



AFSCME members take over the rotunda at the Minnesota State Capitol at a previous Day on the Hill. The Capitol building has reopened while restoration continues. Council 5 members will once again turn the halls green to support workers at the next Day on the Hill on Tuesday, March 28.

Legislative Session Opens

Our state Legislature started a new session Tuesday with Republicans in control of both the state House and Senate. It's likely we'll see legislation that attacks our collective bargaining rights and public services on both the state and national levels.

We will fight to protect our clients, our families, our communities and our rights. These are some of our top legislative goals for 2017:

- Protect pensions
- Prevent privatization of public services and ban private prisons
- Support an increase in state aid to cities and counties
- Fix transportation with long-term funding for roads, bridges and transit; the deal must include increased appropriations for our design, inspection and maintenance work

- Support safe staffing for workers in health and human services, corrections and child protection
- Protect the Public Employment Labor Relations Act
- Bond for safety improvements at St. Peter Security Hospital and Anoka Metro-Regional Treatment Center; a new intake unit at St. Cloud Correctional Facility and additional medical beds at Lino Lakes
- Support paid family and medical leave, and sick and safe time leave, for all workers
- Prohibit local government preemption, such as the Legislature trying to interfere when local governments want to offer better benefits or a higher minimum wage.

Save the date: Day on the Hill is **Tuesday, March 28**. We'll rally, then bring our questions and concerns directly to lawmakers.

PROTECT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

As AFSCME members, we never quit on the people who depend on our public services. We protect our clients from any politician who threatens to cut the vital programs people need to survive.

Our commitment is especially important as the 2017 legislative session begins with Republicans controlling both the Minnesota House and Senate. Despite a \$1.4 billion budget surplus, Republican leaders are already threatening major cuts. Meanwhile, Gov. Dayton is doing everything in his power to defend the work we do and the clients we serve.

We urge legislators on both sides of the aisle to pass Gov. Dayton's plan, which would provide a 25 percent rebate for people who can't get other help with their surging premiums.

Rebates are a short-term fix; the long-term solution is reforming the insurance industry. The insurance companies set the soaring premiums, not MNsure or the Affordable Care Act.

Text CARE to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators, or call your senator at 1-855-732-8388 and your representative at 1-855-708-5285.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Work with Gov. Dayton to pass insurance rebates and make health care affordable and accessible to all Minnesotans.

Locals Approve Contracts

Local 3378 (City of Savage) ratified a two-year contract that includes a raise of 2.75 percent the first year and 3 percent the second year; and holds the line on the cost of health insurance by preventing any increase in the employee share of the premium the first year and limiting it to no more than \$20 the second year.

Local 2454 (City of Dayton) ratified a two-year contract with a 2.5 percent wage hike each year; \$60 more per month from the employer toward health insurance; improvements in overtime language; plus more vacation at 20 years.

Local 2454 (City of Robbinsdale) approved a one-year contract with a 2.5 percent wage increase that started Jan. 1 and 0.5 percent more on Dec. 18, 2017; sick leave and funeral leave expanded to include caring for life partners; a “me too” clause that brings improved wages and insurance if any other unions currently in negotiations win them; and allows

employees to request in writing that written disciplines be removed from their files after a year if no other disciplines have been issued.

Local 2032 (Ecumen Scenic Shores) approved a one-year contract containing a 2 percent overall wage hike; additional steps and wage increases for laundry, housekeeping, maintenance and activities (giving some workers – including the lowest-paid – a 5 percent pay hike); additional steps at 25 and 30 years; clarification that no one can be forced to work an extra shift more than three times in a calendar month; a \$50 bonus each quarter a worker doesn’t call in sick; and a new holiday rotation so people don’t have to work the same holidays each year.

Register for Labor Class

The Labor Education Service is offering “Intro to the Labor Movement” online from Jan. 30 to March 31. The registration deadline is **Jan. 20**. Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/hprj2v2>.

Council 5 is Hiring

AFSCME is looking for a data entry/processing specialist who is passionate about databases and enjoys the logic and problem solving that come with mapping raw data files. The deadline to apply is **Friday, Jan. 6** at 4 p.m. Find details at: <http://afscmemn.org/job>.

Council 5 Offers Social Media Training

Did you know that the Council 5 Communications Department offers customized one-on-one and small group trainings to help your local make the most out of social media? The trainings are free and flexible.

It’s a great way to build solidarity within your local. Email Trisha Harms at trisha.harms@afscmemn.org to get started.

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
Free College Spring Semester	Classes start Jan. 17	http://freecollege.afscme.org/
Day on the Hill	March 28	Minnesota State Capitol, Saint Paul
Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 4 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center