



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

afscmemn.org

Lawmakers, Don't Blow the Surplus

Minnesota's state budget surplus is now [forecast](#) at \$900 million, down from \$1.2 billion last December. We are calling on the Legislature to keep investing in economic security for hardworking Minnesota families. "The forecast shows that Minnesota's budget is back in the black, but there's more work to be done," cautions executive director Eliot Seide. "With an uncertain economy, legislators must resist the urge to blow the surplus on huge tax breaks for billionaires and giant corporations headquartered in the metro area."

AFSCME Against Private Prisons

A coalition of Minnesota-based community, faith, labor and civil rights organizations is opposing the state's proposed lease of a long-shuttered Appleton prison owned by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). The coalition, which includes AFSCME Council 5, seeks to raise awareness about CCA's terrible record of cutting corners — endangering prisoners and corrections workers — to make money. That record's summarized in a [new issue brief](#) by In the Public Interest. "Giving Minnesota taxpayer dollars to CCA — even if it's a lease — would give a foothold in our criminal justice system to a company that has shown itself to be a bad actor by repeatedly failing to follow basic regulations and standards," says Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide.

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 Saint Paul's RiverCentre to stand strong for worker rights. Our theme this year is "One Minnesota," reflecting the diversity of our workforce in urban, suburban and rural areas across the state. The work we do strengthens all communities, and our legislative priorities make life better for all working families. Our lawmakers need to know that. Register at afscmemn.org/story/afscme-day-hill-april-5. If you register and bring a friend, you'll both get free AFSCME water bottles.

Tell the Senate to Do Its Job

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Republican leaders have vowed to block President Obama's pick to the U.S. Supreme Court by refusing to vote or hold hearings. That leaves the court short a justice for upwards of a year, following the recent death of Justice Scalia. These Senate Republicans would rather play political games with our democracy than carry out their constitutional duties. Please sign this petition that tells them to do their job, just like the rest of us: <http://tinyurl.com/z38m7qy>.

Attorneys Join AFSCME

Local 2828 welcomes six attorneys from the City of Bloomington. The group just voted to join AFSCME so they could have a true voice in their workplace.

Dinner Honors Labor Leader

Honor a nationally known labor leader and civil rights activist and help students at the same time by attending a scholarship dinner. Nellie Stone Johnson was the first African-American elected official in Minneapolis and helped found the DFL Party. The 29th annual dinner on **March 31** helps fund scholarships in her name. A reception and silent auction start at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakdale Prom Center. The deadline to buy tickets online at nsj29.eventbrite.com is Saturday, **March 19**.

Bowling Supports Organized Labor

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation is hosting the Sixth Annual Labor Bowl **May 5**. It benefits the Labor Studies and Resource Center (LSRC), which assists and advocates for union members and their families. Raise money by forming a team and gathering pledges, or sponsoring a bowler. Make donations payable to: LSRC, 2016 Labor Bowl, Attn: Laura, 353 W. 7th St., Suite 201, Saint Paul, 55102. To book a time to bowl, call Laura at 651-222-3787, extension 117, by **April 28**. Donations are tax deductible.



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

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**.

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

Help Find Transit Solutions

There's been a lot of talk about investing in transportation, but lawmakers haven't put together an adequate plan. Learn what opportunities Washington County has and how we can get something accomplished by attending River Valley Action's forum, "Transportation at the Crossroads: Are We Ready?" It's at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **March 22**, at Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale.

AFSCME Picnic Date Set

Save the date for the annual AFSCME Family Picnic. It's Sunday, **Aug. 21**, at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood.

Financial Training for Locals

AFSCME Council 5's Education Department is holding trainings for anyone in a local who signs checks or conducts audits.

The \$20 cost includes lunch and materials. The trainings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Details: May 18, AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., 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 email 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.

You can download a copy for your workplace bulletin board, or see the latest news and events at www.afscmemn.org.

Keep Your Calendar Up to Date

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

Council 5 Retirees United Convention: April 19

SEPC Spring Conference: April 29

Sixth Annual Labor Bowl: May 5, Midway Pro Bowl, Saint Paul

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.

AFSCME Family Picnic: Aug. 21, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood.