

## Brett Favre needed help, too!

By Walter Hanson,  
Treasurer

Okay folks, you have been hearing for months we need **YOUR** help to get a good contract. Now it's crunch time, just like it was when the Vikings played the 49ers a couple of weeks ago and needed Brett Favre to pull off a miracle. More importantly, if you are still not convinced that your help is needed, just look at the help Favre needed for his miracle.

He needed the defense to stop the 49ers and to get the ball back for the drive.

He needed the offensive line to keep the 49ers away from him (yes he stepped around one, but the line did keep everyone away).

And he needed the receiver to catch the pass and to get both of his feet down in bounds.

Favre, despite his great skills, would not have had this miracle play if those team members had not done their jobs! And just like this contract, our table team and negotiators, despite their skills, cannot get you a good contract without your help.

Just think about this. If you don't wear green on the days we ask you to wear green the county commissioners will think you are rooting for them to not give us a wage increase.

Just think about this. If a Minnesota Viking offensive lineman steps aside and lets an opposing player by, that

can get Brett Favre seriously injured. Yet if you don't complain to your county commissioners, you're doing the same thing. You're telling them it's okay to increase the medical insurance premium to \$75 a month for singles. You're saying it's okay to take away step increases and stability pay. It's okay if we don't have a raise for two years.

In short, it's time you get off the bench and join the action! The game is about to end. Do you want to win? Your next opportunities to support the negotiating team by wearing AFSCME green are November 2 and 16, the last two days of negotiations.

## A call for action

Lynn Stetler, President

Are you aware that your union leadership is in the middle of face to face contract negotiations with the employer?

As of this writing, we have one more meeting with the employer, and then there will be two more mediated sessions in November where a mediator will work separately with both

parties with the goal to achieve a tentative agreement.

We haven't seen anything good in the proposals so far. I encourage you to go on the Council 5 website (AFSCMEMN.org) and compare our proposal and the employer's. I also hope that you are reading the Table Talks. Did you know that your union leadership has been discuss-

ing negotiations since February? There have been many opportunities for input from you at meetings, brown bag lunches, employee forums, and other calls for action. Do you realize that the county expects to balance the budget on our backs? They are proposing no raises, no step increase, no stability pay, and increased health insurance premiums.

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### November Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 4  
7:00 p.m.  
Brookdale Library

Special Order of Business:

### December Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 2  
7:00 p.m.  
Central Library

For our members who are physically challenged, please let us know if special accommodations are needed.



Visit Local  
2822 website:  
<http://www.afscme2822.org>



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## Council 5 convention

Local 2822 sent eleven delegates to the Fifth Annual Council 5 Convention. The following are reports by five of the delegates. We will hear from the other delegates, Lynn Stetler, Theresa Smith, Genae Nicole, Ann Baird, Dirk Schot

and Bev Sweet in following newsletters.

For total coverage of the convention go to [www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org) for audio/visuals on the slideshow of AFSCME power in 2009, convention highlights, candidates

for governor answering our tough questions, and greetings from Senator Al Franken, Next Wave of union leaders, campaign for fair taxes, Russ Scheideler's song about "King Tim", and the fundraiser for veterans.

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### Tammy Richert

Tax Payer Services, phones

Union Brothers and Sisters,

I really enjoyed my time at the AFSCME Council 5 Convention; it was very informative and fast paced with a political twist. One of the highlights of the three day event was the Governor's Forum. All ten of the democratic candidates for governor spent Friday afternoon with convention delegates making the case for why they want to be Minnesota's next governor. A short time before the event began, my favorite candidate, Chris Coleman, announced that he had dropped out to the race. Crushed, I was really disappointed but tried to remain positive that one of the remaining candidates would fill the bill.

I really urge you to listen to Minnesota Public Radio for the rebroadcast of this forum. I will not try to influence your choice but I want to tell you, going into this forum, my thoughts of who I would choose was far and away not the person who won me over. What do I mean? The least likely of the group, was the person I was most impressed with. Wow!

Before I conclude my report I want to thank Local 2822 for this fabulous opportunity to attend this year's convention.

### Rita Watson

County Attorney's Office

It isn't an easy task to put into words what is virtually inexplicable. The profound sense of dignity and respect for all was apparent. The hope and belief is alive. Each person's contribution posi-

tively impacts our society. The message is clear, we care. We will continue to exceed our own expectations, and we will be acknowledged and recognized for our ethical standards. Thank you AFSCME for providing me the opportunity to participate in this memorable event.

### Dawn Klingman

Human Services Public Health Dept.

I had the honor of attending the AFSCME Council 5 annual convention in Duluth, October 8 through October 10. It was an energizing convention! With perfect timing for fall colors. There were rich fall colors going up and back. It had snowed the morning of the 10th, so leaves were falling fast on the way back, but still beautiful!

The highlight of the convention was hosting the first Gubernatorial Candidates Forum. All ten of the DFL candidates were in attendance. Unfortunately, none of the Republican candidates accepted the offer. It was really an experience. I was able to talk to a number of the candidates, which really felt good.

I attended two workshops. The first was "**Defend Minnesota and Your Paycheck.**" It was sad to hear that a number of politicians have expressed belief that the budget cuts Governor Pawlenty made have not truly hurt people in our communities. This is clearly not the case! AFSCME has started a campaign to collect people's stories of how Governor Pawlenty's cuts have hurt them. These will be delivered to legislators next session. One AFSCME member documented a food shelf offering in Elk River that drew 1800 people in one day

waiting for food. But we need more than just stories; we need a new governor that cares about a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens (which includes us).

The second workshop was on our **Retirement Benefits**. They stressed that it is important to stay socially and politically connected as well as taking care of your finances. They pointed out that retirement does not end the day you walk out the door, that is only the beginning. They talked about the state Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP). They said that the majority of people are in the money market fund for the HCSP. People default to this fund when they join (unless they designate a different fund), and often never change that designation. So, I had the opportunity to ask the question I had been wondering about. With interest rates SO low these days, is the money market fund paying a return higher than the administrative fee? The answer was "NO." They said that the fixed interest fund was paying higher, but the money market fund was paying lower than the administrative fee. If anyone reading this is paying into the HCSP, I would suggest looking at where your money is parked and call the plan if you are interested in changing your investment options. Their phone number is: 651-284-7723.

There are tough battles for workers all over this country, but we are what makes Hennepin County work. We have value. We need to stand up for ourselves during these negotiations and always. We are doing our part. It is time for Hennepin County to step up to the plate. They need to hear from us loud and clear.

## Convention (continued)

### Nancy Crouse Ridgedale Library

Best convention ever! I was very energized by the event. I was really psyched for this union conference and enjoyed it immensely. I am all fired up to tackle what needs to be done for the upcoming elections. The Governor's Forum was fantastic. To see and hear all ten DFL candidates was a tremendous advantage. I can't wait to help out with the contract negotiations and the upcoming election.

### Molly Malecki Service Center, Brookdale

This convention had many highlights, but the highest highlight was the Governor's Forum, which others have also discussed. What really excited me was that we, AFSCME, are important enough that ten candidates would go to Duluth to try and sell their agendas to us! We are over 40,000 public workers and non profit workers, who do the work of the State, counties, cities, schools, nursing homes, group homes, and much more, and they realize the power we have. We do the work; we know how it should be done; and we vote. It was very moving, before the Forum began, when they all joined us in singing "Solidarity Forever." Also all ten, on camera, said Minnesota needs to raise revenue to deal with its massive budget deficit and to preserve vital public services. Good answers!

I attended a workshop on "**Resources in Tough Times.**" The emphasis was on helping members who are laid off or whose family situation becomes difficult. It covered concerns relating to household bills, food, medical/dental, dislocated workers and unemployment, veterans, domestic violence, some medical issues and some legal issues. The most comprehensive resource seems to be **United Way 2-1-1**. They can direct you to whatever type of help you are seeking.

**United Way 2-1-1** is free, confidential and available 24/7. You will be connected with trained information specialists and volunteers. They can refer you to over 40,000 resources including childcare, counseling, and crisis response: volunteering and donating food, health, housing, legal help, mental health, transportation, youth services and senior services. Just dial 2-1-1. Cell phone users call 651-291-0211. Multilingual help is offered from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. For Russian call 651-698-9167; for Hmong and Spanish call 2-1-1. You may go on line for more information, <http://www.211.org/>

There was one sad note at the Convention. For five years, management at

**Walker Methodist Health Center** fought workers' attempts to form a union and gain a first contract. Workers prevailed.

Now Walker Methodist is back to its old behavior. Some workers (with plenty of "atta boys" from their supervisors) are circulating petitions to get rid of AFSCME Local 3532. By some amazing coincidence, management has also broken off talks on a new contract.

Please call Walker CEO Lynn Starkovich and tell her enough is enough. Ask her to return to negotiations, bargain in good faith and respect her employees' rights. Starkovich's phone number: 612-827-8517.



**I'm doing my part to protect the services I provide. That's why you can count on me attending a budget hearing:**

- Mon 11/2 - 1 to 4 PM (Human Services)
- Mon 11/16 - 1 to 4 PM (Human Services, cont.)
- Thu 11/19 - 1 to 4 PM (Public Safety)
- Mon 11/30 - 1 to 4 PM (Commissioner Amendments)
- Wed 12/2 - 1 to 4 PM (Commissioner Amendments)
- Tue 12/15 - 1:30 PM (Budget Approval)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Local** \_\_\_\_\_

**Building** \_\_\_\_\_ **Floor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_



## New to Hennepin County?

If you haven't been approached by a union representative yet, please fill out this form and send to our membership secretary.

To sign up as a full union member or for Delta Dental Insurance, or to get answers to questions about AFSCME and membership benefits, please fill out this coupon and send to:

**Dirk Schot**  
East Lake Library  
Mail Code 760

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location \_\_\_\_\_

Mailcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I want to sign up as a full member.

I want to sign up for Delta Dental.



Help us remember your co-workers with a card. Let us know to send a sympathy card, get well or congratulations. We will send a card, hand-made by President Lynn Stetler.

Contact Heather Clark, our Good and Welfare Coordinator at :952-847-8523 or by e-mail: [hclark@hclib.org](mailto:hclark@hclib.org). The request should include the name of the member, the reason for the request and home address, if possible."



With Delta Access, you can find out about your Delta coverage without even opening your mouth.

Delta Access  
651-406-5900 or 1-800-862-6042.

Always refer to your group number 538.

Council 5 Contact person:  
Cindy Pince, 651-287-0564

### A New Voice deadline is November 4.

Articles will be accepted up to and including the day of the monthly Membership Meeting for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Send your written contributions to Molly Malecki.



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Circulation & distribution:  
Annette Tiedens

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<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b>	Heather Clark <a href="mailto:hclark@hclib.org">hclark@hclib.org</a>	952-847-8523

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