

December 15, 2021

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Executive Branch MOU Passed

Voting has closed on an MOU for state executive branch employees who would need to quarantine to care for a child due to exposure to COVID-19. This MOU is a result of our union's insistence that employees should not need to use vacation while quarantining.

The AFSCME State Employee Policy Committee (SEPC) unanimously recommended acceptance of this Memorandum of Agreement and members voted to pass this MOU.

Congratulations, siblings!

A Budget for Our Future

Executive Director Julie Bleyhl presented our Council's proposed annual budget for 2022, called *A Budget for Our Future*. The proposed budget seeks to invest in our union's workforce, local and member empowerment, cyber security to protect our members' data and our network systems, and more. When passed by the Council 5 Executive Board, this budget will position our Council to seize upon the opportunities we encounter, hire new staff, empower our members and locals, and still ensure the fiscal stability of our Council for each and every member.

Executive Director Julie has said we need to earn the membership of every member in our post-Janus world, as well as respect every dollar we are entrusted with to best serve the 43,000 members of our union. The fiscal stability of our Council has never been stronger than it is right now. This has allowed us to invest in our workforce, operations, and member and local empowerment while still being cognizant of out-years funding.

This proposed budget maximizes the savings we have experienced during

the pandemic and we will invest in our forward direction in the service to our members. We remain above budget in terms of membership numbers and our fiscal stability going forward remains contingent on all of us continuing to pull together and develop local union plans to increase membership that enables strong contract campaigns, legislative, political activism, and more. Local leaders and rank-and-file members ought to work with their Field Rep to create effective, solutions-based and strengthened plans to grow membership and activism. We are here to support your local's needs to create trainings which strengthen and empower our members.

Our ONE AFSCME approach results in the continued solidarity within our locals and results in strong contracts, benefits, and investments, as well as the fiscal stability of our Council's budget. Our collaborations increase membership, improve our workplaces, and embolden us in the halls of power, and much more. United, we have the confidence to move forward in our fight!

After all, **WHO ARE WE? AFSCME! WHO DOES THE WORK? WE DO!**

Ramsey County Workers Take Action for Fair Contract

Contract negotiations with Ramsey County has largely been disrespectful to county workers. The employer has proposed wage freezes and disproportionately increasing health insurance costs on workers during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Ramsey County workers are taking direct action by calling County Commissioners, circulating a petition, and planning an informational picket that will be held on December 28th at 11:30AM outside of the Ramsey County Courthouse. Join us!

Stand strong, siblings!



WLSSD Local 66 Chili Feed and Competition

AFSCME members at the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) in northeastern Minnesota gathered together in solidarity to hold their annual chili feed in remembrance of their 2002 membership strike. This event raised more than \$220 and donated these funds to AFL-CIO Community Services. This donation will provide direct assistance to union members with health care referrals, food and financial assistance, and mobilizing workers. AFSCME members always give back to our communities.

Great event, siblings!

Minnesota Historical Society Organize with AFSCME Council 5

Minnesota Historical Society workers voted overwhelmingly to join AFSCME Council 5 to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace.

Congratulations to the nearly 300 workers of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Organizing Committee for their hard work and perseverance in organizing their fellow co-workers.

Thank you for your commitment to unionize and provide a voice to workers in the workplace. Together, we will continue to grow.

We proudly welcome you to the AFSCME family!



Hennepin County AFSCME Workers Hold Contract Info Picket, Contract Voting Completed

Hennepin County AFSCME locals held an informational picket with a great turnout of approximately 120 members calling on Hennepin County to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve and strong contract language that values their work. Members of Hennepin County locals have finished voting and locals 552, 1719, 2864, 2938 Ess and 2938 Legal have all ratified their next contract, with Locals 34 and 2822 voting to authorize a strike and will be back at the table to reach a deal. More info to come.

Great job, siblings!

City of Hermantown Reached TA

City of Hermantown AFSCME workers reached a 3-year contract that treats them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The TA includes improved vacation, sick leave usage and wage increases (3.75%, 3.25%, and 3.25%) with no take backs.

Great job, siblings!

Washington County Reached TA

AFSCME Local 517 members reached a 2-year TA with the following gains:

- 2.5% wage increase for 2022 and 2023, 4% range movement on 1/1/22, 3.5% range movement on 1/1/23. and
- Juneteenth added as a new holiday.

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Congratulations, siblings!

Hennepin Healthcare Workers Hold Informational Picket

Local 977 and 2474 members at Hennepin Healthcare held an informational picket on December 8 to build solidarity and called for a strong contract that reflects their hard work and service to patients and the community who need the services of Hennepin Healthcare (HCMC). The employer has proposed to eliminate their dental plan along with other harmful proposals.

Great event, siblings!

Local 2508 Members Victorious

After the City of St. Paul was refusing to implement their Lump Sum MOU that was sent to the local and approved, Local 2508 members took swift action and made calls and sent emails to city leaders that eventually led to the city putting their MOU on the next Council agenda to be passed! Without members' quick actions and standing in solidarity, this MOU would not have been implemented as agreed to.

Great job, siblings!

City of Prior Lake Workers Reach TA

Members of AFSCME Local 3884 reached a 3-year contract with 3%, 2.25%, 2.75% general wage adjustments and secured important language wins.

Congratulations, siblings!



City of Duluth Rally for a Fair Contract

The City of Duluth Action Team organized a rally for their negotiating team to push back against harmful proposals to gut their health insurance. Nearly 100 city workers attended and showed their solidarity.

The Member Action Team is in the stages of additional direct action planning. Stay tuned for future updates.

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.

Special interest groups also want to put their hands on our pension funds and politicize the State Board of Investment who manages our funds without bias and with the highest integrity and success.

AFSCME Council 5's position is clear: **Do not touch our pension funds. We will not tolerate micro-management of our pensions.**

Resources for Members

Stay up-to-date on all the latest news by following @afscmemn5 on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel **AFSCME Council 5**.

Find guidance and resources at afscmemn.org. Look for action alerts via email and texts, so you know when to take action to protect working families.