



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

www.afscmemn.org

Judicial Employees Vote on TA

Members of Local 3668 in the Minnesota Judicial Branch are voting by mail until Aug. 21 on a proposed two-year contract through June 30, 2015. The local's bargaining team recommends ratification.

The proposal has a complicated wage package. It increases steps by 3 percent retroactive to July 1; workers who don't get a raise because they are above the top step instead will receive a \$1,000 lump-sum payment. There is no general pay increase in the second year. However, employees get a one-step increase on July 1, 2014; in addition, employees who are a step lower than their years of service will receive an additional step for "equalization." Beyond that, the proposal allows a wage reopener in the contract's second year.

Elsewhere, the tentative agreement contains health-insurance provisions the same as those ratified by state executive branch employees. The TA also expands the ability of judicial employees to use paid sick leave, and improves language in areas such as probation and use of temporary employees.

The tentative agreement covers clerical, administrative, and technical employees in Judicial Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10.

State Workers Ratify Contract

AFSCME state employees ratified their two-year contract through June 30, 2015. The deal covers more than 18,000 executive branch workers in Units 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 25.

The new contract includes 3 percent pay raises in 2013 and 2014, step progressions each year, and requires employees to pay 5 percent of the individual health insurance premium beginning in 2015.

Council 5 Seeks Field Rep

Council 5 is accepting applications for a field representative to work out of the Duluth office. Resumes and references must be received by 4 p.m. Aug. 21. For a full job description and other details, see www.afscmemn.org; click "Work for AFSCME."

Say 'Hi' at the State Fair

If you're at the State Fair, don't forget to visit the AFSCME kiosk at the AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion. Members and retirees will staff the kiosk from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. every day. We'll be advocating for a better life for all of us – starting with urging legislators to raise the minimum wage to \$9.50. A bonus this year: The first 500 AFSCME members who show their union card receive a green AFSCME wrist band.

You'll find us at the corner of Cooper St. and Dan Patch Ave. on the east end of the fairgrounds. The Fair runs from Aug. 22 through Labor Day.

Want to volunteer? Some early evening slots (4-7:30 p.m.) are still available at the kiosk. Volunteers get free admission to the Fair and a T-shirt. If there's a day that works for you, contact Council 5's Michael Kuchta at 651-287-0537 or michael.kuchta@afscmemn.org

Get Ready for Convention

The official call for Council 5's annual convention has been mailed to locals. Here's a rundown on deadlines:

Hotel reservations: Room blocks are being held until Sept. 2 at the Radisson and Holiday Inn in Duluth.

Resolutions: Must be received at Council 5's South St. Paul office by Sept. 13.

Delegate credentials: Must be mailed and postmarked no later than Sept. 23.

Child care: Requests must be submitted by Sept. 23.

Special accommodations: Requests must be submitted by Sept. 23.

This year's convention, titled "Partners in Progress," takes place Oct. 3-5 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center.

Delegate check-in takes place Oct. 2 from 6-9 p.m., Oct. 3 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., and Oct. 4 from 7-9 a.m.

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Movie Night Features 'Red Tail'

The 2005 Northwest Airlines' mechanics strike and Northwest's outsourcing of repair work set the scene in this documentary. But at its core, this film focuses on the personal story of mechanic Roy Koch, who symbolizes the shifting sands that engulf American workers. Ultimately, Koch meets the workers who are now doing his job – in China.

"Red Tail" shows Aug. 16, 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. The movie is sponsored by Council 5 Next Wave and University of Minnesota Clerical Workers Local 3800.

Young Workers' Day Shakes Things Up

Young Workers Day at the State Fair (on Friday, Aug. 23) expands into a full schedule of trainings, music, protest, and a visit by the Summer of Solidarity tour.

Most events are open to anyone at the Fair. That includes a 6 p.m. concert with Guante, OB from Kill the Autocrat, and Anne Feeney.

But workshops (with topics such as direct action and the role of art in movements) are limited to the first 60 young workers who register online. For full information, go to www.raiseupmn.org. Events take place at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion.

Also at the Labor Pavilion: For a complete schedule of union events, go to www.mnafcio.org.

Next Wavers Plan a Shindig

You can't build a strong union without some good old-fashioned fun. At least that's how Council 5's Next Wave sees it, which is why they are hosting "Labor Ball."

The event takes place Sept. 6, at 8 p.m., at Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul. It features free admission, free food, a cash bar, a DJ, dancing, relaxing, socializing, and more.

The evening is open to anyone in (or supportive of) the labor movement.

Forum Seeks to Beef Up Transit

A forum discussing a bold and comprehensive transit plan for Dakota County, the East Metro, and the Twin Cities takes place Aug. 15 in Eagan.

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation is sponsoring the forum, which will look at transit's impact on job creation, economic vitality, and a competitive business climate. The free event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center, 860 Cliff Road, Eagan.

Women's Conference Takes Shape

AFSCME's 2013 National Women's Conference takes place Sept. 20-22 in Denver. The conference includes opportunities for networking, issues education, skill-building, and leadership development.

For registration, hotel, and travel information, go to www.afscme.org; click the link on the "Upcoming Events" section of the home page.

One Last Chance to Honor Great Work

Aug. 16 is the deadline to submit nominations for Council 5's annual Achievement Awards. The awards 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.

College Scholarship Money Available

AFSCME International is now accepting applications for its 2014 Family Scholarship. Ten scholarships, worth \$2,000 per year, will be given for full-time college study. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years.

Eligible applicants must be a graduating high school senior whose parent, legal guardian, or financially responsible grandparent is a full AFSCME member. For other requirements and full application details, go to www.afscme.org/family.