

Seeking Member Stories

Members: if the descriptions below sound like you or someone you know, we want to hear from you!

Student Debt: Are you an AFSCME member who is currently participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program? We want to hear from you! As part of our fight against student debt, we're looking for stories from our members who rely on this program. If you've been harmed or would be in serious trouble without the program, please reach out to us at pat.benner@afscmemn.org.

Internal Organizing: Is your local union planning an organizing blitz? Have you been on a mission to sign members up for Direct Dues? We want to highlight some of the ways our local union leaders are getting creative in growing their membership. Email communications@afscmemn.org to tell us what's working for your local!

Member Convention Workshops – Sign Up Now!

Planning is fully underway for the 15th Annual AFSCME Council 5 Member Convention, which will be held October 3-5, 2019 at the DECC in Duluth, MN. Starting September 3, you will be able to register for workshops through Memberlink. Log in NOW to find workshop information and descriptions and decide what you want to learn this year! Register ASAP, as space in these workshops is limited.

Registration will be open until September 25 – don't wait, register now! If you need help, please contact the MAC at 651-450-4990.

Solidarity Across the State on Labor Day Weekend

Union families and allies joined together this weekend to honor workers at Labor Day celebrations across the state.

In the metro, AFSCME members joined our sister unions in the Labor Day Parade at the State Fair. Others joined Attorney General Keith Ellison for his annual BBQ in Honor of Labor at Minnehaha Park.

In Duluth, Brainerd, Virginia, International Falls and St. Cloud, hundreds of neighbors joined together for Labor Day Picnics.

Elected officials and AFSCME-endorsed candidates for office joined them to share a meal and discuss our shared goal of making Minnesota a better place for all working people.

Labor siblings in Cloquet marked an extra-special occasion this year. Working families observed a century of solidarity in northern Minnesota at their 100th Annual Carlton County Labor Day Celebration.

Happy Labor Day to all - and thank you for the work you do to make Minnesota happen!



Above: volunteers greet attendees at the Labor Day Picnic in Duluth's Bayfront Park.



Left: Neighbors line up for a Labor Day feast.

AFSCME Celebrates PRIDE in Duluth

AFSCME volunteers from across the northland gathered at Bayfront Park on Saturday to show our support at Duluth’s annual PrideFest. Many AFSCME members – past, present and retired – stopped by the booth to learn about our advocacy work and community partnerships. Many of our endorsed candidates for the upcoming general election in Duluth were excited to stop by the AFSCME booth and show their support for unions and our shared values.

AFSCME members also marched in the labor contingent in the Duluth-Superior Pride Parade on Sunday. Labor siblings from across the region proudly stood for dignity and justice in the workplace and the community.



AFSCME members talk to Pride festival-goers, including AFSCME-endorsed Duluth Councilor Arik Forsman.

AFSCME Endorses in Bloomington City Council Races

Two more candidates have earned the support of AFSCME Council 5 for the 2019 election: Jenna Carter and Shawn Nelson, who are both seeking seats on the Bloomington City Council.

Jenna Carter is a community activist and mom of two running for an At-Large seat. Jenna is a strong advocate for affordable housing, transportation, and dignity for all her neighbors.

Shawn Nelson currently serves as the Councilmember for Bloomington District 2 and is seeking reelection. He is a small business owner who has fought for better schools, more reliable transportation for seniors, and more vibrant neighborhoods.

AFSCME members are already hard at work making sure these candidates win in November. Over Labor Day weekend, several West Metro members turned out to knock doors and educate voters about our candidates. Election Day is coming fast – follow AFSCME Council 5 on social media to stay updated on volunteer opportunities!

Save the Date: Labor Film Premiere & Panel Discussion at Humphrey School Sept. 22

AFSCME Council 5 is proud to cosponsor the premiere of the film, “Summoned: Frances Perkins and the General Welfare” on **Sunday, September 22** at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis. Following the 4:00 p.m. screening of the film,

University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs Dean Laura Bloomberg and State Auditor Julie Blaha will join filmmaker Mick Caouette at 5:00 p.m. for a panel discussion and Q&A session. Tickets are free, but advance registration is required.

Get in on the Action

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

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Convention Resolutions Deadline	September 12, 2019	members.afscmemn.org
Deadline to Register for Convention Workshops	September 25, 2019	members.afscmemn.org
Financial Responsibility Training	September 26, 2019	Duluth AFSCME Office (211 W. 2nd Street)
AFSCME Council 5 Convention 2019	October 3 - 5, 2019	DECC (350 Harbor Drive, Duluth)