

## Special Election Results in Senate District 11

For the past four weeks, AFSCME members have worked tirelessly to get out the vote for Stu Lourey, a strong union champion, in the special election for Senate District 11.

Many voters in the district reported issues receiving ballots on time. We applaud Secretary of State Steve Simon's efforts to shift how specials work to make sure that voters are heard.

Disappointing election results aside, we're grateful to every volunteer who gave their time and energy to Stu's campaign, and to Stu for his time, passion, and clear dedication to serving the working people of Minnesota.

Our congratulations to Jason Rarick.



Left to right: Jason Loons, Dennis Frazier, Gary Vendela and Jessica Anderson bundle up for a Saturday door-knock for Stu Lourey.

## Corrections Lobbying day is Feb. 26

Hundreds of AFSCME correctional officers will head to the Capitol on Feb. 26 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. 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 entirely.

If you're a correctional worker and you want to join us, please contact Eric Jacobson ([Eric.Jacobson@afscmemn.org](mailto:Eric.Jacobson@afscmemn.org)) or talk to your local union president.

## Register Online for Day on the Hill

Our annual Day on the Hill is on March 26, 2019. This year's event is going to be epic. We'll spend the morning hearing from elected officials and learning how to lobby. Then we'll head over to the Capitol to rally in the rotunda and talk to our legislators about the issues and policies that matter most to working Minnesotans like us. You don't want to miss it! Check out the details and register at [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org). The deadline to register is Thursday, March 21.

## "Joe's Jumpers" Take Polar Plunge

On January 26, more than twenty members of AFSCME Local 915, MCF Oak Park Heights and Local 600, MCF Stillwater, were joined by new Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell in taking the Polar Plunge



DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell and members of AFSCME Locals 915 and 600 take the Polar Plunge in honor of fallen union brothers Joe Gomm and Joe Parise.

in honor of our fallen union brothers, Correctional Officers Joe Gomm and Joe Parise. Parise died in the line of duty last September, just minutes after intervening when a co-worker at the Oak Park Heights prison was under attack by an inmate. Gomm was murdered by an inmate at the Stillwater prison in July of last year.

The team took the plunge under the moniker "Joe's Jumpers." So far, the group has raised \$3,604 for the Minnesota Special Olympics by braving the frigid waters of White Bear Lake.

Joe's Jumpers are still taking pledges for the Minnesota Special Olympics. You can make a donation in honor of Gomm and Parise at [reg.plungemn.org/team/joesjumpers](http://reg.plungemn.org/team/joesjumpers).

## Local 517 Ratifies Contract

AFSCME Local 517, City of Stillwater, ratified a two-year contract that includes 3 percent raises each year and improvements to sick leave accrual. The new contract also requires a higher health insurance contribution from the employer.

## Local 66 Social Worker Honored for Service to Native American Families

Congratulations to St. Louis County Social Worker Andrea Larson, who was recently recognized with the first-ever Social Worker Award presented by the Minnesota Indian Child Welfare Advisory (ICWA) Council! Andrea's coworkers at St. Louis County say they couldn't be more proud, and that the award is a reflection of Andrea's clear commitment to improving lives of American Indian children and families. The ICWA Council presented Andrea with a hand-beaded medallion featuring a bald eagle during the ceremony in recognition of her important work and her dedication to serving Minnesota's tribal communities.

"It truly is quite an honor. I am fortunate to work with wonderful Tribal partners who are collaborative, open, and willing



**ICWA Social Worker Award recipient Andrea Larson of Local 66, St. Louis County.**

to do whatever it takes to help children and families," Larson says, adding that the award is a testament to the great work being done by the rest of her team. "It also speaks to the commitment and hard work of St. Louis County ICWA as a whole - I am only one small part of this group."

## Join AFSCME at the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples March

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

In honor of Minnesota's countless missing and murdered indigenous people, and in an effort to shine a light on the ongoing violence against women and girls in our tribal communities, AFSCME Council 5 will be participating in this year's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples March on Thursday, Feb. 14 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. You can get details and RSVP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/679749275754814](http://www.facebook.com/events/679749275754814).

AFSCME Council 5 is proud to support HF3375, a bill recently introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives that aims to create and fund a task force on missing and murdered indigenous women.

## New Title Accreted at HCMC

Hennepin Health Care Local 2474 gained a total of eight new members in January, when the title "Positive Care Case Manager" was accreted into the bargaining unit. Welcome to our new members!

## New Financial Responsibility Training Dates

We've added four Financial Responsibility Trainings to the calendar for 2019:

- Tuesday, March 19, South St. Paul
- 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. To register, call our Member Action Center at 1-800-652-9791, or by email at [Council5@afscmemn.org](mailto:Council5@afscmemn.org).

AFSCME International has also made a series of video tutorials available for members who deal with their local's finances. You can view them all at [www.afscmetreasurer.org](http://www.afscmetreasurer.org).

## 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
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples March	February 14, 2019	Minneapolis American Indian Center
AFSCME Corrections Lobbying Day	February 26, 2019	Minnesota State Capitol
AFSCME Day on the Hill	March 26, 2019	State Capitol, St. Paul