

## St. Louis County Workers Call on County Board to Stop Outsourcing Plan

After months of objecting to a plan to outsource case management of elderly waivers, social workers who care for some of St. Louis County's most vulnerable residents made an appearance at the Feb. 5 County Board meeting. Their objective? To get the County Board to take a vote on whether the Public Health and Human Services department could move forward with their outsourcing plan.

One of the main intentions behind the PHHS plan to contract out this specific segment of work is to redeploy the social workers to other areas where the county is also short staffed. That's hard on the workers as well as the clients they serve.

The members of Local 66 acknowledge that caseloads are increasing and the department is short staffed, but they also say the work can be kept in-house

### Corrections Lobby Day is Next Tuesday!

Hundreds of AFSCME correctional officers will head to the Capitol next Tuesday to talk to lawmakers about the work we do and how the decisions they make impact our jobs, our safety and the communities where we work and live.

Our top priorities this session include securing funding for safe staffing at all of our corrections facilities and indexing the staff-to-post ratio so that when more workers are needed, more workers actually get hired. We will also stand in firm opposition to any legislation put forward that would allow for-profit prison corporations to operate in Minnesota and will support efforts to ban private prisons from our state altogether.

If you're a correctional officer and you'd like to join us on Tuesday, please mail Eric Jacobson ([Eric.Jacobson@afscmemn.org](mailto:Eric.Jacobson@afscmemn.org)) or talk to your local union president.

by simply adding a few more positions to the elderly care unit – a move that wouldn't add any cost to the county's budget. That solution would be beneficial to the clients and communities who need these crucial services.

Social worker Karen Donald says contracting out the work she and her coworkers do would have a harmful impact on the elderly clients receiving services. "I feel like they're just so vulnerable," she says. As employees of the county, Donald says, AFSCME care workers have established relationships with their elderly clients and have the resources of the entire agency available to them, so they can provide the highest quality of care coordination. "Trusting a government agency is kind of different for the elderly. When you say 'we're from the county,' you have that official stamp. It means something to them," she says, "particularly because they are trusting us with very intimate details of their lives."

The Local 66 members are disappointed in the County Board's decision not to take a vote, and are determined to keep fighting the PHHS plan to contract out their work.



Members and retirees from AFSCME Local 66, St. Louis County, attend a St. Louis County Board meeting to encourage Councilors to take a vote on the harmful plan to contract out their work.

## Oak Park Heights Corrections Workers Raise \$11,000 for Family of Fallen Union Brother

Members of AFSCME Local 915 at Oak Park Heights Prison have been busy! The group of corrections workers partnered with a local screen printer to have memorial t-shirts made - at cost - in honor of Joe Parise. Parise was a Local 915 member who died in the line of duty last September, just minutes after intervening when a coworker at the prison was under attack by an inmate. Parise is survived by his wife, who is expecting their second child, and a young daughter. Last week, the workers presented the Parise family with \$11,000 raised by selling the memorial shirts. The shirts are sold out, but you can still contribute to the Go Fund Me for Andrea Parise at [www.gofundme.com/officer-joe-parise](http://www.gofundme.com/officer-joe-parise).

## Donate to Nellie Stone Johnson Silent Auction

AFSCME Council 5 is a proud sponsor of the 32nd Annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Fundraising Dinner on **Thursday, March 21**. The NSJ scholarship program provides assistance to union members of color and their families, so they can pursue higher education at Minnesota state colleges and universities.

Donations are currently being accepted for a silent auction that will be held at the fundraising dinner. Gift certificates,

handmade items and unique items from small businesses make great silent auction prizes, and all donations are tax deductible.

All proceeds from the fundraiser dinner as well as the silent auction go directly to scholarships.

You can buy tickets to the dinner at [nsj32.eventbrite.com](http://nsj32.eventbrite.com). Drop off silent auction items at the AFSCME Council 5 office in South St. Paul by Friday, March 15, or email [Robert.Crawford@afscmemn.org](mailto:Robert.Crawford@afscmemn.org) to make alternative arrangements.

## AFSCME Council 5 Marches for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

In Minnesota, the rates at which Native women and girls are murdered or go missing are shocking. The homicide rate for Native women born in Minnesota is seven times higher than that of white women.



AFSCME members joined Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples marches on Valentines Day to help shine a light on the ongoing violence against Native women and girls.

AFSCME members in Duluth and the metro joined Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples marches last Thursday to help shine a light on the ongoing violence against the women, girls, trans and Two Spirit members of our tribal communities.

Know of another important event AFSCME should be part of? Send an email to [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) to get it on our calendar.

## 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 [Trisha.Harms@afscmemn.org](mailto:Trisha.Harms@afscmemn.org) with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.

## Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
AFSCME Corrections Lobbying Day	February 26, 2019	Minnesota State Capitol
AFSCME State Negotiations Assembly	March 8, 2019	Marriott Delta, Minneapolis
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>