



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Thursday, May 9, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

We're THIS Close

No one said it would be smooth – but success is in sight!

After eight years, only one thing stands between family child-care providers and the collective-bargaining rights they're fighting to gain: A floor vote in the House and the Senate.

Opponents and skeptics are pulling out every hurdle, delaying tactic, and threat to block the bills. That means every vote will count.

Please contact your legislators: Urge them to support the Family Child Care Providers Representation Act. To find your legislator, go to: www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legislators.aspx. (If you don't know your legislators, find out at www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts.)

Stay informed: As legislators head toward a May 21 adjournment, keep up to date at www.afscmemn.org about big votes and action you can take.

E Board Seeks to Fill Vacancy

May 10 is the deadline to apply for a District 5 vacancy on Council 5's Executive Board. Applicants must be members in good standing for at least one year and live in Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey or Washington County. (Members who don't live in Minnesota can apply if they work in one of those counties.)

Nominations must arrive by 4 p.m. May 10 at Council 5's South St. Paul office, 300 Hardman Ave. S.

Movie Night Features 'Matewan'

May's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis features "Matewan." John Sayles' classic film about a 1920s coal strike examines how coal companies try to turn Black, Italian, and Appalachian miners against each other, while the union tries to bring them together.

Details: The movie screens May 17, at 6 p.m., in Room 467 of the Minneapolis United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE. The movie is free, but donations are appreciated. Pizza and beer will be available.

Council 5 Next Wave and University of Minnesota Clerical Local 3800 sponsor Movie Night.

Stamp Out Hunger May 11

For the 21st straight year, union Letter Carriers are organizing the nation's largest one-day food drive. You can help "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, May 11, by leaving a bag of non-perishable food where your letter carrier normally delivers mail.

Carriers will pick up your donations and deliver them to Second Harvest Heartland or another food bank in your community.

Break Out the Green

Show your solidarity – and show our bosses we want a strong contract – by wearing green on May 10, 20 and 21. Those are the next bargaining dates for the 2013-2015 state contract, which takes effect July 1.

The contract covers 17,000 AFSCME members in executive branch units 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Revealing Labor's Untold Stories

This year's Untold Stories labor history series is in full swing. Highlights include a tour May 19 featuring the history of African-American railroad workers in the Twin Cities, and a program May 21 examining Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1962 speech in Minneapolis linking civil rights with worker rights.

For the complete schedule, see www.thefriends.org; click the "Untold Stories" link. All events are free.

Financial Training for Locals

"Financial Responsibility" training takes place June 21 at Council 5's South St. Paul office.

The training is required for Local treasurers, and available to any Local officer who signs checks or conducts audits. The class runs 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$20.

To register: Contact Jackie O'Shea at 651-287-0524 or jackie.oshea@afscmemn.org.

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2 ACTION

Thursday, May 9, 2013

LES Ready to Train Union Leaders

May 31 is the deadline to apply for the 2013-2014 Minnesota Union Leadership Program, run by the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service.

Activists participate in six in-depth sessions from September to May – two in Brainerd, four in St. Paul. They study the labor movement, discuss ways to address the challenges facing workers today, and develop their 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.

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, which 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.

Looking ahead: 2 Wheels 4 Heroes will hold its annual benefit motorcycle ride on June 1. 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.

Benner Named to MNSure Board

Peter Benner – former executive director of AFSCME Council 6 and longtime chief negotiator for the coalition of unions covered by the State Employee Group Insurance Plan – has been appointed to the board of MNSure, the state's new, publicly operated health-insurance exchange.

Gov. Mark Dayton appointed the board, which is responsible for implementing the federal Affordable Care Act in Minnesota.

Take Next Wave Energy Nationwide AFSCME International's Next Wave Conference takes place July 12-14 in Detroit.

Council 5 Next Wavers who are interested in attending should contact Local 4001's Melinda Pearson at 763-443-6648 or melinda.r.pearson@gmail.com.

Retirees Aren't Sitting on Sidelines

After two years of groundwork, AFSCME retirees officially founded Minnesota Retirees United Chapter 5 during a statewide convention April 30.

Retirees are organized into six chapters covering all parts of the state: Best of the West, Central Lakes, East Metro, Northeast, South Sixth, and West Metro. More than 2,100 AFSCME retirees in Minnesota already are part of Retirees United, determined to remain active in fighting for collective-bargaining rights, strong public services, and a retirement with dignity.

Pitch in to a Great Cause

AFSCME retirees Wesley and Karen Quick again will be riding in the annual Minnesota Ride for Kids, which benefits the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and children being treated for tumors.

The fully escorted ride takes place Sunday July 21 and tours a 45-mile route through the East Metro, beginning and ending with festivities at Jimmy's Event Center, 1132 E. County Road E, Vadnais Heights.

Details: To sponsor the Quicks, contact them at wquick022@gmail.com or 507-317-0277. For information on joining the ride, go to www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/fundraisers; click "Find a Ride," then "Minnesota."

Save the Dates

- **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