



AFSCME is fighting to help counties hire, train and retain child protection workers to keep kids safe. Last week, members left 317 voice messages asking state lawmakers to provide funding, and 20 workers attended Child Protection Lobby Day. They included: Sara Crotteau, left (Local 34), Paul McDonald (151), James Jago (66) and Becky Rios (151) with state Rep. Diane Loeffler (far right). Legislators agreed to work with AFSCME on a bill to address their concerns. Workers plan to visit the Capitol to keep lobbying every week.

Register for Day on the Hill

Anti-worker bills led off this legislative session, from an ALEC bill to stop local governments from raising the minimum wage to health care cuts, to attacks on collective bargaining, voting rights and our pensions - all while proposing tax cuts for the richest Minnesotans.

Day on the Hill provides a critical opportunity to stand strong for the services we provide and for the dignity of our work, our families and our neighbors. We will be supporting local government aid, comprehensive transportation funding, safe staffing, paid parental leave, higher education and child protection, and an end to talk of a private prison. Register at: <http://afscmemn.org/doth17>.

AFSCME Supports Budget

Gov. Dayton released a two-year \$45.8 billion budget that proposes significant investments in early and higher education; transportation; safe staffing; and clean water. His budget would expand working family and child care tax credits, and close corporate tax loopholes. He also wants to allow Minnesotans who need health insurance to buy it through MinnesotaCare.

AFSCME supports his budget, which reinvests in the work we do. It gives everyone a fair shot.

Governor Protects MSRS

Gov. Dayton is proposing a major investment in the Minnesota State Retirement System: a 1 percent increase in the employer contribution in 2018 and

FIX TRANSPORTATION

Our union is urging the Legislature to fix transportation now with new revenue for roads, bridges, transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

Half of our roads and bridges are in poor condition with dangerous potholes everywhere. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has 500 fewer AFSCME designers, inspectors and maintenance workers than a decade ago. Yet the Legislature keeps adding new lane miles without money for maintenance.

The Republican transportation proposal would pay for transportation on the backs of public employees and gut education and human services.

Text MOVE to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators, or call your senator at 1-855-982-3046 and your representative at 1-855-432-4270.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

Fix transportation now with new revenue for roads, bridges, transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure. And don't forget to budget for maintenance workers who plow snow, patch potholes and inspect bridges.

0.5 percent in 2019. His plan would increase the employee contribution by 0.5 percent and reduce the cost-of-living adjustment to 1.5 percent a year, starting in 2018. These changes will help our pension funds stay solvent in Minnesota, where life expectancy has grown by two more years.

AFSCME Grows Stronger

AFSCME Strong is our program to determine our own destiny by building a stronger union with members who are more engaged. We're at 80.6 percent full membership! Sign a membership card to protect your job, defend our rights and preserve the quality of services we provide our communities.



Stand With Workers Thursday

A state House committee is hearing a bill that would hurt working people. It would prohibit cities and counties from requiring businesses to provide a higher wage, better leave and fair schedules. Please pack the hearing **Thursday at 4:30 p.m.** in room 200 of the State Office Building. Learn more at: <http://afscmemn.org/issues>.

Governor Doing Well

Gov. Dayton fainted briefly during his State of the State speech, then returned to the Capitol the next morning to propose his budget. He announced that he has prostate cancer, but says he has the stamina to do his job and vowed to complete his term. Council 5 wishes him good health.

Refugees Are Welcome Here

The Dayton/Smith team joins AFSCME in denouncing President Trump's executive order to

temporarily ban people from seven Muslim nations from entering the United States: "As Americans, we cannot turn our backs on refugees fleeing persecution, genocide and terror," says president Judy Wahlberg and executive director Eliot Seide. "What makes America great is that we have always welcomed people seeking freedom, justice and opportunity."

AFSCME Endorses DFL Head

Council 5 has endorsed Ken Martin for reelection as chair of the Minnesota DFL. We're confident he's the best person to restore the House to DFL leadership and help win the governor's race in 2018.

Local Approves Contract

Local 844 (Saint Paul Public Schools) approved a two-year contract that includes annual raises of 2 percent plus steps; a \$15 minimum hourly wage; increased employer contributions to health care; and expands the amount of sick leave that can be used to care for family. The district agreed to meet with AFSCME and a mediator to work on training issues related to clerical workers doing nursing duties.

Board Member Elected

Congratulations to Sheila Rinn, who was elected to serve on the AFSCME Executive Board representing the state sector.

Picnic Organizers Seek Donations

The AFSCME Family Picnic needs donations and volunteers. Mark your calendars for **Aug. 20, 1 to 5 p.m.** If you'd like to contribute, contact Council 5 Executive Board member Duane Gatzke at 651-472-2787 or kkirk77dg@comcast.net.

Vacation Donation Sought

AFSCME member Jill Davis was hit by a drunk driver while coming home from work. She was seriously injured and has exhausted her leave time. State workers can donate vacation at the State Employee Self Service website. Donate money to help with her bills at: <https://www.gofundme.com/medical-supportjill-olson-davis>.

Council 5 is Hiring

AFSCME seeks a full-time executive administrative assistant in the South St. Paul office to report directly to our executive director. The deadline is **Thursday, Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.** <http://afscmemn.org/jobs>.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy for your workplace bulletin board at www.afscmemn.org or share news by emailing: 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	http://afscmemn.org/afscme-council-5-scholarships
AFL-CIO Scholarship deadline	April 30	www.mnafcio.org
Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 4 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center