

Locals Ratify Contracts

Local 2454, City of Dayton, approved a two-year contract with 2.5 percent wage increases each year, plus improvements to the employer contribution to health insurance. The contract includes an agreement that it can be reopened for negotiation if health insurance premiums increase by more than 5 percent in the second year.

Local 2454, City of Ramsey, ratified a two-year contract with a 2.75 percent wage increase in 2019 and 3 percent in 2020, with shared health insurance costs. Members worked with management to establish a career ladder program to reward public works and maintenance workers who earn additional certifications in their field.

Local 2454, City of Champlin, approved a three-year contract with 3 percent wage increases each year, plus improvements in the employer contribution to health insurance.

Local 3558, United Way, approved a new 25-month contract after a heated battle with the employer, who tried to include two articles that contained “Right to Work” language. The members pushed back and voted to authorize a strike. Ultimately, the workers won and the employer dropped both of the anti-union articles from the contract.

Local 599 Member Receives Never Quit Award



Never Quit Service Award recipient Rick Neyssen, AFSCME Local 599, Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud

Congratulations to Local 599’s Rick Neyssen, a Corrections Officer at the St. Cloud prison and a recent recipient of AFSCME’s Never Quit Service Award!

Rick received the award in recognition of his tireless service to his coworkers and the inmates they serve, as well as the community as a whole. Despite the high-pressure, unpredictable nature of his job, Rick says his work at the prison is fulfilling because he knows he’s making a difference.

“It can be very rewarding. I appreciate every day when I can work with someone to have an ‘aha moment,’ or just to change their behavior,” Rick says. Read more about the important work Rick does at www.bit.ly/2T1Z6TN.

Have a coworker who goes above and beyond when it comes to public service and giving back? Nominate them for a Never Quit award at www.neverquit.afscme.org/awards.

Deadline Approaching for AFSCME Union Scholars Program

AFSCME and Harvard University's Labor and Worklife Program are partnering up to sponsor the 2019 Union Scholars Program, a 10-week summer internship for students of color who are passionate about social justice and workers' rights. The internship includes hands-on organizing experience through a 10-week field placement over the summer. Participants receive a stipend and on-site housing at Harvard University, plus an academic scholarship of up to \$6,000 upon completion of the program. Find out more and apply for the Union Scholars Program at www.afscme.org/organize/union-scholars.

St. Louis County Workers Beat Back Prescription Copay Hike

In October, St. Louis County proposed a unilateral increase to prescription drug copays. Members of the Local 66 St. Louis County bargaining unit asserted their right to negotiate over the change, meeting with the employer and the other bargaining units in the local to discuss health insurance and prescription copays. Their action paid off: the county dropped the proposal. Our union's push to negotiate means copays will stay the same in 2019.

Supply Drive for YWCA Young Moms Program in Duluth

In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Duluth YWCA, members of AFSCME Local 3558 are collecting personal hygiene and household supplies for the Spirit Valley YWCA Young Moms program. The program provides housing and assistance for young women and their children. Participants, many of whom have faced homelessness and mental health crises in the past, learn life skills and get help accessing care, education and employment.

Items such as lotion, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, baby wipes and diapers, household cleaning supplies, twin and full-sized sheets

and blankets are in high demand. Due to licensing regulations, the YWCA is only able to accept new, unused donations.

The supply drive will continue through the holiday season. You can drop donations off at the Spirit Valley YWCA location in Duluth (411 N. 57th Ave. West), or at the AFSCME Council 5 office in South St. Paul (300 Hardman Avenue South).

Get in on the Action

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

Sending warm wishes for a new year of opportunity and prosperity for all.



Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Gubernatorial Inauguration	January 7, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul
Minnesota Legislative Session Begins	January 8, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul
AFSCME Council 5 Presidents Meeting	January 18, 2019	Inwood Oaks, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale
AFSCME Day on the Hill	March 26, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul