

Greetings 3937! This week we have a short report on yesterday's steward training, news from the Capitol, the upcoming AFSCME Council 5 picnic, and more.

June 6 Steward Training

Yesterday 35 members of U of M AFSCME locals turned out for a full day of steward training. We started with some history, philosophy, and definitions; that may sound dry but it was quite the opposite with Ryan Hanson's colorful presentation style. Then we moved on to the nuts & bolts of defending our contracts. Kurt Errickson joined us to go into detail on the grievance process. Some of us had been to steward trainings before, but we agreed we had learned new ideas and strategies.

AFSCME members celebrate the pension bill becoming law with Gov. Dayton. Council 5 members and retirees were instrumental in getting the measure passed unanimously by the Senate and House. They were a significant presence at every legislative hearing on the issue.

Governor Signs Pension Bill

A bill to stabilize and protect public pensions was signed into law in a packed Capitol Rotunda. More than 300 state workers and retirees crowded into the Rotunda on May 31

to watch as Gov. Mark Dayton signed the bill with a flourish, announcing, “That’s the last bill I’ll sign as Governor of Minnesota, and what a great one to end on.”

The reform will immediately save \$3.4 billion and fully fund our public pension systems within 30 years. The bill, which passed the Senate and House unanimously, will:

- Increase employer and employee contributions
- Include new state funding
- Reduce COLAs
- Reduce the assumed rate of return from 8 percent to 7.5 percent

AFSCME Council 5 and our allies in the Public Employee Pension Coalition, which represents more than 25 public sector unions, retiree groups and affiliated organizations, strongly supported the measure.

“The pension bill represents shared sacrifice by everyone, including the state, the employer, employees and retirees,” says Council 5 legislative director Julie Bleyhl. “By working together and pulling together, we have ensured that public pensions will stay stable for decades to come. We have ensured that our government fulfills its promise to public employees.”

from Council 5

Donations, Volunteers Needed for Picnic

Join in the fun at the Council 5 AFSCME Family Picnic!

This annual rank-and-file picnic relies on generous contributions from locals and volunteers.

To help make the 2018 picnic possible, organizers need:

- Cash donations to buy burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks plus free water park tickets for the first 100 kids
- Potluck foods and desserts

- Volunteers

The picnic is 1 to 5 p.m. **Aug. 19** at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. To donate, make checks payable to the AFSCME Family Picnic/Duane Gatzke. Mail to: [1025 E. Rose Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55106](#). To get involved, contact Duane at 651-472-2787 or [email him](#).

from Council 5

Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct

This is a reminder to complete this University-required training soon if you have not yet done so. The June 30 deadline is coming soon..

You should have received the link to the training in your University email. The online module takes approximately 60 minutes to complete but may take longer depending on the number of optional resources you review. You do not need to complete the training in one sitting. The system will track your progress and allow you to return and complete the training later. However, you must fully complete it by June 30, 2018.

Remember 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: June 13th

Organizing meeting

- 3rd Wednesdays: June 20th

Membership meeting

- 4th Wednesdays: June 27 (E-board meeting at 5:15 pm immediately followed by membership meeting)

All at 5:30pm in Suite 356

[312 Central Avenue SE.](#)

[Minneapolis, MN 55414](#)



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 Nicole Masika, secretary