



Support your union family by sharing your story!

Tell your Legislators: Stop Public Employee Layoffs!

Public employees keep public services running, even in a pandemic. But state and local governments are laying off our union siblings just when we need them most.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) just announced their plans to close the Willow River and Togo correctional facilities which serve as the department's Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP), potentially laying off more than 100 public employees.

CIP is a critical program to protect public safety and effectively aids in the rehabilitation of inmates to successfully reintegrate back into society.

Our members put their lives on the line every time they go into work. They don't deserve to be laid off when working families are already struggling to get by.

We need to take action now to defend our union family and protect the public services that Minnesotans deserve.

Tell your story about what layoffs and facility closures will mean for workers, their families, friends, and communities

by taking action and writing a letter to your State Senator and Representative today! Get the details at bit.ly/2QaysIX.

An injury to one is an injury to all. Now is the time to invest in core services, not cut them.

Hold legislators accountable - share your story today!

RSVP for Behavioral Health Summit

Join AFSCME members leading Minnesotans for Better Mental Healthcare for our next behavioral health summit! The summit will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 11 AM - 1 PM. This summit will focus on providing basic education about some of the more common mental health illnesses and discussing how we can actively work to reduce stigma in our workplaces.

The purpose of these summits is to bring together behavioral and mental health professionals to break down barriers, share their stories, and work together to fight for better mental health care for all Minnesotans.

To protect the health of all participants, this summit will be hosted virtually via Zoom.

Thank You to the Council 5 COVID Fund Donors!

We are grateful to all the members who contributed to AFSCME Council 5's efforts to produce and distribute homemade face masks to our members. Special thanks to contributors to the Council 5 COVID Fund:

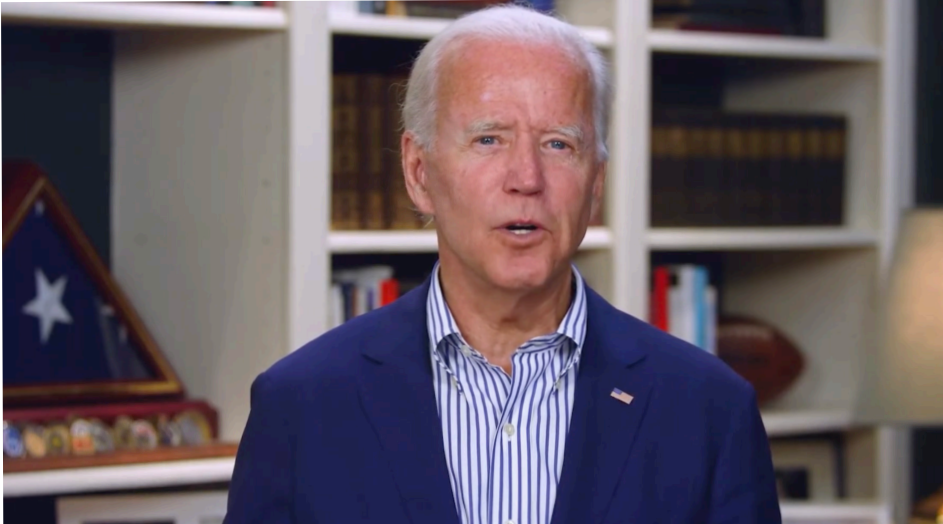
- Carol Hiniker
- Michael Toft
- Martha Johnson
- Local 915
- Local 4001
- Local 499
- Local 1092
- Local 753
- Local 221
- Local 2385
- Local 735
- Local 668
- Local 761

These funds covered the materials and shipping costs for hundreds of masks that have been distributed across the state.

Thank you, members!

RSVP for the Behavioral Health Summit at bit.ly/3aQtAIK.

Can't make it to the Summit? Join a weekly mental health check-in on Tuesdays at 9 AM and 7 PM for a safe space to talk about your emotions, struggles, and hopes of what a better, modernized mental health system can look like. Sign up for the next mental health check-in at afscmemn.org/mentalbehavioral-health.



Presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden addressed the 44th AFSCME International Convention, promising expanded rights for workers.

AFSCME International Holds First Virtual Convention in Union's History

For the first time in our union's history, our union held its International Convention online.

This year's theme - "Front-Line Heroes: Never Stronger" - could not be more appropriate at a time when members are stepping up and serving in ways we never imagined.

Holding the 44th annual convention virtually meant that delegates from all across AFSCME could participate safely from their homes. Over two days, AFSCME hosted an engaging event that allowed members to connect and conduct their essential business.

Joe Biden, AFSCME's endorsed candidate for President, addressed the convention with a stirring celebration of public employees. Biden vowed to empower workers if elected president.

"We're going to shift the balance of power back to workers in this country," Biden said. "You're the ones carrying this country forward. So when we rebuild this economy, your dignity will form the foundation, your rights will be carved in stone."

Delegates re-elected Lee Saunders and Elissa McBride as AFSCME's president and secretary-treasurer.

"AFSCME's story over the last two

years is one of fearlessness under fire, resilience in the face of adversity. Whether it was politically motivated attacks on our right to exist, or a global pandemic threatening the safety and stability of our communities, we have risen to the moment," President Saunders said.

S-T McBride highlighted the contributions of volunteer member organizers (VMOs) in her remarks. "One of the most important and inspiring parts of my job is to support you in building strong and growing local unions," she said.

Guy Bryant, a 42-year veteran of New York City's Administration for Children's Services, was honored with the annual Never Quit award. Through his decades-long career as a community coordinator, he has gone above and beyond by not just supporting young people discharged from foster care, but also fostering more than 60 youth in his own home.

"I tell my kids all the time that your success is my reward," Bryant said. "This is the path that was chosen for me and I just walked down it."

AFSCME Council 5 will be hosting its own virtual convention next month from September 24-25. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information!

Take Our Mental Health Survey!

Have you filled out the AFSCME member mental health survey? In these uncertain times, it's more important than ever to take care of ourselves and each other.

The survey was developed by Minnesotans for Better Mental Health Care, a group of AFSCME mental health workers and activists advocating for healthier communities and better outcomes for all Minnesotans.

The goal of this survey is to gather information from before, during, and after COVID-19 in hopes that we can identify issues within the system and be more prepared for crises in the future.

Take the survey at forms.gle/w1Xw4DLVwGZjn8zZ9

Even if you've taken the survey before, please fill it out again so members can track how conditions change through this pandemic.

Take the survey now!

AFSCME Local 1337 Members Win a Raise

AFSCME members in Local 1337 provide essential care to assisted living home residents in Brooklyn Center. This week, they won a wage increase that reflects the importance of their critical contributions to the lives of their clients.

Local 1337 members unanimously ratified the wage reopener. Congratulations, family!

Resources for Members

Stay up to date on all the latest news by following @afscmemn5 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Get guidance and resources at [afscmemn.org](https://www.afscmemn.org) under the COVID-19 tab.

Look for action alerts via email and text so you know when to take action to protect working families. We are all in this together, siblings.