



About 325 delegates and alternates from state AFSCME locals recently met to start crafting proposals for their next two-year contract and to elect their negotiating teams. They represent nearly 18,000 workers in the Executive Branch.

## State Negotiating Teams Elected

Delegates from AFSCME Council 5's state Executive Branch locals have selected who will bargain their next contract. SEPC president John Hillyard is part of the team.

**Unit 2:** chair Michael Lindholt, MnDOT – Metro; co-chair Jeff McDonald, DNR – Region 1

**Unit 3:** chair Sid Kaminski, MCF – Oak Park Heights; co-chair Kevin Clark, MnSCU – Fergus Falls

**Unit 4:** chair Delphine Steiner, DHS – Fergus Falls; co-chairs April Grothe, Veterans Affairs – Fergus Falls; Eric Hesse, DHS – St. Peter MSOP

**Unit 6:** chair Mary Falk, MnSCU – Anoka Technical; co-chairs Jennifer Foster, Revenue; Laura Firkus, MCF – Moose Lake; Kim Johnson, MnSCU – St. Cloud State; and Melanie Preczewski, Pollution Control Agency

**Unit 7:** chair Kevin Norbie, Military Affairs; co-chairs Catherine Claude, Public Safety – DVS St. Cloud; and

Joel Hoffman, MnSCU – Moorhead Community & Tech

**Unit 8:** chair James Barbo, DOC – Moose Lake; co-chair Jeff Vars, DOC – Oak Park Heights

**Unit 25:** chair Donald Ochs and co-chair William Lewis, both from Public Safety.

## Labor Giant Dies

David Roe, former president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, passed away peacefully Monday. He's a massive historical presence in the history of this state and our labor movement. He is one of the founders of the modern DFL at its best. Without Roe's leadership, we would not have the Public Employment Labor Relations Act, among many other accomplishments. He spent his last 20 years fighting to make sure workers were recognized on the state Capitol lawn with the Minnesota Workers Memorial. It depicts workers' sacrifices throughout state history.

Funeral details are pending. Watch Council 5's Facebook page for upcoming details.

## SUPPORT LOCAL CONTROL

Local interference is the most dangerous legislation you've never heard about. The bills, written by ALEC, are a direct attack on working people. This corporate power grab is designed to strip cities, counties and school districts of their existing authority to improve work standards.

It aims to repeal Minneapolis and Saint Paul's new Earned Sick and Safe Time ordinances. It could also block Minneapolis from passing a higher minimum wage, which city officials have said is a goal.

Gov. Dayton is no fan of the Republican Legislature's move to override wage and sick rules. "This is about the business community trying to keep wages down in Minneapolis and Saint Paul," explains Dayton.

This summer 150,000 people in our two largest cities are due to start receiving earned sick and safe time, a paid benefit that passed at the local level. It would allow them to take time off when sick or dealing with domestic abuse. We can't let powerful industry lobbyists rob workers of their paid sick leave.

**Text LocalControl to 237263** to be connected to your state legislators, or you can call your senator at **1-888-833-9154** and your representative at **1-855-790-8847**.

## ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Support local control and oppose corporate interference. It's a threat to our local democracy and an attack on working people.

## Volunteers Needed for DOTH

We need more volunteers to make Day on the Hill on **March 28** as big and successful as possible. Call Deb Smith at 651-287-0543 or e-mail: [DOTH@afscmemn.org](mailto:DOTH@afscmemn.org).

Many locals are taking buses, sharing union spirit and helping members avoid traffic. Register and get more information at: <http://afscmemn.org/doth17>.

## Donate Buttons for DOTH

Do you have vintage AFSCME buttons? Donate them at Council 5's reception desk in South St. Paul by March 21. We'll sell them for \$1 each at Day on the Hill to raise money for PEOPLE.

## Locals Approve Contracts

**Local 2032** (Food Service workers at Ecumen New Horizon Foods) ratified a contract that includes a wage grid with substantial raises for new and longtime employees; contract revisions that reflect current policy; and a \$50 bonus for each quarter without absences.

**Local 3558** (Benedictine Health Center) approved a wage reopener with a 2 percent raise across the board.

**Local 3558** (YWCA Duluth) ratified a one-year contract that gives workers the power to partner with management to monitor and be more involved in daily operations.



Correctional officers showed up in force to the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, along with workers from the DNR, DHS, retirees and the Council 5 Executive Board. AFSCME members will keep attending the meetings every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

## AFSCME Activist Dies

Council 5 extends its condolences to friends and family of Todd Charles Marty, a former AFSCME local president for the Department of Health and steward for MnDOT Local 221, and tireless advocate for working people. The memorial service is **Feb. 25**. <http://www.holcombhenryboom.com/home/obituary/4093829>.

## Farmers Support Gas Tax

Gov. Dayton is proposing a 6.5 percent gas tax to pay for essential work on our roads and bridges, and he's got important allies, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association: <https://tinyurl.com/zssf2sw>. The last time the Legislature passed a gas tax hike was 2008.

## Council Endorses Member

AFSCME supports Tyler Moroles, an active member of Local 551 and the Council 5 Executive Board, for DFL treasurer. He works at the Minnesota Public Housing Authority. <https://www.facebook.com/TylerForDFLTreasurer/>.

## Get Your Legislative News Fix

AFSCME Council 5 is carefully tracking what's happening in the state Legislature that impacts union members, our families and our communities. Find the latest news at: <http://afscmemn.org/2017report>.

## 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](http://www.afscmemn.org) or share news by emailing: [Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org](mailto:Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org).

### Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
Day on the Hill	March 28	Starts from the RiverCentre, Saint Paul
Council 5 Scholarship deadline	May 5	<a href="http://www.afscmemn.org/scholarships">www.afscmemn.org/scholarships</a>
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship deadline	June 1	<a href="http://www.nelliestone.org">http://www.nelliestone.org</a>
Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 4 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center