

Water Distribution Operators in Local 9 Reach TA

Newly organized members of Local 9 – City of Minneapolis secured a tentative agreement (TA) this week. These employees, who work as water distribution operators, were previously organized with a different union but decided to join AFSCME in the last year. The TA also increases longevity and premiums by 2.5% each year and adds a weekend day shift to the shift differential, ensuring that workers are compensated if they need to work on a weekend.

This TA – and the process of securing it – went a long way to build union power. It increases the number of stewards to 1 per 25 employees in the bargaining unit, boosting collective power. Five members of the bargaining team participated in contract negotiations for the first time, further building power and knowledge within Local 9.

Congratulations, siblings!

Scott County (Local 2440) Reaches TA

Earlier this month, members at Scott County reached a TA for a three year contract that secures wage increases and benefits for all their members. The TA includes wage increases of 2.75%, 2.5%, and 2.75% for the

corresponding years of the contract.

Members on the negotiating team won big advances in benefits as well. The TA increases the max amount of PTO hours from 432 to 480, shortens the PTO accrual rate steps, and adds five hours to every employee's PTO bank on March 2, 2020. The committee also secured one week of paid parental leave, adding this as a benefit for the first time. The TA also increases a differential rate by \$.25.

Local 2440 is recommending the agreement to the membership. Scott County – mark your calendars for the ratification vote! On-site voting will take place on February 11-12.

Congratulations, siblings!

Minnesota AFL-CIO Campaigns Conference

The 2020 election is shaping up to be the most important election of our lifetimes. The 2020 Minnesota AFL-CIO Campaigns Conference, which will take place in Minneapolis on February 6-7, will give members the tools they need to win for working Minnesotans. The conference is open to any union member; registration fee is \$50 per person.

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Attend a Council 5 Regional Planning Meeting

As part of our strategic plan, AFSCME leaders are holding regional planning meetings for members across the state. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for members to build solidarity with other members and plan collective work to advance our union's mission based on each region's specific needs, issues and interests.

All members are invited to attend the upcoming second-round meetings. Stay tuned for more opportunities to gather with fellow AFSCME members in your region!

- Rochester area: **January 29, 7PM;** Winona Athletic Club, 773 East 5th St., Winona
- Moorhead/Fergus Falls: **February 4, 4:30PM;** Pizza Ranch, 604 Frontier Dr, Fergus Falls
- Duluth: **February 4, 6PM,** AFSCME Duluth Office, 211 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN
- Iron Range: **February 5, 6PM;** Boomtown, 501 Hat Trick Ave, Eveleth, MN
- Willmar: **February 11, 5PM;** AFSCME Willmar office, 1350 1st St. S, Willmar
- West Metro: **February 24 and April 22, 4:30PM;** 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis (Room 365)
- Brainerd: **March 16, 4PM;** Central Lakes College, 501 W College Dr, Brainerd
- East Metro: **March 18 at 12PM;** AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul MN

For the latest information about all AFSCME Council 5 events, check the calendar on our website. **See you there!**



AFSCME Council 5 and our labor affiliates are hosting lots of trainings in 2020! Read on for details.



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Workshops at the Campaigns Conference will focus on organizing, legislative advocacy, political action, communications strategies, and more.

Get more details – and sign up for the conference – at mnaflcio.org.

Sign Up for Labor Caucus Training

On Tuesday, February 18, the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation will train union members to participate in the upcoming DFL caucuses, which will be held statewide on February 25.

AFSCME sister Jen Guertin will inform members on what to expect at precinct caucuses. The training will also explore best practices for individuals who want to participate as delegates at endorsing conventions, including the process for becoming a delegate to the national endorsing conventions.

The training will be held **at the St. Paul Labor Center** (353 W 7th Street in St. Paul) on **Tuesday, February 18 from 6-9PM**. Please RSVP to Kera Peterson at (651) 222-3787 x118 or kpeterson@stpaulunions.org.

Join us, and encourage your union siblings to do the same!

MSRS Board Elections Approaching

Attention members of the Minnesota State Retirement System pension program! The MSRS Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight of our pension administration, fiduciary health and investment decisions. In February 2020, MSRS will conduct an election to fill four positions on the MSRS Board of Directors.

On Wednesday, February 5, ballots will be mailed to eligible voters. **Monday, March 2** is the deadline to vote. Votes will be tallied on Thursday, March 19, and results will be announced at msrs.state.mn.us shortly after.

These elections are important in the fight to keep our pensions safe, secure and stable for ourselves and future public workers. Watch our website for endorsement updates, and keep an eye out for your MSRS Board Election ballot in the mail in early February!

Attend Behavioral Health Summit February 22

America’s behavioral health needs are changing, but our system for delivering that care has not kept up. This broken system is failing all of us — professionals, clients and communities — and we are all paying the price. So we are coming together to build a movement to address this. AFSCME Council 5 is part of a coalition working to unite and advocate for higher standards, better service, and working conditions for all those affected with behavioral health issues.

Our next Behavioral Health Summit will take place on **Saturday, February 22**

in the Hennessy Room at the AFSCME Council 5 office (300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075) from 12PM-5PM. Anyone who works in behavioral health or is impacted by mental health care accessibility and issues is welcome to participate. RSVP at afscmemn.org.

Register for a 2020 Financial Responsibility Training

This training is offered and conducted by AFSCME International. Anyone in your local who signs checks or conducts audits is welcome and encouraged to attend. Trainings will take place at the AFSCME South St. Paul office on **March 26, April 22 and October 29** of 2020; an additional training will be held at the AFSCME office in Duluth on Wednesday, **September 9**.

All classes run from **9AM-4PM**. To register, contact the MAC at the Council 5 office toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 or by email at council5@afscmemn.org. Financial Responsibility Training is \$20 per person.

Want to Go Paperless?

All our Action Updates are available on the Council 5 website (afscmemn.org) in printable PDF form. Do you currently receive paper copies of Action Update and would like to make a switch to digital-only? Contact Gail Grant at Gail.Grant@afscmemn.org.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at afscmemn.org. Email communications@afscmemn.org with news and events you’d like shared in our next update.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Rochester Regional Planning Meeting	Wednesday, January 29; 7PM	Winona Athletic Club
Moorhead/Fergus Falls Regional Planning Meeting	Tuesday, February 4; 4:30PM	Pizza Ranch (Fergus Falls)
Duluth Regional Planning Meeting	Tuesday, February 4; 6PM	AFSCME Duluth Office
Iron Range Regional Planning Meeting	Wednesday, February 5; 6PM	Boomtoun - Eveleth
2020 MNAFL-CIO Campaigns Conference	February 6-7; 8AM	Delta Hotel Minneapolis

