



Jackie Spanjers, president of Local 1307, holds up the unreliable system workers at Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center use when a worker is down. She testified before a House committee about safe staffing issues.

Friedrichs Case is Dead

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Tuesday that it split 4-4 on the *Friedrichs* case, so the latest attempt by wealthy extremists to bust unions has failed. The court's previous rulings that allow unions to charge feepayers for their share of collective bargaining will stand.

But that doesn't mean the case is over: The Center for Individual Rights, the right-wing group behind *Friedrichs*, plans to file a petition for rehearing, and other attempts to kill unions are already in the pipeline.

AFSCME will never quit fighting these anti-union forces, or let up on our efforts to grow stronger as a union, one member at a time.

Day on the Hill Nears

AFSCME's Day on the Hill on Tuesday, **April 5** is almost here! You can register online or find a hotel at www.afscmemn.org. You also can get a head start and learn about our legislative priorities:

- Reinvesting in the work we do
- Protecting retirement security
- Staffing up for safe workplaces
- Banning private prisons
- Moving forward on transportation
- Making education affordable

Our theme for 2016 is "One Minnesota," reflecting the diversity of our workforce in rural, urban and suburban areas across the state.

Want to volunteer? Contact Deb Smith at 651-287-0543.

Oppose Private Prison Lease

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) wants to reopen its shuttered private prison in Appleton, and House Republicans want the state to lease it, giving CCA a foothold here.

Our officers don't want to work in a CCA prison, and the Department of Corrections says it doesn't want it or need it. The for-profit prison operation has a trail of horror stories about how they cut corners to make a buck, leading to violence, sexual assault and medical neglect that's put inmates, prison staff and communities in danger. Learn more at www.appletonoptout.com or listen to this podcast with Stillwater Corrections Officer Joe Broge: <http://ow.ly/ZUnYd>.

Text PRISON to 237263

to be connected to your state representative, or call 1-888-833-9154 and follow the prompts.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR TO:

Oppose leasing the private prison in Appleton. Sentencing reform is a better remedy for overcrowded prisons.

We're gathering this year at Saint Paul's RiverCentre, which is just a few blocks down the street from the hotel where we've met in the past.

Some of your fellow members have started lobbying at the state Capitol. They include Jackie Spanjers (above), who recently testified at a House committee hearing to win safety improvements for workers. Learn more about safe staffing testimony at <http://tinyurl.com/zsjqet7>.

Locals Approve Contracts

Local 3757 (Saint Paul city attorneys) agreed to a 2-year contract that includes a 2.5 percent increase on the closest pay period to Jan. 1 each year, and maintains health insurance premiums and benefits.

Local 2508 (Saint Paul clerical and technical unit) agreed to a 2-year contract for 2016 and 2017 that includes 2.5 percent raises at the start of the pay period closest to Jan. 1; increases vacation for the first 4 years; allows more vacation for current workers who were in a similar job with another employer; and maintains health coverage and premiums. They also voted down a City proposal to eliminate promotion rights from civil service rules.

Help the Iron Range

Mines in the Iron Range laid off more than 2,000 workers in 2015. The unemployment rate is up to 30 percent in spots. Help our union brothers and sisters by donating money for a food drive. Make out tax-deductible donations to the Arrowhead Economic and Opportunity Agency, and mail to: Greg Miller, 1711 E. 13th St., Suite 1, Hibbing, MN 55746.

SEPC Conference Venue Change

Attention state employees: The SEPC Conference on April 29 has moved to the Radisson Blu Mall of America because the Ramada MOA (the old Thunderbird) is closing. The Radisson is a union hotel, and offers free parking. Registration starts at 7 a.m., and the conference at 9 a.m. The hotel room rate is \$129. Contact Melinda Pearson with questions at melinda.pearson@afscmemn.org or call 651-287-0524.

Make the U.S. Senate Do Its Job

Pres. Obama picked a distinguished chief appeals court judge for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. Merrick Garland won bipartisan support last time around, but now Senate Republicans are refusing to do their jobs and fulfill their constitutional duties. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said publicly that Republicans won't hold a hearing or vote on Garland or any nominee Obama puts forth.

Dial 1-844-899-9913 to tell Senate Republican leaders to do the job they're paid to do, just like the rest of us.

State Contracts Held Hostage with Poison Pill

Rep. Steve Drazkowski introduced a bill (HF-3585) on Tuesday that would repeal the authority of public sector unions in Minnesota to collect fair share fees. Among a slew of harmful clauses, the bill includes language to prohibit wage or salary increases after contract expiration, forbid retroactive increases and limit compensation for unused vacation time.

The Mazeppa Republican says he won't ratify AFSCME's state contract unless his colleagues at the Minnesota Legislature pass the new bill. His objective is clear: to tear down working Minnesotans and their aspirations to build a better life – just like Scott Walker did in neighboring Wisconsin.

Hardworking families in Minnesota deserve leaders who will fight for workers' rights – not take them away.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. To share an event, email Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org or download a copy at www.afscmemn.org.

Upcoming AFSCME Council 5 EVENTS

Event	Date	Place
AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill	April 5	Saint Paul RiverCentre
Labor Movie Night	April 15, 6 p.m.	East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul
Council 5 Retirees Convention	April 19	AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul
SEPC Spring Conference	April 29	Radisson Blu Mall of America
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, Las Vegas.
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 21	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood