



Register for Day on the Hill

Help protect the future for workers, our families and our communities.

Join hundreds of AFSCME Council 5 members at Day on the Hill **Tuesday, March 28**. We'll ask legislators to protect our pensions, reinvest in the work we do, fix transportation, staff up for safe workplaces, ban private prisons, make education affordable and fund child protection.

Register at www.afscmemn.org or by calling Deb Smith at (651) 287-0543. Volunteers are still needed. Call Deb to sign up.

Stand in Solidarity

We support our brothers and sisters at AFSCME Council 31 in Illinois, who voted to authorize a strike with 81 percent of the vote.

That doesn't mean state workers will walk off the job. They hope to use the favorable strike vote to bring Gov. Rauner, who broke off negotiations more than a year ago, back to the bargaining table.

"Bruce Rauner may think he can dictate, not negotiate, but this vote shows that AFSCME members are determined to stand up for basic fairness," says Council 31 executive director Roberta Lynch. <https://tinyurl.com/z2nzkkz>.

Locals Ratify Contracts

Local 3761 (St. Louis County attorneys and investigators units) approved contracts that include: 2 percent raises the first year and 2.5 percent in 2018 and 2019; early step increases for many; and only slight increases in employee health care costs. It will also be easier for new employees to take bereavement time.

Local 1934/Local 66 (St. Louis County Jail and 911) ratified a contract that includes raises of 2 percent the first year and 2.5 percent the second and third years; just a slight increase to health care costs; the ability to earn and use comp time in the same pay period; increased trainers' pay and uniform allowances; and a one-year trial period of 12-hour shifts.

SUPPORT SAFE STAFFING

Clocking in should never mean putting your life on the line. That's why AFSCME members who work with violent patients are standing up for safe staffing.

State-run hospitals for the mentally ill are dangerously understaffed. Patients punch, kick, bite and choke staff. Concussions, broken bones and eye injuries are common. See the stories on Facebook at Safe Staffing MN.

Gov. Dayton's budget answers our cry for help, with \$84 million for staffing at Anoka Regional Treatment Center, St. Peter Security Hospital and MSOCS group homes. In addition, his bonding proposal includes \$70 million to expand St. Peter; \$27 million to improve Sex Offender Treatment facilities in Moose Lake and St. Peter; and \$2.25 million for safety renovations at Anoka. The Governor's plan also includes \$7.5 million to construct a new CABHS facility in Willmar for kids facing mental health crises.

"Decades of neglect have made these facilities more dangerous to both care providers and patients," Dayton said. "It is imperative that the Legislature correct some of these deficiencies this year."

Text SAFE to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators. Or call your senator at **1-855-420-7709** and your representative at **1-855-957-6655**.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO: Support Gov. Dayton's budget for safe staffing at state-run psychiatric facilities.

AFSCME Strong Update

AFSCME Strong is our program to determine our own destiny by building a stronger union with members who are more engaged. We're already at 81.2 percent full membership!

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

Support Scholarships

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship program turns 30 this year. It's celebrating by giving out at least 30 renewable scholarships to minority students from union families going to a Minnesota State college. Help make this possible by attending the 30th Annual NSJ Scholarship Dinner **Thursday, March 23**. Buy tickets at <http://nelliestone.org/nsj-scholarship-dinner>. Apply for scholarships at <http://www.nelliestone.org> or by calling 866-738-5238. The postmark deadline is **June 1**.

Fighting for Education

AFSCME Local 3800, SEIU, the Teamsters and university students are pushing for affordable education at the U of M. They're holding a summit **Wednesday, March 1** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the U's Minneapolis campus in Room 325, Coffman Memorial Union. <https://www.facebook.com/events/368370513545388/>.

Corrections Honors Vets

Members of AFSCME Local 3887 at the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Togo have remembered veterans in a beautiful and lasting way. They put up a bronze plaque (pictured at right) next to their flagpole.

"Veterans don't get enough credit for the sacrifices they and their families make," says Sgt. Nick Porter, who's a union steward. "We need to pay homage to what past and future veterans have done and will do for our country, our state."

Porter, who spearheaded the effort, says it involved people across the facility. They raised money from the Bigfork and Greenway Lions Clubs, AFSCME and Council 5's Veterans Initiative. Then they worked with offenders to install a cement pad, a flag pole and the plaque.

It's dedicated to all veterans, including inmates: "It was important to us we incorporate offenders, too," Porter says. "If you served, you're still a veteran."

Board Member Appointed

AFSCME welcomes Jenny Foster of Local 3141 to represent District 5 (East Metro) on the Council 5 Executive Board.



The board is taking nominations to fill a District 4 vacancy created by the resignation of John Gaither.

Retreat for Labor Women

The U of M's Labor Education Service is sponsoring a retreat to foster greater female participation in workplaces, unions and communities. The Minnesota Union Women & Femmes Retreat will help participants build leadership skills. It's **April 19 to 21** at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/jlo3s8g>. The registration deadline is **March 17**.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes every two weeks for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5.

Download a copy at www.afscmemn.org. Share news and events by emailing: Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place
State Negotiations Assembly	March 10	Ramada Plaza Minneapolis, Industrial Blvd.
Day on the Hill	March 28	Starts from Saint Paul's RiverCentre
Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 4 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center