

## AFSCME Mourns the Passing of Union Sister Rep. Diane Loeffler

Our labor family mourns the death of AFSCME sister and State Rep. Diane Loeffler, who died Nov. 16th after a battle with cancer. She was 66.

A dedicated and tireless public servant, Rep. Loeffler represented Northeast Minneapolis for 15 years in the Minnesota State Legislature. She dedicated her career to helping our most vulnerable neighbors by providing the high-quality public services we all depend on.

Members who advocated at the Capitol found a willing and eager partner in Loeffler, who was always ready to fight for core services and the public employees who deliver them. She served as chairperson of the Property and Local Tax Division Committee, and also served on the Health and Human Services Policy Committee, among other assignments.

Loeffler was a champion for working families, not just in the Legislature, but also as a public employee and an AFSCME union member herself. She was a member of Local 2864 in her role as a health care policy analyst for Hennepin County, focusing her efforts on services for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as expanding access to affordable health coverage.

A lifetime resident of Northeast Minneapolis, Rep. Loeffler graduated from Edison High School and earned degrees in social science and education from Augsburg College.

Loeffler often described a very personal reason for fighting on behalf of the most vulnerable: her aunt Lil, who was born with Down syndrome. Her aunt's experience taught Rep. Loeffler that government could be a powerful force for good in our community, and it fueled her passion for public policy throughout her life.

The entire AFSCME community mourns the loss of this tireless advocate for working families and sends our deepest condolences to Loeffler's loved ones.

## Local 66 SLC Vote Next Wednesday

The Local 66 St. Louis County unit's negotiating team has reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. The powerful negotiating team was backed up by a strong contract campaign, heavy member engagement through collective actions, and a massively successful petition calling on the County to bargain a fair contract that doesn't shift all of the cost of funding health insurance on to workers. They got over 750 signatures.

*Congratulations to all, and a huge thank you to the members of the SLC negotiating team for the time, energy and passion you put in to making this contract agreement possible!*

Voting will take place **Wednesday, Dec. 18** at worksites across the county. Download the voting schedule from the *St. Louis County Bargaining Updates* page on our website. Stay in the know about our contract! Text **SLC to 237263** to subscribe to text message updates from our bargaining unit.

## Stillwater Library Workers in Local 517 Reach TA

Local 517 members at Stillwater Libraries have reached a tentative agreement on a new two-year contract. The agreement includes 3% raises each year of the contract, an increase in life insurance coverage for employees who work more than 20 hours a week, and an arrangement to resolve post-2018 open enrollment

## Attend a Regional Planning Meeting

As part of our strategic plan, AFSCME leaders are holding recurring regional planning meetings for members across the state. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for members to build solidarity with folks from other locals, as well as a space for planning collective work to advance our union's mission based on each region's specific needs, issues and interests.

Local leaders are invited to attend each of the following first-round regional meetings.

- Duluth: **December 18, 4PM;** Holiday Inn, Lake MI/HURON room; 200 W 1st St, Duluth
- Brainerd, **January 8, 4PM;** location TBA
- Bemidji, **January 22, 4PM;** location TBA

All members are invited to attend the upcoming second-round meetings. Stay tuned for more opportunities to gather with fellow AFSCME members in your region!

- West Metro: **January 24** at 4:30PM; 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis (Room 365)
- Mankato: **January 21** at 5PM; Jake's Stadium Pizza, 330 Stadium Rd., Mankato
- East Metro: **March 18** at 12PM; AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul MN 55075

health insurance issues. The team also successfully held the line on health insurance and dental premiums for workers, with an increase to the employer's health insurance contributions in the second year of the contract. *Congratulations to all!*

## Register for a 2020 Financial Responsibility Training

This training is offered and conducted by AFSCME International. Anyone in your local who signs checks or conducts audits is welcome and encouraged to attend. Trainings will take place at the AFSCME South St. Paul office on **March 26, April 22 and October 29** of 2020; an additional training will be held at the AFSCME office in Duluth on Wednesday, **September 9**.

All classes run from 9AM-4PM. To register, contact the MAC at the Council 5 office toll-free at 1-800-652-9791 or by email at [council5@afscmemn.org](mailto:council5@afscmemn.org). Financial Responsibility Training is \$20 per person, which includes \$15 for lunch and \$5 for materials. Please inform us of any dietary restrictions or allergies at the time of registration.

## MSRS Board Elections Approaching

Attention members and retirees of the Minnesota State Retirement System pension program! The MSRS Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight of our pension administration, fiduciary health and investment decisions. These elections are important in the fight to keep our pensions safe, secure and stable for ourselves and future public workers. Watch our website for endorsement updates, and keep an eye out for your MSRS Board Election ballot in the mail this upcoming February!

## Attend Behavioral Health Summit January 18

America's behavioral health needs are changing, but our system for delivering that care has not kept up. This

broken system is failing all of us — professionals, clients and communities — and we are all paying the price. So we are coming together to build a movement to address this. AFSCME Council 5 is part of a coalition working to unite and advocate for higher standards, better service, and working conditions for all those affected with behavioral health issues.

We have joined together to create healthier communities and better outcomes for all. Our next Behavioral Health Summit will take place Saturday, January 18 in the Hennessy Room at the AFSCME Council 5 office from 12-5PM. Anyone who works in behavioral health or is impacted by mental health care accessibility and issues is welcome to participate. Learn more and RSVP at [bit.ly/2PJZ7vB](http://bit.ly/2PJZ7vB).

## Vision Duluth Seeking Member Input

Vision Duluth is a coalition of progressive organizations building power to achieve equity. As a Vision Duluth partner, we're seeking member input to inform the coalition's next campaign. In 2018, Duluth City Council passed the Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) ordinance, which goes into effect January 1, 2020.

Vision Duluth is in the process of forming a new issue campaign and we are reaching out to community members to get feedback on what matters to folks in their communities. The campaign formed will be based on what matters most to people that live in Duluth and what people want to see happen in their communities, so your input and feedback is greatly valued and appreciated. The survey can be

found at [bit.ly/visionduluth](http://bit.ly/visionduluth).

## Local 3800 Hosting Cookies & Crafts Event for Union Families this Saturday

The members of AFSCME Local 3800 at the University of Minnesota invite union kids, parents, grandparents and aunts & uncles to their second annual "Union Kids Cookies & Crafts" gathering this Saturday at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis (312 Central Ave SE, #218, Minneapolis, MN 55414). The event takes place from 11AM – 1:30PM this **Saturday, Dec. 14**. The local is providing pizza for lunch and a hot cocoa bar. RSVP to [afscme3800@gmail.com](mailto:afscme3800@gmail.com) with the number and ages of the kids you're bringing to make sure there are enough supplies and treats for everyone!

## Celebrate St. Paul Electoral Victories at an Inauguration Party!

You are invited to the inaugural event for our Saint Paul City Council electeds!

- St. Paul City Council Inauguration Party: Tuesday, January 7, 2020; 4:30PM, Ordway Theater
- Saint Paul Board of Education Swearing-In & Annual Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020; 6:45-8PM; Administration Building at 360 Colborne Street

## Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org). Email [communications@afscmemn.org](mailto:communications@afscmemn.org) with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.

## Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
St. Louis County Local 66 Contract Voting	Wednesday, Dec. 18	<a href="http://afscmemn.org">afscmemn.org</a>
Behavioral Health Summit	Saturday, January 18; 12-5PM	AFSCME South St. Paul Office
Mankato Regional Planning Meeting	Tuesday, January 21; 5PM	Jake's Stadium Pizza (Mankato)
West Metro Regional Planning Meeting	Friday, January 24; 4:30PM	United Labor Centre (Minneapolis)
East Metro Regional Planning Meeting	Wednesday, March 18; 12PM	AFSCME South St. Paul Office