

The logo features a green stylized arrow pointing upwards and to the right, with the word "Stepping" in blue and "UP" in large green letters.

Stepping UP

American Federation
of State, County and
Municipal Employees,
AFL-CIO

Issue 3
May - June 2019

THIS ISSUE

**Worker Voices: Zookeeper Jill and
MnDOT Worker Scuffy**

We Do the Work: DNR fisheries

**Mourning the fallen on Workers
Memorial Day**

**AFSCME marches for justice on
International Workers Day**



AFSCME Council 5 is a union of 43,000 workers who advocate for excellence in services for the public, dignity in the workplace, and opportunity and prosperity for all working families.

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2018-2020**

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AFSCME'S oldest local celebrates 100 years

A **AFSCME Local 66** encompasses most of **St. Louis County and the Iron Range and is made up of 19 bargaining units. Local 66 members are workers from all walks of life – from the sanitation workers who keep our communities clean and healthy, to social workers who travel the region caring for our vulnerable and elderly.**

In celebration of this milestone anniversary, the local will be hosting small celebrations and get-togethers in various regions throughout the year. Local leaders are planning to use the anniversary as an organizing tool for reaching out to younger workers who may not be familiar with their local's 100 year legacy.

"For a union to last a hundred years says a lot," says Sandy Pernu-Wallin, a social worker and activist in Local 66. "I think it's really important for the younger people coming up the ranks. A lot of them just don't know what our union does. We have to start teaching younger people about the importance of our background."

Local 66 was formed in 1919, decades before public employees had legal collective bargaining rights. A handful of water and gas workers organized the union with an initial membership of just eight men. The local affiliated under the American Federation of Labor as City and County Public Service Union Local 16566.

Retired president Alan Netland served on Local 66's board for 28 years and has studied the local's history. When the local formed, he says, the workers were mostly fighting for access to jobs and better working conditions. "The whole reason was that everything was based on patronage and family ties. Only a few families were

responsible for water and gas, and if you weren't in one of those families you just didn't work there," Netland says.

The local's original charter, dated May 1, 1919, was signed by legendary labor organizer Samuel Gompers and hangs in the AFSCME office in Duluth to this day. Next to that charter hangs another from 1937, when the local affiliated under AFSCME and became Local 66.

"It's a major accomplishment," Netland says of the 100th anniversary. "54 years before collective bargaining rights existed for public workers, members of our union had contracts with their employers. That's a big deal."

Local 66 is the oldest AFSCME affiliate in the country – but that's not their only claim to fame. Local 66 has a deep, rich history of fighting for workers' rights in the northland, as well as at the Capitol.

Six years before the Social Security Act was passed in 1937, the members of Local 66 joined together with Local 8 City of St. Paul workers to establish the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). That program still operates today as a fully-funded lifetime income, cost-sharing

retirement plan for public employees in Minnesota.

In 1964, Local 66 staged America's first public employees strike. At

that time, public workers did not have legal striking rights – but the workers didn't let that stop them. The workers were fighting for fair wages and overtime pay. When Duluth Mayor George D. Johnson refused to meet with them, the union went on strike. At the City Hall, workers sat down on the job; dozens more picketed outside the public institution. After three days of public

"It's a major accomplishment. 54 years before collective bargaining rights existed for public workers, members of our union had contracts with their employers. That's a big deal."



The local's original charter, dated May 1, 1919, was signed by legendary labor organizer Samuel Gompers and hangs in the AFSCME office in Duluth to this day. Next to that charter hangs another from 1937, when the local affiliated under AFSCME and became Local 66.

demonstration, the Bureau of Mediation and AFSCME International stepped in, and the workers emerged victorious.

The members of Local 66 didn't stop there. Just a year later, in 1965, they drafted the first piece of legislation intended to give public employees the right to form unions and collectively bargain. It took seven years to get the bill passed, but the local never gave up. Their advocacy and collective power was vital to winning collective bargaining rights for Minnesota's public workers.

As Local 66 commemorates their 100th birthday, members are finding a renewed passion for organizing and strengthening workers' power to create change in our communities.

"A hundred years stands for the strength of our union. It shows the tenacity of people, of the workers. The workers up here have a really strong work ethic. They're determined, hardworking. Our

union brothers and sisters have so much enthusiasm, they're trustworthy, there's so much determination in the jobs we do," says Pernu-Wallin.

To her, having a strong union isn't just about fair pay and benefits for herself and her coworkers. It's about building stronger communities, providing service to the public and fighting for what's right for working Minnesotans.

“Let's get right to work. That's what we do in this local, right? We work.”

“We're public servants. We all do something different but we help our neighbors, our community members, and that's evidence of the strength that our union has created over the

years,” she says.

Netland agrees. “It's we, not me,” he says. “We all benefit. Everybody rises when we all work together, and we don't want to leave anybody behind.”



Local 66 members celebrate their union's 100th anniversary at the Servicemen's Club in Virginia, Minnesota.

On the local's exact 100th anniversary, May 1, 2019, Local 66 leaders hosted an open house at the AFSCME Council 5 office in Duluth. In commemoration of their union's humble beginnings and powerful history, the members created a moving display of a century's worth of Local 66 memorabilia.

The open house culminated in a short presentation by Netland, who explained the significance of the items on display. The collection featured both of Local 66's original charters – the 1919 AFL charter signed by Samuel Gompers, and the 1937 AFSCME charter signed by Arnold Zander, the first president of AFSCME. Local 66 historical accounts written by members throughout the union's past, as well as copies of the Duluth labor history guidebook, “We Accept the Challenge,” were available for attendees to read, take home and share.

Netland wrapped up the celebration with a call for members to renew their commitment to carrying Local 66's mission and legacy forward.

“Let's get right to work – that's what we do in this local, right? We work.”

Local 66 will be hosting commemorative celebrations throughout the Arrowhead region. Watch our Facebook page and the AFSCME Council 5 web calendar for upcoming events.



Retired Local 66 president Alan Netland gives a presentation at a May 1 celebration of the local's 100th anniversary at the AFSCME Council 5 office in Duluth.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

AFSCME mourns fallen workers

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. These tragic losses weigh on our 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.

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."



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

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."

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





This page, clockwise from top: workers plant a tree in honor of those killed on the job this year - the ceremony takes place every year at the Duluth Labor Temple; Apple Valley Color Guard pays tribute to fallen workers; hundreds of workers - including dozens of AFSCME MnDOT and corrections workers - gather at the Workers Memorial Day service in Rochester; workers enjoy a solidarity pancake breakfast (photo courtesy Rachel Loeffler-Kemp).



Opposite page, from top: At the State Capitol Workers Memorial Garden, union members bow their heads in a moment of silence for workers who died on the job in 2019; Apple Valley attendees placed a yellow wreath at the Workers Memorial Garden at Lebanon Cemetery.



MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

Throughout the 2019 legislative session, AFSCME members from across the state were a constant presence at the Capitol. We proudly joined our fellow workers and community and faith allies for lobbying days, rallies and marches to show lawmakers where the people stand on the issues that truly matter to folks like us: safety, dignity and justice for all working people; health care access we can all afford; quality education for every kid in Minnesota; and adequate funding for the critical services AFSCME members provide to the public.

HEALTH CARE

As Minnesotans, we value being able to take care of ourselves, our families and our communities. In order to do that, we all need to be able to go to the doctor when we're sick. Minnesota's health care provider tax funds our state's Health Care Access Fund. For more than 25 years, the program has made it possible for millions of low-income, elderly, disabled and vulnerable Minnesotans access the health care we all need and deserve. The tax was set to expire at the end of 2019 – kicking around 1.2 million Minnesotans off their health care plans. Advocates from all regions and all walks of life showed up for collective actions focused on preserving the provider tax – and we won. Because we came together as workers and community members, we were able to preserve the provider tax so that Minnesotans who rely on the program can get the care they need. We also joined our allies in advocating for lower prescription drug costs and investing in programs to stop the opioid crisis.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

As union family, we stand up for one another's rights. AFSCME is proud to support a woman's right to choose. Recent events in states like Alabama and Georgia, which just passed the nation's most restrictive abortion bans, are solid proof that reproductive rights are under attack. In response to a proposed bill that would ban later-term abortions, AFSCME members joined hundreds of advocates at the Capitol for a rally to end bans on dangerous and harmful reproductive health care restrictions.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Because our collective action makes AFSCME a powerful ally when it comes to policy-making, our members have earned a place at the table on the issues that impact our work and our lives. During a recent visit home, Council 5 Executive Board members Pat Guernsey, Carmen Brown, Cherrene Horazuk and Destiny Dusosky were honored to meet with Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, a former AFSCME Council 5 member herself, who we proudly endorsed for Congress in 2018. Omar expressed her commitment to fighting for working people in Congress and here at home, and to making sure workers are treated with dignity and respect. The Congresswoman expressed our shared values – ensuring freedom and opportunity for all people – and vowed to continue her advocacy for the issues that impact real working people in Minnesota and across the country.



Congresswoman Ilhan Omar meets with AFSCME Council 5 Chair Officers Pat Guernsey, Carmen Brown and Cherrene Horazuk, joined by Council 5 staff Abdul Omar and Kate Black.



WE DO THE WORK

Walleye season: a year-round labor of love

While we're known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Minnesota could just have easily adopted the moniker 'Land of Abundant and Delicious Walleye,' and no one this side of the Wisconsin border would have batted an eye.

Each spring, anglers across Minnesota gear up for one of our state's most popular pastimes: walleye fishing.

But for AFSCME members who work at DNR fish hatcheries, walleye season never

stocking. Then we do lake surveys and stuff like that during the summer," explains Tim Swanson, a Local 694 DNR technician who works at the fishery in Spicer. "In the winter it's a lot of maintenance: patching nets, getting ready for spring, coming out and checking oxygen levels."

According to the Minnesota DNR, our fisheries produce two to five million walleye fingerlings each year. Walleye occupy 1,700 MN lakes and 100 warm-water

environment and giving the formerly unsuitable lakes a boost toward full recovery.

Walleye are also often stocked in popular fishing lakes, especially after a hard winter. "A hard winter is hard on the fish. When the snow piles up on the ice, the light doesn't penetrate, so the plants suffer and there's no oxygen left," Rambow explains. Because these lakes are naturally suitable habitats for the walleye, which prefer a rocky, gravelly shoreline for spawning, the DNR fingerlings grow quickly.

That means more anglers catch more 'keepers' in Minnesota's most heavily-fished lakes – and good fishing leads to more tourism and stronger economies in rural regions that rely on revenue generated during walleye season.

The year-round process of ensuring bountiful walleye harvests is fascinating – and arduous. Swanson and fellow DNR technician Jake Rambow both got into this kind of work because of a love for the outdoors and a passion for conserving Minnesota's natural bounty.

"I always knew I wanted to do this kind of work," Swanson says. He draws much of his inspiration from fond memories of spending time on the lake with his grandfather as a child. Once he'd decided on working in the field, Swanson got right to work. "I found out what degree I needed, which schools offered it, and here I am," he explains. Swanson has a bachelor's degree and graduate certificate in fisheries.

Rambow, who holds degrees in fisheries and wildlife, says he knew he needed to do this work because of his love for Minnesota's natural beauty and abundance. "I just love the outdoors," Rambow says. "I always knew I needed to be out here." Both men express a passion for environment and wildlife conservation. "I'd consider myself more of a biologist than an environmentalist, but conservation is definitely important to me," says Swanson.



Local 694's Jake Rambow milks eggs out of a female walleye on Lake Elizabeth in Kandiyohi County.

ends. From spawning eggs to stocking our beautiful lakes with finger-sized adolescent walleye, our DNR workers labor year-round to ensure a plentiful walleye season for the rest of us. Even in the off-season, DNR fishery workers are focused on keeping Minnesota's lakes healthy and our fish populations abundant.

"The majority of our job deals with walleye, whether it's taking spawn or harvesting or

streams – that's a total of 3,000 miles. Our fisheries produce and release those fingerlings for several reasons – and it's not just so anglers can head home with a cooler-full of 'keepers.'

Walleye from the fisheries are frequently stocked into rehabbed lakes that were formerly uninhabitable. Once reintroduced to these lakes, the walleye often become self-sustaining by establishing their own spawning fisheries, fostering a healthier

The pair became fast friends as DNR interns at the Spicer fish hatchery a few years back, and they've built on that friendship throughout their time working together as technicians and members of AFSCME Local 694. They even go fishing together in their off-time. "Tim's a fishing fanatic," Rambow jokes about his AFSCME brother.

Fishery workers often travel in pairs, and Swanson and Rambow make a powerful team. Each day they load up their trucks and boats and travel in a two-man convoy to the assigned lakes for the day. They spend hours out on the water, pulling up nets filled with fish, sorting the walleye by sex, harvesting eggs and milt and fertilizing the eggs. At the end of a long day, the workers return the fertilized eggs to the hatchery, where they're placed in ideal incubation conditions until they hatch. The tiny fish are then relocated to rearing ponds, where they're cared for until they reach fingerling size (four to seven inches) and can be released back into the lakes where they're needed most.

Both Rambow and Swanson say being part of a union makes it possible for them to do their jobs well and make a decent living for themselves. Swanson, who worked in retail before joining the DNR, knows the union difference first hand. "The health care, the benefits... I know the union got that for us," he says. Rambow agrees - having a union helps ensure a safe working environment, and it empowers the workers to provide high-quality services so that our state's natural resources remain healthy, safe and accessible for all Minnesotans.

Whether it's cleaning up campsites, maintaining public boat accesses, stocking fish or giving tours of Minnesota's incredible natural landscape and resources, AFSCME members make Minnesota's walleye season happen.



Top: Jake Rambow (left) and Tim Swanson wrap up a morning of walleye spawning and prepare to head to the next lake. They'll use a second boat to avoid cross-contamination in case invasive species are present in one lake but not the other. Bottom: Jake Rambow transfers fertilized walleye eggs into a tank on his DNR truck before delivering them to the hatchery.

Want to see Tim and Jake in action?
Check out the video on our Facebook page
or at www.afscmemn.org/news.

MEMBER VOICES

Jill Erzar: We're Ambassadors to the Natural World

Some people have wild stories about their coworkers. Jill Erzar's, though, are unique.

Jill Erzar is a zookeeper at Como Zoo in St. Paul. Her coworkers are giraffes, bison, reindeer, kudu, zebra, and other hooved animals of all shapes and sizes.

Growing up, Erzar always loved animals. She considered becoming a veterinarian, and was studying animal health in college before she took an internship at Como Zoo.

"By Day Two, I was a goner," Erzar says. "I knew this was what I wanted to do."

After graduating, though, making that dream a reality was a challenge. She took zookeeper jobs around the country but struggled to make ends meet.

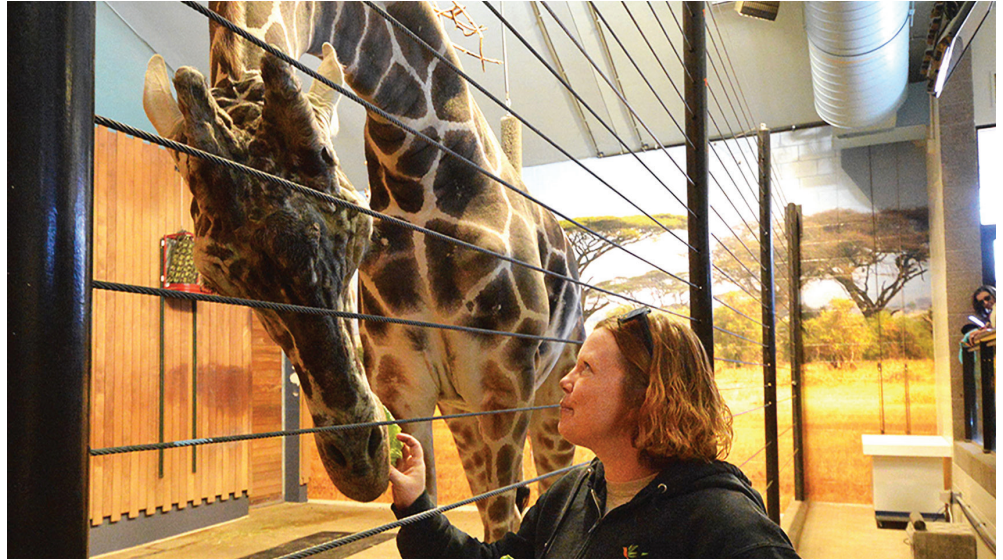
The average salary for a zookeeper in the US is just \$28,000 a year. In Erzar's case, even taking a top job as a supervisor only netted \$30,000 a year. This meant she had to work two, sometimes three jobs to pay her bills while pursuing her passion.

"It was rough," she says.

"I used to work as a bartender – I'd close down the bar at 4 am, then I'd open the zoo at 8 am the next morning." At the time, Erzar worked with large cats. Needless to say, dealing with lions and tigers on less than three hours of sleep is not ideal.

But through the difficult times, Erzar's love for animals and the families who come to visit them is what kept her working in the field. "The best thing is seeing a kid's eyes light up the first time they get to feed a giraffe – it's incredible," she says. "Our most important role as zookeepers is teaching kids about animals and being their ambassadors to the natural world."

Life changed when Erzar was hired at the place where her passion for zoo keeping started – Como Zoo. Because it was a union job, she was finally earning enough money to make zoo keeping her primary focus.



Jill Erzar, Local 2508, feeds Skeeter, one of the many hooved animals she cares for as a zookeeper at Como Zoo in St. Paul.

"The best thing is seeing a kid's eyes light up the first time they get to feed a giraffe – it's incredible."

Our most important role as zookeepers is teaching kids about animals and being their ambassadors to the natural world."

I can put all of my energy into my zoo work," says Erzar. "I'm not exhausted, which means I'm safer. I feel like a weight is off my shoulders, and I can focus on why I'm here."

Minnesota has two of the most prestigious zoos in the country: the Minnesota Zoo and Como Zoo. Employees at both are represented by AFSCME Council 5.

On the first sunny day of spring, Erzar weaved through dozens of families as she made her usual rounds through the hoof barns. Nearly thirty kids crowded close and squealed as one of the zoo's prime attractions, a giraffe named Skeeter, ate a head of romaine lettuce from her hand.

For Jill Erzar, what makes Como Zoo unique is that there is no entrance fee. All families, regardless of their ability to pay, can visit. After a decade of work in the field, Erzar knows how rare a free, publicly funded zoo is.

"Kids around the world don't have what we have," she says. "Even in countries where these animals are native, regular people can't afford entrance into the nature preserves where the animals live."

Public institutions like Como Zoo make Minnesota better, brighter, and more prosperous. Zookeepers work tirelessly to make Como Zoo a magical place to visit, learn, and experience the natural world. While they're caring for their animal charges and teaching kids and families, AFSCME is fighting for their safety and prosperity in the workplace.

"Minnesota has two of the highest paying zoos in the country," Erzar says. "And that's thanks to the union."

Scuffy Paulson: We Keep Minnesota Moving

Minnesota winters are tough. In Rochester this year, several blizzards brought the entire town to a standstill. Major roads and highways were closed, sometimes for days at a time.

When weather makes it unsafe to travel, Jeff Paulson – better known as Scuffy – hits the road. He works at MnDOT District 6, which covers Southern Minnesota. In the summer, Paulson and his MnDOT team inspect bridges, maintain signage, and fix potholes and other road damage. But in the winter, they plow snow.

One Sunday, a particularly nasty blizzard made travel impossible. Paulson headed out in a two-person team to try to clear the roads, even as the wind blew and snow continued to fall. They drove through nearly white-out conditions, clearing roads that were buried in snow. “The drifts were over the top of the truck, that’s how bad it was,” Paulson says.

As they plowed, Paulson and his team encountered something they didn’t expect: cars, half buried and stranded by the sudden storm. “We found seven cars on the way out with people in there – kids, grandmas and grandpas, everyday Minnesotans,” he recalls. They pulled the motorists out of the snowdrifts and back onto the road – only to discover that the road they had just plowed was already covered in snow again, and the cars they had just freed had nowhere to go. So they did the only thing they could: they plowed a path back into town, with the cars following in their wake.

“As we were fighting our way back into town, we were bringing all these cars with us. We had to plow them clear to their front doors to get them home safe,” Paulson explains.

“We have to watch each other’s back constantly because of the traffic concerns. We see a lot of accidents. This winter we had fourteen snow plows – just in our district – get hit.”

AFSCME Council 5 often says we keep Minnesota moving. At Local 868, where Paulson is Chief Steward, that motto is literally true.

But conditions for MnDOT workers can be dangerous, as Shane Eastman, Paulson’s colleague and frequent MnDOT truck copilot, noted. “The toughest part of it is distracted driving – people texting, reading, not paying attention to their

surroundings,” says Eastman.

Drivers can do a lot to make roads safer for MnDOT employees and other construction crews by being aware of their surroundings, abiding by speed laws, and limiting distractions.

Drivers can also put themselves in MnDOT workers’ shoes (or, for Paulson, steel-toed boots). For MnDOT workers, the margin for driver error is small – they’re often working only a few feet from traffic travelling at speeds over 70 miles per hour.

On the road, the roar of traffic fills workers’ ears as they try to focus on their tasks. Safety gear provides some sense of security, but traffic creates wind conditions of its own – the vortex created by a semi truck can suck the helmet off workers’ heads.

“We have to watch each other’s back constantly because of the traffic concerns,” Eastman says. “We see a lot of accidents. This winter we had fourteen snow plows – just in our district – get hit.”

This summer, take time to consider the safety and well-being of MnDOT workers across the state. They make sure our roads are safe to travel on – let’s return the favor by keeping their worksites as safe as possible.



MnDOT worker Scuffy Paulson, an AFSCME Council 5 Executive Board member and president of Local 868.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

On May 1, we celebrate and honor workers and global labor movements by observing International Workers Day. This day of remembrance has its roots in the 19th Century labor movements that won us many of the rights we enjoy today, including the 8-hour workday and weekends. The day marks historical worker strikes, from the Haymarket protests in 1886 all the way to the Day Without an Immigrant strikes in 2006.

immigrant neighbors – it’s also about safety. Thousands of AFSCME members travel on Minnesota’s roads and bridges every day. Licensing all drivers would go a long way to ensuring safety and accountability on the road.

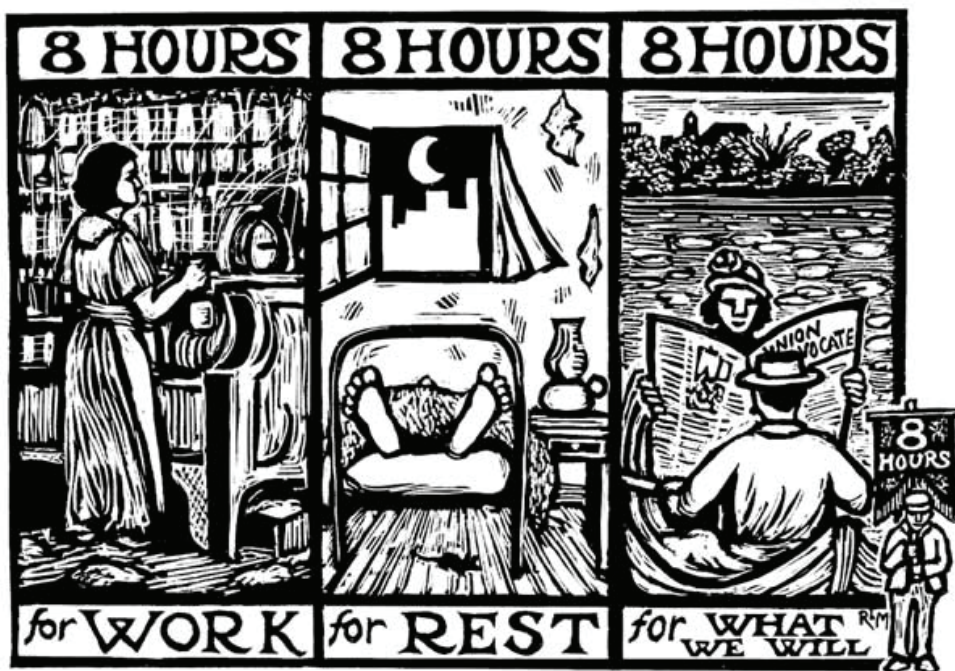
On the other side of town, more AFSCME members – especially members from Locals 2822 and 3800 – gathered in Peavey Plaza. They joined forces with SEIU, CTUL, and our labor and community allies to stand with UNITE HERE! Local 17.

harassment and assault on the job. Too often, workers are left vulnerable to attack with little support or protection from management. This year, seventeen contracts representing 2,000 workers will expire, creating a unique opportunity to collectively bargain for a better contract.

Attorney General Keith Ellison joined marchers and committed to standing with them. “I promise you that we will fight wage theft, occupational hazards on the job, and we will make sure we have liberty and justice for all,” he told the crowd.

One worker shared her powerful story with marchers: after working for Hilton Minneapolis for almost fourteen years, she makes only \$16 an hour. “I have six kids,” she said, “and I need to give them the life that they deserve.”

After over a hundred years of marking International Workers Day, some basic demands of the labor movement – health care, living wages, and safe working conditions – still have not been met. That’s why AFSCME members took to the streets for yet another year, fighting for basic rights for all. AFSCME won’t quit – no matter how many years of marching lie ahead.



This year, AFSCME Council 5 marked the occasion by participating in two actions that carried on the proud tradition of IWD as a day demanding immigrant and worker’s rights.

In the early afternoon, AFSCME members gathered to march with Unidos MN and other immigrant rights groups to demand drivers licenses for all. For undocumented immigrants, it’s not just about driving – it’s about having access to a critical identification document, and having their basic human dignity recognized.

Licenses aren’t just important to our

Amid shouts of “¡Sí se puede!” and “need a raise!” hundreds of people marched through downtown Minneapolis with a clear message: one job should be enough.

UNITE HERE! is a hospitality union that represents workers in hotels and restaurants across the country. In Minnesota, as in other states, hotel workers struggle to earn enough to pay their bills while balancing an impossible workload. Hospitality workers – who are overwhelmingly women and people of color – are also vulnerable to sexual





THE CAUSE OF LABOUR
IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

SOCIALISM MEANS
THE MOST HELPFUL
HAPPY LIFE FOR ALL

WHEN WEALTH IS COMMON
TO ALL

ART & ENJOYMENT
FOR ALL

SOLIDARITY
OF LABOUR

HOPE IN WORK
& JOY IN LEISURE

PRODUCTION FOR USE
NOT FOR PROFIT

COOPERATION & EMULATION
NOT COMPETITION

NO CHILD-
TOILERS

SHORTEN WORKING
DAY & LENGTHEN LIFE

THE PLOUGH IS A BETTER
BACKBONE THAN THE FACTORY

ENGLAND SHOULD FEED HER OWN PEOPLE

NO PEOPLE CAN BE FREE WHILE
DEPENDENT FOR THEIR BREAD

THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE
MERRIE ENGLAND

• A GARLAND FOR MAY DAY 1895 •
• DEDICATED TO THE WORKERS BY WALTER CRANE •



We want to hear from you!

Do you have a unique job? Do your friends and neighbors always have questions about what you do? Is there an unsung hero in your workplace? Reach out to us and share your story!

AFSCME Council 5 is member-driven – your union doesn't work without workers at its center. Step up and inspire your fellow AFSCME members by sharing your story. Send us a short description of the story you want to tell. We'll connect with you to develop your story into a blog post, video or magazine article. **Email communications@afscmemn.org to get started.**

Cover: 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.

Inside cover, from top: AFSCME members join our labor, community and faith partners at a May Day rally to advocate for drivers licenses for all in Minneapolis; AFSCME Council 5 President Pat Guernsey and Vice President Carmen Brown meet with Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

Photos, page 3, from top: Hundreds gather at the State Capitol to stop abortion bans and protect reproductive rights for all Minnesotans; AFSCME members and allies rally to protect health care and stop the statutory sunset of Minnesota's provider tax.

Photos, page 9, clockwise from top: Hundreds rally to protect reproductive rights and stop abortion bans; AFSCME members storm the capitol to demand affordable health care for all; AFSCME Council 5 President Pat Guernsey speaks at a rally to protect Minnesota's provider tax; AFSCME members join community and faith allies in a May Day march to demand drivers licenses for all.

Poster, page 15: Walter Crane, reproduced from 1895 original, from the Lincoln Cushing Archive. Image courtesy Lincoln Cushing / Docs Populi.

This page, top two photos AFSCME marches for workers' rights on May Day; AFSCME members rally to stop abortion bans and restrictions on reproductive rights.