

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**  
*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

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April 14, 2026

TO: Council 5 Local Union Presidents

FROM: Eric Hesse, Bart Andersen,  
President Executive Director

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL 5 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS**

We are pleased to announce the 22nd annual *AFSCME Minnesota Council 5 Achievement Awards*, to be awarded at the AFSCME MN Council 5's 2026 Convention. These awards recognize outstanding work by members in the areas of political activism, organizing, local union development, and communications. The four awards, including nomination criteria, are:

1. **Rick Scott Political Activism Award:** Awarded to an individual member, a local union, or a group of members/local unions in recognition of outstanding work in electoral, legislative and other political activity on behalf of our union. Nominations must be submitted to Legislative Director Ethan Vogel (via US mail, fax, or email: [Ethan.Vogel@afscmemn.org](mailto:Ethan.Vogel@afscmemn.org)).
2. **Jerry Wurf Organizing Award:** Awarded to an individual member, a local union, or a group of members/local unions who have worked tirelessly and effectively in the area of organizing on behalf of our union. Nominations must be submitted to the Organizing Director Marybeth Juetten (via US mail, fax or email: [Marybeth.Juetten@afscmemn.org](mailto:Marybeth.Juetten@afscmemn.org)).
3. **Mike Buesing Local Union Development Award:** Awarded to an individual member, a local union, or a group of members/local unions who have contributed significantly to internal mobilization and local union development. Nominations must be submitted to the State Field Director Crystal Kreklow (via US mail, fax, or email: [Crystal.Kreklow@afscmemn.org](mailto:Crystal.Kreklow@afscmemn.org)).
4. **Eliot Seide Communications Award:** Awarded to an individual member or local union whose verbal, written and/or electronic communication has projected a bold, proud image of who we are and what we fight for. Nominations must be submitted to the External Relations and Planning Director Max Hall (via US mail, fax, or email: [Max.Hall@afscmemn.org](mailto:Max.Hall@afscmemn.org)).

Recipients of the above awards will be recognized at the AFSCME MN Council 5 Convention in Bloomington and will have their name(s) engraved on the award plaques, which are prominently displayed in the Hermantown, South St. Paul and Willmar AFSCME offices. Recognition will be for the "previous" year – for example – at this year's 2026 Convention; recognition will be for outstanding work in year 2025.

We are herewith calling for nominations for each of the four awards. Please note the nomination criteria listed above for each of the respective awards. **Deadline for submission of nominations for these awards is Friday, May 1.**

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Liza at [Liza.Allen@afscmemn.org](mailto:Liza.Allen@afscmemn.org) or 651.308.9450.

EH/BA/laa

Cc: Executive Board  
Staff