



Nearly two dozen AFSCME members graduated from training at Council 5 to teach fellow workers how to assert their rights to stay safe on the job. Front row, left to right: Erica Kantola, (Council 5), Deb Zobel (Local 607), Victoria Johnson (Local 744) and Angelle Kanneh (Local 1307). Middle, left to right: Crystal Wyrick (Local 390), Susan Vis (Local 2225), Michelle Ogborn (Local 1574), Anne Jakacki, (Local 607), Heather Schultz (Local 1092), Amanda Prince (Council 5), AFSCME health and safety specialist Diane Brown, Suzanne Kocurek (Council 5) and Cassandra Mills (Local 744). Back, left to right: Cindy Mertens (Local 701), Jon Alvarez (Local 3802), Kurt Crosby (Local 404), Jason Loons (Council 5), Keith Lien (Local 735), April Grothe (Local 735), Tracy Alsaker (Local 744), Ryan Welles (Council 5), Joe Crandall (Local 607) and AFSCME health and safety specialist Keith Wrightson.

Paid Parental Leave Passes

State workers recently voted overwhelmingly in favor of paid parental leave. The measure would provide state workers who are birth or adoptive parents with six weeks of paid leave. It would give new parents time to bond with their children, save the average state worker \$6,200 in lost time, and make it easier for the state to recruit and retain workers. Now it goes to the Subcommittee on Employee Relations. Assuming SER approves it, the contract would go into effect on an interim basis and then need final approval from the state Legislature.

Convention Opens Next Week

The annual Council 5 convention runs **Sept. 22 through 24** at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. Activities include

executive board and officer elections, plus numerous workshops. Get details online at: afscmemn.org/convention16.

State Fair Huge Success

Labor history proved a big draw at the AFSCME kiosk. AFSCME members filled more than 130 volunteer shifts to celebrate labor achievements, past and present.

Volunteers also helped bring labor history back into our classrooms by giving children and teachers information on labor leaders for show-and-tell and book reports.

“People don’t understand the fights that have gone on for decades and decades,” says Local 34 member Kenneth Garnier. “If people knew that, and knew we’ve got to keep fighting, people would have more of a voice.”

Preserve Our Pensions

Want to help make sure you and other workers have a secure retirement? Join your fellow AFSCME members in phone banking. We’re working to support candidates who believe that workers deserve to have the strong pensions we’ve earned through years of hard work for our communities.

Join us **Monday or Thursday**. We’ll start with dinner at 5:30 p.m., and then call from 6 to 8 p.m. at the South St. Paul and Duluth offices. To attend in South St. Paul, email Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org or Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org in Duluth.

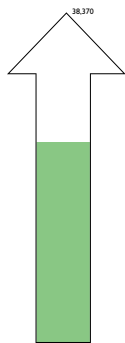
Help Striking Nurses

Nearly 4,800 hospital nurses are in the second week of a strike against Allina over health insurance, workplace safety and staffing. We can help them stand up to Allina.

- Attend an indoor rally and fundraiser **Friday**. AFSCME 3800 and several sister locals and unions are sponsoring the rally. It starts at 7 p.m. at CWA Local 7200, 3521 E Lake St., Minneapolis. <https://www.facebook.com/events/113058743033274/>.
- Donate to the strike fund: mnnurses.org/donatestrikefund.
- Bring food and drink to the picket line. Call MNA’s Geri Katz at 651-252-5510.
- Call Alina out on social media @allinahealth with the hashtags #MN4RN #nursesneedcare2.

AFSCME Strong Update

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 of 94 percent membership, we need to sign up **13,151** more workers.

Saint Paul Passes Sick Leave

The Saint Paul City Council passed an ordinance that gives all people who work in the city access to paid sick and safe time starting **July 2017**. The vote is the result of a concerted, yearlong campaign by faith, community and labor groups, including AFSCME Council 5. AFSCME Local 66 worked with community partners to establish a task force on the issue. The long-term goal is to win sick and safe time for all workers in our state.

Council 5 is Hiring

AFSCME is looking for two field representatives, one based in Duluth and the other in South St. Paul. The application deadline is **Monday, Sept. 26** at 4 p.m. Find details at www.afscmemn.org.

Members Aid Flooding Victims



Sheryl Lilya, Crystal Kreklow and Heidi Reller

Three Council 5 members who traveled to Louisiana to help organize workers in prisons, state hospitals and local governments ended up helping flood victims, too.

The day after Sheryl Lilya (Local 3887), Crystal Kreklow and Heidi Reller (both from Local 1349) arrived, Baton Rouge flooded.

Some of the AFSCME members they were working with lost everything. "One of the prison guards sent a picture of his house," Lilya says. "It looks like it's in the middle of a lake." The women saw walls torn down to the studs and mountains of ruined stuff along the roadsides, from sheetrock to couches. As donations rolled in, the women helped unload vehicles, sort donations and reload them into trailers bent for shelters and other locations. "The big cry was for

bleach," Lilya says. "It's so hot and so humid, the mold starts setting in right away."

"It was a good feeling to be able to help. It was hard to leave knowing there were people still needing stuff."

Fundraiser for Steelworkers

Times are tough for steelworkers on Minnesota's Iron Range. Out of work for more than a year, many steelworkers have exhausted their unemployment benefits. They're fiercely proud, and we want to make sure they can buy food for their families and school supplies for their kids.

Locals and individuals can donate. Please make checks payable to USW 2660 and write "Relief Fund" on the memo line. Bring your checks to the Council 5 convention so we can present them to the steelworkers.

Labor Movie Night Cancelled

Friday's event was cancelled to hold a rally for nurses (see page 1).

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board at www.afscmemn.org or share an event by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Rally and Fundraiser for Striking Nurses	Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.	CWA Local 7200, 3521 E Lake St., Minneapolis
AFSCME Council 5 Annual Convention	Sept. 22 through Sept. 24	DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington
Labor 2016 Day of Action	October 1, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Locations across Minnesota; Contact Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org or Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org