



Carmen Langevin and Kathleen Vake of Local 66 join in the cheering at the Annual Convention, proudly proclaiming our 2018 theme, **I AM UNION**.

Convention Makes Energized Call to Fight

AFSCME leaders were blunt about the attacks unions face from rich corporate forces, and equally hopeful about the future at the Council 5 Annual Convention.

They presented a roadmap to build an even stronger union.

“The attacks on unions are unprecedented,” said AFSCME Council 5 executive director John P. Westmoreland. “Never in history has it been worse. We have to be brave and bold enough to face those challenges, not when they hit us, but before they hit us.”

AFSCME International president Lee Saunders said the *Janus* case, which made the entire nation “right to work” for public workers, is just a smokescreen: It was funded by super-rich corporate interests

like the Koch Brothers to rig the economy so they can get even richer – at workers’ expense.

“Asserting our rights and speaking truth to power in this way is how we make sure public service gets the respect it deserves,” Saunders says. “We aren’t cowering in retreat, we’re getting ready for battle.”

The roadmap to a strong, bold union future includes:

- Electing a pro-worker Governor and Legislature in 2018. Iowa failed to do so, and the GOP-led government immediately destroyed collective bargaining.
- Working to stop the wealthy from getting even more tax cuts, which put public services, health care, Medicare, Medicaid, education and Social Security at risk.
- Continuing AFSCME Strong.
- Having nearby locals reach out and work together on common

28 Days until Election

The **Nov. 6** Election comes down to a simple choice: Elect Tim Walz, or become another Wisconsin. As Governor, Tim Walz will follow in the footsteps of Gov. Dayton.

Walz shares our union values. He believes that everyone – no matter the color of their skin, where they live or how much money they make – deserves the freedom to be able to get a quality education, go to the doctor without going bankrupt, take care of their loved ones and earn a fair return on their work.

Walz has a vision for a better Minnesota, a Minnesota with an even higher quality of life and improved working conditions for all. As a former school teacher, football coach and union member, Walz respects and understands public workers. He knows we are all better off when we work together. He calls collective bargaining a basic human right.

“We turn this thing here,” Walz said at the AFSCME Council 5 Convention. “We show them I am labor, we are labor, Minnesota is labor. We push back, we expand our rights as workers. We expand access to health care. We expand education for all of our citizens. We close the equity gap. We welcome immigrants.”

To help get out the vote, check Council 5’s Facebook under Events.

- issues such as unfit bosses and unsafe working conditions.
- Building community support through members getting involved locally and sharing their union affiliation.



Members Elect New Board, Officers

AFSCME Council 5 welcomed a new Executive Board at the Annual Convention, which was attended by 750 delegates and guests from 125 local unions.

The Council 5 chair officers are:

- President Patrick Guernsey; president of Local 552, Hennepin County probation, parole and family court services; probation officer.
- Vice President Carmen Brown; president of Hennepin Healthcare/HCMC Local 977; patient services coordinator.
- Treasurer Destiny Dusosky; Local 753 at St. Cloud State University; maintenance worker.
- Secretary Cherrene Horazuk; president of University of Minnesota Local 3800; clerical worker.

Guernsey says their first priority is electing Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan as Governor and Lieutenant Governor. “After that, it’s about organizing our workers and working for the best wages, benefits and working conditions for our members and the people we represent,” Guernsey says.

“Members want a member-driven, inclusive Council where we’re building stronger locals and fighting for better contracts,” Horazuk adds.

Check out the next *Stepping Up* for a list of Executive Board members.

Farewell to Dayton, Wahlberg

AFSCME members said rousing, grateful goodbyes during the Convention to Gov. Mark Dayton and our retiring president Judy Wahlberg.

“The thing I am most proud of is how far we have come as a Council,” said Wahlberg. “We started as three separate Councils, and with some growing pains, we are now undoubtedly one outstanding Council. We stand up for each other. We have great, diversified representation, from various locals to our Council Executive Board. We have hardworking dedicated staff. We all work as one big family.”

Dayton ends his career as Governor having turned Tim Pawlenty’s \$6.5 billion deficit into eight years of surpluses; having raised taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent; and with Minnesota’s unemployment rate at its lowest point in 15 years.

“I really do believe in government,” Dayton told AFSCME members. “I believe in its enormous importance in people’s lives. I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish. I’m proud to have stood with you and earned your support.”

Honoring Our Fallen Corrections Brothers

Hundreds of correctional officers, peace officers and veterans gathered Oct. 1 to pay final tribute to our fallen union brother, Joseph Parise. He was an officer at the Oak Park Heights prison and an AFSCME Local 915 member.

Parise died on duty minutes after helping stop an inmate attack on a fellow CO. Parise leaves behind a pregnant wife and a toddler. The Navy vet and prison Honor Guard member was known for his sense of humor; love and concern for his family and coworkers; and willingness to take on tough jobs.

AFSCME members honored Parise and his correctional brother Joseph Gomm, who was murdered by an inmate at the Stillwater prison in July, with a moment of silence at the Convention. Members passed the hat, raising \$4,000 for Parise’s family.

You can still help his family by donating to: www.gofundme.com/officer-joe-parise.

AFSCME will continue to honor Gomm and Parise by fighting for increased staffing and safety improvements.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from www.afscmemn.org. Share news and events by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Early Voting	Now through Nov. 5	www.sos.state.mn.us/
General Election	Nov. 6	pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/