priority of keeping workers and patients safe.

Unfortunately, the bonding bill died in a divided Legislature. AFSCME did win \$20 million for Safe Staffing. (Check out the details at <http://afscmemn.org/story/polarized-government-does-disservice-workers-state>.)

The *Star Tribune* reports that gains were overshadowed by the absence of new money for the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter. A worker who suffered a brain injury from a patient attack says she wonders how lawmakers can sleep at night. Read the story at <http://tinyurl.com/gqey7a>.

## AFSCME Strong Building Momentum

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. We're more than halfway to our goal with 3.5 weeks to go. To reach that goal, we need to sign up 19,026 more workers. If each local signs up eight people a day, we're there.



## Nominate Labor Achievers

AFSCME Council 5 seeks nominations for its annual achievement awards, which honor outstanding work by members in political activism, organizing and local union development. The awards include the Rick Scott Political Activism Award; the Jerry Wurf Organizing Award; the Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award; and the Communications Award. Recipients will be recognized at the annual convention. The deadline is **Aug. 5**. Find details online at [www.afscmemn.org/council-5-achievement-awards](http://www.afscmemn.org/council-5-achievement-awards).

## Locals Approve Contracts

**Local 8** (Ramsey County public defenders) approved a two-year contract that includes 2 percent raises each year; more vacation accrual; more coverage of license fees; and an increased deferred compensation contribution from the employer.

**Local 8** (CAP) approved a contract that includes 2.6 percent raises the first year and a mandated COLA the second year; a review of the wage grid; no changes to health insurance; better language for working out of class; two-week notification of schedule changes; and approval or denial of vacation requests within 5 days.

**Local 517** (Forest Lake) ratified a three-year contract with raises of 2 percent a year.

**Local 2454** (Lino Lakes) voted to accept a two-year agreement that includes 2.5 percent a year plus steps; improved insurance; and meet-and-confer language.

## Golf for Veterans

The Minnesota Correctional Facility in Oak Park Heights is hosting a golfing event, raffle and dinner on **July 15** at Applewood Hills Golf Course in Stillwater. The shotgun start is at 3:30 p.m. Golfing, dinner and a raffle cost \$45, while

dinner and the raffle are \$25. All proceeds go to help U.S. veterans. Find the registration form here: <http://tinyurl.com/hx3pc28>.

## Leadership Award Granted

Congratulations to Laura Birnbaum of Local 66, who's been accepted into the AFSCME Women's Leadership Academy.

## March in the Pride Parade

Join Minnesota AFL-CIO working families in the 2016 GLBTQ Pride Parade on **June 26**. Wear AFSCME green and bring your union banners to help celebrate love, freedom and equality. Line up at 11 a.m. in downtown Minneapolis. RSVP on Facebook at [Minnesota AFL-CIO](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaAFLCIO) under the Events tab, or call Chris Shields at 651-294-3094.

## AFSCME is Hiring

Council 5 is hiring several field representatives, one based out of the Duluth office, the others out of South St. Paul. Find the job descriptions at: [www.afscmemn.org/job\\_listing](http://www.afscmemn.org/job_listing). The deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday, **June 9**.

## Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Share an event by emailing [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org) or download a copy at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendar

Event	Date	Place
Student Debt Relief Clinics	June 14 at 5 p.m.	AFSCME's South St. Paul Office
Labor Movie Night	June 17 at 7 p.m.	East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul
AFSCME 42nd Annual International Convention	July 18-22	Las Vegas, Nevada. Council 5 will be staying at the Paris Hotel, Las Vegas.
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 21 from 1-5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
AFL-CIO Central Body Labor Day Picnic	Sept. 5	Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth