

Precinct caucuses March 7



February Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, February 7
7:00 p.m.
Brookdale Library**

Special order of business:
Nomination of officers

**March Membership Meeting
March 14, 2006
Ridgedale Library**

Special order of business:
Election of officers

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

Here we go again. The political season is upon us. And this is one long season. It will end on Election Day, November 7. Ten months of politics, speeches, telephone polls, fancy flyers, arguments, campaign buttons, bumper stickers. And why do WE care?

We care because our very jobs are at the mercy of politicians. If people are elected who think our work is unnecessary, our jobs are gone. If people are elected who think under funding our work is a good idea, how do we serve our clients or customers? If legislation is passed to decrease our pensions, how do you plan for retirement?

Precinct caucuses are the grassroots level of politics. We are all able to at-

tend these meetings and let our concerns be heard. We can find out where our party stands on issues—or tell them where to stand on issues. It doesn't matter what party's caucus you attend. You have a right to express your concerns as a public employee about how the government is run.

If you have read the last two newsletters about the Council 5 Convention, you know that four gubernatorial candidates spoke to the delegates about being governor. They were Kelly Doran, Steve Kelly, Becky Lourey and Mike Hatch. Council 5 Executive Board and the PEOPLE Committee screened these four candidates in depth on December 17. As of the January 19th Executive Board meeting, no endorsement has been made by the Council. Part of the reason there has been no endorsement is because we want our members to go to the precinct caucuses and be free to support the candidates of their choice. We are interested in knowing which candidates have peaked your interest.

Before the caucuses, AFSCME Council 5 will be letting you know what issues are important to us for this coming legislative session. We should all be responsible for finding out as much as possible about those running for office. We all need to know where the candidates stand on our issues.

Plan to attend your precinct caucus—it's a good start.



Nomination of officers

Nomination of officers will take place at the February 7 Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Brookdale Library. If there are any contested races, an election will take place at the March 14 Membership Meeting at the Ridgedale Library at 7:00 p.m. All seats are open for nomination: president, vice president, recording secretary, treasurer, membership secretary, two co-chief stewards, four at large positions, and one trustee, which is a three year term and one trustee which is a two year term.

The only qualification for being

elected to the Executive Board is being a member in good standing of this local for one year. Minimum duties of member at-large include attending two meetings per month: the Membership Meeting on the first Tuesday evening of the month and the Executive Board Meeting on the third Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Anyone interested or with questions should contact an E-Board member. Phone numbers are on the back page.

Day on the Hill

Here is another opportunity to dip your toe in the water of politics. On March 1, the first day of the legislative session, hundreds of AFSCME members from all over Minnesota will descend on the capitol to have our voices heard on many issues relating to our work.

Local 2822 has approved sending up to thirty members and paying lost time to attend this important event. The day begins at 9:00 AM at the Radisson Riverfront with a large meeting and rally. Then we break into our legislative districts and go to visit our legislators. The day ends around 4:00, although there is a reception that the legislators are welcome to attend.

It is exciting being with other AFSCME members who work in various jobs with the State, the University, other counties and cities. It is enlight-

Vacation Donation

We have a request for vacation donation from a new member. His name is Robert Grossman. He is out on an extended medical leave. He is still on probation and has no vacation or sick time built up.

You can donate as little as one hour of vacation. If each of us did that, it would help this new member through a tough time.

The way to make vacation donations is very simple, very easy and only takes a few minutes. On the Hennepin County Intranet site, click Employee Services, Forms, Human Resources Forms, under Vacation Donation Authorization click see interactive version, click Vacation Waiver Donation and Authorization form, enter your I-Notes sign on, fill out form. When you click "Select Recipient" enter the name. Sign and submit.

The details of how Vacation Donations work are listed at the end.

ening to hear their concerns and often to find we have the same concerns.

Any member who would like to attend this event should contact an officer. Our numbers are on the back page. Submit a leave request for that day. Ask for "Special Leave Without Pay for Union Business."

Last year we stressed this concept, but it bears repeating: "Wages, benefits and working conditions are set by contracts. Contract negotiations are framed by budgets. **Budgets are determined by elected officials.** Elected officials are chosen through political action. Political action impacts elected officials' decisions." Here is an opportunity to "impact elected officials' decisions."

Computerized Roll Call

In some work areas in Hennepin County, there are no supervisors on site and clerical staff is being required to use the computerized Roll Call system to check in and out of their work site. Your union would like to know if you are being required to be present at your work site before the actual start of your shift. If this is a problem for you, please contact Mmafscme2822@aol.com with your name and work site location.

We have been hearing reports that some workers are expected to be at their work stations before their shifts begin in order to sign onto computers or to open facilities, and they are not being compensated for that time. We have heard that some employees are expected to stay after their shift and are not being compensated. Please let us know if either of these situations happens to you.

We would be interested to hear solutions to this situation, also. For instance, one Service Center schedules some employees to begin fifteen minutes before the center opens, so they are ready when the customers arrive. And their shift ends fifteen minutes earlier.

Dignity and Respect

You may recall that last February we reported that two pilot programs would be created to deal with the issue of Dignity and Respect. This was the subject of a lengthy study by a Labor/Management committee.

The Library began shortly after that with an outside consultant to guide them. And we have had ongoing updates of their progress.

Taxpayer Services Department is the second pilot program, which has begun with about twelve meetings of various work groups in the department. They have begun by discussing the meaning and examples of dignity and respect. This meeting is followed by a survey on dignity and respect in their work places. Meetings at the work sites will follow depending on the results of the surveys.

A third Dignity and Respect program has just begun at Century Plaza. There will be a steering committee of management and union members from locals 34 and 2822. Local 2822's representative on that committee is Sheryn Cartledge.

Further updates will follow. Eventually all departments will have a Dignity and Respect program in place.

The wisdom of Abraham Lincoln

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

"I walk slowly, but I never walk backward"

"That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."

"A friend is one who has the same enemies as you have."

"If I were two faced, would I be wearing this one?"

Council 5 Convention highlights

By Zanona Anderson

The very first AFSCME Council 5 Convention was held in Duluth Minnesota. It was set up very similar to the International Convention. Starting from day one, Thursday October 6, from sun up to sun down we were busy around the clock getting information from different locals, and learning some of the strategies they have been trying to get better contracts, and getting members more involved.

We had break out rooms and were assigned by our last name in one room and then another time by our sector and then district. Every room had someone to run the meetings, and we sometimes had to vote on who should chair the meetings.

There was some door knocking taking place, but I did not attend this one. I saved my energy to attend the rally that was held at the Duluth Civic Center.

There were some good speakers, and as always we were glad to have the presence of our International President Mr. Gerald McEntee and the Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy, two very knowledgeable men about unions. But I really get inspired when I hear William Lucy speak; he is so there with you and speaking a language you can understand.

We had the opportunity to hear from some of candidates running for governor. One was Kelly Doran; I found his speech to be genuine and that he did not claim to know a whole lot about politics, but he knows what direction we need to be going and what it will take to get us there. We had another speaker who is really energized and ready to get out there and make things happen; her name is Becky Lourey. She has plenty of supporters to make this all happen for her, along with her knowledge of what she needs to do to make things work for the class of people who barely have a leg to stand on.

In closing we always have the resolutions to vote on and there was a very

heavy discussion on one of the resolutions, and the Vice President of our local did a great job speaking on an issue from a personal level as well as a professional level. I tip my hat to Lynn Stetler for the job well done and not just from the resolution standpoint, but as a great sister in bringing solidarity together at the convention.

Well, I have given you a taste of what it is like to attend a Council 5 Convention, and maybe some day the fair share members we have may want to be part of this big ordeal, and become full share members so they can have voting rights and opportunities such as this one to attend a Council 5 Convention.

By Nancy Crouse

I do not know what to write or where to start. My memory is filled with so many impressions, and it will be extremely hard to do justice to them all.

First off, it was great just being in Duluth just to see what goes on and to be a part (a very small part) of a large national organization even if it was only for a weekend.

I was more than impressed to hear Mike Hatch speak. The high point of my attending the convention was being able to shake Mike Hatch's hand. (One of my high school classmates went to law school with him and we discuss him frequently). Hatch has done a lot for the state of Minnesota, particularly in regard to the class action suits that he has sponsored. The class action against the Tobacco companies comes to mind, but there are others. Getting back at big business that has bled the public dry warms my heart.

I was also very impressed with Minnesota Senator Becky Lourey. I was unaware of her or her political ambitions for the top spot of Governor of Minnesota. Some people think she has a very good shot at being governor.

It was great being there just to see what goes on. It was a great opportunity. The convention gave a bit of an insight into

what direction we are heading. The reorganization of the council has been very strategic and successful (at least I think it has been successful). I am anxious to see what this brings us. I would like to go again to the next convention.

By Julie Yakin, nee Axtell

It took me a while to write this review of the convention as I was busy planning my wedding and then the holidays came along.

The First Annual Convention for Council 5 was packed full of information, from why it is important to be organized, to hearing from the candidates that would like to be governor someday, to going door to door bringing information to our fellow union members about Duluth's school board elections.

I won't write about anything else, since it was already written about in previous articles, except to say that the experience was very informative and I recommend that others get involved with the union. The Union only works because we make it work: our strengths are in our members. Become active, attend meetings, attend Day on the Hill at the state capitol, go to conventions, make a difference.

New Co-Chief steward

Local 2822 Executive Board is pleased to announce that Jennifer McNair has been appointed co-chief steward. Jennifer has served as a steward in the Jail, an Executive Board member, and Table Team member.

The Executive Board has mixed feelings in announcing that Zanona Anderson will no longer be co-chief steward, as she has accepted a promotion that will take her from Local 2822 and put her in Local 34. We are extremely happy for Zanona. But we are losing a very talented, professional steward. We wish her the best of luck and success in her new position.

We also wish to thank Lisa Shepardson for her service as a steward. She is stepping down from this position

Local 2822 Officers

President	763-549-3498
Molly Malecki	Urgent:
Mmafscme2822@aol.com	763-569-3686
Vice-president	
Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569
Treasurer	763-549-3498
Walter Hanson	Urgent:
	763-569-3686
Recording Sec.	
Jeanne Whetstone	952-847-5455
Co-chief Steward	
Jennifer McNair	763-245-8308
Co-chief Steward	
Vacant	
Membership Sec.	
Bridget Walker	612-596-8080
E-Board at Large	
Nichelle DeCora	612-348-8841
Merry Brigham	612-348-9358
Vacant	
Vacant	
Delta Dental Trustee	
Ann Baird	763-549-3498
Good & Welfare	
Heather Clark	952-847-8523
hclark@hclib.org	


Bulletin Board

The New Voice deadline is February 7. 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 or Lynn Stetler.

Visit Local 2822 Website

<http://www.afscme2822.org>





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 E-board member Lynn Stetler.

Contact Heather Clark, our Good and Welfare Coordinator at 952-847-8523 or by e-mail: 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

Editors
Molly Malecki & Lynn Stetler

Circulation & distribution
Annette Tiedens

Steward's List

Steward	Phone	Department	Location
Nichelle DeCora	612-348-8841	CFASD	Planning and Development 23 rd Floor, Gov't Center
Jody Goers	612-596-8080	Sheriff	Jail
Walter Hanson	763-569-3683	Service Center	Brookdale Service Center
Janet Keefe	612-348-2564	EA/FAD	Century Plaza - 3rd Floor
Angela Hallquist Mangen	612-596-2100	Service Center	Eden Prairie Service Center
Jennifer McNair	763-245-8308	Sheriff	Jail
Lynn Stetler	952-847-8569	Library	Ridgedale Library/CTS, Collection Management
Bridget Walker	612-596-8080	Sheriff	Jail
Julie Yakin	612-348-6186	Service Center	Gov't Ctr. Service Ctr.

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:

Bridgette Walker
Jail, Mail Code 905

Name _____

Job Title _____

Work Location _____

Mailcode _____

Phone _____

I'm especially interested in:

I want to sign up as a full member.