



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Not Your Ordinary Movie Nights

Labor Movie Night is a double feature this month.

Twin Cities: "Cradle Will Rock" – a movie about a stage play about a movement – kicks off a new labor film series in Minneapolis on Jan. 18. The film is at 6 p.m. at the United Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. SE.

Council 5 Next Wave and University of Minnesota Clerical Local 3800 are sponsoring the new series, which runs the third Friday of every month.

Duluth and Iron Range: Labor Movie Night returns Jan. 21 with "At the River I Stand." The documentary, about the 1968 strike by AFSCME sanitation workers in Memphis, will be shown in two places at 6 p.m.:

- In Duluth, at Wellstone Hall in the Labor Temple, 2002 London Road.
- In Virginia, at the Operating Engineers Local 49 Hall, 8381 Enterprise Drive NE.

Negotiations Assembly Meets Feb. 4

The first Negotiations Assembly for the 2013-2015 state contract takes place Feb. 4 in Bloomington. Delegates and alternates who plan to attend should contact Jackie O'Shea by Jan. 23 at 651-287-0524 or jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

The Assembly will be at the Ramada Hotel, 2300 E. American Blvd. Registration opens at 8 a.m.; the assembly and unit caucuses begin at 9 a.m.

A small block of rooms is available for \$89 on the night of Feb. 3. Room reservations must be made by Jan. 28; call the hotel at 952-548-3600.

March with Janitors, Security Guards

Janitors and private security guards represented by SEIU Local 26 invite AFSCME members to join them Jan. 24 for a solidarity march in downtown Minneapolis. The march begins at 11 a.m. at the Hennepin County Government Center.

The workers clean and protect the buildings of the state's richest corporations. But 5,000 of these workers are fighting for new contracts and against proposals that turn hundreds of full-time, living-wage jobs into part-time jobs with lower pay and benefits.

Join Day on the Hill Feb. 26

With new DFL majorities in the Legislature, and a DFL governor, this is Minnesota's Moment. It's a chance to fix the budget without gimmicks, to raise revenue fairly, and to build an economy that gives everyone a chance to get ahead.

But there are no guarantees. We must seize this opportunity while we have it. That's why we need *you* at Day on the Hill Feb. 26. It is our chance to hold our local legislators accountable.

Details: Events begin at 9 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront in St. Paul. There's training in the morning, a rally at the Capitol at 12:30 p.m., and meetings with legislators in the afternoon.

To register online, or for full details, go to www.afscmemn.org, then click the Day on the Hill logo in the left column. Registration is \$20.

Where to start: At a Capitol news conference, front-line AFSCME workers highlighted three ways the Legislature can begin restoring what the state has lost: by investing in higher education, in early education, and in property tax relief. See a video at www.mn2020.org; search for "A Way Forward Can't Wait."

Local 4001 Celebrates King's Legacy

MnSCU Local 4001 is celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this Saturday, Jan. 19.

Events kick off with a march at 4 p.m. from KMOJ Radio, 2123 W. Broadway Ave., Minneapolis, to the Urban League, 2100 N. Plymouth Ave.

There, a program begins at 5 p.m. It features artists, praise dance, and speakers, including Gary Armstead, of Local 34, and Council 5 director Eliot Seide.

Admission is free, but free-will offerings will be accepted.

All donations go to the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Foundation. Seating is limited; for a reservation, contact Local 4001's Grace Jones at 952-686-1088 or jazzyqej@yahoo.com.

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Local Presidents Convene Feb. 8

Local presidents will meet Feb. 8 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office. Topics include building power for better contracts, Day on the Hill, and our 2013 legislative agenda.

Registration deadline is Feb. 1; contact Amy Torgeson at 651-450-4990 or council5@afscmemn.org.

Presidents who cannot attend should send another elected officer in their place.

Council Has 2 Staff Openings

Council 5 is accepting applications for two staff openings:

- Applications for education coordinator must be received by Jan. 18 at 4 p.m.
- Applications for data specialist must be received by Jan. 25, 4 p.m.

For the full job postings, go to www.afscmemn.org; click "Work for AFSCME."

ALEC's Minions Can't Hide for Long

Sen. Scott Dibble has introduced legislation (SF26) that defines groups such as ALEC – the American Legislative Exchange Council – as lobbyists and requires them to disclose their members and funders.

New Dues Take Effect Jan. 1

Because of formulas in the AFSCME International constitution, minimum dues for full-time members in many locals increased by 30 cents a month on Jan. 1. Of the increase, 10 cents goes to the International, 15 cents goes to Council 5, and 5 cents stays with the local. Dues for part-time members increased by 15 cents a month.

This increase in minimum dues does not apply to some locals, including those that raised dues in 2012 or that have a "percentage" or "progressive" dues structure.

Learn All About 'Nellie'

A play about Minnesota union and civil rights activist Nellie Stone Johnson has its world premiere Jan. 26-Feb. 17 at the History Theatre in St. Paul.

Special "labor parties" take place Feb. 1 at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. On those days, \$5 of every ticket will be donated to the Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Program, which provides aid to students of color in the MnSCU system.

For exact show times, ticket information, and other activities, see www.historytheatre.com; click "Shows," then click the "Nellie" link.

Warm Hearts, Cold Everything Else

AFSCME members are taking the Polar Bear Plunge again this year, to benefit Special Olympics.

- In Rochester, members of MnDOT Local 868 make their icy immersion on Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m. at Foster Arend Park, 4109 E. River Road NE.
- A week later, at 3 p.m. Feb. 16, Pam Sater and Shelby Hall, of Moose Lake DHS Local 1092, jump into Lake Superior, from Canal Park in Duluth.

You can pledge cold, hard cash to these members. For the Rochester jumpers, go to www.plungemn.org/team/mndotdistrict6. For the Duluth jumpers, go to www.plungemn.org/team/thewalkingstiffs.

LES Offers Union Skill Classes

Union members can learn basic activist skills through non-credit classes from the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service. Classes include:

February (online): Introduction to the Labor Movement
March 2 and 9: Contract Negotiations

Classes take place on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. For a brochure with class details, costs, and registration information, email les@umn.edu.