



ACTION UPDATE

One Strong, United Voice for Minnesota Workers

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

www.afscmemn.org

Gear Up to Win on Nov. 6

We know exactly what we must do in the Nov. 6 election:

We must change who controls the Legislature.

If we don't, our very survival is at stake – our jobs, pay, benefits, union, and collective bargaining rights.

If we don't, we *all* are at risk, whether we work for the state, in local government, in education, in health care, in a nonprofit, or are retired.

Changing the Legislature. It starts by getting involved on the phones and on the streets.

- Every Tuesday: Phone banks take place from 6-8:30 p.m. at AFSCME's South St. Paul and Duluth offices.
- Every Thursday: Phone banks take place from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis United Labor Center and Council 5's Duluth office.
- Every Saturday: Door knocks take place at 10 a.m. in a variety of locations.

Details. To volunteer yourself or your local, contact an AFSCME political organizer in your area:

- Northern Minnesota: Sandra Curtis (218-341-1659) or Chad McKenna (218-310-8412)
- Southern Minnesota: Laura Askelin (651-238-5334) or Tamera Weller (651-208-9685)
- Twin Cities Metro: Chris Cowen (651-287-0531) or Tigger Lunney (651-321-4050)

Activities Take Place Statewide

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is coordinating additional activities to elect a new majority in the Legislature.

Phone banks and door knocks take place on various weekdays, weeknights, and weekends in Albert Lea, Anoka, Brainerd, Duluth, Edina, Eveleth, Fargo, Mankato, Minneapolis, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Worthington.

Information: For exact times and locations, go to www.mnaflcio.org; click "Get Involved," then click "Volunteer and Take Our Legislature Back."

Unions Rally Sept. 30 to 'Vote No'

Union members will stand in solidarity Sept. 30 to oppose the divisive anti-marriage and voter restriction amendments on the November ballot.

Details: The "Vote No" rally takes place in St. Paul's Rice Park from 1-2 p.m.

Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide is among scheduled speakers. "Prairie Home Companion" cast member Sue Scott will emcee.

Videos You've Got to See

At a \$50,000-a-plate fundraiser, Mitt Romney denigrates Obama voters, saying supporters of the president believe they are entitled, believe they are victims, and will not take personal responsibility for their lives.

On a more uplifting note: Minnesotans United for All Families – which opposes the proposed amendment limiting the freedom to marry – is featuring a new ad, "John and Kim: Catholics, Republicans."

See for yourself: Links to both clips are on Council 5's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5.

Dakota County Votes on Contract

Members of Local 306 in Dakota County Community

Services are voting by mail on a tentative agreement.

The proposed one-year contract for 2013 includes a 1 percent across-the-board pay raise, which would be the employees' first raise in three years.

The tentative agreement also:

- Increases pay scales by 2 percent
- Provides merit raises of up to 1 percent, plus a lump sum payment of at least 1 percent of base wage
- Keeps employee health-insurance premiums the same

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Don't Miss Convention Deadlines

Final deadlines are approaching for Council 5's annual convention, which takes place Oct. 4-6 in Bloomington. This year's convention includes elections for all officers and executive board members. Dates to remember:

Sept. 24: Deadline to sign up for workshops or to request interpreters, child care, or other accommodations.

Sept. 27: Credentials for delegates and alternates must be *mailed and postmarked* by this date. Credentials cannot be hand-delivered.

Sept. 28: Deadline to deliver local banners to Council 5 for display at the convention.

Delegates Will Collect Food

Council 5's convention delegates are collecting household goods and nonperishable food for workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar since August 2011.

To donate: Coordinate with delegates from your local or your workplace before Oct. 3.

Treasurers Need to Get Up to Date

Treasurer's affidavits and projected expenditure forms are past due. Locals should submit their paperwork to: Sheryl Lyke, Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

In addition, locals with a balance due to Council 5 must pay all bills dated June 30 or earlier. Otherwise, that local's delegates will not be seated at the convention.

Show Support for Transportation

The Transportation Alliance is holding open forums with elected officials and candidates to build support for investment in the state's transportation infrastructure: highways, transit, rail, airports and more.

The forums are free and open to the public. The remaining schedule: Blaine, Sept. 25; Bloomington, Oct. 2; Duluth, Oct. 18; Eagan, Oct. 3; Rochester, Oct. 24; St. Cloud, Sept. 20; Washington County, Oct. 25.

Details: For exact times and locations, go to www.transportationalliance.com; click "Meetings & Events."

Upcoming Training at Council 5

Council 5 is providing the following training for local leaders and activists:

- **Financial Responsibility Training:** Oct. 23 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), St. Cloud
- **Basic Steward Training:** Nov. 13-14 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day), South St. Paul
- **Workplace Bullying: Train the Trainer:** Nov. 29 (10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), South St. Paul
- **Basic Steward Training:** Dec. 12-13 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day), Willmar

LES Offers Union Skill Classes

Union members can learn basic activist skills through non-credit classes from the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service. Classes include:

- **Oct. 6:** Telling the True Story of Workers
- **Nov. 17:** Effective Leadership Styles
- **February (online):** Introduction to the Labor Movement
- **April 20:** Basic Arbitration

Classes take place on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. For a brochure with class details, costs, and registration deadlines, call 612-624-5020 or email les@umn.edu.

College Scholarships Available

AFSCME is accepting applications for its 2013 Family Scholarship Program, which provides \$2,000 college scholarships for up to four years for full-time students.

Students must be graduating high-school seniors who have a parent, legal guardian, or financially responsible grandparent who is a full, dues-paying AFSCME member.

Details: See www.afscme.org/family. The application deadline is Dec. 31, 2012.

Join Us on Facebook

Council 5 is on Facebook. Take a look at www.facebook.com/AfscmeCouncil5 – then "like" us to keep up on what we and members are doing.