



This year's Day on the Hill was one of the Council's highest attended advocacy days.

## Thousands of Members Attend 2019 Day on the Hill

Thousands of AFSCME members from across Minnesota converged at the State Capitol on March 26 for our biggest event of the year: Day on the Hill.

This year's program was fresh and member-driven. Members packed the St. Paul RiverCentre ballroom and cheered as the session opened and House Speaker Melissa Hortman joined Council 5 Executive Director John Westmoreland on the dais. Together, Speaker Hortman and Westmoreland listened to the stories of seven AFSCME members from different walks of life.

Following the members' presentations, Speaker Hortman took the podium to reaffirm the importance of our work and her support for our union and our values.

"We have so much in common. What our work is grounded in is respect and dignity for each and every person," said Speaker Hortman. "And the value of organizing and accomplishing things together that we can't do by ourselves, and we so completely share your values."

In the afternoon, members gathered for the annual Day on the Hill Rotunda Rally at the State Capitol. In another major first for our Council, our sister union, MAPE (Minnesota Association of Professional Employees) and AFSCME joined forces to rally together for public employees. Union members packed all three floors, filling the rotunda to its brim.

AFSCME members were honored to have Governor Tim Walz address the roaring crowd of union members. Walz said, "So many people who aren't here today are living better lives with more dignity because of you."

All three of Minnesota's Constitutional Officers – State Auditor Julie Blaha, Attorney General Keith Ellison and Secretary of State Steve Simon – also took to the stage, voicing their support for working Minnesotans, collective bargaining and the labor movement.

Day on the Hill gives AFSCME members an opportunity to learn about the legislative process and use that knowledge to build relationships with the people we elect to represent us at the Capitol. It's a chance to come

together as one and have a real impact on the decisions our elected officials make about our work and our lives.

For more on this year's Day on the Hill, check out the March-April addition of *Stepping Up* - coming soon!

## 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](mailto:Council5@afscmemn.org).

## Legislative Update

Last week, the DFL-controlled House and GOP-controlled Senate passed very different budget proposals. The House's budget funds health care, education, and building prosperity, while the Senate's

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## Alert: 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](http://afscmemn.org/organizer-0)

version makes huge cuts to core services to pay for the massive corporate tax cuts passed last session. If the Senate’s proposal passed today, billions of dollars – and hundreds of public employee jobs – would be cut.

This sets up an end-of-session showdown that will pit working people against the wealthy few. While DFLers in the House advance a budget that funds our priorities and puts Minnesota families first, a few Republican leaders are working against what the majority of Minnesotans want to benefit their corporate friends and big donors.

**Here’s what you can do to support a budget for all Minnesotans:** Call your legislators and ask them to support the House’s budget proposal. Tell them how budget cuts would affect your job, your family, and your community. And keep calling until the Legislature adjourns at midnight on May 20th.

In addition to budget negotiations, other important bills continue to move through the legislative process. This week, AFSCME Council 5 submitted a formal letter of support for the Drivers Licenses for All bill, which will be heard on the House floor in the coming days. AFSCME Council 5 strongly supports this proposal to allow drivers’ license access for undocumented Minnesotans because it will make all our streets safer and give thousands of people the freedom to participate in our communities with dignity.

**Local 701 makes huge push to sign up for Direct Dues**

Cindy Ramsey is on fire. The Local 701 member from Hutchinson, who works as a caregiver in a state-run care facility for developmentally disabled adults, has spent the past two months on a mission to sign up her entire Local – all 192 members – for Direct Dues.

as a tool to get members more engaged in our union.

Local 701 is building power beyond their direct dues campaign. They’ve also been promoting AFSCME PEOPLE and enlisting members to join them in lobbying for pro-worker legislation at the Capitol.

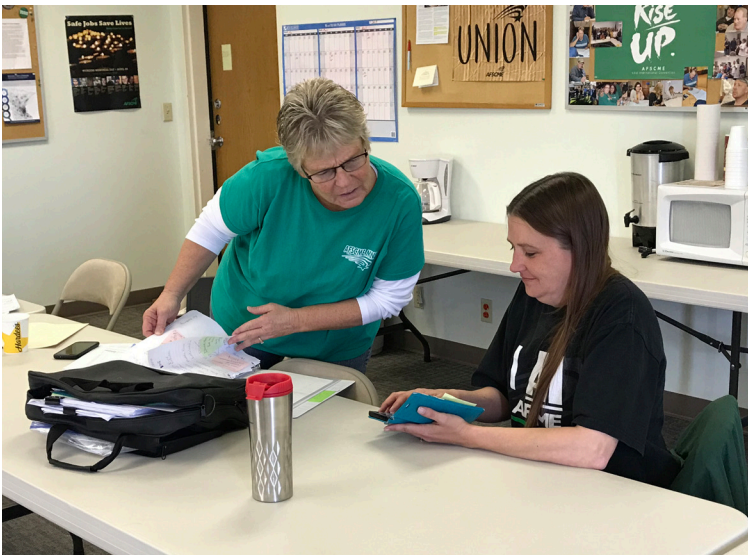
The campaign has also empowered members at other worksites to branch out in their own organizing efforts, creating more solidarity and worker power at each of the sites the team visits.

When asked what keeps them motivated, Local 701 President Cathy Malvin points to the Supreme Court’s ruling in Janus v. AFSCME as a warning for future attacks. They’re committed to fighting back.

“They thought they were going to take us out when they chopped fair share dues [with the Janus decision]. If anything, we just became stronger,” Malvin said “People were like, ‘Oh my gosh, I have to join my union,’ and then they joined. We’re just being proactive before the forces behind Janus decide they’re going to bust our union by ending dues check-off. That won’t matter if we’ve already got everyone on Direct Dues.”

**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 to share in our next update.



Cathy Malvin (left) and Cindy Ramsey get ready for a worksite visit.

In January 2019, Cindy and her coworkers laid out a plan to visit each worksite in their local, and came up with creative ways to make sure they were able to not just sign people up, but to use the Direct Dues conversations

**Mark Your Calendars**

Event	Date	Place/details
St Paul Union Job and Resource Fair	April 4, 2019	IBEW Local 110, 1330 Conway St, St Paul
Union Awareness Day at Regions Hospita	April 9, 2019	Regions Hospital worksites
International Workers Day	May 1, 2019	Various
State Employee Policy Committee	May 3, 2019	Marriott Delta, Minneapolis