

JOIN A LEGISLATIVE PHONE BANK IN MAY

With the end of the legislative session growing ever closer, AFSCME members are ramping up our efforts to make sure lawmakers support legislation that supports working people.

We'll be calling fellow union members throughout the month of May, and asking them to call the State Senators we need in order to pass a budget that funds the vital work AFSCME members do across the state.

We're hosting phone banks in Minneapolis, St. Paul and in Duluth and Virginia now through the end of session. Join us on May 2, May 9, or May 16 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. to make sure workers' voices get heard at the Capitol.

Get details and RSVP on Facebook
www.facebook.com/pg/afscmemn5/events

AFSCME Mourns the Fallen on Workers Memorial Day

Each year on April 28, union members and working people across the country honor and remember those who lost their lives on the job or as a result of workplace illness or injury.

This year's Workers Memorial Day held an added element of significance. In 2018, AFSCME members mourned the loss of our union brothers Officer Joseph Gomm and Officer Joseph Parise. Both died while on duty as correctional officers at our state prisons. Their tragic losses weigh on our hearts this week as we mourn all workers who've died on the job.

AFSCME members participated in Workers Memorial Day services in Apple Valley, Rochester, Mankato, St. Paul and Duluth.

In Rochester, hundreds of workers gathered at the District 6 MnDOT maintenance facility to honor workers who lost their lives while maintaining Minnesota's roads and bridges. Six chairs sat empty at the front of the room, each draped in a reflective vest, to represent workers who were killed while at work.

State Patrol members and MnDOT workers stood together with a message to all Minnesotans: your

roads are our workplaces, so drive carefully. Speakers described harrowing experiences working just inches from speeding traffic.

"You always have that in the back of your mind, the 'what if,'" said

Richard Pagel, a MnDOT member from Stewartville. "The people who are out there, they're family members, they're friends, they're neighbors - and they want to go home at the end of the day."

Every day, an average of 14 American workers die because of injuries on the job. People who work on highways are at a greater risk due to high speeds and distracted drivers.

"Workers Memorial Day is a remembrance of the personnel no longer walking with us," said Shane Eastman, a steward for MnDOT's Local 868. "That hits home because we know how quickly and easily we could be one of those empty vests."

For MnDOT workers, it's not just about their own safety. Workers watch each other's backs while working out on the roads. Tracy Taylor, a sign maintenance worker, encouraged drivers: "Think of it as being your family member out there. Watch out, see the flashing lights, move over."



At the MnDOT Workers Memorial Day service in Rochester, six chairs sat empty at the front of the room, each draped in a reflective vest, to represent workers who were killed while at work.

Local 66 Celebrates 100 Years

AFSCME Local 66, one of Council 5's largest locals, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, beginning with an open house reception at the AFSCME Council 5 office in Duluth this International Workers Day, **May 1**.

Local 66 is comprised of several bargaining units, ranging from City of Duluth sanitation workers to Iron Range child protection workers. The local is planning commemorative events to take place in various regions throughout the year. Leaders of Local 66 see the milestone anniversary as an opportunity to engage more members and strengthen our union's power.

Watch our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/afscmemn5) and web calendar (www.afscmemn.org/council-5/calendar-events) for future events celebrating this monumental moment in Local 66's history.

Celebrating International Workers Day

May First is International Workers Day - an annual celebration of working people. IWD commemoration events take place across Minnesota this week.

AFSCME Council 5 members will participate in several of these events. We encourage all of our members to join us in honoring the working folks like us who keep our cities, counties, states and country running. Find an IWD event near you at www.mnafcio.org/events.



Attendees observe a moment of silence for fallen construction and building trades workers at the Workers Memorial Day event in St. Paul.

Donate to AFSCME Family Picnic

The annual AFSCME Family Picnic is put on by rank and file union members and volunteers. Event planners are already hard at work and are hoping to get a head start on fundraising.

To help make the 2019 picnic possible, organizers are seeking cash donations to purchase food, beverages and water park tickets for the first 100 kids.

The AFSCME Family Picnic will take place on **Sunday, Aug. 18 from 1-5 p.m.** at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. All are welcome.

Want to get your local union involved? Download the event flier at bit.ly/2PDmGW6. Bring it to your next local membership meeting to propose making a donation.

RSVP and invite friends, family and coworkers to the picnic on Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/2367323926665029

To make a donation or sign up to volunteer, contact Duane Gatzke at 651-472-2787 or by email at kkirk77@comcast.net. Donations can also be mailed directly to:

**AFSCME Family Picnic/Duane Gatzke;
1025 E. Rose Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106**

Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at www.afscmemn.org. Email communications@afscmemn.org with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
International Workers Day	May 1, 2019	www.mnafcio.org/events
Legislative Phone Banks	May 2, 9 & 16, 2019	www.facebook.com/pg/afscmemn5/events
State Employee Policy Committee	May 3, 2019	Marriott Delta (Minneapolis)
AFSCME Council 5 Scholarship Deadline	May 10, 2019	www.afscmemn.org/scholarships
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Deadline	June 1, 2019	www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program
Financial Responsibility Training	June 13, 2019	AFSCME Council 5 (South St. Paul office)