



Dozens of members of Local 744 from the Minneapolis Veterans Home joined together for a picnic last Wednesday. During that picnic alone, 16 workers moved from being fair share to full members, 16 recommitted to our union and a dozen joined PEOPLE. Members also got to meet Erin Maye Quade, AFSCME's endorsed candidate for lieutenant governor (pictured center in gray dress), who attended the picnic.

Workers Flock to AFSCME

When the *Janus* decision came down, billionaires, big business and their anti-worker think tanks licked their chops, predicting the end of unions.

But workers across Minnesota are proving them wrong.

Since the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court decision, 339 people have joined AFSCME Council 5. They decided to become full members to support their union, their co-workers and their communities.

The *Janus* decision was what alerted Hennepin County principal planning analyst Todd Bennington that he wasn't a full member. Like many people, he thought he already was one because he believed joining was automatic. After the court ruling, he immediately became a member of AFSCME Local 2864

to "affirm the importance of unions and union representation.

"Unions are one of the remaining bulwarks protecting working people from complete economic exploitation," Bennington says.

"I also worry that, particularly among professional staff, too many feel like such representation and workplace protections aren't needed anymore, which is very naive.

"The next few years will be difficult ones for most people in this country, and one way that I can do something proactive and positive to minimize that pain is by standing in solidarity with my fellow working Americans as a full AFSCME member," he says.

Watch for the next issue of Council 5's *Stepping Up* magazine to hear more worker stories.

Call for Safe Staffing

Workers at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter are injured by their patients on a regular basis. The AFSCME Local 404 members have suffered permanent life-altering and career-ending injuries.

Yet despite the constant danger, these dedicated AFSCME members who care for our mentally ill do not have working radios.

Members say they can't hear or send calls on the new two-way digital radio system. Missed, lost and dropped transmissions are common.

When a worker was assaulted and pushed a man-down button for help, coworkers couldn't respond quickly because they couldn't hear the call. Problems with the radios prevent workers from calling in more than one emergency at a time or knowing where coworkers are if they're being assaulted. The system is causing dispatching problems for master control.

Local 404 has emailed and met with DHS repeatedly, logged radio problems and written their legislators. So far, the vendor hasn't fixed the problem.

No one has been seriously injured yet. But it's only a matter of time. Radios that do not work must not be allowed to become the new norm.

TEXT SAFE to 237263 to be connected with the Department of Human Services Commissioner's Office or call 1-855-982-3046.

ASK THE COMMISSIONER to have the St. Peter Security Hospital radio system repaired or replaced so workers and patients stay safe.

The Long History behind Janus

The effort to break unions is nothing new. The “right to work” movement dates back to the 1950s.

Anti-worker corporate forces hatched a plan in 1954 to crush labor from within. Check out The Nation magazine’s excellent investigation at www.thenation.com/article/group-turned-right-work-crusade-crush-labor/.

Financial Responsibility Training in Duluth

AFSCME International is running a training for anyone in a local who signs checks or conducts audits.

The training is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Tuesday, Aug. 14**, at the Holiday Inn, 200 W. 1st St., Duluth. The training costs \$20 per person, which includes lunch and materials.

To register, call Gail Grant at 1-800-652-9791, ext. 551, or email Gail.Grant@afscmemn.org. To reserve a hotel room, call the Holiday Inn at 218-727-7492 and ask for the AFSCME Council 5 rate.

Local Approves Contract

Local 2454 (City of Lino Lakes) ratified a two-year contract with general raises of 2.75 percent for 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019.

Picnic Needs Donations

The AFSCME Family Picnic is seeking cash donations. That money pays for the picnic site rental; the purchase of burgers, hot dogs and



(Top left) State Rep. Erin Murphy, AFSCME’s endorsed candidate for governor, tours Minnesota Correctional Facilities at Oak Park Heights and Stillwater. She met 125 workers to understand their needs and concerns. (Left to right) Campaign field and political organizer Charles Cox, Local 600 vice president Dan Gorman, Local 915 president Jeff Vars, Erin Murphy, Corrections Policy Committee president John C. Hillyard and AFSCME field rep Eric Jacobson.



(Bottom left) Show your union pride like Hennepin County did! Wear AFSCME green T-shirts on #GreenTuesdays. Don’t forget to share your pics with Council 5’s Facebook page. (Photo courtesy of Jean Diederich)

Deadline Extended

There’s still time to apply for the Minnesota Union Leadership Program run by the Labor

Education Service. The application deadline was extended to **July 31**. Go to www.tinyurl.com/y8hdyzh9.

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy from www.afscmemn.org. Share news by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

soft drinks; and free Water Park tickets for the first 100 kids.

The picnic – run by members, for members – is at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood on **Sunday, Aug. 19**, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Send donations payable to: AFSCME Family Picnic/Duane Gatzke, 1025 E. Rose Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55106.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Vote in Primary	Aug. 14	www.sos.state.mn.us
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 19, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
Council 5 Convention	Sept. 27 to 29	DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel