

ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

The Next Step to Equality

AFSCME was the first union to join the campaign to defeat last year's hurtful marriage amendment. Now, it's time for loving same-sex couples to have the freedom to marry in the state they call home.

That next step requires passing legislation to extend fair and equal treatment and opportunity to all committed couples. Proposed legislation means Minnesota will stop relegating same-sex couples to the second-class status of current law, or relegating their love to the separate and unequal status of civil unions.

What you can do: Attend Minnesotans United's Lobby Day for marriage equality on April 18. A noon rally features musician Mason Jennings inside, and more than a half-dozen food trucks outside.

• If you can't be at Lobby Day, contact your legislators: Go to www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx; ask them to support HF1054 or SF925.

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 knowhow of AFSCME's oldest and newest activists.

Their first official collaboration: a discussion titled "Strike Stories and Strategies." The free event takes place Saturday, April 13, from 1-3:30 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. South.

State Bargaining Gets Under Way

Negotiations begin April 23-24 for a 2013-2015 contract covering AFSCME state executive branch employees. Joint bargaining on health insurance begins April 29.

Local Presidents Convene May 3

Local presidents will meet May 3 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office. Presidents who cannot attend should send another elected officer in their place.

The registration deadline is April 26; call 651-450-4990 or email council5@afscmemn.org.

It's Time to Stop This Bad Idea

Congressional Republicans continue their quest to cut Social Security and reduce Medicare to a coupon supplement for seniors. If they cut these essentials, they don't have to close a single tax loophole for billionaires or corporations.

Now, President Obama is going along with part of their plan. So, we've got to change his mind.

Tell the president and your Congressional reps: Cutting Social Security and Medicare is bad for the middle class, bad for health care, and bad for fiscal responsibility. Sign the petition at: http://go.aflcio.org/No-Cuts-Obama

Rally for Transportation April 17

A strong Minnesota economy requires a comprehensive, balanced, statewide transportation plan. To make that happen, join a rally for roads, bridges and transit on April 17, at 10 a.m., in the Capitol Rotunda.

The rally is organized by a coalition of unions, local government officials, business leaders, and transportation advocates. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/ProgressInMotion.

Labor's Fight to Escape Slavery

The never-ending struggle for equity in America is the focus of this year's Untold Stories series in St. Paul.

The labor history series views topics in light of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. All events are free. 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
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech in Minneapolis in 1962 that links civil rights with workers' rights
- For the complete schedule, see www.thefriends.org; click the Untold Stories link.



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Get 'Brassed Off' at Movie Night

The death this month of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher makes Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis extremely timely. "Brassed Off" looks at British coal miners' attempts to find redemption and hope 10 years after Thatcher busted their unions.

Details: The free showing is April 19, at 6 p.m., in Room 467 of the Minneapolis United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE. Donations are appreciated; pizza and beer will be available.

A 'Pin Number' for Public Libraries

April 16 is National Library Workers Day. In celebration, AFSCME is distributing buttons with a guaranteed conversation starter: the number 331.88. That's the Dewey decimal classification for trade unions.

Look for the buttons at a public library near you that is staffed by AFSCME members.

Do Your Finances the Right Way

Financial Responsibility Training takes place May 15. The training is required for treasurers and recommended for any officer who signs checks or conducts audits.

The class, taught by AFSCME International, runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Council 5's South St. Paul office.

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. Cost is \$20.

Is Bowling Up Your Alley?

The annual Labor Bowl, to benefit the St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, takes place April 25. Teams, individuals, and sponsors are invited to support the work of the center, which provides training, layoff assistance, and other services to union families in need.

Bowling takes place at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 W. University Ave., St. Paul. Each bowler is asked to secure at least \$100 in pledges.

To register, donate, or get other information, call 651-222-3787 x17.

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

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Fund: Offers scholarships to minority students 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

- State Employee Policy Committee Spring Conference: April 12, Minneapolis (Ramada Plaza)
- Minnesota Child Care Providers Together Spring Convention: April 19-21, Alexandria (Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center)
- Minnesota AFL-CIO State Retirees Council Fun(d)
 Raiser: April 20, Maplewood (Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Hall)
- Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association Conference: April 23-25, Shakopee
- Minnesota Union Women's Retreat: April 24-26, Deerwood (Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge)
- Minnesota Retirees United Founding Convention: April 30, Bloomington (Double Tree)