



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Negotiations Kick into High Gear

Contract negotiations for 17,000 executive branch employees in Units 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 enter "push week." Four bargaining sessions are scheduled from June 25-28. Before that:

- Union coalition negotiations on health insurance resume June 12-14.
- Corrections Unit 8 goes back to the table June 17-18.
- Supplemental negotiations for DHS employees also are scheduled for June 17-18.
- Negotiations for Radio Communications Unit 25 begin June 20.

Our Next Accomplishment: A Party

AFSCME is co-sponsoring "The People's Party" June 20 to celebrate legislative successes – and the grassroots volunteers, leaders, and organizations who made them happen. The free event includes food, drink, children's activities, art, and more.

Details: The party takes place 4-8 p.m. June 20 on Harriet Island in St. Paul, in the Wigington Pavilion. You can RSVP through the post on the AFSCME Council 5 Facebook page.

Free Lunch is a Way to Say 'Thanks'

The annual "Thank You" lunch for public employees takes place June 26 on the lawn of the state Capitol, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Government workers are invited to enjoy free refreshments (while supplies last) and have a shot at prizes and other giveaways.

The event is sponsored by Hiway Federal Credit Union, Subway restaurants, Joia soft drinks, and radio station KS95.

Council 5 Job Opening

Council 5 is seeking a Communications Professional to strengthen our online presence and use of social media and advocacy software.

The application deadline is June 17. For the full job description, go to www.afscmemn.org; click "Work for AFSCME."

Stealing Food from Kids

If the cameras are on, Congressional committees act outraged when a company like Apple dodges billions of dollars in taxes – simply by taking advantage of the rigged tax system that Congress itself set up. But when the cameras are off, Congress refuses to end those same tax giveaways. Worse yet, Congress turns around and does something truly outrageous.

In this case, the House Agriculture Committee voted to give more tax breaks for big agribusinesses – but pay for them by cutting \$2 billion in food assistance to hungry kids.

We can stop this. Go to <http://bit.ly/11EtOIF> and tell your representative: No child should go hungry to pay for corporate tax breaks.

Duluth Features 'Norma Rae'

Duluth's Labor Movie Night on June 27 revives one of the all-time labor movies, "Norma Rae." Sally Field won an Academy Award as best actress for her portrayal of a Southern mill worker wrestling with the need to form a union.

The movie shows at 6 p.m. June 27 in Hall B at the Duluth Labor Temple, 2002 London Road. Admission is free.

Cancelled: June's Labor Movie Night in Minneapolis is cancelled. Movie Night will return July 19 at 6 p.m. with a double bill of "With Babies and Banners" and the "Willmar 8" documentary.

Next Wavers: June 14 is the Deadline

June 14 is the deadline to register for AFSCME

International's Next Wave Conference 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.

The conference takes place July 12-14. Registration information is available at <http://bit.ly/1908nzc>.



Page 2 ACTION

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Let's Hear It for Great Work

Council 5 is now accepting applications for our annual Achievement Awards, which honor outstanding activism by individuals and locals. Awards are given for political activism, organizing, local union development, and communications during 2012. For full details on each award and how to submit nominations, see the story at www.afscmemn.org. The application deadline is Aug. 16.

Members Ratify First Contract

Walker Suites Edina: Members in this unit of Local 3532 ratified their first collective-bargaining agreement: a three-year contract through April 30, 2016.

The workers, who voted to unionize in January, already are seeing concrete benefits from the certainty and unified voice that a union contract brings. Examples:

- Workers now have an official seat at the table to decide changes in hours and schedules.
- Grievance and just cause language led to reams of unsubstantiated discipline files being thrown out.
- The contract builds in several wage reopeners.

Walk with Pride on June 30

AFSCME members are invited to celebrate a year of victories by marching alongside other AFL-CIO union members in the annual Pride Parade, June 30 in downtown Minneapolis.

Line up by 11 a.m. near 3rd St. South and Hennepin Ave. RSVP on Facebook through Events at MN ALF-CIO.

The Basics of Child-Care Organizing

Want the facts on "What's Next" in organizing family child-care providers in Minnesota?

Visit the Child Care Providers Together website, www.ccptmn.org, for a complete rundown on who is eligible for the union and how the process will roll out.

State Opens Diabetes Option

State employees enrolled in the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan now have the option to join a diabetes medication therapy management program.

Members who participate become eligible for reduced co-pays on diabetes-related care, and for other financial incentives. Enrollment is now open for members in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties.

Enrollment opens Aug. 1 for members in the Brainerd, Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester and St. Cloud areas; enrollment in the rest of the state opens Oct. 1. For more information, go to www.mmb.state.mn.us/mtm.

Pitch in to a Great Cause

AFSCME retirees Wesley and Karen Quick again will be riding in the annual Minnesota Ride for Kids, which raises money for 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, Festivities begin and end 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.

To join the ride, go to www.curethekids.org/rideforkids, then click Minnesota on the map.

Save the Dates

- **AFSCME Council 5 Family Picnic:** Aug. 4, Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
- **Labor Ball:** Sept. 6, Wabasha Street Caves, St. Paul
- **AFSCME Women's Conference:** Sept. 20-22, Denver (Hyatt Regency)
- **AFSCME Council 5 Convention:** Oct. 3-5, Duluth
- **AFSCME Councils 5 and 65 Day on the Hill:** March 25, 2014, St. Paul.