

AFSCME Council 5 is Hiring!

AFSCME Council 5 seeks qualified candidates for an open organizer position. Do you know someone who wants to build power and demand dignity for working people? Are you interested in becoming a full-time AFSCME organizer? Find the application at afscmemn.org/organizer-0

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Dinner is THIS THURSDAY, 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.

Tickets are still available – get yours at nsj30.eventbrite.com. The dinner is THIS THURSDAY, March 21 – get your tickets now!

Nominations Open for St. Louis County Negotiations Team

Nominations close TOMORROW for the St. Louis County Civil Service Basic and Merit System negotiating team. To nominate a fellow union member (or yourself), contact a member of the Organizing Committee (Denise Allan, Dave Bednarski, Tam Dalagan, Jared Ecklund, Gary Glad, Charlotte Karsh, or Phil Olson).

Legislative Update

This week was deadline week at the State Legislature. Paid family and medical leave, local government funding, a private prison ban, and other policies continue to move through the process.

Alert: Day on the Hill is ONE WEEK away!

Our annual Day on the Hill is almost here! Registration closes on Thursday, so make sure you head to actionnetwork.org/forms/c5doth NOW to sign up.

More than a thousand AFSCME members will come together next Tuesday to make our voices heard at the Capitol. Join us in telling our stories and encouraging our electeds to support policies that support working Minnesotans and our families. We'll also ask them to stand up to efforts to further divide working people and rig the system even more in favor of the rich and powerful.

Day on the Hill is our biggest, most impactful event of the year. Don't wait – register today to make sure your voice gets heard.

But other bills that would harm our progress continue to move, too. We are keeping a close eye on bills like SF2111 (Koran), which would significantly change the way contracts are ratified in Minnesota. Instead of allowing contracts to go into effect after the legislative session, it would require an affirmative vote of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER). This would make it much more difficult to negotiate contracts and get them ratified.

Tell your legislators to oppose SF 2111!

Attend a Financial Responsibility Training

Don't forget to put these financial responsibility trainings on your calendar:

- 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 email us at Council5@afscmemn.org.

Local 151 Hosts Day on the Hill Signup Party

Last week, Ramsey County Local 151 hosted a pizza party to encourage Day on the Hill signups at their main site at 160 E Kellogg Blvd. Over 40 people signed up to attend Day on the Hill, and 5 new members signed MoM cards.

Local 151 plans to continue to recruit their fellow AFSCME members to attend Day on the Hill. They have money set aside to bring up to 65 members to this year's DOTD event.



Are you ready for Day on the Hill?

Retirees Hear Presentation on Opioids Crisis

This week, AFSCME East Metro Retirees hosted Local 2938 member and Washington County Attorney Pete Orput for a presentation on the opioid crisis. Members heard harrowing details about the addictive power of opioids, and what members can do to protect themselves and their families.

“If you take for eight straight days, you’re close to getting that monkey on your back,” said Orput. “Some people are in the hospital for a week and they come out and immediately start going through withdrawal. It doesn’t take much.”

East Metro Retirees President Judie Atkins invited Orput to present at this month’s meeting. “I thought this was something that needs to be expounded on because it affects retirees and older people,” Atkins said.

The presentation also covered the deceptive ways corporate drug

manufacturers promoted and sold opioids in spite of clear risks. “Manufacturers realized early on that opioids have a huge potential for addiction,” said Orput. “But what did they do? They hid it. Why? For the enormous profits they were making.”

For one member, this topic hit close to home. Mike Dasovic, a retired Local 2139 steward, described the struggle his daughter went through after she became addicted to opioids.

“She went in for gallbladder surgery. She was on painkillers for nine months before it started affecting her life, her job, her marriage,” Dasovic said.

Dasovic said his daughter needed almost a year of intensive treatment to recover. Though she is back on track, she still receives regular outpatient treatment nearly two years later.

As the East Metro Retirees met, legislators at the Capitol debated HF400 & HF 2127, bills that would help address the opioid crisis in Minnesota.

AFSCME staff and members are fighting to make sure these bills become law.

The conversation was an important reminder that the opioid crisis affects thousands across Minnesota – regardless of income, background, or status. “If you have children or grandchildren, it could happen to them,” said Judie Atkins. “I think we all need to be aware of it.”

Oak Park Heights CO Places in Regional Competition

Congratulations to Local 915’s Alan Gocken! Alan and his K9 partner placed 2nd at the United States Police Canine Association Region 12 Narcotic Trials in the indoor narcotics search event!

Locals Ratify Contracts

- **Local 517, City of Forest Lake** ratified a two-year contract with two 2% range and salary increases in 2019, a 1% increase in 2020, and two increases - a 2% and a 1% increase - in 2021. Insurance increases were limited, sick leave language for family members was improved to match current laws; and uniform payout schedule was improved.
- **Local 2725, City of Maplewood** ratified a two-year contract with a 3% raise, no insurance increase, clothing allowance increase, and improved Deferred Compensation structure.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at www.afscmemn.org. Email communications@afscmemn.org with news and events to share in our next update.



East Metro retirees listen to a presentation from Washington County Attorney Pete Orput.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Nellie Stone Johnson Fundraiser Dinner	March 21, 2019	DoubleTree Hilton, Bloomington
Don't Let the Sun Set on Healthcare Rally	March 21, 2019	State Capitol - Rotunda, St Paul
AFSCME Day on the Hill	March 26, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul
State Employee Policy Committee	May 3, 2019	Marriott Delta, Minneapolis