



Cassandra Mills (Local 744, Minneapolis Veterans Home) cheers during a rousing speech at the 12th Annual AFSCME Council 5 Convention.

Convention Highlights

Nearly 750 delegates, alternates and guests gathered in Bloomington last week for the 12th Annual AFSCME Council 5 Convention. The high-spirited convention included stirring speeches, skill-building workshops, an appearance by Gov. Mark Dayton and Lt. Gov. Tina Smith and a musical labor history performance, all centered on the theme “Never Quit.”

Delegates re-elected president Judy Wahlberg; vice president Mike Lindholt; secretary Mary Falk; and treasurer Nickson Nyankabaria. They elected 11 new Executive Board members: Joel Hoffman (District 2, West); Rick Neyssen (District 4, Central); Theresa St. Aoro, Jeff Couillard and Eric Pascal (District 5, East Metro); Kenneth Garnier and Tyler Moroles (District 6, West Metro); Art McGrane (Sector, Private/Special); Annie Jakacki, Crystal Kreklow and Kim Johnson (Sector, State).

AFSCME members overwhelmingly passed four resolutions:

- To support a \$15 minimum wage and the right to form a union.
- To support striking Allina nurses.
- To stand in solidarity with AFSCME members in Illinois.
- To oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Several members won awards for their service:

- Communications Award: Joe Broge, Local 600; Rick Neyssen, Local 599.
- Local Union Development Award: Local 3132 Public Safety.
- Organizing Award: Kyle McGinn, HealthEast.
- Political Action Award: Laura Birnbaum, Local 66; Tabitha Mitchell, Local 1842.

Knock for Change

Election Day is approaching quickly, and here in Minnesota, we have a real opportunity to create positive change for workers and our families.

If we help win back seven seats in the House and retain the Senate, we can provide strong partners in good policy-making to Gov. Mark Dayton to help him get stuff done his last two years in office and break the logjam in Saint Paul.

Who we elect for our county commissions, state House and state Senate will determine how well we live and how well our communities fare.

How can you make a difference? Take part in a Labor 2016 Day of Action. We’re door knocking for candidates with worker-friendly values on **Saturday, Oct. 1** and **Oct. 15** from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For locations and more information, email Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org in Duluth and Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org in South St. Paul.

You can find exciting convention highlights, including videos and a download of the striking Never Quit logo at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/convention-highlights-1>.

View or download convention photos at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskHmzFZS>.

Look for the full new Executive Board roster in the upcoming issue of *Stepping Up*, where you also will find more details about the convention.

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 **12,820** more workers.

Worker Protest Deluges Site

Delegates to the Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention inundated Taste of the NFL's Twitter site and called on the charity's founder to respect workers and their right to organize at his Franklin Street Bakery. The delegates were so successful, Taste blocked their messages. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/zezaunq>.

Free College for Members

AFSCME is excited to announce a new benefit for members, families and retirees: a free associate degree from Eastern Gateway Community College.

The AFSCME Free College Benefit is one more way AFSCME helps members secure the opportunities and the respect you deserve. The program is also designed to be flexible: You can take online classes that fit your schedule.



More than 300 AFSCME members, including Mike Lindholt (left) and Tom Torgerud (right), joined striking Allina nurses on the picket line during the Council 5 Convention. The next day, the mediator called Allina back to the table with nurses.

Get details at: <http://afscmemn.org/story/free-college-afscme-members>.

You'll need your AFSCME International number to apply. If you don't have one, call AFSCME International at 202-429-1000.

Scholarship Application Opens

The AFSCME Family Scholarship for 2017 is now taking applications. Children of full dues-paying members can apply for one of 10 scholarships, worth \$2,000 a year for up to four years.

The postmark deadline is **Dec. 31**. Download the form and learn more at: www.afscme.org/family.

Labor Movie Night

This free monthly event includes a double feature **Friday, Oct. 21** of the documentaries *Delano Manongs* and *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* The first movie tells the story of the Filipino farm workers who started what became the national Grape Strike

and helped form the United Farm Workers. *Vincent Chin* examines the aftermath of the murder of an automotive engineer who was mistaken as being Japanese and killed by an unemployed auto worker in Detroit. The event starts at 7 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library in Saint Paul.

Get in on the Action

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

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Labor 2016 Day of Action	Oct. 1 and Oct. 15 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Locations across Minnesota; Contact Laura.Askelin@afscmemn.org or Zach.Sias@afscmemn.org
Labor Movie Night	Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.	East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul