

## AFSCME Gives Back this Holiday Season

AFSCME members embraced the holiday season by giving back to their union family and community.

AFSCME Local 638 organized the Unions United Food Drive at Minnesota State University, Mankato, to benefit the ECHO Food Shelf. The drive ran from late November to mid-December collected 261 food contributions and over \$1,400 in cash. Second Harvest Heartland matched monetary donations, bringing the total over \$2,800.



Cute and creative designs from the Union Kids Cookies & Crafts event, hosted by AFSCME locals serving the U of M.

Local 3884, City of Prior Lake, handed out Target and Fleet Farm gift cards at their member meeting on December 2. This was a welcome thank you after a long weekend of plowing and digging out from the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The University of Minnesota AFSCME locals hosted a Union Kids Cookies & Crafts party for union kids, parents, grandparents and other family on December 14 at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis. The local provided pizza and a hot cocoa bar for all attendees as well.

We're so grateful for the countless acts of generosity from AFSCME members during the holidays and throughout the year. Happy holidays, family!

## Attend a Regional Planning Meeting

As part of our strategic plan, AFSCME leaders are holding regional planning meetings for members across the state. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for members to build solidarity with other members and plan 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
- Duluth, **February 4**, 6PM, AFSCME Duluth Office, 211 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802
- Range, **February 5**, 6PM; Boomtown, 501 Hat Trick Ave, Eveleth, MN 55734

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

See you there!

## 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 **9AM-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).

If you have any questions or would like to share your story, please contact one of our committee members: Aleatha Modlin; Stacy Lamke; Jonathan Brown; or Dennis Frazier. We can't wait to build power with you and work on the problems we face — together.

## 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!

## 2020 Census is Approaching!

US Census is coming up soon, and the stakes could not be higher for AFSCME members and the communities we serve.

### Here's what you need to know:

- America gets just **one chance each decade** to count its population. The results will have a massive impact on our communities for years to come.
- **Participating in the Census is your civic duty.** Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say, "I COUNT!"
- **Billions of dollars are at stake.** The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. If our neighbors don't get counted, our workplaces don't get the necessary funding to provide critical services like schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.
- **Responding to the 2020 Census will be easier than ever.** The 2020 Census will accept online and phone response options in addition to the traditional paper option. The online response option allows people to respond on their desktop computers, laptops, smartphones, or tablets.

### Here's what to expect:

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire in mid- to late- March. If you do not fill out the Census form by the end of April, you will receive a follow up in person. Save time and resources by filling out your Census form ASAP!

Do you (or someone you know) want a flexible job with a good salary and an even better mission? **Apply to work for the Census** at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

## 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.

## City of Apple Valley in Local 479 Reaches TA

Staff at the City of Apple Valley reached a tentative agreement for a 2-year contract. The TA includes 3% raises in both years, expanded the definition of immediate family, and held the line on health care costs. Congratulations, family!

## State Employee Policy Committee Spring Conference Dates Announced

The 2020 SEPC Spring Conference will take place on **Friday, May 1** at the Minneapolis Delta Marriot (1330 Industrial Boulevard NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413). Registration packets will be sent out the first week in February. Committee members may book sleeping rooms in advance by calling the Delta hotel at 612-331-1900 or toll-free at 1-844-628-7953 on or before **3 PM, Friday, April 3, 2020**. When booking, ask for the AFSCME Council 5 block.

## 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. 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
Behavioral Health Summit	Saturday, January 18; 9AM-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)
Duluth Regional Planning Meeting	Tuesday, February 4; 6PM	AFSCME Duluth Office
Range Regional Planning Meeting	Wednesday, February 5; 6PM	Boomtown - Eveleth
SEPC Spring Conference	Friday, May 1	Minneapolis Delta Marriot