



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

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

## The Latest on Contracts

**State of Minnesota.** Pay raises – including the retroactive amount back to Jan. 2 – will show up on the April 5 paycheck, Management and Budget reports.

**City of Forest Lake.** Members in this Local 517 unit ratified a three-year contract through 2015. The agreement includes a 1.5 percent pay raise in 2014, and a 2.5 percent raise in 2015. The city's health-insurance contribution increases by \$30 a month in both 2014 and 2015, regardless of what happens with overall premiums. The contract also allows members to transfer unused vacation pay to their health-care savings plan when they retire or leave.

**City of Robbinsdale.** Members of Local 3823 ratified a one-year contract for 2013 that provides a 2 percent pay raise retroactive to Jan. 1.

## Wanna Go to a Movie?

One of the most famous union flicks of all time and a documentary about one of the most famous union leaders of all time are featured at this month's Labor Movie Nights.

**Minneapolis:** "Norma Rae" stars Sally Field, who won an Academy Award as best actress for her performance. Movie Night is March 15, at 6 p.m., in Room 467 of the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE.

The showing is free, but donations are appreciated. Pizza and beer will be available.

**Duluth:** "The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle" shows March 28 at 6 p.m. at Wellstone Hall in the Labor Temple, 2002 London Road. Admission is free.

## 2 Chances to Work for AFSCME

Council 5 is accepting applications for two staff positions:

- A full-time political organizer in northern and western Minnesota, working out of Duluth. Applications must be received by March 21 at 4 p.m.
- A full-time organizer, working out of South St. Paul. Applications must be received by March 22 at 4 p.m.

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

## Help Providers Get Their Rights

After nearly eight years of work, family child-care providers are moving closer to having collective bargaining rights. Legislation cleared its first three committees – two in the Senate, one in the House. The bills give providers a better chance to lift their profession, to make quality child care more affordable for working parents, and to help prepare kids for school and success in life.

**Advance the cause:** Contact your legislators. Ask them to support providers by supporting SF778 and HF950. To track down your 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.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts](http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts).

## Deadlines Approach for SEPC

March 29 is the deadline to register delegates for the State Employee Policy Committee's spring conference. Credentials packets were mailed to presidents of state locals.

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

Rooms are available at the AFSCME 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.

## E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Council 5 is accepting applications to fill an Executive Board vacancy for District 5. Applicants must be members in good standing for at least one year; live in 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. Nominations must be received by May 10.

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## 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).

**About the scholarship:** Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction support renewable scholarships of \$500 to \$2,000 a year for students of color in a union family. Students must be enrolled in a two-year, four-year, or master's degree program at one of the community colleges, technical colleges, or state universities in the MnSCU system.

**To apply:** Go to [www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program](http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program). The deadline is May 1.

## It's Scholarship Season

Applications are being accepted for a variety of college scholarships – some for union members, some for their dependents.

**AFSCME Council 5:** Offers three scholarships – two for high school seniors pursuing higher education, one for working AFSCME members who are continuing their own education. The application deadline is May 3.

Go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Resources," then click "Scholarships."

**AFSCME International:** The Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship, for current college sophomores or juniors in certain majors, includes an internship option. The application deadline is April 30; go to the link at [www.afscme.org/members/scholarships](http://www.afscme.org/members/scholarships).

**Minnesota AFL-CIO:** Offers seven scholarships – five for graduating high school seniors, two for current union members. The application deadline is April 30.

Go to [www.mnaflcio.org](http://www.mnaflcio.org); click "About Us," then click "Scholarships and Awards."

## 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 Minnesota Union Women's Retreat, April 24-26. Speakers include Karen Lewis, who revitalized the Chicago Teachers Union and led last year's strike.

**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.

**To register:** Go to [www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service](http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/labor-education-service). The deadline is March 21.

## LPNs Schedule Conference

The annual LPN conference sponsored by AFSCME Local 105, the Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association, takes place April 23-25 in Shakopee. All LPNs in Minnesota are eligible to attend. Continuing education credits are given for seminars, which nurses can use toward maintaining their license.

**Details:** For the conference schedule, registration and lodging information, go to [www.mlpna.com](http://www.mlpna.com); click "Updates." Discounts are available if you register before March 20.

## Save the Dates

- **Minnesota Child Care Providers Together Annual Convention:** April 19-20, Alexandria (Arrowhead Resort and Conference Center)
- **St. Paul Labor Bowl:** April 25, Midway Pro Bowl
- **Council 5 Local Presidents Meeting:** May 3, South St. Paul