



# ACTION UPDATE

**One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers**

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

[www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org)

## Last Chance for 'Day on the Hill'

This is Minnesota's Moment. We can fix the budget without gimmicks, raise revenue fairly, and build an economy that gives everyone a chance to get ahead. We can promote principles and priorities that move Minnesota forward.

But the Legislature won't seize this moment unless we make them. That's why we need *you* at Day on the Hill Feb. 26. We need a huge crowd, because we can't let them think AFSCME members are complacent.

**To register:** Members, retirees, and locals can register online: Go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click the "Day on the Hill" button in the left column.

**Details:** Events begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 26 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 individual legislators in the afternoon.

## Ride the Bus to St. Paul

Members in Greater Minnesota can travel to Day on the Hill in charter buses. To save a spot, contact:

- **Brainerd, Little Falls:** Wayne Fleischacker, 218-839-0850
- **Cloquet, Moose Lake, Sandstone, Hinckley, North Branch:** Jerry Firkus, 218-390-9560
- **Duluth:** Judy Wahlberg, 218-780-2144
- **Mankato:** Chris Hanson, 507-351-7465
- **St. Cloud:** Kimberly Johnson, 320-339-2122
- **Virginia:** Judy Wahlberg, 218-780-2144
- **Willmar:** Sheila Blokzyl, 320-444-0003

For information on departure times and locations, go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click the "Day on the Hill" button in the left column, then click the "bus info" link.

## Senate Approves State Contracts

Contracts for 18,000 state employees in AFSCME passed the Minnesota Senate on Feb. 7. The 2011-2013 contracts also cleared several House committees, with the full House expected to vote on Feb. 14.

If the contracts pass the House, their final stop is a conference committee before moving to Gov. Dayton for his signature.

## Urge Legislators: Raise Revenue

Legislators in key districts are hosting town-hall meetings in the next few weeks. It's a great chance for you, your neighbors, and your co-workers to make sure the representatives you elected understand the need to make taxes fair, invest in education, provide property tax relief, and value public-sector jobs and services.

To find a meeting near you, go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); look for the story on the home page.

## Film Chronicles Great Black Union

February's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis – sponsored by Council 5 Next Wave and Local 3800 – features "10,000 Black Men Named George."

The film chronicles A. Philip Randolph and the creation of the union of Sleeping Car Porters. It begins at 6 p.m. Feb. 15, in Room 356 of the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE. The movie is free, but donations are appreciated. Pizza and beer will be available.

## Council 5 Job Opening

Council 5 is seeking a Data Specialist to work at the South St. Paul office. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Feb. 25.

For details and the full job description, go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Work for AFSCME."

## Save the Dates

- **Council 5 Next Wave:** Feb. 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Council 5 office, South St. Paul
- **State Employee Policy Committee Spring Conference:** April 12, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis
- **Minnesota Union Women's Retreat:** April 24-26, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood
- **AFSCME Family Child Care Conference:** May 3-5, Madison, Wis.

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## Locals Vote on New Contracts

**City of Maplewood.** Members in this unit of Local 2725 vote this week on a two-year contract through 2014. The tentative agreement includes pay raises of 1 percent retroactive to Jan. 1, another 1 percent on July 1, and 2 percent on Jan. 1, 2014.

Health-insurance premiums stay the same for 2013 for employees who participate in a wellness plan. The proposal adds 4 more hours of annual holiday pay, and increases life insurance by \$5,000.

**City of Stillwater.** Members in this unit of Local 517 ratified a three-year contract through 2014. The deal provides 2 percent pay raises in 2013 and 2014; increases the pay for employees who work on a holiday (to double-time-and-a-half); extends a \$20,000 life-insurance policy to age 70 for full-time employees; maintains fully paid individual health insurance; and agrees to a joint study of the health-insurance plan.

**University of Minnesota Physicians.** Members in this unit of Local 1164 vote this week on a contract through July 31, 2016. The tentative agreement guarantees pay raises for all employees every year; keeps the employee's share of health-insurance premiums the same for all three years; increases pay for working on a holiday; and increases shift and weekend differential by 35 to 50 cents an hour.

The proposal's pay raises are a combination of step and longevity increases, general increases, and additional "market-based adjustments" for some jobs. At a minimum, employee pay will increase 1.75 percent in 2013, 1.5 percent in 2014, and 1.25 percent in 2015. Additional increases mean individual raises and range from about 2.5 percent to 6.5 percent.

## Local 1719 Leader Dean Enge Dies

Dean Enge, a former president and longtime activist of Local 1719, died Jan. 28 of cancer. Dean was a senior correctional officer at the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility, where he worked for 26 years. He also was a former president of the Hennepin County Policy Committee. Dean is survived by his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Melanie.

## Clear Up Confusion on 'ObamaCare'

Want to understand how exchanges, MinnesotaCare, and other parts of health insurance will work once the Affordable Care Act takes full effect next year? River Valley Action will provide answers at a free forum Feb. 25 in Oakdale.

DHS officials Carole Backstrom and Trudy Ohnsorg; the Minnesota Budget Project's Christina Wessel; and former legislator Julie Bunn will speak. They'll share information about "ObamaCare" and give advice on how you can influence decisions in the Legislature.

**Details:** The event takes place Feb. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m., at Peter O'Neill Hall at Guardian Angels Church, 8260 4<sup>th</sup> St. N., Oakdale (near I-94 and Radio Drive).

## Tell DC: Stop the Giveaways

First it was the "fiscal cliff." Then it was the "debt ceiling." Now the crisis in Washington is "sequestration." If Congress and the White House don't get their act together by March 1, it means automatic, across-the-board cuts to schools, Social Security, and the kinds of services working Americans and retirees rely on.

Sequestration means, once again, the middle class would pay the price to subsidize corporations and the wealthiest Americans, who continue to take advantage of a tax system that's rigged.

**Tell Congress:** Before they make any more cuts, make sure the rich and big corporations pay their share. Sign the petition at [www.afscme.org/stop-the-giveaways](http://www.afscme.org/stop-the-giveaways)

## Scholarship Dinner is March 21

The annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction takes place March 21 at the Prom Center in Oakdale. Tickets, which are \$65, can be purchased by email at [mfranklin@fmcs.gov](mailto:mfranklin@fmcs.gov).

Proceeds support scholarships for students of color in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.

**Deadline approaches:** AFSCME International's "Union Scholars" program provides scholarships for college students of color. The application deadline is Feb. 28. For details, see [www.afscme.org/organize/uncf](http://www.afscme.org/organize/uncf).