



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

www.afscmemn.org

Wahlberg Elected Council 5 President
Convention delegates elected **Judy Wahlberg** as Council 5's new president on Oct. 4.

Wahlberg, of Arrowhead Local 66, defeated John Hillyard, of Stillwater Corrections Local 600. Wahlberg succeeds Mike Buesing, who retired after eight years as Council 5's first and only president. Delegates also:

- Elected **Clifford Poehler**, Hennepin County Attorneys Local 2938, to replace Wahlberg as vice president
- Re-elected **Mary Falk**, MnSCU Local 4001, as secretary
- Elected **Michael Lindholt**, MnDOT Metro Local 221, to replace Poehler as treasurer

E-Board Gets 12 New Members

Delegates to the Bloomington convention also elected 12 new members to the 39-person Executive Board:

- **Sabrina Becker**, Judicial Branch Local 3688
- **Dale Blom**, Hennepin Adult Corrections Local 1719
- **Deb Breneman**, MnSCU Local 4001
- **Michael Dolney**, Brainerd DHS Local 1574
- **Mike Hartel**, Metro MnDOT Local 221
- **Cherrene Horazuk**, U of M Clerical Local 3800
- **Megan Mueller**, St. Paul Technical Local 1842
- **Patrick Pearce**, Minnesota State-Mankato Local 638
- **Rick Pospichal**, Winona State Local 945
- **John Ross**, St. Paul Technical Local 1842
- **Sarah Sosa**, Hennepin County Clerical Local 2822
- **Delphine Steiner**, Fergus Falls DHS Local 735

It's Official: Boycott Crystal Sugar
Unions have launched a consumer boycott against American Crystal Sugar. AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka says the nationwide boycott will continue until the Moorhead-based company ends its 14-month lockout of 1,300 union workers in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa.

What to avoid: The beet sugar co-op sells to consumers under the *Crystal Sugar* label. American Crystal Sugar also produces private-label brands for many grocery and retail chains. The best way to avoid buying any *Crystal Sugar* product is to buy cane sugar instead (such as *C&H*, *Imperial*, or *Domino*). Beet-sugar options include the *GW* and *White Satin* brands.

Awards Honor Extraordinary Results

Council 5 honored outstanding grassroots effort with the following membership awards during its convention:

- Jerry Wurf Organizing Award: **Art Miller**, Moose Lake DHS Local 1092
- Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award: **Metropolitan Local 668**
- Communications Award: **Lisa Thompson**, Child Care Providers Together Local 3400
- Rick Scott Political Action Award: **Christina St. Germaine**, Moose Lake DHS Local 1092

Don't Limit the Freedom to Marry or the Right to Vote

Vote NO on the Marriage Amendment. Marriage is about love and commitment – it's a freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Your fellow union members recommend that you vote NO on this hurtful amendment. It is too much government intrusion into our private lives.

- To watch Vikings punter Chris Kluwe tell why he's voting NO, see the video at www.youtube.com/mn4allfamilies.

Vote NO on the Voter Restriction Amendment. This costly and complicated amendment will make it difficult for seniors, soldiers, and students to vote. It also dumps a \$50 million unfunded mandate on local governments. *That* will increase your property taxes – or force more cuts to police and fire protection, parks, libraries, and schools.

- See why former Secretary of State Joan Growe is voting NO: click the ad at www.ourvoteourfuture.org.



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SEPC Seeks State Contract Proposals

The State Employee Policy Committee is accepting contract and inequity proposals for the 2013-2015 collective bargaining agreement. Proposals must be mailed to Council 5 no later than Dec. 3; all proposals must come directly from a Local and be signed by the Local president.

To submit a proposal: Forms can be downloaded from Council 5's website: www.afscmemn.org; click "Bargaining Updates," then click "State of Minnesota."

Changing the Legislature Starts Now

We know exactly what we must do in the Nov. 6 election: Change who controls the Legislature. That starts with:

- **Phone banks:** Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6-8:30 p.m. in the metro and in Duluth.
- **Door knocks:** Every Saturday at 10 a.m. in a variety of locations.

For specifics, contact an AFSCME political organizer:

- **Northern Minnesota:** Sandra Curtis (218-341-1659) or Chad McKenna (218-310-8412)
- **Southern Minnesota:** Laura Askelin (651-238-5334) or Tamera Weller (651-208-9685)
- **Twin Cities Metro:** Chris Cowen (651-287-0531) or Tigger Lunney (651-321-4050)

Get Involved Statewide

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is coordinating statewide activities to elect a new majority in the Legislature.

Phone banks and door knocks take place on various weekdays, weeknights, and weekends in Albert Lea, Blaine, Brainerd, Cloquet, Duluth, Eden Prairie, Edina, Eveleth, Fargo, Grand Rapids, Mankato, Minneapolis, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Worthington.

Information: For exact times and locations, go to www.mnafcio.org; click "Get Involved," then click "Volunteer and Take Our Legislature Back."

Labor Play Comes to St. Paul

Lex-Ham Community Theater stages Lillian Hellman's "Days to Come" on Oct. 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 and 27. Council 5 and Hennepin County Local 2864 are helping finance the production.

Performances are at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St., on St. Paul's West Side. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. for each performance, except Oct. 21, which is a 2 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$18, or \$12 for children, students and those age 65 or older. (The Oct. 21 matinee is a "pay what you can" event.)

College Scholarships Available

AFSCME is accepting scholarship applications for members to take courses at the National Labor College, and for their children to attend college.

National Labor College: Scholarships worth \$2,000-\$10,000 a year are available for working members pursuing a bachelor's degree online. The application deadline is Nov. 15; details and downloads are available through the link at www.afscme.org/members/scholarships.

AFSCME Family Scholarship: Provides \$2,000 college scholarships for up to four years for full-time students. Students must be graduating high-school seniors who have a parent, legal guardian, or financially responsible grandparent who is a full, dues-paying AFSCME member.

The application deadline is Dec. 31, 2012. Details and downloads are available at www.afscme.org/family.

Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship: Provides a \$5,000 scholarship per year, plus an internship, for social science majors who are the children, legal dependent, or financially dependent grandchildren of AFSCME members. Current college sophomores should apply no later than April 30, 2013.

Details and downloads are available through the link at www.afscme.org/members/scholarships.