

AFSCME Fights at the Capitol!

As a result of the legislature not finalizing the state agency budget by the end of the regular legislative session, a special session was called on June 14th. Legislators must pass a budget deal by June 30th, or our State will shutdown. With a budget surplus and the need to fully invest directly in public services and the workers who deliver them, AFSCME Council 5 calls on lawmakers and Governor Walz to pass a budget and avoid an unnecessary and harmful state shutdown. The Minnesota Senate continues to push harmful and arbitrary state agency budget cuts ranging from 5-7% and devastating policy language that would gut agencies' ability to hire and retain workers. We urge our members to call their State Representative and State Senator and tell them to fully fund public services, pass a full state budget, and invest in workers. Find your lawmakers here: <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Hennepin County Members Hold Contract Rally!

On Tuesday, June 22, members of all Hennepin County AFSCME Locals came together in solidarity, along with Teamsters and SEIU, to kick-off their contract negotiations, representing more than 5,000 members of our union. Local leaders and Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl spoke with the crowd of hundreds outside of



Hennepin County AFSCME Members Meet to Kick Off Contract Negotiations!
Photo credit: Max Hall

the Hennepin County Government Center to discuss contract proposals and the need to hold elected officials accountable to our shared values as union members when it is their responsibility to ratify our contracts. Public service workers have been on the front lines of COVID-19 and they all deserve a fair and strong contract that treats them with dignity and respect!

Great event, siblings!

State Executive Branch Contract Negotiations

The AFSCME Council 5 master negotiations team recently met in person to discuss contract proposals to present to the employer. For now, the most egregious proposals by the employer have been taken off the table as a direct result of the AFSCME Green Machine power in our workplaces and at the negotiating table. However, there is a lot more work to do, and state executive branch members are

preparing for **Push Week** set for **July 17th**, where members will push with more direct actions and fight for a fair and dignified contract for state employees! Members designed and are telling their co-workers about their contract campaign theme of **Respect Our Contract** to demand respect for our union contracts and the many years of hard-fought victories contained in our union contract. We will never retreat! State executive branch employees are encouraged to **tell MMB to respect our contracts by signing our petition** here: https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/respect-our-contract?source=direct_link&

As tens of thousands of AFSCME Council 5 members across our membership are in active negotiations or preparing to negotiate with their employers, be sure to **wear green at work to show support for your union!** Solidarity and unity will continue to be the values that will improve the lives and our communities.

Walker Arts Center Event

Members of AFSCME Local 4493 Walker Art Center gathered together last weekend to socialize and screen print their own custom AFSCME swag. The members are excited to reach a fair contract at the Walker and are eager to show their solidarity in the workplace and out in the community. Follow their work on Instagram at [@walkerworkerunion](#).

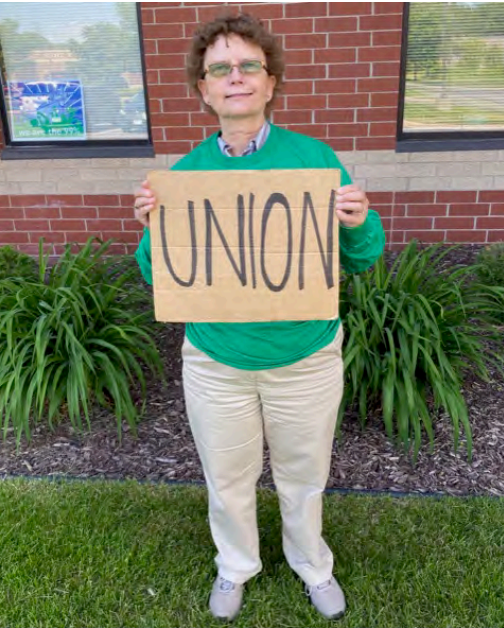
That's worker power!

Regions Hospital Workers Reach TA

Members of AFSCME Local 722 at Regions Hospital reached a two-year Tentative Agreement that includes:

- *A 2.25% wage adjustments in each year of the agreement.
- *Increases in merit pay between 1% to 1.5% depending on performance.
- *Increases in night shift differential pay.

Congratulations, siblings!



Wear your AFSCME green at work and show your pride!

Pictured: Executive Director Julie Bleyhl

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Local 3481 members at the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery won an historic wage adjustment mid-contract with a nearly 11% wage adjustment!

Congratulations, siblings!

St. Stephen's Local 999

AFSCME Local 999 St. Stephen's welcomed the Representative Payees into the bargaining unit, as well as the staff of House of Charity who recently merged with the organization.

Welcome to the AFSCME family!

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 and we will not tolerate any micromanagement of our pension funds.*

UNION JOB	NON-UNION JOB
1 Wages, benefits and working conditions are protected by a legal contract.	1 Management can change wages, benefits and working conditions unilaterally.
2 A contract spells out how much each worker earns.	2 No one knows how much anyone else earns. Disparate treatment/favoritism exists.
3 Unions negotiate raises for everyone. Members vote on the contract, and if they feel it's unfair, they may vote it down.	3 If you want a raise you must plead your case to a supervisor or manager.
4 If you are unfairly disciplined, unions provide due process to protect against unscrupulous supervisors.	4 If you are unfairly disciplined, you are on your own (at-will employee). You are subject solely to policy.
5 If you don't like something at work, you can work together with your union to change it.	5 If you don't like something at work, you are at the mercy of management.

Source: AFSCME OCSEA

If you are interested in participating in this campaign, please email 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. Subscribe to our YouTube channel "AFSCME Council 5" and get 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. We are all in this together, siblings!

Be well and stay safe.