

Fall Convention Special Edition

Our AFSCME Council 5 Membership Convention was an extraordinary gathering, uniting over 500 of our dedicated union members in a powerful demonstration of unity, solidarity, and shared purpose. Held in the heart of our union's history, the convention provided a platform for members to connect, share experiences, and draw inspiration from one another. We will delve into the remarkable events, speeches, and achievements that unfolded during this memorable convention, leaving every union member feeling inspired and more deeply connected to their union family.

President Eric Hesse's Opening Remarks

The convention kicked off with an inspiring speech by **President Eric Hesse**, who emphasized the importance of collective action in achieving workers' rights and social justice. President Hesse's words resonated deeply with the attendees as he reminded everyone that our union is a powerful force for change. He said, "**We are not just members; we are a family, and together, we are unstoppable.**"



Interim Executive Director Bart Andersen's Vision

Interim **Executive Director Bart Andersen** shared our vision for the future of AFSCME Council 5. He emphasized the need for innovation and adaptation to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Andersen underscored the importance of empowering local unions and members to lead from the frontlines, **reaffirming that our union's strength lies in the dedication of our grassroots activists.**

Honoring Chapter 5 Retirees

One of the most heartwarming moments of the convention was the **tribute to our Chapter 5 retirees.** These individuals had dedicated their lives to public service and the labor movement. Their stories of struggle, sacrifice, and success resonated deeply with all attendees, serving as a reminder of **the rich history of our union and the battles that have paved the way for today's successes.**



AFSCME President Lee Saunders Inspires

The highlight of the convention was the presence of **AFSCME's international president, Lee Saunders.** His impassioned speech focused on the broader labor movement's significance and the crucial role that AFSCME Council 5 plays within it. President Saunders reminded us that "**Our union is the backbone of the American labor movement, and together, we can achieve monumental victories.**"



Celebrating Our Achievements

The convention was also an occasion to celebrate the outstanding achievements of local unions and members. These awards recognized the remarkable contributions made in various fields. Let's take a closer look at the categories and winners:

Local Union Development Award Local 66

Local 66, representing public employees across Minnesota, received the **Local Union Development Award**. This accolade highlighted their exceptional dedication to the growth and strengthening of their local union. Local 66's **commitment to organizing, advocating for workers' rights, and fostering a sense of community among its members** set a shining example for all.

Political Activism Award State, Local Government Transportation Workers

The **Political Activism Award** was presented to **state and local government transportation workers** who have shown unwavering dedication to advocating for political change that benefits workers and makes historic investments in all modes of transportation. Their commitment to **making their voices heard in the political arena serves as an inspiring example** of how collective action can lead to meaningful change.

Organizing Award Local 380 Cornerstone

Local 380 Cornerstone received the **Organizing Award**, recognizing their outstanding efforts in joining together and forming their union. Their **dedication to bringing workers into the fold and advocating for worker's rights and grassroots union organizing** made a significant impact on the labor movement's growth.



Communications Award Marcia Wog

Marcia Wog was honored with the **Communications Award** for her exceptional work in effectively communicating the union's message to members and the broader community. Her **tireless efforts in disseminating crucial information, fostering engagement, and maintaining an open line of communication between members and leadership** were commendable.



Inspirational Workshops and Networking Opportunities

Beyond the speeches and awards, the convention offered a plethora of **workshops, debate on resolutions, seminars, and networking** opportunities. Attendees had the chance to delve into topics like **contract negotiations, workplace safety, and strategies for effective organizing**. These sessions empowered members with valuable knowledge and skills, ensuring that they return to their workplaces better equipped to drive positive change.



Solidarity in Action

One of the most powerful takeaways from the AFSCME Council 5 Membership Convention was the overwhelming sense of solidarity among attendees, proving the democracy within our union is strong and will continue to grow. The convention served as a reminder that, **no matter our backgrounds or job titles, we are united by a common goal—to protect workers' rights and improve the lives of all working people**. This perfectly matched this year's theme of **WE ALL BELONG!**



The convention's attendees came from diverse backgrounds and held various job positions within public service, but they shared a common purpose: to strengthen our union and continue the fight for workers' rights. **The convention exemplified the strength that comes from solidarity, reinforcing the idea that when we stand together, we can achieve the seemingly impossible.**

Inspired and United

The **AFSCME Council 5 Membership Convention** was a resounding success, leaving every participant feeling inspired, motivated, and better connected to their union family. The speeches from **President Eric Hesse, Interim Executive Director Bart Andersen, and AFSCME International President Lee Saunders** underscored the importance of unity and collective action.



The heartfelt tribute to Chapter 5 retirees reminded us of the legacy we inherit and the responsibility we have to carry the torch forward. The achievement awards celebrated the outstanding contributions of local unions and members, showcasing the

remarkable work being done across our union.



Through informative workshops and networking opportunities, **attendees left the convention with increased knowledge and the skills needed to continue advocating for workers' rights and economic and social justice**. Most importantly, the convention served as a reminder that we are not just members; ***we are a family—a family united in the pursuit of a better future for all workers.***

