

May 2026

HIGH 5S AT AFSCME COUNCIL 5

Highlights Around OUR UNION!



WE SAVED HCMC!

Hennepin County Medical Center was on the verge of closing, putting more than 3,000 of our AFSCME union members out of work and leaving thousands of patients without care. The collaboration between Council 5, Local 2474 and 977 at HCMC, all AFSCME members and labor allies, lawmakers reached an agreement that saves HCMC from closing for up to 5 years.



NEW PENSION BENEFIT FOR COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

Lawmakers passed legislation that our AFSCME Council 5-represented probation officers have fought for decades: Earlier retirement. This new law allows probation officers to retire earlier while slightly increasing employee and employer contributions in order to pay for it. This is historic!

SOUTHWEST MN STATE UNIVERSITY WORKERS FIGHT AGAINST LAYOFFS!

Local 2385 members secured an MOU to reduce the proposed 2.5 FTE layoffs down to 0.5. The only impacted employee will be able to maintain full-time employment by splitting their time in two OASS positions within two different departments. The result is **no employees** will actually be laid off. Good work to defend our members!

AFSCME/MAPE STATE EMPLOYEES TEAM UP FOR TOWN HALLS AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS PREP

More than 1,500 AFSCME and MAPE state employees came together for two virtual town halls to prepare members earlier than ever for contract negotiations that will take place in 2027 to defend our health insurance and fight for fair pay, good benefits, and ensure we're treated with dignity and respect.



HONORING JEFF BIRTTNEN

Longtime AFSCME Council 5 and AFSCME Retirees leader Jeff Birttnen has stepped down as Retiree President. Council 5 Executive Director Bart Andersen, retirees and others celebrated and honored Jeff for his decades of service to our union family from Local 517 to the Council 5 E-Board to being AFSCME Retiree Council Chair and Retirees 565 President.



Pictured: Jeff Birttnen

AFSCME is WATCHING

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



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