



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

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

## AFSCME Fights Sick Leave Change

Council 5 is filing a class-action grievance to block a new state policy limiting use of sick leave. A memo this month from Minnesota Management and Budget unilaterally attempts to ban the use of sick leave for dependent children older than age 18.

MMB's interpretation ignores existing contract language and current practice. Right now, state workers can use sick leave for dependent children who are adults but still in school. Council 5's grievance seeks to ban the new interpretation and require that any changes be negotiated.

## How Pay Equity Became Reality

Thirty years ago, AFSCME pushed the state to guarantee not just that men and women get equal pay for the same work, but also equal pay for jobs of equal value. As part of the Untold Stories labor history series, AFSCME's Peter Benner; former state commissioner Nina Rothchild; and Bonnie Watkins, of the Pay Equity Coalition of Minnesota, talk about how it happened – and why it doesn't happen more often.

**Details:** The free event takes place April 24 at 7 p.m. at Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Parkway, St. Paul.

## Local 306 President Dies

A memorial service will be held April 25 for Shawn Danckwart, president of Dakota County Human Services Local 306. Shawn, age 37, died suddenly April 20. The service is from 5-8 p.m. at First Memorial Funeral Home, 7835 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park.

Shawn is survived by his partner, Kenny March; his mother; two sisters; and other relatives.

## Local Presidents Meet May 3

April 26 is the registration deadline for the next Council 5 Local presidents meeting. The meeting takes place May 3 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the South St. Paul office. Presidents who cannot attend should send another elected officer in their place.

**To register:** Email [council5@afscmemn.org](mailto:council5@afscmemn.org) or call 651-450-4990.

## We Remember on April 29

Workers Memorial Day events – including three coordinated with AFSCME MnDOT locals – take place around the state April 29.

Workers Memorial Day honor workers killed, injured or made sick on the job – and renews our commitment to create safer and healthier workplaces. This year's events:

- **Duluth**, 7 a.m.: Breakfast, Wellstone Hall of the Duluth Labor Temple, 2002 London Road. Tree-planting ceremony: 9:15 a.m.
- **Rochester**, 9 a.m.: MnDOT District 6 headquarters, 2900 48th St. NW
- **Roseville**, 9 a.m.: MnDOT Metro District, Water's Edge, 1500 W. County Road B-2
- **Mankato**, noon: MnDOT District 7 headquarters, 2151 Bassett Drive

## Meet with the Governor

Gov. Mark Dayton holds his next town hall meeting on April 29, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Shakopee High School Auditorium, 100 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. West.

The "Meeting with Mark" is an opportunity to support the governor's efforts to support us. That includes his proposals to make the richest 2 percent pay their fair share, and to make sure the Legislature invests in middle-class priorities such as collective-bargaining rights, education, job creation, and property tax relief.

## Financial Training for Locals

"Financial Responsibility Training" takes place May 15.

The training, led by AFSCME International, is required for Local treasurers, and open to any Local officer who signs checks or conducts audits.

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

**To register:** All participants must be registered by an officer in their Local. Contact Jackie O'Shea at [Jackie.OShea@afscmemn.org](mailto:Jackie.OShea@afscmemn.org) or 651-287-0524.

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## Scholarship Deadlines are – Now!

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mnafcio.org); click "About Us," then click "Scholarships and Awards."

**Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Fund:** Offers scholarships to students of color from union families who enroll in the MnSCU system. The application deadline is May 1.

Go to [www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program](http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program).

## LES Ready to Train Union Leaders

The University of Minnesota Labor Education Service is accepting applications for its 2013-2014 Minnesota Union Leadership Program. The application deadline is May 31.

Activists participate in six in-depth sessions from September to May – two in Brainerd, four in St. Paul. Participants study the labor movement, discuss how to address the challenges facing workers today, and develop staff and local leadership skills. Unions are expected to cover their members' tuition.

**Details:** For the schedule, program topics, and other information, go to [www.csom.umn.edu/labor-education-service/programs-courses/leadership.html](http://www.csom.umn.edu/labor-education-service/programs-courses/leadership.html)

## E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Council 5 is accepting applications to fill an Executive Board vacancy. Applicants must be members in good standing for at least one year and live in District 5: Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey or Washington Counties. (Members who don't live in Minnesota can apply if they 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.

## Golf Tourney Benefits Veterans

The annual "2 Wheels 4 Heroes" golf tournament takes place May 17 at Hidden Haven Golf Club in East Bethel. Tournament proceeds benefit the Minneapolis Veterans Administration's Polytrauma Center.

Entry fee is \$90, including a \$45 non-refundable deposit. The fee covers golf, cart, banquet, and door prizes. The day includes hole-in-one prizes and other contests. Banquet-only tickets are \$25.

**To register:** Contact Marty LaBrie, of Corrections Local 2728, at [twowheels4heroes@live.com](mailto:twowheels4heroes@live.com).

**Looking ahead:** Winter will end. When it does, you can join 2 Wheels 4 Heroes' annual benefit motorcycle ride. The June 1 ride departs at 9:30 a.m. from Lino Lakes Correctional Facility, 7525 4th Ave., Lino Lakes. The ride ends at Hidden Haven Golf Club.

## Check Your Calendar

- **St. Paul Labor Bowl:** April 25, Midway Pro Bowl
- **Minnesota Retirees United Founding Convention:** April 30, Bloomington (Double Tree)
- **AFSCME Family Child Care Conference:** May 3-5, Madison, Wis.
- **AFSCME Next Wave Conference:** July 12-14, Detroit (Marriott Renaissance Center)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Family Picnic:** Aug. 4, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood