

AFSCME Council 5 Rebukes Attack on State Employees

AFSCME Council 5 called out two Minnesota Republican legislators for a baseless and harmful lawsuit designed to hurt workers and their families.

This lawsuit was filed by two GOP lawmakers in Ramsey County District Court in an effort to invalidate the State contracts that we negotiated in good faith last year.

"This meritless lawsuit would directly harm tens of thousands of state employees working in our prisons, nursing and group homes, and treatment facilities," said AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl. "Many of these workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and deserve our thanks and admiration; they are not to be used as political pawns in Republican legislators' attempt to break a ratified contract."

Though Republican legislators allege that the contracts were not ratified, they were negotiated in good faith with Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) and were passed by the Legislature in May 2020. Executive Director Bleyhl continued, "We reject the blatant and egregious attacks to invalidate the contracts of our members."

More information on this case will be forthcoming. Follow us @afscmemn5 and keep an eye on your email inbox for more updates.

Duluth Public Schools (Local 66) Workers Ratify Contract

The members of Local 66 ISD #709 Food Service at Duluth Public Schools overwhelmingly ratified a one-year contract. Highlights include:

2% across the board wage increase for all positions retroactive to 7/1/20.

Congress Must Act!

Without additional federal funding to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in working families, public service workers and Americans will continue to be stretched to their maximum capacity.

- Activate the Defense Production Act
- State, local and tribal government aid
- Hazard pay
- Food security investments
- Direct relief payments to Americans
- Rent and mortgage assistance

JOIN US!
Text FUND to 237-263
#FundTheFrontLines




We need to keep up the pressure on the US House and US Senate to pass additional relief to working families and public service workers.

The employer is absorbing all health insurance increases.

No take backs on any language items.
Congratulations, siblings!

Clerical Employees at Mound Westonka Schools ISD 277 (Local 2013) Ratify Contract

Members of AFSCME Local 2013 unanimously ratified their TA. Highlights include:

\$.50/hour wage increase each year of the contract, including retroactive pay to July 1, 2020.

Added vacation days; the local previously only had sick time and a very limited number of "personal days" for each member per year.

Congratulations, siblings!

City of Rice Lake (Local 66) Members Ratify Contract

Our AFSCME siblings at AFSCME Local 66 at the City of Rice Lake have ratified a TA that includes:

3 year contract.

2%-2%-2% wage increases.

Addition of an 80 hour comp bank.

Parenting leave increase.

Additional vacation usage step for new workers.

Wage increase to the Admin Utility Clerk classification.

Flex scheduling for all bargaining unit employees.

Congratulations, siblings!

AFSCME Council 5 Members Fight for Investments; Calls for the Legislature to Respect Our Contracts

On Friday, January 8, Rick Neyssen of AFSCME Local 599 and Correctional Officer at MCF-St. Cloud for 28 years participated in an event with local legislators and community leaders. Rick shared his story and the importance of the Legislature investing in working families, and highlighted how disrespectful and disgraceful the latest attack is on our state employees and our contracts.

"My co-workers and I have been on the front lines of the fight against COVID from the beginning. We have been doing our best to keep the inmates of the correctional facility and each other safe from the virus. Our jobs require us to leave our homes and every time we do we risk our safety and the health of our families. We don't know if simply doing our job will lead to us bringing the virus back to our homes to infect our loved ones."

"We've had two major facility outbreaks, and some of our coworkers will have complications from COVID that will affect them for the rest of their lives. So what does the GOP do as we are finally getting close to receiving vaccines, and hopefully returning to something more normal? Senator Mark Koran and Representative Marion O'Neill filed a lawsuit to invalidate our contracts, take away our pay, and violate longstanding collective bargaining law."

He continued, "We reject the notion that our state does not have the resources to pay agreed upon wages and benefits to employees, not when corporations and the rich have continued to accumulate wealth at the expense of their workers. The attacks on public employees must stop now. We need our elected officials to support working people, the work of public employees and the critical services we provide for all Minnesotans."

City of St. Paul Workers in Locals 1842 and 2508 Ratify Contract

AFSCME members in the City of Saint Paul have recently ratified a two-year contract.

Highlights of the contract includes:

Increase in boot allowance.

1.5% wage increase in 2022.

Salary Step increases will remain for 2021 and 2022.

New workplace safety language regarding public interaction on city property.

Emergency Leave due to a workplace safety issue (Civil Unrest, Fire, Bomb Threat). Employees will be paid for the full shift if sent home.

Congratulations, AFSCME siblings!

HCMC -Clerical Unit Workers (Local 977) Reach Tentative Agreement

Two Year Contract.

2.25% across the board, effective first full pay period of January.

Wage Re-Opener for 2022.

Market Adjustment for HCAs, effective first full pay period after ratification- raises the top end of the wage scale to \$23.

Added language defining "Lead Workers" and "Casual Employees."

Added language to require documentation of coaching sessions.

Protected their Dental Trust.

Congratulations on your hard work paying off, siblings!



The MN Department of Health has outlined phases of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan.

Protecting Pensions Campaign

Politicians often politicize our pensions by trying to divert and micromanage our pension funds or take away our defined-benefit pension and move to a 401(k) plan. AFSCME Council 5's position is clear: Do not touch our pensions. We will not tolerate any micromanagement of our pension funds. If you are interested in participating in this campaign, please send an email to Council 5 Public Affairs and Political Action Director Max Hall at Max.Hall@afscmemn.org, who will work with you to record a short video and put a face to our pensions.

Resources for Members

Stay up-to-date on all the latest news by following @afscmemn5 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Get guidance and resources at afscmemn.org under the COVID-19 tab.

Look for action alerts via email and texts so you know when to take action to protect working families. We are all in this together, siblings!