



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

www.afscmemn.org

Convention to Elect New Leadership
Council 5's annual convention takes place Oct. 4-6 at the Bloomington DoubleTree hotel.

Delegates will elect all officers and executive board members on Oct. 4. The retirement of president Mike Buesing means Council 5 will have new leadership for the first time since unification took place in 2004.

Here is the basic convention schedule:

- **Delegate registration:** Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.; Thursday, 7-9:30 a.m.
- **New delegate workshop:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
- **Convention Assembly:** Thursday, 9-noon and 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Friday, 2:30-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Board nomination meetings:** Thursday, 2:30-3 p.m. and 3:15-4 p.m.
- **Policy meetings:** Thursday, 4:15-5:30 p.m.
- **Elections:** Thursday, 5:45-7:45 p.m.
- **Workshops:** Friday, 8:30-11:45 a.m.
- **District meetings:** Friday, 1:30-2:15 p.m.

Pass the Facts Around

Fliers are available comparing presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, and making it clear why we need to dump Team Extreme from the majority in the Minnesota Legislature.

If you have not received the fliers at work, download yours from Council 5's website: Go to www.afscmemn.org; click "Political & Legislative," then "Action Alerts."

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 days, nights and weekends in Albert Lea, Bayport, Blaine, Brainerd, Burnsville, Coon Rapids, Duluth, Eagan, Edina, Eveleth, Fargo, Mankato, Minneapolis, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Worthington.

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

Keep Pressure on HealthPartners

More than 2,000 AFSCME members have signed postcards urging HealthPartners to take a stand against union-busting. Dozens of locals have passed resolutions saying the same thing.

The actions ask CEO Mary Brainerd and the board of HealthPartners to stop affiliates such as Stillwater Medical Group from taking the health-care premiums that union members pay, then using that money to beat down their workers when they try to organize a union.

Take action: If you have not signed a card, or if your local has not passed a resolution, find out how to get involved. Contact jeff.sabin@afscmemn.org.

Changing the Legislature Starts Now

We know exactly what we must do in the Nov. 6 election:

We must change who controls the Legislature.

If we don't, our very survival is at stake – our jobs, pay, benefits, union, and collective bargaining rights.

If we don't, we *all* are at risk, whether we work for the state, in local government, in education, in health care, in a nonprofit, or are retired.

Changing the Legislature. Before we get to the polls, we've got to get involved on the phones and on the streets.

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

Details. For specifics, and to volunteer yourself or your local, contact a political organizer in your area:

- 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)



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Caucuses Connect AFSCME Members
AFSCME International launches "constituency caucuses" this month to connect members who share interests and identities. Caucuses include members who are African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, LGBT, environmentalist, progressive, or conservative. Each caucus starts with a conference call to discuss issues, exchange ideas and experiences, and figure out how to stay in touch. October's schedule:

- **Oct. 3:** African-American caucus, 5 p.m.
- **Oct. 9:** Progressive caucus, 7 p.m.
- **Oct. 9:** Green caucus, 7:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 15:** Asian/Pacific Islander caucus, 7:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 17:** Latino caucus, 6:30 p.m.

For call-in details, see the story at www.afscmemn.org

Saving the Right to Vote

This is "Democracy Weekend" for the coalition opposing the voter restriction amendment. Events start Oct. 4 in St. Paul with a 5:30 p.m. rally at First Lutheran Church. Allies then march to Metro State University to watch a 7 p.m. debate on the amendment.

On Oct. 5, 6 and 7, phone banks and door knocks occur at various times in Apple Valley, Duluth, Minneapolis, New Hope, Rochester, St. Cloud, and St. Paul.

Details: See www.ourvoteourfuture.org/weekend-of-action

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 performances.

The play, about a 1930s labor strike, explores themes that are just as relevant now, including union busting, shady business deals, and class divisions.

Performances: The play is 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 on 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 "pay what you can."

Upcoming Training at Council 5

Council 5 is providing the following training for local leaders and activists:

- **Financial Responsibility Training:** Oct. 23 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), St. Cloud
- **Basic Steward Training:** Nov. 13-14 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day), South St. Paul
- **Workplace Bullying (Train the Trainer):** Nov. 29 (10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), South St. Paul
- **Basic Steward Training:** Dec. 12-13 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day), Willmar

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:

- **Oct. 6:** Telling the True Story of Workers
- **Nov. 17:** Effective Leadership Styles
- **February (online):** Introduction to the Labor Movement

Classes are on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. For a brochure with details, costs, and registration deadlines, call 612-624-5020 or email les@umn.edu.

Show Support for Transportation

The Transportation Alliance is holding open forums with elected officials and candidates to build support for investment in the state's transportation infrastructure. The forums are free and open to the public. The schedule:

- **Duluth,** Oct. 18
- **Rochester,** Oct. 24
- **Washington County,** Oct. 25.

Details: To find exact times and locations, go to www.transportationalliance.com; click "Meetings & Events."

Join Us on Facebook

Council 5 is on Facebook. Take a look at www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5 – then "like" us to keep up on what we and members are doing.