

General Membership Meetings

Union Members are welcome to attend the monthly General Membership meetings.

Dinner starts at 5:30 pm
Meeting starts at 6:00 pm

HILTON DOUBLETREE HOTEL

2540 Cleveland Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Fourth Thursday of the Month

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Facebook

[Afsme Local 221 - MnDOT Metro |](#)

[Facebook](#)

Local 221 Website

<https://www.afscmemn.org/local-221-mndot-central-office-metro/>

AFSCME Council 5 Website

<https://www.afscmemn.org/>



this issue

Welcome **P.1**

The Union Difference **P.2**

Day on the Hill **P.4**

Welcome to the AFSCME Family

We are members who work wherever our communities need us. We are the front line workers protecting public health, public safety, essential clerical work and much more!

Who are we? We care for Minnesotans in hospitals, clinics, group homes, nursing homes, mental health care facilities and provide direct home and community care to some of our most vulnerable residents. We are workers who care for and protect our natural resources; our water, land and forests. We are workers supporting our educational values in our communities throughout our university, technical, and community college systems and public schools. We keep students safe, fed and provide care.

We are workers who maintain, create, and build infrastructure people depend on every single day. We provide for our communities; public works, safe roads, clean water, sanitation transportation, public safety.

We advocate for excellence in public services, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all workers. We as members through the professional process of negotiations, set the standards of our pay, our benefits, and our working conditions. We as union members continue to uphold the values of respect and dignity for ALL workers and unite to protect working people and workers rights. We work together to uplift the standards of living for our co workers, families, and communities.

We as AFSCME members have a collective voice in shaping public policy to improve the quality of life for all workers. Together, we will build a stronger and better Minnesota for all working people. We welcome you to join us in making the real Union Difference in the lives of many!

**Work Union.
Live Better.**



Local 221 Leadership

Line Officers

PRESIDENT

Afscmeprs1221@gmail.com

Darren Trast TG Maryland Days
VP HEPC

VICE PRESIDENT 1

Afscmevp11221@gmail.com

Drew Sykes TG Maryland Nights

VICE PRESIDENT 2

Afscmevp21221@gmail.com

Jean Zimmerman TGS Waters Edge
Traffic Engineering / Sign Design

TREASURER

AfscmeTrs1221@gmail.com

Bryan Kirsch TG Eden Prairie Days

SECRETARY

Afscmesec1221@gmail.com

Wade Erstad TGS Eden Prairie Nights
TSS Review Committee Member

Executive Board

Joe Sockel TG Forest Lake

Scott Zellmer TG Oakdale Days

J. Hinrichs TGS TAPP Arden Hills

Louis McNutt HEM Maple Grove Days

Mike Novlan TGS Spring Lake Park

Rebecca Haflund TG Camden Nights

Trustees

Kelly Chirpich TG Golden Valley

Leslie Vaughn TG GV Sign Shop
Web Administrator

Crystal Gaebler TG Cedar Nights

the
UNION
difference

Corporate-funded organizations are trying to get AFSCME members to give up their membership and lose their voice on the job. Declare: I'm Sticking With My Union!

By giving up your Union membership, they know you lose member-only benefits such as:

- A powerful, unified voice in your workplace.
- Ability to vote on your contract.
- Ability to participate and vote for your local Union leadership.
- Collective power to get the strongest wage increases and benefits as possible.
- Solidarity and "people power" in the halls of power to fight for working people.

Corporate-funded organizations like the Freedom Foundation want you to give up your rights in the workplace, so corporations and our employers can take advantage of us as workers. The Freedom Foundation, and its allies, work across the country to reverse policies and laws that benefit working people and directly benefit employers' being able to take advantage of workers.

With your Union membership, you are protected by a collective bargaining agreement with due process rights, the right to representation, and a work family that has your back!

Our Union Membership Proves

The **Union** Difference !

Stewards

Chief Steward Central Region

PRS Darren Trast Maryland

Chief Stewards

VP2 Jean Zimmerman Waters Edge

TRS Bryan Kirsch Eden Prairie

SEC Wade Erstad Eden Prairie

Louis McNutt Maple Grove

Joe Sockel Forest Lake

Scott Zellmer Oakdale

Stewards

VP1 Drew Sykes Maryland

J. Hinrichs Arden Hills

Chad Curtis Camden Nights

Terry Kapfer Forest Lake

Kevin Rosassen Maplewood

Informational Stewards

Mike Novlan Spring Lake Park

J. Hinrichs Arden Hills

Kelly Chirpich Golden Valley

Leslie Vaughn Golden Valley

Ken Kogler Oakdale

Dan Trog Oakdale

Rebecca Haflund Camden

Crystal Gaebler Cedar

Joe Anderson North Branch

Brian Johnson Roseville

Email general or grievance
questions to:

AfscmeLocal221Steward@gmail.com

We asked Local 221 members why they joined and what Union participation does for them.

“

I believe in Unions and my Dad always taught me *don't complain if you're not gonna step up or do something about it*. I feel we should have a good job with good pay and go home safe everyday. This why I'm involved.

I am a dues paying member of the Union because it is a Union shop. I don't believe in being a freeloader. People should have to pay for the services and representation that they get. I don't like the *Janus* decision. If you don't want to pay union dues, that's perfectly fine... don't work at a Union shop!

We are constantly battling to keep our jobs in-house and to maintain seniority benefits. Management is relentless in trying to tear the Union down and pit us against each other. Too many of us have taken their bait. Someone has to walk the line or soon there won't be one.

A small number of active Line and E Board members are doing almost all of the work of the Local Union while the vast majority of members take it for granted. They quit paying. They don't help out. They badmouth the Union. Then they wonder why it is getting worse.

I attend conventions so I can vote on who represents me in my greater Union. I attend DOTH to help get lawmakers to notice us and help get us better wages. I attend the negotiations assembly because I want a say in what we are fighting for in our contracts.

There are many reasons why I'm involved, one main reason is to keep up with Management decisions that impact our jobs. We want to protect employee rights, and stand up so all Brothers and Sisters are treated fairly. We have to stand together with our arms crossed. I hear a lot and I listen to their thoughts. We have to stop thinking about just ourselves as individuals, and start seeing the "we" in "WE ARE THE UNION". And let's not forget what prior Union members have achieved to get us to the point where we are now with benefits, rights, and wages. The scary thing I see now is Management constantly doing what they want, and not listening and reacting to our concerns, especially with outsourcing our jobs. I will fight to the end to get this better and even if it doesn't seem like anything is happening, it does take time to get certain actions into play. I wish everything could happen with the snap of a finger, but there is much that does happen behind the scenes.

To learn more about the Union, help get information out, and try to explain the benefits of the Union.

I choose to attend meetings and get involved because I feel that participation is important to keep the Union strong.

I want to know what is happening between the Union and management. I want to have a say in how my dues are spent.

I want to help us get a better contract and voice my opinions whenever I can.

I want our Union and our Local to be stronger.

Why am I involved with our Union?
Without our Union we would have little to no contract to even fight for. We have seen it in other states and the outcome does not benefit the workers. Being able to negotiate pay and benefits as a group versus individually is a great benefit for the workers. It is harder for the employer to say no to a group than one individual. There is a reason so many big business/corporations spend so much money to keep workers from unionizing. Also, a Union is not a spectator sport. It requires involvement to be successful.

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Hello to all AFSCME Local 221 current and potential members.

We are asked all the time “why do I pay union dues?” and “what is the local leadership, AFSCME Council 5 and AFSCME International doing for you?”

I will speak to what Local 221 is doing for you. Everyone is aware of the history of Unions and what they have done for working people.

- 40-hour work week
- Overtime pay
- OSHA and safety oversight
- health/dental plans
- defined benefit pension
- deferred comp
- sick/vacation accruals

And so many more benefits that have been bargained for over the years. **These benefits are not given out by employers, they are negotiated.**

Union Dues are broken down and percentages are sent to AFSCME Council 5, AFSCME International, St. Paul/Mpls trades assembly (AFL-CIO), Highway Employee Policy Committee (HEPC). Some monies are used for staff that lobby on our behalf at the MN State Capitol complex.



A portion goes back to the Local and is budgeted for line officer, executive board, stewards, and trustees' stipends.

Within that budget are expenses for monthly meetings, mailings, new employee orientation swag, printing, lost time for members attending Day on the Hill, SEPC/HEPC conferences, local and national conventions, leadership trainings, steward and officer trainings, and financial responsibility training.

So much time and effort outside of (M-F 7-330 or M-TH 7pm-530am) from all officers, executive board, stewards, and trustees goes into running a Local of our size (1049 members).

Day on the Hill and legislative lobbying efforts this year have proven that when we show up in masses and work with our legislative directors our voice is being heard at the Capitol.

We accomplished some great strides regarding pay issues, inequities, prevailing wage discussions, attraction and retention. We met with some key legislators and opened the door to more discussions.

Moving forward, I ask all of you if you are interested in becoming a steward, officer or participating in the contract negotiations process, please reach out to a steward or line officer which are included in this newsletter.

In Solidarity,
Darren Trast,
President, AFSCME Local 221



This Month's Q&A Contract Tips

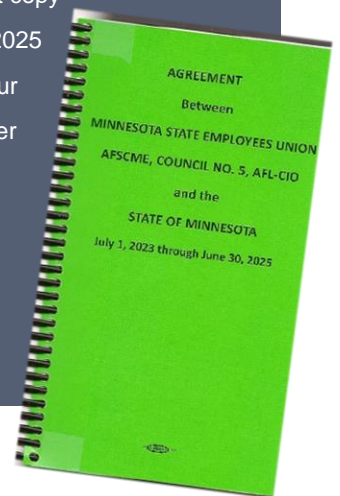
Q: Does sick time accrue, and how do we use this benefit ?

A: Eligible full-time employees receive 4 hours of sick leave each 80-hour pay period. Use your accrued sick time when you are ill, or when you have a medical, chiropractic or dental appointment. You can also use sick time during times of pregnancy and disability. This benefit extends to when you need to be there when a spouse, your kids, and your parents (if they live in your household) are sick or have medical appointments. Let your Supervisor know in advance about needing time off for sick leave. If that is not possible, then contact your Supervisor right away.

A note from your medical provider is not necessary unless requested by Management. Please do not abuse the use of your sick leave.

See Article 9 on page 17 for more information. Contract books are available at each truck station and office.

We also have a current copy of the multi-unit 2023-2025 contract available on our Local 221 website under "The 221 Benefit" tab.



AFSCME Advantage Empowers Members

In addition to powerful workplace solidarity and power, the power of your union membership includes an AFSCME members-only program called AFSCME Advantage. As members, we have additional benefits to access services and keep more money in our pocket. Huge savings that not only provide peace of mind, but add to our quality of life. Our members can access discounts for travel (theme parks, car rental, lodging); cell phone plans; entertainment (concerts, sporting events); access to credit counseling; hardship funding; mortgage financing; renters, homeowners and pet insurance; educational scholarships for you, your child, or grandchild; identify theft and much more! Visit AFSCME.org for information on these valuable services.

Stay tuned for additional benefits for dues-paying AFSCME members that will **SAVE YOU MONEY** and **GAIN NEW SKILLS**.

Better benefits, a voice on the job, due process rights, and a union family that has your back. That's the POWER of your union membership!

Member Benefits

Being an AFSCME member doesn't only give you an advantage at the bargaining table – it also gets you access to discounts and benefits that can help make life a little easier.



SCHOLARSHIPS



CREDIT CARD



ENTERTAINMENT / TRAVEL



MORTGAGE SAVINGS



MORE BENEFITS



Upcoming Events

MnDOT Metro Local 221 Annual Family Picnic

Saturday, May 18, 2024 Noon to 5:00 pm

Hyland Lake Park in Bloomington

All Are Welcome!

Door Prizes include
TV's, Air Fryer, Gift Cards, & More

Council 5
AFSCME
We make Minnesota happen

All Welcome!
Local 221
MnDOT METRO
ANNUAL PICNIC
Saturday, May 18, 2024
Noon - 5 p.m.
Hyland Lake Park
10145 E Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

Kids Play Park

Ice Cream

Cotton Candy

Food, Music and Fun

BLOOMINGTON MN LIFESTYLE
Hyland Lake Park Reserve