

## RALLY ALERT: Health Care for All

Help the DFL House and Rep. Alice Mann rally for affordable, accessible, and universal health care.

**Join us in the Capitol Rotunda THIS SUNDAY, February 16 at 1:30 PM.**

Health care is a human right – let's stand up and fight for it!

## Attend a Council 5 Regional Planning Meeting

As part of our strategic plan, AFSCME leaders are holding regional planning meetings for members across the state.

**All members are invited to attend the next round of meetings.** Stay tuned for more opportunities to gather with fellow AFSCME members in your region!

- Willmar: **February 11, 5PM;** AFSCME Willmar office, 1350 1st St. S, Willmar
- West Metro: **February 24 and April 22, 4:30PM;** 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis (Room 365)
- Mankato: **March 10, 5PM;** location TBD
- Brainerd: **March 16, 4PM;** Central Lakes College, 501 W College Dr, Brainerd
- East Metro: **March 18 at 12PM;** AFSCME Council 5, 300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul MN
- St. Cloud: **March 23, 4PM;** location TBD

For the latest information about all AFSCME Council 5 events, check the calendar on our website.

**See you there!**



AFSCME members at HCMC picketed for a fair contract in late January.

### ***HCMC Workers March for a Fair Contract***

On January 30, dozens of employees at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) marched to make a powerful statement: “We demand a fair contract.”

For over a decade, AFSCME members at HCMC have been fighting for respect and dignity in the workplace. Every contract year, AFSCME members at HCMC have to fight hard – from the first proposal to the final signature – to protect their wages and benefits from cost-cutting managers. This negotiation session was no different.

This time around, management proposed a “sunset” to the workers’ dental plan. Under their proposal, new employees who start in 2021 would no longer be eligible for dental.

AFSCME members knew they’d have to fight for future workers, even if the change wouldn’t impact them personally. So they headed to the picket line, marching for hours in freezing temperatures to demand a contract they deserve.

Negotiations at HCMC are still ongoing. Until HCMC comes to the table with a fair offer, show your support to our siblings at Local 2474!

### ***St. Louis County Jail and 911 Workers Reach TA***

Last week, employees at the St. Louis County Jail and 911 services reached a tentative agreement (TA) with the employer. This contract secures regular raises and more paid time to care for members and their families.

The TA is a three-year contract and includes raises of 2%, 2.25%, and 2.25% in each year of the contract. The agreement adds two personal days for workers hired after 2013, and adds three weeks of paid parental leave for all workers. The negotiating team also won shorter longevity steps and additional opportunities to cash out comp time, as well as forcing the employer to share the cost of fully funding the self-insurance fund.

But perhaps the biggest long-term victory in the TA is a commitment from the employer to add 911 positions and convert seven part-time jobs at the Jail to full-time positions. Many AFSCME worksites are understaffed, so securing any workforce expansion strengthens the union and improves the public service our members provide.

Congratulations, siblings!



**Sign Up for Labor Caucus Training**

On **Tuesday, February 18**, the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation will train union members to participate in the upcoming DFL caucuses, which will be held statewide on February 25.

AFSCME sister Jen Guertin will inform members on what to expect at precinct caucuses. The training will also explore best practices for individuals who want to participate as delegates at endorsing conventions, including the process for becoming a delegate to the national endorsing conventions.

The training will be held **at the St. Paul Labor Center** (353 W 7th Street in St. Paul) on **Tuesday, February 18 from 6-9PM**. Please RSVP to Kera Peterson at (651) 222-3787 x118 or [kpeterson@stpaulunions.org](mailto:kpeterson@stpaulunions.org).

Join us, and encourage your union siblings to do the same!

**Attend Behavioral Health Summit February 22**

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.

Our next Behavioral Health Summit will take place on **Saturday, February 22** in the Hennessy Room at the AFSCME

Council 5 office (300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul, MN 55075) from 12PM-5PM. Anyone who works in behavioral health or is impacted by mental health care accessibility and issues is welcome to participate. RSVP at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org).

**Participate in the DFL Caucus on February 25**

For the first time in many years, Minnesota will use a primary election instead of precinct caucuses to determine how the state’s delegates vote at the presidential nominating conventions. But don’t forget: precinct caucuses are happening, and they are more important than ever.

The 2020 precinct caucuses will be held on **Tuesday, February 25 at 7PM**. Though participants will not be voting on a presidential candidate until March 3, your voice is needed to make sure that labor champions for state and local office win the DFL nomination. To participate, you must be eligible to vote in the November 2020 general election and live in the precinct. You can find your precinct locations at [caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

Your union family needs you to caucus for labor-endorsed candidates on February 25 AND vote in the presidential primary on March 3!

**Sign Up for Minnesota Union Women and Femmes Retreat**

The University of Minnesota Labor Education Service (LES) is hosting their annual Minnesota Union Women and Femmes Retreat **this April 8 - 10 at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge** in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

The Union Women and Femmes Retreat is part of a series of programs sponsored by the Labor Education Service to foster greater participation by women and femmes in their workplaces, unions and communities. You do not need to be a union member to attend, but you should be interested in being active on workplace issues.

**The deadline to apply is March 27, 2020.** Apply now at the LES website, hosted by [carlsonschool.umn.edu](http://carlsonschool.umn.edu).

Women and femmes of color, younger activists and those from under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to attend.

**A limited number of scholarships will be awarded.** Priority will be given to women and femmes from under-represented groups and who do not have organizational funding available. Application forms are available on the LES website. **Deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 6.**

**Want to Go Paperless?**

All our Action Updates are available on the Council 5 website ([afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org)) in printable PDF form. Do you currently receive paper copies of Action Update and would like to make a switch to digital-only? Contact Gail Grant at [Gail.Grant@afscmemn.org](mailto:Gail.Grant@afscmemn.org).

**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
Willmar Regional Planning Meeting	Tuesday, February 11; 5PM	AFSCME Willmar office
Labor Caucus Training	Tuesday, February 18; 6PM	St. Paul Regional Labor Federation
Behavioral Health Summit	Saturday, February 22; 12PM	AFSCME Council 5 Office
West Metro Regional Planning Meeting	Monday, February 24; 4:30PM	Minneapolis Labor Centre
DFL Precinct Caucuses	Tuesday, February 25; 7PM	locations vary

