



Local 977 president Carmen Brown (left) and her coworkers present a petition with 1,500 signatures from staff, patients and community members to HCMC CEO Jon Pryor, shortly before he walks out on them.

HCMC Workers Bring Fight to Boss

Hennepin County Medical Center workers hand-delivered a petition to CEO Jon Pryor on April 5 to stop layoffs, outsourcing and discrimination. HCMC has announced about 200 layoffs plus controversial job reassignments.

“We feel disrespected by this hospital’s management team,” Local 977 president Carmen Brown read from the petition. “HCMC has little or no regard for our contract.”

She says members of Locals 977 and 2474 won’t meet with the labor management committee until administrators treat workers with dignity and respect. Brown told Pryor the layoffs and the resulting job restructuring targeted minorities, workers over 50 and union activists. Pryor walked out of the meeting.

Watch it at #HCMCdiscriminates and see how the layoffs are affecting workers at www.afscmemn.org.

Tax Action Day

Members of AFSCME Council 5 will greet last-minute tax filers at several post offices **April 18** to ask: “Do you want to pay more so the rich can pay less?”

The Minnesota GOP’s proposal would give tax breaks to the wealthy and big corporations, and cost more than \$1 billion a year. While the middle-class tax burden has dwindled under Gov. Dayton, we still pay 8 percent more per dollar in state and local taxes than the rich. Join Tax Action Day from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at these post offices:

- Brainerd, 422 Laurel St.
- Duluth, 2800 W. Michigan St.
- Minneapolis, 100 1st St. S.
- St. Cloud, 915 2nd St. N.

INVEST IN STRONG COMMUNITIES

Minnesota cities and counties get high marks for livability. That doesn’t happen by accident. It happens because we do the work that makes people want to live, work and raise a family here.

But it’s hard to deliver world-class services when the state shrinks from its commitment to Local Government Aid and County Program Aid. That aid ensures that everyone – no matter where they live – gets vital city and county services at a fair price. Without it, we’d have to lock our parks and libraries and lay off police and firefighters.

Fortunately, Gov. Dayton’s budget proposal reinvests in the work we do and in the communities where we live. His budget increases state aid to cities and counties by \$30 million annually for the next three years. That prevents local government layoffs, holds down property taxes and creates stronger communities.

Text AID to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators, or call your senator at **1-877-553-0116** and your representative at **1-877-201-9067**.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Invest in strong communities by supporting the \$30 million budget request for state aid to cities and counties.

AFSCME is also co-sponsoring Tax March MN on **April 15** at the State Capitol from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. <https://tinyurl.com/jev9ufy>.

AFSCME Strong

AFSCME Strong is our program to determine our own destiny by building a stronger union with members who are more engaged. We only need 10,848 more members to fully commit to our union.

Sign a membership card to protect your job, defend our rights and preserve the quality of services we provide our communities.

Catch DOTH Highlights

About 1,200 members of AFSCME Council 5 turned the Capitol green at our annual Day on the Hill. Watch highlights of the Rotunda rally at: <https://tinyurl.com/lo9pnsd>.

Have a Voice in Saint Paul

DFL ward caucuses and conventions are coming up **April 22, 23, 29 and 30**, giving Saint Paul residents a say in who becomes mayor and represents them. Please attend your caucus and volunteer to become a delegate. Find dates and locations at <https://tinyurl.com/k5gs3lz>.

Attend Town Hall Meeting

Want to hear how policy makers are thinking and let them know what matters most to you? The Dakota County Labor Assembly is sponsoring a town hall meeting

Thursday, **April 13**, with Sen. Greg Clausen; Sen. Matt Little; and Reps. Erin Maye Quade and Sandra Masin. It runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dakota County United Educators, 6950 W. 146th St., Apple Valley.

Local Ratifies Contract

Local 495 (City of Columbia Heights) approved a two-year contract that includes general raises of 2.25 percent the first year and 2.5 percent the second year; hourly increases of 25 cents a year for several job titles; and moves some job titles up steps. The employer will kick in more for family health insurance, and provide \$200 a month to employees covered by another plan who waive city health insurance.

Ramsey County Sued

Council 5 has filed suit against the county and is seeking a temporary injunction to stop management from retaliating against child protection workers who are blowing the whistle. The workers have been disciplined for sharing concerns about heavy caseloads that put children at risk. The court hearing is **April 25**.

Workers Memorial Day

The Dakota County Labor Assembly and the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation are joining together to honor those who have suffered or

died on the job, and to fight for safe jobs and the freedom to form unions. The event starts at 6 p.m. **April 28** at the Monument to Fallen Workers, Lebanon Cemetery, Apple Valley. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/n8v45sc>.

Bowl for Labor

April 20 is the last day to register for the Seventh Annual Labor Bowl, which benefits the Labor Studies and Resource Center. The event is **April 27** at Midway Pro Bowl in Saint Paul. To register, call Laura at 651-222-3787, extension 117.

Scholarship Deadlines Near

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is giving out \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are union members or dependents and \$500 scholarships to adult members. The postmark deadline is **April 30**. <http://www.mnafcio.org/about/scholarships-awards>.

AFSCME Council 5 is offering college scholarships to high school seniors and adults continuing their education. Apply by **May 5**. www.afscmemn.org/scholarships.

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 or share news by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Seventh Annual Labor Bowl	April 27	Midway Bowl, call 651-222-3787, x117
SEPC Spring Conference	April 28	Ramada, Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis
Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships	April 30 deadline	www.mnafcio.org
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarships	May 5 deadline	www.afscmemn.org/scholarships
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarships	June 1 deadline	www.nelliestone.org