

## Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner is March 21

AFSCME Council 5 is a proud sponsor of the Nellie Stone Johnson Foundation and their annual Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner. The NSJ Foundation provides scholarships to union members of color to pursue higher education at Minnesota's state-run colleges and universities.

Members can get involved in supporting the NSJ Foundation in two ways. First: donate items to the event's silent auction at the AFSCME Council 5 office in South St. Paul, care of Robert Crawford, by WEDNESDAY, March 6. Second: get your ticket for the fundraiser dinner at [nsj32.eventbrite.com](http://nsj32.eventbrite.com). The dinner is March 21 - get your tickets now!

## Legislative Update

As deadlines near, the State Capitol grows busier every day. Here's what happened this week:

**The budget surplus shrunk.** The February budget forecast, released this week, shows the budget surplus is just above \$1 billion, down \$492 million from the November forecast.



Join thousands of members at the Capitol for AFSCME Council 5 Day on the Hill!

## Register NOW for Day on the Hill!

Day on the Hill is almost here! On Tuesday, March 26, AFSCME members from across Minnesota will gather at the St. Paul RiverCentre to fight for dignity in the workplace and prosperity for all. Don't miss out on the chance to join them!

If you've never been, here's what to expect: in the morning, we'll brush up on our advocacy skills and hear from some of Minnesota's top elected officials. Then we'll have lunch and head over to our State Capitol for a solidarity rally in the rotunda. From there, we'll split into groups and talk to legislators about the issues that matter most to working Minnesotans like us.

Register online at [www.actionnetwork.org/forms/c5doth](http://www.actionnetwork.org/forms/c5doth) before Thursday, March 21. Learn more about Day on the Hill on our website at [www.afscmemn.org/doth19](http://www.afscmemn.org/doth19). Call our Member Action Center at 800-652-9791 if you have questions or need help getting signed up.

AFSCME Council 5's success depends on YOU showing up to fight for yourself, your coworkers, and working people across America. Sign up today!

**Pro-worker policies advanced.** Bills to guarantee paid family and medical leave and earned sick and safe time had their first hearings, and bills allowing drivers licenses to all defending the right to vote moved through committees. AFSCME Council 5 stands strong with coalition partners to support these policies, which will protect working people and expand prosperity for all.

**Gov. Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan released a budget and a bonding bill.**

The plan includes:

- A 20-cent gas tax increase to fund critical infrastructure projects
- An increase to the Working Family Tax Credit
- More Local Government Aid and County Program Aid (\$30 million for each, every year)

The bonding package includes \$345 million for transportation and mass transit, \$300 million for higher education, \$150 million for housing, and \$38 million for corrections.

Want to help get these and other critical policies passed? **Join your AFSCME family on March 26 at Day on the Hill!** Sign up today with the instructions above.

## St. Paul DFL Caucuses

St. Paul residents: be sure to attend your Ward caucuses this Sunday, March 10 at 2:30 pm. Locations vary, so visit [stpauldfi.wordpress.com](http://stpauldfi.wordpress.com) for your Ward's caucus location.

## Attend a Financial Responsibility Training

We've added four Financial Responsibility Trainings to the calendar for 2019:

- Tuesday, March 19, South St. Paul
- Thursday, June 13, South St. Paul
- Thursday, September 26, Duluth
- Thursday, November 14, South St. Paul

This training is conducted by AFSCME International. Any AFSCME member who signs checks or conducts audits for their local is encouraged to take the class. The cost to participate is \$20, which covers lunch and materials. Join fellow AFSCME leaders to develop these critical skills! To register, call our Member Action Center at 1-800-652-9791, or by email at [Council5@afscmemn.org](mailto:Council5@afscmemn.org).

Short on time, or just need a quick refresher? Members who deal with their local's finances are also invited to take advantage of the Financial Standards Code video tutorials at [afscmetreasurer.org/trainings/financial-standards-code](http://afscmetreasurer.org/trainings/financial-standards-code).

### Officers Swarm the Capitol on Corrections Lobbying Day

Over one hundred AFSCME Council 5 correctional officers and other staff from across the state ascended upon the Minnesota Capitol last Tuesday. They began their annual Corrections Lobbying Day by packing the hearing room for the first hearing of HF1237/SF1678, a bill to ban private prisons from operating in Minnesota. So many AFSCME members attended that a second overflow room had to be set up at the last minute.

The members had effective conversations with their legislators and plan to continue pushing them throughout this session to support initiatives that are crucial to the safety and security of all corrections staff, inmates and communities. Attendees of Corrections

Lobbying Day plan to come back on March 26 for AFSCME Council 5's Day on the Hill, where thousands of AFSCME members will flood the Capitol to make sure Minnesota legislators know exactly where we stand, and that we're holding them accountable. Read more about Corrections Lobbying Day on our website: [www.afscmemn.org/council-5/news](http://www.afscmemn.org/council-5/news).

### Local 9 Ratifies Contract

AFSCME Council 5 Local 9, City of Minneapolis Park Board, ratified a three-year contract with lots of improvements, including across-the-board raises of 2.8% in the first year and 3% in the second and third years of the contract. The agreement also includes a shift differential in 2020 and an increase in the uniform allowance for park agents.

### Local 2535 Ratifies Contract

AFSCME Council 5 Local 2535, City of South St. Paul, ratified a two-year contract for its members. The contract includes 3% cost of living increases for 2019 and 2020, an additional \$10 per month for Retirement Healthcare Savings Plan, and insurance with a rate increase cap for 2019 and 2020.

### Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org). Email [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.



Flanked by fellow officers, Officer Anna Koktan joins Leader Ryan Winkler to testify in favor of the bill to permanently ban private prisons in Minnesota.

## Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
AFSCME State Negotiations Assembly	March 8, 2019	Marriott Delta, Minneapolis
St. Paul DFL Caucuses	March 10, 2019	Varies: see <a href="http://stpauldfi.wordpress.com">stpauldfi.wordpress.com</a>
AFSCME Financial Responsibility Training	March 19, 2019	AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul
Nellie Stone Johnson Fundraiser Dinner	March 21, 2019	DoubleTree Hilton, Bloomington
AFSCME Day on the Hill	March 26, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul
State Employee Policy Committee	May 3, 2019	Marriott Delta, Minneapolis
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarship Deadline	May 10, 2019	<a href="http://www.afscmemn.org/scholarships">www.afscmemn.org/scholarships</a>