



# ACTION UPDATE

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

Thursday, May 23, 2013

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

## Child-Care Providers Win!

On May 20, we reversed the nationwide war on workers when the Legislature passed historic legislation that extends collective-bargaining rights to family child-care providers and personal care attendants. It is the biggest expansion of workers' rights in Minnesota in 40 years.

After Gov. Mark Dayton signs the bill, more than 12,000 family child-care providers will be able to vote on forming a union. That will give them a unified, statewide voice to improve the future for providers, children, and working parents. The rights extend to licensed and unlicensed providers who care for children in state-subsidized programs.

## State Negotiations Continue

After five days of bargaining on the master contract, and two days of coalition bargaining on health insurance, negotiators are preparing for "push week" June 25-28 on the 2013-2015 state contract.

Discussions have centered on language issues. So far, neither side has presented its economic proposal. The negotiations cover 17,000 executive branch employees in Units 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Negotiations begin June 5 for Corrections Unit 8.

More details will be distributed soon in worksites and online: Go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org); click "Bargaining Updates," then "State of Minnesota 2013-15."

## LES Ready to Train Union Leaders

May 31 is the application deadline for the 2013-2014 Minnesota Union Leadership Program through the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service. Activists participate in six in-depth sessions between September and May – two in Brainerd, four in St. Paul. They study the labor movement, discuss how to address the challenges facing workers today, and develop staff and local leadership skills.

**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)

## Thank You, Legislators

35 senators and 68 representatives stood with us. They voted to extend collective-bargaining rights in Minnesota. They understand that we all do better when workers have a voice in their job and in their future.

**Thank them!** And thank Sen. Sandy Pappas and Rep. Michael Nelson, the chief authors who stood up to hours of badgering from opponents. You can contact legislators at: [www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx)

Unfortunately, all Republicans opposed the legislation. So did these members of the DFL caucus: Sen. Terri Bonoff, Sen. Greg Clausen, Rep. Tim Faust, Sen. Melisa Franzen, Rep. Tina Liebling, Rep. Jay McNamar, Rep. Kim Norton, Rep. Gene Pelowski, and Sen. Bev Scalze.

## Elections Do Matter

We also achieved another of our long-time goals: making taxes fair. The Legislature's omnibus tax bill:

- Applies a fourth income-tax rate to the richest 2 percent – those with average taxable incomes of \$617,000 a year
- Closes a major corporate tax loophole
- Cuts down on corporate tax breaks by levying sales tax on some currently exempt business transactions
- Provides direct property-tax relief to homeowners and renters
- Provides additional property-tax and budget relief by raising LGA and other state payments to cities and counties; exempting their purchases from sales tax; and limiting how much they can raise their tax levy
- Levels the playing field for local merchants by requiring online retailers to charge sales tax

**Watch this video:** Realize how awful things could have been without a middle-class majority delivering a great legislative session: <http://youtu.be/HefD5WNTSeg>

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## Locals Ratify New Contracts

**Minneapolis Building Commission.** Members in this unit of Local 9 ratified a three-year contract through 2013. The agreement provided step increases in 2011 and 2012, a 2.5 percent across-the-board raise this year (retroactive to January), and longevity payments in all three years. The contract also expands funeral leave and requires employer-provided uniforms.

**Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.** Members in this unit of Local 9 ratified a one-year contract for 2013. The agreement includes a 2 percent pay raise, retroactive to Jan. 1.

**Robbinsdale School District.** Members of Local 499 ratified a two-year contract through June 30, 2015. The agreement increases longevity pay, ranging from \$200 to \$395, based on seniority; increases pay in the top three steps (which cover the vast majority of workers) by 1.75 percent over the life of the contract; and adds a new top step for veteran employees.

## Save the Dates

- **Twin Cities Pride Parade:** June 30, Minneapolis
- **AFSCME Next Wave Conference:** July 12-14, Detroit (Marriott Renaissance Center)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Family Picnic:** Aug. 4, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
- **AFSCME Women's Conference:** Sept. 20-22, Denver (Hyatt Regency)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Convention:** Oct. 3-5, Duluth

## Kelly Joins Executive Board

Alison Kelly, of Ramsey County Local 8, was elected to Council 5's Executive Board on May 16. She fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Rumppe.

## Stop the Corporate Power Grab

The anti-worker network is trying to cripple workers' rights again. This time, corporate-fueled politicians in Congress are refusing to fill vacancies on the National Labor Relations Board.

If the board doesn't have members, it can't function. That means thousands of private-sector workers won't get a hearing on abuses they've suffered at the hands of their bosses.

**Take action:** Go to [go.aflcio.org/power-grab](http://go.aflcio.org/power-grab) today. Urge Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken to work with their colleagues to confirm the NLRB's five nominees.

## Motorcycle Ride Benefits Veterans

The annual "2 Wheels 4 Heroes" motorcycle ride takes place June 1. Registration for the ride is free; free-will donations and proceeds from a silent auction benefit the Minneapolis Veterans Administration's Polytrauma Center.

The ride leaves at 9:30 a.m. from Lino Lakes Correctional Facility, 7525 4th Ave., Lino Lakes. The ride ends at Hidden Haven Golf Club in East Bethel.

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