



From Willmar to Minneapolis, we ensure access to justice in Minnesota.

Our workers deserve the same.

We're forming a union to build a better, safer workplace for all.

MMLA Unites with AFSCME

Following years of dedicated organizing, employees at **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid**, spanning from Willmar to Minneapolis, have voted to join AFSCME Council 5. A resounding majority of workers, encompassing every office, unit, and job category, have expressed their strong support for this endeavor. The next step involves demonstrating this overwhelming majority support through an election before the National Labor Relations Board.

We stand in solidarity, supporting each step of their journey toward union representation. Congratulations to our fellow members at MMLA on this significant milestone! Your commitment to collective strength and unity is truly commendable.

Local 753 Member Wins Award

Troy Kalla, a valued member of **Local 753 St. Cloud State University Chartwells** and head cook at Garvey Commons, has been honored with the Chartwells Higher Education **Frontline Culinary Difference Maker Award**. This prestigious accolade was presented at the 2023 Compass Group's *Night of Stars* annual event in Orlando, Florida.



Chartwells CEO personally selected Troy for this esteemed recognition, which highlights associates who consistently demonstrate excellence, deliver outstanding results, and go above and beyond in their roles. Out of thousands of associates nationwide, Troy was one of only eight individuals chosen to receive this distinguished award.

With 30 years of dedicated service at SCSU, Troy's commitment to excellence and passion for culinary arts make him a true standout.

Troy's achievement reflects the dedication and exceptionalism of our members. ***Congratulations, Troy, on this well-deserved honor!***

Local 701 Holiday Food Drive

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, **members from Local 701 - DHS Willmar** completed their first food drive during the holiday season. Dedicated volunteers gathered donations from members at group homes and direct care facilities in the local area. Thanks to the generosity of our members, a total of 254 pounds of



food was donated to support the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this food drive a resounding success!



Local 479 Addresses City Council

Ahead of upcoming contract negotiations, **Local 479 Apple Valley** addressed the City Council to voice their concerns on crucial issues. The topics included the rising costs of healthcare, the importance of fair wages for both retention and recruitment of employees, and the need for flexible schedules to mitigate burnout.

Good work for standing up on behalf of their fellow workers and community. It's through actions like these that we continue to strengthen our collective voice and work towards positive change. Well done!



Local 945 Officers and Exec Board

Local 945 Donates to Food Shelf

In a heartwarming display of solidarity, members of **Local 945 SE Minn State College-Winona** came together to raise funds for the Winona Food Shelf through a lively silent auction. The generosity of our members shone through as the auction successfully raised \$279. With the local union's commitment to community support, the total donation was matched for an impressive donation of \$560!

The gathering was a fundraising success and a testament to the strong spirit of solidarity within **Local 945**. All had a great time filled with laughter, delicious food, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact in our community.

Cheers to our members for their generosity and the joyful moments they created together!



Local 517 Reaches TA

Members of **Stillwater Public Library** recently reached a 2-year tentative agreement! Highlights include:

- Added Juneteenth and Veterans Day as paid holidays,
- 2024 - 3% ATB wage increase,
- 2025 - 3% ATB wage increase,
- Established a labor management committee

Congratulations to all members on this collective achievement! Your dedication has paved the way for positive changes that will benefit everyone in the Stillwater Public Library community. Well done!



Local 3173 Engages at Annual Board Meeting

Local 3173 made a strong impact at the **Minnesota Historical Society's** Annual Meeting, despite initial challenges. Denied a table inside, **President Colin Dunn, Maia LeClair** and the **Escalations Committee** warmly welcomed attendees, and distributed stickers and flyers with key updates on union efforts.

Their presence received enthusiastic support from MNHS members, with many expressing support of their union. The *MNHS Union* stickers served as a powerful visual symbol, allowing members to show their support without saying a word.

It was a heartening experience to witness members proudly displaying solidarity with their union. Kudos to all for amplifying our union's voice at the Annual Membership Meeting!



Local 1574 Stands in Support of UFCW Local 663

Local 1574 DHS-Brainerd showed strong unity by supporting **UFCW Local 663** members at Cub Foods in Brainerd-Baxter and Super One in Crosby-Pequot. They joined the picket line on December 22- 23, highlighting the collective commitment to fair treatment and workers' rights.

A heartfelt thank you to all members of **Local 1574** who participated, showcasing the power of solidarity and the shared commitment to the well-being of our fellow workers in the community. Your actions speak volumes, and together we stand stronger.



SPECIAL

REPORT

Championing Union Protections for Workers

In a resounding victory for workers' rights, **our state contract made headlines** as Interim Executive Director **Bart Andersen** staunchly defends a historic change that ensures union members are no longer held hostage for political purposes. At the core of this advocacy is the belief that a contract is a contract, and it unequivocally belongs to the workers.

Our dedicated **staff** and **members** played a pivotal role in lobbying the legislature and sharing their stories with elected leaders, including **Senator Erin Murphy, Rep Ginny Klevorn**, and others. This grassroots effort aimed to bring attention to the importance of protecting workers from undue political influence and securing their rights under contractual agreements.

No worker, whether in local or state government or non-profit service, should ever be treated as a pawn in a political chess match. **Andersen** stressed the importance of local government workers and others standing up for their rights in front of city councils, county board, school boards, and other places.

For more details on this noteworthy development, check out:

<https://www.kare11.com/.../89-33b8c00b-f25a-40f9-937e...>

Thank you for standing up for workers' rights! 🇺🇸 #AFSCMENews #WorkersRights #UnionAdvocacy



NLRB Issues Favorable Ruling for Cornerstone Workers

We are pleased to share a recent victory for our Cornerstone workers in a discipline case, as ruled by the NLRB. The Board has imposed several requirements on the employer with immediate effect, including:

- Posting the NLRB ruling in paper, electronic, and email formats for 60 days, clearly stating workers' rights to join a union without fear of retaliation.
- Continuous display of the NLRB poster outlining employee rights.
- Weekly email submissions to the NLRB for 60 days, including photos as evidence of compliance with the above postings.
- Mandatory training sessions for managers, supervisors, and employees on NLRB policies, with pay provided. The training dates require advance approval from the NLRB.
- Our member has been awarded back pay with interest.

This ruling is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our Cornerstone workers.

Congratulations to all for this well-deserved success! Your commitment to upholding workers' rights has made a significant impact, and we celebrate this victory together.

| Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. |
|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

2024 Calendar

- 2/21 IU Financial Responsibility- (Zoom)
- 3/27 Enhancing Communication Skills for Local Secretaries
- 4/2 AFSCME Day on the Hill
- 4/19 AFSCME Strong Conference
- 5/3 SEPC Conference
- 5/22 IU Financial Responsibility
- 5/22 Website Training
- 6/26 Social Media Training
- 7/31 IU Financial Responsibility; Social Media Training
- 8/12- 46th AFSCME IU Convention
8/16 Los Angeles
- 8/22- Minnesota State Fair Booth
9/2 Volunteers
- 9/26- AFSCME C5 Fall Convention,
9/28 Minneapolis
- 11/6 IU Financial Responsibility- (Zoom)

Check the C5 Calendar for details at afscmemn.org.

AFSCME Council 5

C5 DAY ON THE HILL 2024

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

RiverCentre Convention Center, St. Paul

SAVE THE *date*

