



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Celebrate Pay Equity

Thirty years ago, Minnesota's Pay Equity Act took effect.

AFSCME played a key role in the legislation, which wiped out the pay gap between men and women in state-sector jobs. The law guarantees that jobs staffed predominantly by women are paid the same as jobs of equal value staffed predominantly by men.

Two years later, the Legislature expanded the requirement to cover local units of government, too.

A celebration takes place April 9 at 9 a.m. in the Governor's Reception Room of the State Capitol.

Movie Night Features Farmworkers

Labor Movie Night in Duluth shows "The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle." It screens March 28 at 6 p.m. in Wellstone Hall of the Labor Temple, 2002 London Road. The film is free; discussion, snacks and beverages will be available.

SEPC Deadline is March 29

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. The conference is expected to run from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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.

Next Wave, Retirees Team Up

Members of Council 5's Next Wave and Retirees United have started meeting, socializing, and brainstorming to combine the power, energy, wisdom, and know-how of AFSCME's oldest and newest activists.

Their first official collaboration: a discussion titled "Strike Stories and Strategies."

Details: The free event takes place April 13 from 1-3:30 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. South.

Bargaining Rights Move Forward

Legislation extending collective-bargaining rights to 11,000 family child-care providers continues moving forward at the state Capitol. There's just one committee left in each the House and Senate before the legislation advances to final floor votes.

Let's get this done: Please contact your state legislators today. Ask them to support the Child Care Collective Bargaining Act: Senate File 778 and House File 950.

- To track down your legislators, go to: 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.)

Ideas for an Honest Budget

Ideas for achieving honest budget reform in Minnesota will be highlighted during a free forum April 4.

"No More Gimmicks" features Revenue commissioner Myron Frans, the Citizens League's Sean Kershaw, and Minnesota 2020's Jeff Van Wychen. They will discuss the state's chronic deficits, budget gimmicks and tax loopholes, and suggest structurally sound ways to stabilize revenue.

Details: The forum runs 7-8:30 p.m. April 4 at Peaceful Grove Church, 7465 Steepleview Road, Woodbury. It is organized by River Valley Action.

Financial Training for Locals

Financial Responsibility Training for local officers takes place May 15. The training, led by AFSCME International, is intended for any local member who signs checks or conducts audits.

The training runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. South. Cost is \$20.

To register: All participants must be registered by an officer in their local. Contact Jackie O'Shea at joshea@afscmemn.org or 651-287-0524.

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Locals Ratify Contracts

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. Members of Local 551 ratified an 18-month contract through June 30, 2014. Because of the financial impact of Congress' sequestration cuts, the contract contains no pay raises. However, it does give full-time employees an extra 40 hours of paid vacation, expands tuition reimbursement, and increases raises for employees who receive a promotion.

City of Plymouth. Clerical and technical members of Local 3839 ratified a three-year contract through 2015. The contract includes a 2 percent pay raise each year; this year's raise is retroactive to Jan. 1. It also allows workers to bank more comp time, and locks in the city's share of health insurance premiums.

City of Ramsey. Members in this unit of Local 2454 ratified a two-year contract through 2014. It provides a 1 percent raise retroactive to Jan. 1; a 2 percent raise on Jan. 1, 2014; and 1 percent raise on July 1, 2014. The city increases its insurance contribution each year, with no premium increases for employees. In addition, the contract allows workers to bank more comp time; allows them to cash out 40 hours of comp time each year; and improves on-call holiday pay, clothing allowance, and education reimbursement.

Labor's Fight to Escape Slavery

The never-ending struggle for racial and gender equity in American capitalism is the focus of this year's Untold Stories labor history series in St. Paul. The 2013 series, titled "All Labor Has Dignity," views topics in light of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Highlights include a look at landmark legislation that created pay equity for women in public-sector jobs in Minnesota; a tour featuring the history of African-American railroad workers in the Twin Cities; and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1962 speech in Minneapolis linking civil rights with worker rights.

Events begin April 9. For the complete schedule, see www.thefriends.org; click the Untold Stories link.

It's Scholarship Season

Applications are being accepted for a variety of college scholarships for union members or their dependents.

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.

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; click "Resources," then click "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.mnafcio.org; click "About Us," then click "Scholarships and Awards."

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Fund: Offers scholarships to students of color from union households who will attend one of the community colleges, technical colleges, or state universities in the MnSCU system. The application deadline is May 1; go to www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program.

Save the Dates

- **Minnesota Child Care Providers Together Spring Convention:** April 19-21, Alexandria (Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center)
- **Minnesota State Retirees Council Fun(d) Raiser:** April 20, Maplewood (Sheet Metal Workers hall)
- **Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association Conference:** April 23-25, Shakopee (Canterbury Inn)
- **St. Paul Labor Bowl:** April 25, Midway Pro Bowl
- **Council 5 Local Presidents Meeting:** May 3, South St. Paul
- **AFSCME Next Wave Conference:** July 12-14, Detroit (Marriott Renaissance Center)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Family Picnic:** Aug. 4, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood