

talk...table talk...table

AFSCME Council 5 Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864, 2938

August 12, 2011

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN

AFSCME's Hennepin County master committee has been busy putting together the new contract changes for 2012-13. Issues will be many as the employer gave us a long list.

Negotiations start next month. On September 19, the Union will present our contract proposal to the County. Then the County will give the Union the employer's proposal on September 26. After each meeting, we will post the proposal at www.AFSCMEmn.org under Bargaining Updates/Hennepin County.

Usually the County waits to see the contract deal between the State and AFSCME. This time state negotiations haven't started yet and we have no idea when state employees will have a contract.

Watch *Table Talk* to learn about negotiations and how you can get involved.

Action Team and Strike Preparation Team

The Hennepin County Policy committee has put together two committees for negotiations. They are the Action Committee and the Strike Preparation Committee.

Members have made it clear that they are tired of zero wage increases, no steps and shifts in healthcare costs to employees. If we want a different outcome at the table, we need to act differently away from the table. We must get involved as a cohesive group of workers who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We must be willing to fight for a fair contract. To get a good contract, we need members to volunteer for these committees and for members to volunteer for action. Join NOW – your participation is essential!

Action Committee: Cathy McMahon is heading up the Action Committee, which has been meeting regularly. If you can volunteer on the Action team, call her or send her an email.

The team is recruiting AFSCME activists from all seven Hennepin County districts to meet with their commissioner. Groups will meet beforehand to plan what they want to say when they visit with commissioners. The approach is non-confrontational relationship building at this point.

Strike Preparation Committee: The Committee chair is David Cohoes. The committee will look at what preparation needs do get done if we need to have a strike. They will select committee chairs to help with this. If you can volunteer on this committee, call David Cohoes.

The AFSCME Hennepin County Policy committee, made up of leaders from all Hennepin County locals, will be hosting a member information table! Please stop by:

August 17, 18 and 19

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**on the Government Center PSL
near the Park Café and Information Booth**

We'll be there to answer questions and want to hear from you about what you feel is important about our upcoming contract negotiations and what you are willing to do to help.

- ❖ **Local 34** – Social and Health Services – President: Jean Diederich
- ❖ **Local 552** – Probation and Parole Officers – President: Pat Guernsey
- ❖ **Local 1719** – Adult Corrections Officers – President: Dale Blom
- ❖ **Local 2822** – Clerical and Related Services – President: Lynn Stetler
- ❖ **Local 2864** – Professional and Librarians – President: Caron Chapman
- ❖ **Local 2938** – Legal and Essential Units – President: Kellie Charles

AFSCME Field Representatives – Matt Nelson, Jeff Dains, Mark Baker