

Join a Legislative Phone Bank Thursday

The Republican-held Minnesota Senate has made it clear: they just don't care about Minnesotans.

Despite our state's nearly \$1 billion budget surplus and the clear need for investments in our health, our schools, our communities, our workplaces and our environment, Senate Republicans have dug in their heels. They're not just refusing to fund critical services to the public. They're demanding unnecessary and inhumane cuts to the services that so many Minnesotans rely on.

Whether it's living wages, affordable health care, safe roads and bridges, or time to care for ourselves and our loved ones, Minnesota Republicans in the Senate have drawn a line in the sand. It's clearer than ever that their priority as lawmakers is not to serve the working Minnesotans who elected them.

With so much on the line as we approach the final days of the 2019 Legislative Session, it's incredibly important that we make the voices of working people heard at the Capitol.

Please join us as we phone bank to tell Minnesota lawmakers to support legislation that supports working people this Thursday, May 16.

We'll be calling members and asking them to call the State Senators we need in order to pass a budget that keeps Minnesota healthy and safe, and funds the vital work AFSCME members do across the state. It's time for lawmakers to stand #WithThePeople. Find a phone bank near you, invite your friends and RSVP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pg/afscmemn5/events.

Wage Reopener Victory for Local 636

In a recent wage reopener, members of Local 636, Good Samaritan Homes in Robbinsdale, organized and fought hard for living wages and won a \$1/hour across-the-board wage increase effective in July; a \$2 weekend shift differential for picking up any weekend shift; and a \$1.50 weekend shift differential for regularly scheduled weekend shifts.

Hennepin County Labor Lunches

The AFSCME Locals of Hennepin County will host Labor Lunches from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on May 15 at the Brookdale Library (Conference Room ABC, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN, 55430) and on June 19 at the Ridgedale Service Center (Main Conference Room; 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343). All Hennepin County AFSCME members are invited to attend. Lunch is provided.

ALERT!

Stand #WithThePeople this Thursday!

The Minnesota Legislature enters its final week of session without a framework for a final budget deal. Negotiations came to a standstill when Senate Republicans refused to budge on their draconian spending cuts.

The budget bills put forth by the Senate GOP leadership would be devastating for AFSCME members and working families across Minnesota. Here's a snapshot:

- Cuts hundreds of jobs across state government, including DHS, MDH, and Corrections
- Massive hiring freeze
- Modifies SER to make passing our contracts almost impossible
- Doubles down on the tax cuts for businesses and the super-rich
- Kicks thousands of Minnesotans off the health care they depend on by letting the provider tax expire
- Preemption would be law
- No expansion of Working Family Tax credit
- Fails to ban private prisons from Minnesota

We won't stand for a budget that cuts our jobs and guts the services all Minnesotans rely on. NOW IS THE TIME to take action.

At 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, join us on the steps of the Minnesota Capitol for a rally to tell legislators to stand #WithThePeople for CARE – not cuts.

This is critical decision-making time for our elected officials as the Governor and House and Senate leaders negotiate their budgets. They are making big choices about whether to protect and expand affordable healthcare, childcare and home care, or to sacrifice our care to boost corporate profits. Join us Thursday to make sure they know where we stand.

RSVP & invite your network on Facebook at bit.ly/2vYNYx6



Donations Needed Now for AFSCME Family Picnic

Each year, rank-and-file union members plan and host the AFSCME Family Picnic – one of our favorite events of the summer. One of the things that makes the AFSCME Family Picnic so special is the relationship building opportunity it provides for union members and our allies.

On **Sunday, August 18**, AFSCME members, our families and our neighbors and community leaders will come together for a fun-filled afternoon at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. We'll have lots of great picnic food, plus face painting and free waterpark tickets for the first 100 kids who arrive.

All of this takes time and money. To make the AFSCME Family Picnic happen, organizers rely on donations of cash and time from local unions and individual AFSCME members. Right now, the picnic planners are actively seeking cash donations. We're recommending locals get started on approving donations now.

Here's how you can help: At your next local union membership meeting, make a motion for a cash donation to be made in support of the AFSCME Family Picnic. Then, sign up to volunteer at the picnic. Contact Duane Gatzke (**651-472-2787** or **kkirk77@comcast.net**) to sign up to volunteer or make a personal contribution of cash or food to support the picnic.

Sign Up Now for Financial Responsibility Training

AFSCME is offering three more Financial Responsibility Trainings in 2019. The next training will take place at the South St. Paul AFSCME Council 5 office (300 Hardman Ave. S., South St. Paul MN, 55075) on **Thursday, June 13**. There are also trainings in Duluth on **September 26** and in South St. Paul on **November 14**.

There are still a few spots left for the upcoming June 13 training. These sessions fill up quickly. If you are an AFSCME member who signs checks or conducts audits for their local, we encourage you to participate in this class.

The cost to participate is \$20, which covers lunch and materials. Join fellow AFSCME leaders to develop these critical skills. To register, contact our Member Action Center at **1-800-652-9791**, or by email at **Council5@afscmemn.org**.

Deadline Approaching for Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarships

Applications for the 2019-2020 academic year are now being accepted. The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship is available to minority students from union families attending or planning to attend one of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. Minnesota State consists of 30 colleges and 7 universities with 54 campuses throughout the state and offers over 3,800 programs taught by exceptional faculty.

To be eligible, a scholarship applicant must be a racial minority and a union member or be the child, grandchild, or spouse of a union member. Scholarships are awarded to both full-time and part-time students who will be attending a Minnesota State tech or community college or state university in the fall of 2019.

Scholarships are given each year to students who enroll in two/four year, undergraduate or graduate programs. Scholarships may be renewed for up to two years for community or technical college programs, up to four years for students working toward a bachelor's degree, and two years for those enrolled in a master's program.

Applications and additional information about the scholarship are available online at www.nelliestone.org or by calling 651-738-1404 or 1-866-738-5238.

Applications must be POSTMARKED no later than June 1, 2019 to be considered.

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
Care Not Cuts Rally	May 16, 2019, 2-3PM	Minnesota State Capitol
Legislative Phone Banks	May 16, 2019 5:30-8PM	www.facebook.com/pg/afscmemn5/events
Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Deadline	June 1, 2019	www.nelliestone.org
Financial Responsibility Training	June 13, 2019	AFSCME Council 5, South St. Paul office
AFSCME Family Picnic	August 18, 2019	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood