



(Left to right) Oak Park Heights Local 915 vice president Derek Magle, Council 5 associate director Tim Henderson and Local 915 president Jeff Vars mourn correctional officer Joseph Parise, (pictured below) who died on duty at the prison Monday.

AFSCME mourns correctional brother

AFSCME correctional officers are remembering a fallen Oak Park Heights correctional brother, while making bold demands for safety on the job.

Corrections officer Joseph Parise rushed to help an officer who was being attacked by an inmate at OPH Monday. Parise, along with a MAPE care manager and others, stopped the attack and restrained the inmate. Then Parise helped bring him to segregation. Within 10 minutes, Parise collapsed. He was pronounced dead at Regions Hospital.

“We’re in mourning,” said AFSCME Council 5 associate director Tim Henderson, who led a press conference Tuesday with Oak Park Heights Local 915 president Jeff Vars and vice president Derek Magle, both OPH correctional officers. “You don’t go to work to die.”



“Joe was a friend, he was a brother, a father and a husband,” Magle said, adding Parise always put a smile on coworkers’ faces.

“We were all better to have known Joe as part of our brotherhood. Joe is going to be sorely missed.”

Parise and his wife have a toddler and a baby on the way. His death follows the July murder of CO Joseph Gomm by an inmate, and a year of increased assaults on staff.

AFSCME Council 5 and Local 915 leaders are demanding:

- The Legislature act to ensure adequate staffing to keep workers, institutions and communities safe.
- Changes to the segregation policy, including that inmates who assault staff face maximum penalties.

Door Knock for Worker Rights

Helping elect great candidates who are pro-worker just got a little easier.

Nearly every day of the week, from now until Election Day, there are opportunities to door knock or phone bank for AFSCME-endorsed candidates including Tim Walz for Governor and Peggy Flanagan for Lt. Governor.

These volunteer opportunities are happening across the state, including in Duluth, the Metro area and St. Cloud.

Find a constantly updated list on AFSCME Council 5’s Facebook page under Events.

Early voting has started! You can early vote now through **Nov. 5**. Find details here: www.sos.state.mn.us/.

PEOPLE committees, made up of AFSCME members, carefully interviewed and screened candidates before recommending them. You can find their AFSCME endorsements at afscmemn.org/vote.

- A renewed focus on retention and recruitment.
- Respect and equality in the workplace, so workers are heard by all levels of management and included in the decision-making process.

“We are not going to rest until we make sure they are safe and secure for our members and the public,” Henderson said. www.afscmemn.org/story/corrections-officer-dies-after-helping-end-inmate-attack

The Convention is Here

The annual AFSCME Council 5 Convention starts Thursday!

The Convention is jam-packed with an election; workshops; and speeches by International Union president Lee Saunders and AFSCME-endorsed candidate for Governor, Tim Walz.

About 750 delegates from 125 locals will proudly proclaim “I AM UNION,” showing our solidarity and our conviction that we are more powerful fighting with the combined voices of many than fighting alone.

Together, workers can take on wealthy special interests and corporate CEOs trying to rig the system against us and to steal our right to make a better life for ourselves, our families and our communities.

Together, we can overcome injustice and inequality, close opportunity and pay gaps, and embrace our differences so that every Minnesotan gets a fair shake.

Watch Facebook and Stepping Up for photos and news.

Hennepin County Locals Approve Contract

Six locals that bargain together, Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864 and 2938 (legal unit) overwhelmingly approved their new contracts.



The City of Minneapolis is about to get even fiercer stewards: Jim Huntzicker, Robin Utto, David Bard (AFSCME field representative), Bruce Frame, Theresa Strong and Michael Goenner from Local 9 take part in training for new and experienced stewards.

The three-year contracts include raises of 2.5 percent in 2019, 2.5 percent in 2020 and 2 percent in 2021.

The contracts will standardize the step progression, which gave workers widely differing step increases and numbers of steps across job categories, and resulted in raises of less than 1 percent in some years. Now everyone in the range will get an additional 3 percent each year of the contract.

It will fix contract language that prohibited religious holiday use on Sundays; and expand funeral

leave for grieving. The locals also won important individual contract provisions such as a larger wage range adjustment for Local 1719 to help recruit new corrections officers.

See more contract details at www.afscmemn.org/story/hennepin-negotiators-recommend-contract-approval.

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/ |
| AFSCME Council 5 Convention | Sept. 27 to 29 | DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel |
| General Election | Nov. 6 | pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/ |