



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

www.afscmemn.org

PEOPLE Power Delivers Victory

- Two constitutional amendments: Defeated.
- The Republican majority in the Minnesota Senate: Gone.
- The Republican majority in House: Gone.

AFSCME members were fed up with legislative extremists who spent two years targeting our livelihoods, our services, our union, and our rights instead of fixing the state's problems.

So we turned around and targeted 15 legislators who showed an utter lack of respect for public workers and retirees. *We defeated all 15 of them.*

AFSCME members, staff, and retirees were tireless. We knocked on thousands of doors and made hundreds of thousands of phone calls to get out the vote. On the weekend before the election, 300 AFSCME volunteers hit the streets and phones statewide. That was as many activists as all other unions combined.

It was all part of a bigger effort to win a middle-class majority in the Legislature and beat back the avalanche of cash from secretive corporate donors.

For the bigger picture on what we accomplished, see <http://afscmemn.org/victory-2012!>

Voters Don't Believe in Fairy Tales

Voters in Minnesota and across the country soundly rejected the agenda of the 1 percent. But the right-wing echo chamber continues to insist that America is a "center-right" nation clamoring for an extreme conservative agenda. They're wrong.

The fact is, in poll after poll, Americans say creating jobs is more important than reducing the deficit. They say we must preserve Social Security and Medicare. They're OK with raising taxes so the very rich pay their share.

To bust the right-wing myths about these topics – or about military spending, climate change, clean energy, marriage and more – see www.afscmemn.org; click "What Do Voters Really Want?"

Sale Features Union-Made Goods

When we do holiday shopping this year, we can make sure the workers who made our gifts weren't exploited along the way. That's why the Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition is hosting a holiday sale that features only union-made and fair-trade items.

The sale takes place Sunday Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the CWA Local 7200 hall, 3521 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. Clothes, crafts and other items will be from Minnesota's own Union House and Ten Thousand Villages.

The event, which includes entertainment and refreshments, benefits the Fair Trade Coalition, which promotes trade policies supporting social, workplace, and environmental justice.

Don't Forget: Boycott Crystal Sugar

With holiday baking season coming on fast, don't forget to boycott Crystal Sugar. In addition to its name brand, the sugar-beet co-op also produces private-label and "house" brands for many major grocery chains, including Target.

The best way to avoid buying any Crystal Sugar product is to buy cane sugar instead (such as C&H or Domino). The nationwide boycott continues until the company ends its 15-month lockout of 1,300 workers in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa.

Next Wave Plans Holiday Bash

Council 5's Next Wave is holding a holiday party on Saturday Dec. 8. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. at the Uptown Green Mill, 2625 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, lower level. You can RSVP at next.wave.minnesota@gmail.com or on Facebook at Next Wave Minnesota. Guests are encouraged to bring donations for locked-out sugar workers and their families.

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SEPC Seeks State Contract Proposals

Dec. 3 is the deadline to submit contract and inequity proposals for the next round of state negotiations on the 2013-2015 collective bargaining agreement. All proposals must come directly from a Local and be signed by the Local president.

Download forms: To submit a contract or inequity proposal, fill in the forms from Council 5's website: www.afscmemn.org; click "Bargaining Updates," then click "State of Minnesota Bargaining 2013-2015."

SEPC delegates: Dec. 14 is the deadline for locals to submit updated lists of delegates and alternates to the State Employee Policy Committee. These lists take effect at the Feb. 4 Negotiations Assembly meeting in Bloomington.

Learn Truths about Secure Retirement

A new union video stands up to the attacks on our nation's retirement system and sets the facts straight – for workers who are counting the days till retirement, and also for young workers who won't retire for decades.

The video highlights straight-forward solutions, including a simple fix to Social Security to guarantee that a worker who is 25 years old today will still be able to collect full benefits 50 years from now.

To arrange a showing at your local meeting or workplace, contact Council 5's Retirees United at retirees@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0486.

Upcoming Training at Council 5

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

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

All participants must be registered by an officer in their Local. Local officers should contact Jackie O'Shea at joshea@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0524.

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:

Nov. 17: Effective Leadership Styles

February (online): Introduction to the Labor Movement

March 2 and 9: Contract Negotiations

April 20: Basic Arbitration

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

College Scholarships Available

AFSCME is accepting scholarship applications for members to attend the National Labor College, and for children of members attending college.

National Labor College: The application deadline is Nov. 15 for these scholarships, which are worth \$2,000-\$10,000 a year for working members pursuing a bachelor's degree online. 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 college juniors and seniors majoring in a social science who are the children, legal dependent, or financially dependent grandchildren of AFSCME members.

Current college sophomores with a GPA of at least 2.5 should apply no later than April 30, 2013. Details and downloads are available through the link at www.afscme.org/members/scholarships.