



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

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

## Let Child-Care Providers Bargain

Family child-care providers would gain collective bargaining rights in Minnesota under bills introduced Feb. 25 in the House (HF950) and Senate (SF778). The legislation continues the seven-year quest by individual, home-based providers to combine their strengths in order to lift their profession, improve care for children, and stabilize costs for parents. The legislation affects about 9,000 providers statewide who care for kids in Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program. Providers would be able to bargain over reimbursement rates, regulations, training, quality ratings, and other "issues of mutual concern." The rights kick in if a majority of providers who receive state reimbursement sign cards saying they want a union, or if they win a union election. Under a national agreement between AFSCME and SEIU, Council 5's Child Care Providers Together has sole jurisdiction to unionize providers across Minnesota.

## Governor Signs State Contracts

Gov. Dayton signed legislation Feb. 19 ratifying the 2011-2013 contracts for 18,000 AFSCME state employees in Units 2 (craft, maintenance and labor), 3 (service), 4 (health care), 6 (clerical), 7 (technical), and 8 (corrections). The ratification, which was held up for months in the Legislature, clears the way for the 2 percent pay raise that state employees were supposed to receive on Jan. 2 – their first raise in three-and-a-half years. The raise (including the retroactive portion) is expected to show up on either the April 5 or April 19 paycheck. **Unit 25:** The tentative agreement for members in radio communications is expected to go to the Legislature's committee on employee relations in early March.

## Want to be an AFSCME Organizer?

Council 5 is accepting applications for a full-time organizer working out of the South St. Paul office. Applications must be received by Friday March 8 at 4 p.m. For a complete job description and other details, go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Work for AFSCME."

## Budget for a Better Minnesota

A thousand AFSCME members and retirees filled the offices of legislators during Day on the Hill, making sure officials heard directly from the people who elected them. But our job isn't done. We've got to keep asking legislators to support Gov. Dayton's budget. It raises revenue fairly, finally fixes the deficit without gimmicks, and makes the investments we need to create good jobs and grow the middle class.

**Take action:** To find contact information for your local legislators, go to [www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx). If you don't know who your legislators are, find out at [www.qis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts](http://www.qis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts).

## 'Norma Rae' is Back

March's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis features "Norma Rae," one of the most famous union flicks of all time. The film, starring Sally Field, shows March 15, at 6 p.m., 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 Next Wave and University of Minnesota Clerical Local 3800 are sponsoring the monthly film series.

## E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Council 5 is accepting applications to fill an Executive Board vacancy left by the resignation of Mike Rumppe. Nominations must be received by April 11. Applicants must be members in good standing for at least one year and live in District 5 – Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey or Washington Counties (or, if they don't live in Minnesota, must work in one of those counties).

**Submit nominations to:** AFSCME Council 5 Elections Committee, c/o Michelle Stein, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075.

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## Local 3937 Throws a Party

University of Minnesota technical workers in Local 3937 are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their local with an open house March 1.

The celebration runs from 4-7 p.m. at the local's office: Room 356 in the Minneapolis United Labor Center, 312 Central Ave. SE.

## SEPC Holds Conference April 12

March 12 is the deadline to submit resolutions for the State Employee Policy Committee's spring conference.

The conference is April 12 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis. It's expected to run from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Credentials packets were mailed to presidents of state locals; locals must register their elected delegates no later than March 29.

**Lodging:** Rooms are available at the group rate of \$89/night (plus tax). Call the hotel directly at 612-331-1900 or, toll-free, 1-877-774-4315 before March 28; ask for the AFSCME Council 5 rate.

## Scholarship Dinner is March 21

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

Proceeds support scholarships worth \$500-\$2,000 per year for students of color enrolled in two-year, four-year, or master's degree programs within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. Through 2012, the organization has awarded more than 215 scholarships.

Union Women Won't Retreat at Retreat Strategies for finding your voice, finding your power, organizing, mobilizing, and advocating for family-friendly workplaces all are on the agenda of the next Minnesota Union Women's Retreat, which takes place April 24-26. Featured speakers include Karen Lewis, who revitalized the Chicago Teachers Union and led last year's historic strike, and Elizabeth Cuero Badillo, a leader of the port workers union in Colombia, the most dangerous place on Earth to be a union activist.

**Deadlines:** The registration deadline is March 21; arrangements for scholarships, child care, interpreters, and accessibility or dietary accommodations must be made by March 1.

**Details:** The retreat, organized by the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota, takes place at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood. Conference fees range from \$393-\$497, which includes lodging, meals, and materials. For complete details and to register online, go to [www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service](http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service).

## Save the Dates

- **Minnesota Child Care Providers Together Annual Convention:** April 19-20, Alexandria (Arrowhead Resort and Conference Center)
- **Council 5 Local Presidents Meeting:** May 3, South St. Paul
- **AFSCME Family Child Care Conference:** May 3-5, Madison, Wis.
- **AFSCME Next Wave Conference:** July 12-14, Detroit, Mich. (Marriott Renaissance Center)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Family Picnic:** Aug. 4, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood