

April 2026

# HIGH 5S AT AFSCME COUNCIL 5

Highlights Around OUR UNION!



## FIRST CONTRACT FOR SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES (SMRLS) WORKERS!

In May 2025, SMRLS workers voted overwhelmingly to form a union at work! **Now**, they just reached a Tentative Agreement on their first ever contract - with major gains in paid leave language and health insurance! We're so proud of you! Congratulations!



## FIGHTING TO LOWER COSTS

In Brainerd and Rochester, our union members Nigel Nesbitt and Autumn Larsin (Local 1574 - DHS Brainerd), and Jennifer Erwin (Local 4001 - MinnState), led a press conference and rally to call out Congressmen Pete Stauber and Brad Finstad for not lowering costs for workers.



## PREVENTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) FROM REPLACING & SURVEILLING WORKERS

Local 2829 MN Department of Revenue Examiner Nico Montag testified in the Senate Labor Committee in support of legislation that restricts employers from using AI as a surveillance tool against workers. Great job, Nico!



## MINNEAPOLIS WORKERS REACH A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT (TA)

Local 9, City of Minneapolis Park Board Lifeguards and newly-organized Environmental Educators/Naturalists reached a TA on a contract that includes wage increases for both groups, and increased shift differential pay, comp time increases & more Call Back to Duty pay for Lifeguards. Congratulations!



## MEMBER EDUCATION SERIES

Our union's new **Know Your Rights 101 Series** is now at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org).

Learn about:

- Collective Bargaining
- Weingarten Rights
- MN Paid Leave Law



Autumn Larsin



"High 5s at AFSCME Council 5" are 5 quick, high-energy highlights featuring wins & news across our union and celebrating our union members' victories.



Highlights and wins to share? Email [Communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:Communications@afscmemn.org)



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