

Who are we? AFSCME! Who does the work? WE DO!

Lindsey Fenner, Executive Board At-Large, Penn Lake Library

The voices of almost 30 AFSCME Local 2822 activists rang through the Hennepin County Government Center atrium as part of a day-long action-packed Local 2822 retreat for activists, stewards, and officers on April 16. The day started with a report from our president, Ali Fuhrman, on how far we have come in the past year as a union in fighting for workers in Hennepin County, and how far we still need to go. Workers from some of our most represented departments spoke about their struggles and successes in advocating for themselves, their coworkers, and the communities we serve. Then we went up to the 24th floor of the Government Center to let the Hennepin County Commissioners know what it's really like to work for Hennepin County.

In the packed office entry, members spoke boldly and beautifully about experiences of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation at work; struggles to get by on less than a living wage; and how we will **all** keep fighting for the respect we deserve. Thanks to Commissioner McLaughlin, and especially the aides and administrative support staff who took the time to listen. (You can watch the videos on our website: www.afscme2822.org or Facebook page: [@afscme2822](https://www.facebook.com/afscme2822).)

After making some noise and visiting a few work areas, we spent the afternoon learning about the contract bargaining process from Monica at the University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service. We finished the day sharing our contract proposals at the Hennepin County AFSCME master team meeting.

It was a busy day, made successful by the hard work of the planning committee: Daniel, Ali, Susan, Natasha, Dafa, and Val (thanks Val for the tasty food, especially the cake and strawberries!). Thank you!

As we go into contract negotiations May 7, never forget: **The County Works Because We Do!**

May 2018

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May

Membership Meeting
Wednesday, May 2

Minneapolis Central Library
Doty Board Room
6:30PM

June

Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 6

Minneapolis Central Library
Doty Board Room
6:30PM



In Solidarity with Striking Teachers

Shane Clune, Co-Chief Steward, East Lake Library

As public-sector workers, we earn our pay by looking after the needs of our communities, and we recognize the vital role that public school teachers, and all teachers, play in enriching the lives and minds of our children. We also recognize that teachers, and all public workers, face escalating attacks from the business class and its drudges in federal, state, and local governments. We all face creeping privatization and ratcheting take-backs of health benefits and wages. We all are forced to do more work with less staff and fewer resources every year. We all are attacked by business tools in the legislature, who accuse us all of being lazy, greedy, and unreasonable whenever we point out the ways in which we are being bled.

We recognize the right of public workers, and workers everywhere, to fight for our rights by any means necessary, including but not limited to strikes, slowdowns, and walkouts. We recognize the historical and necessary role that illegal, radical, large scale working class actions such as public-sector strikes have played in winning more respect, pay, and power. AFSCME existed before public workers could legally have unions. Public sector workers, including teachers, regularly strike, legally or not, and win. If it were not for this radical activity, we would not have the few labor rights that we have. The actions of striking teachers in West Virginia, in Oklahoma, in Kentucky, and soon in Arizona, have shown us all the

future of public sector organizing. When all of the teachers in the state show up at the Capital, the legislature listens. When public sector workers can forge deep, meaningful ties to the community, the people are immune to the lies the legislature tells about us. When public sector workers stand strong together, we force the bosses to deal with our demands.

In states like Iowa and Wisconsin, collective bargaining rights have been stolen from public sector workers. We are going to have to fight for our basic rights as unions. We are going to have to fight like our forebears just to hold on. Teachers in West Virginia fought like that. They understood the hardball politics of labor and capital. Legal or not, they struck. They made the legislature negotiate, and when “the union leadership” caved too early, teachers went back to the picket and won five percent pay raises for all state workers. Teachers in Oklahoma weren’t afraid either. They struck to get a living wage, and to get resources for their criminally underfunded classrooms. The legislature tried to buy the teachers off with their first major raise in years. But that didn’t help the students. So the Oklahoma teachers went back on strike.

AFSCME 2822 stands in solidarity with striking teachers, and we back that up with cash. For this reason, the membership has approved \$200 donations to the Oklahoma teachers, the Kentucky teachers, and (soon) the Arizona teachers.

Fight like hell, brothers and sisters.

Stamp Out Hunger!

Brett Schlosser, Steward, North Regional Library

It's the month of May once again! All across this nation, people with an enduring love for Family Circus comics and blue polyethylene bags filled with shelf-stable food have been waiting the entire year in anticipation of one thing only. It's 26th annual National Letter Carrier's Association Stamp Out Hunger food drive! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 12**. Stamp Out Hunger is the largest single day food drive in the country. You'll soon notice the blue plastic bags available at your local supermarket. All you need to do is fill a bag with shelf-stable food and leave it out at your mail box on Saturday May 12. Your letter carrier will do the rest.

AFSCME 2822 stands in solidarity with our hard-working brothers and sisters of NLCA Branch 9. On **Saturday, May 12**, we'll be in the parking lot of the **Brooklyn Center Cub Foods, 3245 County Road 10**, unloading an endless parade of mail delivery vehicles crammed to the max with donated food, then re-loading subsequent food into very large trucks for delivery to Second Harvest Heartland. Family Circus' Jeff Kean makes a cartoon about it every time! Please join us **Saturday May 12!** It's all to help fill the plates of the 1 in 10 Minnesotans at risk of hunger. Last year we collected 1.2 million pounds of food. Let's beat that goal and Stamp Out Hunger!

Good and Welfare

We take care of our union family. Local 2822 has a few different ways to support members. We have a standing Good and Welfare fund to provide up to \$200 of financial assistance to members. On request, we also share out PTO donation needs through our email list. We also send out cards. Contact any officer listed on the back, or our Good and Welfare Coordinator, Rosine Johnson:

rosine.johnson@hennepin.us

Working Partnerships:

Union Member Emergency Assistance

Working Partnerships provides emergency financial and food assistance to union members living in Hennepin, Anoka, Scott, Carver, Wright, Meeker, and McLeod counties. It is a partnership of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO, and the United Way. For more, go to **workingpartnerships.org**. For assistance, contact Ashley Novak at **ashley@minneapolisunions.org**

Union Scholarships!

AFSCME Council 5 Scholarships:

Council 5 has three scholarships, two for high school seniors who are children/dependents of Council 5 members, one for adult members of Council 5. (You are a member of Council 5 if you are a member of Local 2822). **For more:**

<http://afscmemn.org/scholarships>

Deadline: Friday May 11, 2018

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to racial minority union members and their families who wish to pursue an education at one of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. **For more:**

<http://www.nelliestone.org/scholarship-program>

Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2018

United We Bargain, Divided We Beg! Contract Negotiations Start May 7!

What you need to know:

Rally: Contract Campaign Kickoff Rally
Monday, May 7, 12PM-1PM
Hennepin County Government Center,
North Plaza

On Tuesdays We Wear Green!

Show your union solidarity on Tuesdays and negotiation days by wearing any beautiful shade of green! Show off your swag by sharing a photo to our Facebook page.

Email

afscme2822unity@gmail.com for a Limited Collector's Edition Contract 2018 T-shirt!

Communication: We want our members to be as informed as possible! The most up-to-date sources will be electronic.

- ★ **Join our email list:** From your personal email address, send a blank message to:
2822-open-forum-subscribe@lists.riseup.net
- ★ **Go to our website:** www.afscme2822.org
- ★ **Like us on Facebook:** [@Afscme2822](https://www.facebook.com/Afscme2822)

Our 2822 Table Team (Thank you!):

Brianne Carmichael (HSPHD), Shane Clune (Library), Ali Fuhrman (Library), DJ Hooker (Library), Rosine Johnson (Service Center), Jayne Mikulay (Library), Adonna Swift (HSPHD), Anthony Ware (HSPHD), Daniel Winker (IT/Central Imaging), Rita Watson (County Attorney), Val Wiggins (PSF), and Jacky Wilson (PSF).

Bargaining Dates May-June (more to come):

Monday, May 7, 9AM: Union Opening Proposal
Monday, May 21, 9AM: County Opening Proposal
Thursday, May 31, 9AM: Bargaining Session #1
Tuesday, June 12, 9AM: Bargaining Session #2
Thursday, June 14, 9AM: Bargaining Session #3

April Meeting Highlights

Compiled by Lindsey Fenner from notes by Susan Rose, Recording Secretary. For a full copy of meeting minutes, contact Susan directly at susanrose1955@gmail.com

- ★ Membership approved our budget, including an office space. Look for info about that soon!
- ★ 2822 decided to send 2 members to the AFSCME International Convention in Boston. Look to the right for more details.
- ★ The membership approved solidarity donations to teachers striking across the U.S. Read Shane's statement on page 2.
- ★ The Union Defense Committee wants to hear your story of discrimination and harassment at Hennepin County.
Email: 2822defensecommittee@gmail.com
- ★ 2822 voted to endorse the No Muslim Ban Protest on April 22.

Upcoming Events

Contract Campaign Kickoff Rally

Monday, May 7,
12PM-1PM
Hennepin County
Government Center,
North Plaza

One hour of lost time is available.

United We Bargain, Divided We Beg!

44th Annual MayDay Parade and Festival **Sunday, May 6**

11AM Parade Line-up, Cedar Field, 25th and Cedar
Ave, Minneapolis

Join our union and other labor organizations in this beloved annual community event. Contact Ali, afuhrman@hclib.org or afuhrman13@gmail.com for more info or to help.

Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive **Saturday, May 12 Afternoon**

Brooklyn Center Cub Foods, 3245 County Road 10
Leave a blue plastic bag filled with non-perishable food at your mail box, then come on out in the afternoon to the Brooklyn Center Cub to help unload and load donations. For more, contact Ann Baird: ann.baird@hennepin.us

Steward Contact Correction

Last month's newsletter backpage had an error in the steward phone number. The correct number is: **612-470-2822**

Call for Delegates!

AFSCME Local 2822 will be sending two delegates to the **International Convention, July 16-20, 2018, Boston, MA.** Nominations will be held at our membership meeting on **Wednesday, May 2.** Any contested race will be determined by secret ballot vote at our **June 6** membership meeting. Questions or interest, contact any officer.

New Treasurer

LaKeashia Robinson is no longer able to serve as local treasurer. Thank you for all of your work in this truly difficult position! Brianne Carmichael was elected by the Executive Board on April 17 to fill this position. Brianne is a steward-in-training, a co-chair of the Union Defense Committee, a member of the contract table team, and bold advocate for **real** diversity and inclusion. She works as an OSIII in HSPHD Administrative Services- Eligibility and Work Services and Child Care Registration at the Northwest Hub.

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:

Rita Watson
County Attorney's Office
Mail Code 510

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.

Contact Rosine Johnson, our Good and Welfare Coordinator: **rosine.johnson@hennepin.us** or call **952-221-7454** (cell) or **612-596-0970** (work). 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.
www.deltadentalmn.org

Delta Access :

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

Always refer to your group number **538**.

For an application or if you are retiring and want to continue Delta Dental, contact Deb Cassidy at AFSCME at **651-287-0508** or email **dental@afscmemn.org**



A New Voice deadline is May 10, 5PM.

Articles should be 400-500 words in length, letters less than 300 words. Send your written contributions to:

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lindseyafenner@gmail.com

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Local 2822 Officers

President	Alessandra "Ali" Fuhrman afuhrman@hclib.org	612-543-6909 720-771-8471 (cell)
Vice President	Jayne Mikulay jmikulay@hclib.org	612-543-8426
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Chief Steward	Shane Clune sclune@hclib.org	612-543-8426
Chief Steward	Sam Gutierrez afscme2822sg@gmail.com	612-460-7264 (cell)
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	Lindsey Fenner lfenner@hclib.org	612-543-5801
	Adonna Swift adonna.swift@hennepin.us	612-543-2195
	Daniel Winker daniel.winker@hennepin.us	612-348-9566
Delta Dental Trustee	Ann Baird ann.baird@hennepin.us	612-543-0270
Good & Welfare	Rosine Johnson rosine.johnson@hennepin.us	612-596-0970 952-221-7454 (cell)

Local 2822 Website & Facebook

www.afscme2822.org/

Facebook: **@afscme2822**

AFSCME 2822 Steward Assistance

Phone: 612-470-2822

Email: AFSCME2822steward@gmail.com

Weingarten Rights: If you are called to a meeting with a manager, you have the right to have a union representative, officer, or steward present if you feel the discussion could in any way lead to being disciplined or terminated, or affect your personal working conditions. Until a representative arrives, you have the right to not participate in the meeting. Stewards are assigned by the chief stewards.

Shane Clune Chief Steward East Lake Library	sclune@hclib.org clune2822@gmail.com	612-543-8426 (work) 320-224-9344 (cell)
Sam Gutierrez Chief Steward Member At-Large	afscme2822sg@gmail.com	612-460-7264 (cell) In subject line type "2822 911" for emergency

Kameron Alexander
DOCCR/JDC

Tonica Ambrose*
HSPHD/North Hub

Brianne Carmichael*
HSPHD/NW Hub

Shari Casso*
IT/Imaging-GC/NW Hub

Ali Fuhrman
Hosmer Library

Rosine Johnson*
RRES/Midtown Service Center

Dari Kolstad*
HSPHD/HSB

Jayne Mikulay
East Lake Library

Genae Nicole
Hennepin Health/Grain Exchange

Devin Puruganan*
HSPHD-Central NE/HSB

Susan Rose
Franklin Library

Brett Schlosser
North Regional Library

Robbin Sudduth*
HSPHD/HSB

Anthony Ware*
HSPHD/HSB

Daniel Winker
IT/Imaging- HCGC

**Steward-in-training*