

[View this email in your browser](#)



Greetings 3937! We hope everyone has had a good week! In this week's newsletter, we are highlighting the action we are taking around the closing of the University's Child Development Center with a message from one of the teachers at the UMCDC, some words from our VP, and an ask that everyone that can, should try to make it to the State of the U address next Thursday (3/1) to show support.

March 1 is the State of the University Address. We need 100s to attend and wear green in support of the UMCDC. If you need further information on what's going on there, call me (Mary Austin) at [612.417.8366](tel:612.417.8366). The Address is from 3:30 to 4:30 at the Coffman Theater. If you can't join us then you can watch on your computer via the State of the University website. This

is our first action to call attention to the possible closing of the UMCDC and to announce we are fighting it. The Development Center is one of very few jewels left at this institution.

Working People's Day of Action

The Working People's Day of Action is about demanding an end to the rigged economy and defending our freedoms. On February 24, we will stand up for the freedom of working people to come together and fight for decent and equitable pay for our work, affordable health care, quality schools, vibrant communities and a secure future for all of us.

To find an event near you or for more information, follow this [link!](#) For the St. Paul event, [click here.](#)

Game Night Reminder

Don't forget! Tonight (2/22) is our second monthly Union Game Night! Snacks and refreshments will be available as well as a selection of board games, if there are any you own that you would like to play please bring them! Game Night is once again in HHH 50B (go into the Learning Commons in the basement of HHH, 50B is at the back) from 7-9pm. We look forward to seeing you!

A Message on Behalf of UMCDC Staff:

Dean Quam of the College of Education and Human Development announced last month that she will close the University of Minnesota Child Development Center. The UMCDC provides high quality education for over 140 children, provides research opportunities for the University, and employs 87 college students. The closing means that over 40 AFSCME members and Teamsters will be laid off in June 2019. The University has initiated a Request for Proposal in an attempt to find a replacement for the (already successful and scalable) UMCDC. Privatizing

child care at the university with a for-profit company is not an equal replacement of our 45-year old program.

The parents and staff are working together to stop the University's union-busting plan to privatize child care on campus. For more information please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/savetheumcdc>. There you can support your fellow union members and join the call to immediately halt the planned closure of UMCDc.

- submitted by Lily Bray

VP Corner

Good Afternoon, Local 3937:

As you may - or may not - know, the University has decided to close the University of Minnesota Child Development Center (UMCDc) in 18 months. This is a problem for many reasons but two issues stand out to me.

First, if you're a University of Minnesota staff, faculty, or student with a child, or a child on the way, and you're looking for a full time, easily accessible, high-quality, child development center (with a sliding scale cost), this closure will eliminate that option on campus. This will make raising a family while working or teaching at the University that much harder for full time employees and faculty which, if you're the parents of one of the 140 children enrolled at the UMCDc, the parents of one of the 200 children on the waitlist to enroll, or you're someone like me that might need this service in the next few years... this closure makes a difficult situation that much more difficult.

Second, from a union perspective, all of the teachers at the UMCDc are represented by our local and all of them are being faced with losing their jobs. This is important to all of us for two main reasons:

One, part of the report that was done to decide to close the UMCDc stated that one of the reasons for the closure was the union represented position all the teachers have. Specifically, that the union represented teachers get breaks and pay raises. Essentially, this means that University has to treat the UMCDc employees fairly per the mutually beneficial contract and it would prefer it didn't have to do so.

Two, an injury to one is an injury to us all. This means that this announcement could happen to *any of us*, and if it did, it would be up to the rest of us to help. That's the situation our members and prospective members at the UMCDC are facing, right now. This happened to them and they need our help. Just like if this happened to some of us, they would help us.

So, we need your help. We need to draw a line in the sand, we need to keep this closure from setting a precedent, and model the University can use to privatize all of our jobs. We need to stand together to tell the University that they have to treat us fairly per the mutually beneficial contract. We need to stand behind the UMCDC because the next announcement might be about our/your work site.

In Solidarity,
Robert Francis
Vice-President of Organizing
AFSCME Local 3937



On Fridays We Wear Green!

Don't forget! Every Friday is a new opportunity to show your support for the union with a little bit of fun. Wear something green this Friday! Take a selfie or have a friend take a picture and post it to our [Facebook event](#), the most interesting or creative selfie will win a prize! Show us your green socks, shirts, pants, ties, lanyards, lipstick, earrings, or scarves!

Save The Date

Steward meeting

- 2nd Wednesdays: March 14th

Organizing meeting

- 3rd Wednesdays: March 21st

Membership meeting

- 4th Wednesdays: Feb 28th (E-board meeting at 5:15pm immediately followed by membership meeting)

All at 5:30pm in Suite 356

[312 Central Avenue SE,](#)

[Minneapolis, MN 55414](#)

Game Nights

February 22nd - HHH 50B, 7-9pm (same room as last time!)

March 22nd location TBD

April 26th location TBD

Know of a good location? Let us know!

Happy Hours

March 1st location TBD (looking for somewhere on West Bank! Any suggestions?)

April 5th location TBD

Day on the Hill 2018

March 20th - Sign up and come meet your legislators and see how government is supposed to work! Sign up at the Council 5 web page at: afscmemn.org/ Look under "Politics" and "Day on the Hill" to sign in. Let the local know you are coming because we pay for your lunch that day at: afscme3937@gmail.com

[Our home page](#) has more information and resources such as steward contact information. Find the most current version of our contract [here](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#) and/or follow us on [Twitter](#), we post a variety of labor related items daily as well as breaking news that affects us.

submitted in solidarity by AFSCME Local 3937 leadership, edited by Diana Rico, Organizer

