



AFSCME Turns Capitol Green at Day on the Hill

About 1,200 Council 5 members packed the state Capitol Tuesday, working to protect our future.

Workers from across the state came out in force to push for a state budget that will secure a brighter future for hardworking Minnesotans, our families and our communities.

They met directly with their state representatives and senators. Members asked lawmakers to defend our pensions, reinvest in the work we do, staff up for safe workplaces, move forward on transportation, ban private prisons, protect children, make education affordable and support local control.

Members filled the Rotunda for a thunderous rally, sending chants of "Who does the work? We do!" reverberating through the dome.

Check out our website at www.afscmemn.org for more details. You can view or download numerous photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskTRhCLM>.

AFSCME Fights Private Prison Lease

Correctional officers are moving the fight against privately owned prisons to the state Senate, after a House committee rejected a private prison ban. DFL legislators supported the ban, while GOP members opposed it.

Correctional officers testified at a House committee hearing March 21 that they don't want our state doing business with an infamous corporation like CoreCivic (aka CCA). The Corrections Commissioner has repeatedly told legislators the department doesn't want or need the CCA-owned

Appleton prison, and the Governor keeps vowing to veto it. <http://afscmemn.org/fightprivateprisons>.

Along with CCA's terrible reputation, the prison's location and design are problematic, too. A former Appleton correctional officer says it's dangerous for workers, inmates and the public: <http://afscmemn.org/ccadanger>.

Protesting HCMC Layoffs

Members rallied March 17 against nearly 200 layoffs at Hennepin County Medical Center and how those layoffs were handled.

Workers say they treat every patient with kindness, dignity and respect, and they deserve the same treatment from their employer.

Council 5 says management is discriminating against older workers, people of color, women, veterans and union leaders. AFSCME is suing HCMC and the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners for violating the contract, and seeking an order to temporarily block the layoffs and give workers their jobs back with no loss of pay or seniority.

Locals 977 and 2474 protested alongside other AFSCME locals and several other unions. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/lzvwp4c> and follow #HCMCdiscriminates.

International Elects Officer

The AFSCME International Executive Board selected Elissa McBride, the education and leadership director, as the new secretary-treasurer. Council 5's executive director Eliot Seide seconded her nomination, pointing out her studies with Paul Wellstone.



Carl Mimms (left) and Dennis Barrow, members of Local 977, protest layoffs at HCMC. Locals 2474 and 977 continue the fight, passing petitions and reaching out to elected officials. Watch [AFSCME Council 5's Facebook](#) page for details of upcoming actions.

Minneapolis Mayoral Candidate Endorsed

Council 5 has endorsed Ward 3 City Council member Jacob Frey for Minneapolis mayor.

“We believe Jacob Frey has the energy and vision to guide Minneapolis into being a safe and vibrant place for both the workers and residents of our great city,” says Local 9 president Sarah Maxwell.

Four candidates spoke at a March 11 AFSCME PEOPLE forum: Frey, Mayor Betsy Hodges, state Rep. Raymond Dehn and Tom Hoch. Candidates Aswar Rahman and Nekima Levy-Pounds were invited but didn’t attend.

AFSCME has endorsed several City Council candidates: Jillia Pessenda (Ward 1), Cam Gordon (Ward 2), Barb Johnson (Ward 4), Blong Yang (Ward 5), Lisa Goodman (Ward 7), Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8) and Linea Palmisano (Ward 13). Screenings for the remaining wards are coming.

AFSCME represents 800 City of Minneapolis workers and 4,200 workers who live there. Make sure the city reflects your voice: Attend the Minneapolis DFL Precinct Caucuses **April 4**.

Franken Grills Gorsuch

A trucker got fired for leaving his trailer behind on a sub-zero night so he wouldn’t freeze to death. His cabin had no heat, his trailer had frozen brakes and he’d already waited hours for help.

Yet Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch still ruled against that trucker, saying his firing was just.

Sen. Al Franken pressed Gorsuch on his lack of humanity and the absurdity of his decision. Watch it at <https://tinyurl.com/ldbl7fn>. Sign a petition against Gorsuch’s nomination: <https://tinyurl.com/mw5uy7e>.

Retirees Petition Franken

AFSCME Council 5 Retirees United joined Working America to present nearly 1,000 signatures to Sen. Al

Franken, asking him to help save Medicare and Social Security from privatization.

“We’re concerned about President Trump and his careless acts,” says Judie Atkins, president of the group’s East Metro subchapter, who was joined by member Judy Schultz. “Privatization doesn’t work, and especially in the medical field, it’s hard to hold them accountable.

“We all need to work together and call, write or visit our representatives,” Atkins says. “If we don’t call or take action, it will make a difference, and it will be one that we don’t want.”

Retreat Registration Extended

Women and femmes in the labor movement can build leadership skills and network at a retreat April 19 to 21 at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge in the Brainerd Lakes area. The registration deadline has been extended to **March 31**. <https://tinyurl.com/jlo3s8g>.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5.

Download a copy to post on your workplace bulletin board 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	afscmemn.org/scholarships
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarships	June 1 deadline	www.nelliestone.org