



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Progress at the Bargaining Table

City of Bloomington Parks: Workers ratified their first contract, a one-year agreement through Dec. 31. The contract provides pay raises of 2.5 percent, retroactive to Jan. 1, and improves upon city policies in step progressions and other areas.

Hennepin County: Members of Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864 and 2938 will vote the week of Dec. 10 on a tentative agreement for a two-year contract through 2015. Union negotiators recommend ratification.

The proposal achieves the locals' main goals: across-the-board raises for all members (2.5 percent each year), plus steps each year for workers within range.

The TA also includes an additional \$350 each year for members who make less than \$18.01/hour; a long list of market-rate pay increases for specific job titles; and improvements in such areas as uniform allowance, shift differentials, and premium pay. That's on top of an earlier deal keeping health insurance affordable.

For details on the TA, go to: www.afscmemn.org; click "Bargaining," then "Hennepin County."

Federal Shutdown: AFSCME and other unions have negotiated a memorandum of understanding to protect state executive branch workers who may be laid off if another federal government shutdown takes place on or after Jan. 15, 2014. Locals will vote on the MOU during meetings before the end of the year.

More than 3,000 state workers are in jobs that receive at least half their funding from the federal government. That makes their positions vulnerable during a federal shutdown. To read the MOU, go to: www.afscmemn.org; click "Bargaining," then "State of Minnesota."

Party Rings in the Holidays on Dec. 6

All AFSCME members are invited to Council 5 Next Wave's annual holiday party on Dec. 6. The free event runs from 7:30-11 p.m. at the Green Mill in Uptown, 2626 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Pizza and soft drinks are provided; a cash bar will be available.

In the spirit of holiday giving, monetary donations will be collected for North Country Food Alliance, a Minneapolis nonprofit that increases access to food.

Have a Boisterous Black Friday

Here's your chance to give very visible support to underpaid and underappreciated workers.

On "Black Friday" – when stores make truckloads of money – we can show retail employees they've got allies as they stand together and fight for fair wages and better working conditions – without fear of retaliation. Here's where to show up on Friday, Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving:

Duluth: Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Hermantown Walmart, 4740 Mall Drive. Activities start near the fence on the pharmacy side of the store.

Twin Cities: Meet at 11 a.m. near University Ave. and Pascal St. in Saint Paul (outside the Midway Wal-Mart).

- Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, Nov. 26, St. Cloud activists will rally for better treatment of temporary workers. Meet at 10 a.m. outside Work Connections, 200 25th Ave. S.

Enjoy a Union-Made Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the ultimate American holiday – a chance to pause, remember, and show gratitude for the good things we have in life. Working union helps make some of those good things possible.

You can celebrate by making sure your Thanksgiving festivities feature food, snacks, and beverages that are union-made in America. To find out more, go to: <http://go.afcio.org/Thanksgiving>.

Safety Committee Seeks Nominees

The State Employee Policy Committee is accepting nominations for three vacancies on its safety committee. Nominees must be from Unit 3 (Service), Unit 6 (Clerical), or Unit 25 (Radio Communications).

The nomination deadline is Dec. 13. Send names to: Jackie O'Shea, AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075; by fax to 651-455-1311; or by email to jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Next Wave Meets Nov. 23

Council 5 Next Wave members will meet Nov. 23 at 11 a.m. at the South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. South. All Next Wavers are welcome; you'll help draft goals and the plans to achieve those goals.

Council 5 Seeks Political Organizer

Council 5 is accepting applications for a political organizer based in Duluth. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. Nov. 20.

For a full job description and application details, go to www.afscmemn.org; click "Work for Us."

Get a Move On

Move MN is a growing and diverse coalition dedicated to starting to erase Minnesota's transportation deficit by securing a comprehensive transportation funding package during the 2014 legislative session.

New funding will enable the state to properly maintain and improve transportation assets that expand access and opportunity for all and create living-wage jobs.

Getting there: We all have a stake in getting from "A to B." Watch the 3-minute video at <http://bit.ly/17kSFQh>.

Sign up: To show your support, sign up as an individual member at www.movemn.org.

Make Corporations Reveal Pay Levels

We've all heard about the outrageous salary packages many CEOs feel they're entitled to. To ensure transparency, the federal Dodd-Frank law requires corporations to report not just executive pay, but also the median pay of the rest of the company's workers.

To put the law into practice, however, the Securities and Exchange Commission first must write a rule to make it happen. A weak rule – or no rule at all – makes the law worthless. (And you can imagine what kind of rule CEOs and the Chamber of Commerce want.)

Fight back: Urge the SEC to force companies to report pay ratios for their workers.

To send a letter electronically, go to: <http://bit.ly/17XBBCz>. Letters must be sent by Dec. 2.

Keep More People from Going Hungry

This month, Congress cut anti-hunger assistance. The SNAP benefit, which most of us know as food stamps, is now down to a mere \$1.40 per meal.

But that's too generous, according to some Congressional Republicans. They want to cut SNAP funding in half – and they're holding the Farm Bill hostage unless they get their way. The additional cuts would take more food away from hungry Americans: unemployed adults, low-wage workers, their children, veterans, and our most-vulnerable seniors.

Minnesota has three members on the committee that can stop those plans: Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Collin Peterson, and Rep. Tim Walz.

Protect anti-hunger assistance: Send a letter to our Congressional representatives by using the Feeding America website: <http://bit.ly/TtaeZ0>.

Training for the 21st Century

Need extra help building the skills and structure you need to make your local more visible and effective? Need practical ideas on how you can keep members connected, involved, and informed? Do your officers and stewards know what they need to know to be strong advocates and leaders? Do you want to build ties to other workers and allies in your community?

That's what Council 5's education program is all about.

Training is not cookie-cutter; it's geared for the specific needs and goals in your local.

Training can take place at any Council 5 office, at your workplace, or at any location that makes sense.

Arrange a custom training: Contact Ryan Wells at ryan.welles@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0530.

College Scholarship Money Available

AFSCME International is now accepting applications for its 2014 Family Scholarship. Ten scholarships, worth \$2,000 per year, will be given for full-time college study. The application deadline is Dec. 31.

For requirements and full application details, go to www.afscme.org/family.