



Wastewater treatment workers across the state like Metropolitan Council worker Kerry Kappel, vice president of Local 668, treat wastewater so it can safely return to our rivers and streams.

## Could Flint Happen Here?

Water experts say the exact series of political blunders that caused lead to flow into Flint's drinking water is unlikely in Minnesota, but there are plenty of other hazards threatening this precious resource. Go online to explore the risks to our water and to see how AFSCME members around Minnesota like Kerry Kappel (above) work to treat our wastewater and make it safe: [www.mnwaterworks.org/](http://www.mnwaterworks.org/).

AFSCME supports Gov. Dayton's proposed \$220 million investment to fix and replace the aging infrastructure that makes our water safe to fish in and drink.

## AFSCME Safety Toolkit

While some lawmakers are failing to act to keep workers safe with adequate facilities and staffing, there are a few things members can do in the meantime to help

protect themselves and each other. The AFSCME safety toolkit includes information on workers' rights, the law, sample contract language, and how to track and report patient assaults and other workplace hazards. You can find it online at: [www.afscmemn.org/safety-toolkit](http://www.afscmemn.org/safety-toolkit).

## Rally for Paid Family Leave

As Minnesotans, we believe in taking care of each other. When our loved ones are most vulnerable, we need to be there to care for them. Yet too many of us have to make impossible choices between our work and our families.

Please join the Minnesotans for Paid Family Leave Coalition to rally for a common-sense solution, passage of the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave Act. The rally is at noon on **May 17** outside the State Office Building. RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/zho6lv8>.

## BOND FOR OUR SAFETY!

AFSCME supports a \$1.5 billion proposal by Gov. Dayton and the Senate DFL Majority to borrow funds to improve public facilities where AFSCME members work. The package includes 100 projects and 39,000 union jobs around the state.

The Anoka Metro-Regional Treatment Center and the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter need increased staffing and improved facilities to fix increasingly unsafe conditions. Repairs at state prisons and higher education campuses repeatedly have been delayed. Bridges have been neglected. Communities need new infrastructure so we have safe water.

Yet Senate Republicans refused to support the bill: It failed by one vote. The fate of critical safety projects remains uncertain with only two weeks left in the session.

Shame on these Republicans who voted against bonding projects in *their own communities*:

- Sen. Abeler voted against funding for Anoka.
- Sen. Pederson voted against funding for the Minnesota Correctional Facility in St. Cloud.
- Sen. Chamberlain voted against funding for MCF-Lino Lakes.

**Text BOND to 237263** to be connected to your state legislators, or call your representative at **1-855-957-6655** and your senator at **1-844-736-6410**.

## ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Support a \$1.5 billion bonding bill. Safety upgrades are urgently needed at public facilities.

## AFSCME Strong Grows

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. To reach our

goal, we need to sign up 21,020 more workers. We can do it if each local signs up just eight workers every day.

## Student Debt Relief

AFSCME Council 5 is holding clinics to help members learn how to consolidate student loans, apply for income-driven repayment programs and find out if they qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The clinics are **May 17, June 1** and **June 14** from 5-6:30 p.m. at AFSCME's South St. Paul office. Registration is required. Email [Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org](mailto:Melinda.Pearson@afscmemn.org).

## Scholarship Deadline Nears

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship is open to minority students from union families attending a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities school. Learn more at [www.nelliestone.org](http://www.nelliestone.org)

or by calling 866-738-5238. The deadline is **June 1**.

## Join the Pride Parade

Help the AFL-CIO celebrate equality by marching in the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade in Minneapolis on **June 26** at 11 a.m. Wear AFSCME green and show your pride with fellow working families. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/go2ojeq>.

## Help with Medical Expenses

Tony Ogundiran, a former LPN at Walker Methodist who went on to fight for workers at AFSCME International, is fighting another battle. He was diagnosed with lymphoma and has started treatment. But after six months, he was put on long-term disability, resulting in the loss of his health insurance. Co-workers have started a campaign to pay for a year of medical coverage. Donate at: [www.gofundme.com/TonyO](http://www.gofundme.com/TonyO).

## Laps for Lars

Local 552 member Dan Larson lost his 25-year-old son Josh to injuries from a motorcycle accident. Dan and his daughter Brooke, who's also in Local 552, are joining with family and friends to throw the first annual Fun Run/Walk in Josh's honor. It's at Eastview High School in Apple Valley on **June 11** from 9-10 a.m. All of the registration

fees go toward the Josh Larson Scholarship Fund. Information and registration is at: <http://tinyurl.com/jyy9ong>.

## Leadership Program Open

A program that seeks to cultivate new labor leaders and build the skills of existing ones is taking applications. The Minnesota Union Leadership Program, offered by the U of M's Labor Education Service, aims to meet the needs of the changing labor movement. Go to [www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/LES](http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/LES) or call 612-624-5020. The deadline is **June 20**.

## Stamp Out Hunger

Don't forget to leave out a non-perishable food item by your mailbox on **Saturday, May 14**. Our brothers and sisters in the National Association of Letter Carriers will deliver it to a local food bank.

## Labor Movie Night

*The River Ran Red* screens at **May 20** at 7 p.m. at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis.

## 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 for your workplace bulletin board at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendar

Event	Date	Place
Untold Labor History: The Iron Range	May 17 at 7 p.m.	Arlington Hills Library
Untold Labor History: Trotskyists on Trial	May 19 at 7 p.m.	Rice Street Library, Saint Paul
Labor Movie Night: <i>The River Ran Red</i>	May 20 at 7 p.m.	United Labor Centre, Minneapolis
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