

2021

Year in Action







2021 Year in Action

In the Middle of a Global Pandemic,
AFSCME 65 Keeps Fighting for You.

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Be In The Know

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Who We Are

America's communities never rest. Streets need cleaning. Families need care. Students deserve well-run schools, and our neighborhoods demand safety. That's why people who work in public service never stop. This isn't just a job. It's a calling. The work matters because it means something to make a community better.

AFSCME Council 65 believes that every person working to sustain their community deserves respect. AFSCME is one of the leading advocates for working women and men in Minnesota. We represent 13,500 members across Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota who provide the vital services that make our communities work, and we believe everyone deserves a chance to earn a living wage, good benefits, and the freedom to organize together to negotiate their terms and conditions of employment.

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**OUR UNION
OUR FUTURE**

AFSCME Council 65 Executive Director, & AFSCME International Vice-President

When we look back on this year, I hope we can remember all we accomplished instead of how difficult things have been. For many of us, after almost two years on the frontlines of this pandemic, this year was filled with stress, chaos, and fatigue. Yet, together, the members of AFSCME Council 65 have accomplished amazing things. 2021 saw a rebirth of solidarity and collective action. You and your union siblings showed AFSCME can lead in Minnesota and South Dakota.

AFSCME Dispatchers in Itasca County, pushed for a working group to set training standards to improve Minnesota's emergency response system. Denied a pay increase in 2021, and lacking a voice in their workplace, workers at Lake Region Hospital's Cancer Care and Research Center organized and formed a union. Now after ratifying their first AFSCME contract, workers are seeing wage increases up to 12%. Our Brown County local in South Dakota fought back their employers attempt to decertify their union, winning their election 26 to 1. All together AFSCME 65 had 14 new locals organize with us.

The way that you, our members, stand together to lift one another fills me with optimism for our union. Unprecedented corporate forces have targeted unions, public employees and healthcare workers. I expect that in 2022 and beyond, these efforts to silence workers and strip away your earned benefits will only intensify. It will take all of us standing together to fight for working families right to prosper. When I see your commitment to our shared AFSCME 65 vision, I know we can face what's ahead.

In Solidarity,



Executive Director, AFSCME Council 65
AFSCME International Vice-President



Shannon Douvier

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Building Our Union

Jo Musel Parr
Field & Organizing Services Director



As the pandemic drags on, workers across the country are realizing the value of their work and demanding fair treatment and respect. From a record number of new unions and members nationwide, to #Striketober, #Strikesgiving and #MerryStrikemas. At Council 65 we saw the same momentum for our movement. We helped 14 groups of workers organize their first union, and over 1,600 of your coworkers chose to sign a membership card joining your union. We were able to accrete 33 positions into our existing locals.

In South Dakota, Executive Board Member-Tanner Corbin lead a member drive signing up 108 new members. We welcomed the Lincoln County Highway workers. In Brown County, the employer saw the union membership had fallen and tried to dissolve the local. The local organized itself from one member to winning a recertification vote 26 to 1! That is the power of organizing, and the power of you the AFSME Member.

Know somebody who needs a union?
AFSCME 65 Organizing Incentive
 Current members can earn an organizing incentive of up to \$750 for organizing leads that result in a successful union election. The Incentive is shared between the member and their local. To learn more or help a workplace form a union, contact Field & Organizing Services Director Jo Musel Parr at:
jmuselparr@afscme65.org

New Locals in 2021 Welcome to AFSCME 65!		Lincoln County Highway Workers, South Dakota	Essentia Eye Clinic, Virginia MN
Kittson County Courthouse & Social Services	Steele County Probation Agents	Fairview Range Phlebotomists	Austin Schools Foodservices
Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Schools	Kitchigami Library System	City of Menahga	City of Tower EMS
Leo A. Hoffman Center	Carris, Rice Memorial Hospital, Surgical Techs	Lake Region Healthcare, Cancer Center	City of Nashwauk EMS

New Tools to Organize Your Local

Digital Membership Cards: You can now go paperless! Thanks to our new online membership card you can sign coworkers up using your phone, tablet, or computer. Simply go to www.afscme65.org/join or use our Local Leader Business Cards below to sign them up. Once they complete the card, our office automatically receives a copy and processes their membership.



Welcome to AFSCME Council 65! **AFSCME**

Join Your Union! Become an AFSCME 65 Member with Dues Authorization.

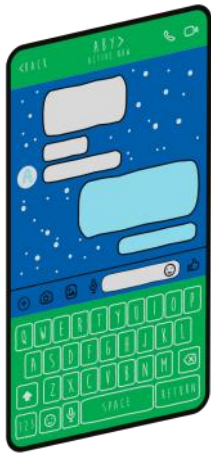
Local: _____ Chapter: _____

Last: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Call Phone* Home Phone _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Work Phone: _____

Home Address (if different from mailing address): _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Enter your email address: _____ Personal Email: _____

Employer: _____ Job Title: _____ Department/Worksite: _____ Employee ID: _____



Communication Tools: We have a number of new tools that can help medium or large locals stay organized with effective communication. Talk to your Labor Representative if you are interest in trying any of these tools.

Email—We can help you send meeting invitations or contract information to your members personal email addresses.

Text—For important meetings or actions, we can send text messages to members reminding them of an important event or issue.

Social Media—Many locals already have a Facebook Page or Group, if yours doesn't you should talk with your leaders and consider creating one. We should meet members where they are, and 70% of adults are on Facebook. We can help!

Talk to your Labor Representative if you are interest in trying any of these tools.

Local Leader Business Cards: Do new members of your local struggle to know who to contact with questions about their union or contract? Start giving out our Local Leader Business Cards. They include a QR code and link to the digital membership cards above, making it easy for them to join. There are blank spaces for each leader to leave their contact information, and information on how to contact our offices. The back reminds members about their Weingarten right to have a steward join them for any disciplinary meeting.

To request a stack of Local Leader Business Cards, ask your Labor Representative or email us at: info@afscme65.org





Awards

Recognizing Commitment &
Dedication to our AFSCME 65 Family.

Lifetime Achievement Award:



Steve Giorgi is remembered by most of our members as AFSCME Council 65's Associate Director, but many of our members belong to locals organized by Steve during his time as a Temporary Organizer. He was so effective in growing Council 65, we needed to hire additional staff representatives to keep up. His motto is, "You can participate in life, or you can be a spectator. I've chosen to participate."



Troy Bauch's commitment to AFSCME members began as a WI State Trooper. In his local of over 6,000 members, he served as Steward, Treasurer, and President. Council 24 Director Marty Biel encouraged Troy to make a career out of the labor movement. He joined AFSCME 65 in 2016. Troy's passion for members is difficult to match, encouraging them to advocate for their AFSCME Siblings.

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Joel Plienis Award, Outstanding Local Secretary/Treasurer:

Maggie Pierskalla has served as Secretary/Treasurer of Local 748, (St. Cloud & Stearns County) for over 12 years. Her position requires her to diligently manage the records and finances of the 19 chapters that fall under her local. Maggie has always made sure to respond quickly to members questions. All members and leaders of Local 748 thank her for her continued commitment to their union.



Outstanding Leadership Award:

Kari Niska helped navigate her local through a school consolidation. She and her brothers & sisters put in long hours negotiating the merger of Virginia Schools, Local 85 and Eveleth-Gilbert, Local 735. With Kari's attitude focused on rising above whatever one may face, the new Rockridge Schools, Local 3 can be confident in their ability to grow under Kari's continued leadership.



Taylor-Morsching Award, Outstanding Leadership, South Dakota

Sean Jewett, like many local leaders, was not planning on taking charge of his union. Yet when Local 1031 - Rapid City, South Dakota needed a new president, Sean stepped up. He has worked hard to improve the labor management relationship with the city administration. A deeply committed union activist, members can be confident Sean will continue to build upon the positive changes under his leadership.





Convention 2021

The 58th Annual Council 65 Convention.
September 24th, 2021, Duluth Minnesota

AFSCME International President, Lee Saunders

This year we were honored to welcome AFSCME International President Lee Saunders to open our 58th AFSCME Council 65 Convention in Duluth Minnesota. President Saunders energized the crowd by highlighting the amazing work done by AFSCME 65 members throughout this pandemic. He shared some of the vital federal legislative wins that AFSCME members fought hard to achieve. Wins such as the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. Most importantly he came back to the need for solidarity among workers, and how we must not let any force divide or weaken our movement.



Resolutions & Constitutional Amendments:

Resolution 1: Raising Up Frontline Heroes

AFSCME Council 65 resolves to support frontline workers, to make them whole, protect them in future emergencies, and make sure our communities never forget their struggles and sacrifices.

Resolution 2: Hourly School Worker Equity

AFSCME Council 65 resolves to fight to make hourly school workers eligible for the same benefits and programs available to other workers.

Resolution 3: Mental Health Systems

AFSCME 65 resolves to support the mental health of all members and organize and support behavioral and mental health workers.

Resolution 4: Workplace Safety

AFSCME 65 resolves fight for the safety of all workers on the job.

Amendment 1: Membership & Revenue

This amendment removed outdated language relating to certain larger locals of over 250 members. The updated provision can be seen in Article IV, Section 2 of our AFSCME Council 65 Constitution.

59th Annual AFSCME 65 Convention

October 6th-8th 2022

Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

If you are interested in attending, reach out to your local president or labor representative.

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AFSCME Council 65 Executive Board:

**President
Mark Reger**



**Vice-President
Peggy Kinzler**



**Treasurer
Kristine Hamm**



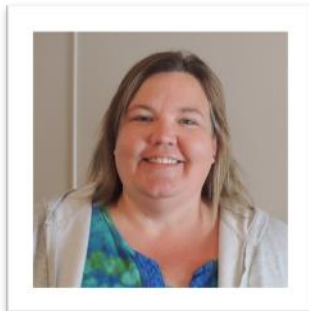
**Secretary
Jennifer Simota**



**MLPNA President
Deb Tauer**



**Dist. 2 Member
Amanda Due**



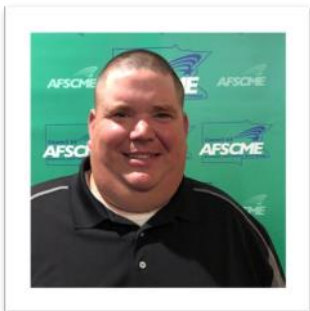
**Dist. 3 Member
Kevin O'Laughlin**



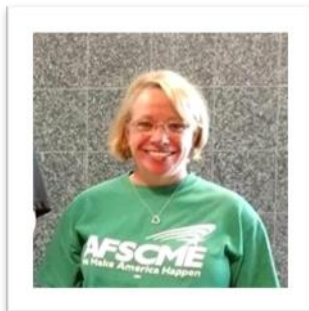
**Dist. 4 Member
Todd Larson**



**At-Large Member
Eric Anderson**



**At-Large Member
Dawn Cullifer**



**SD Member
Tanner Corbin**



**Retirees Member
Steve Preble**



Learn More: WWW.AFSCME65.ORG



AFSCME International

I.4 Million AFSCME Members Nationwide
Stand Together as One AFSCME Family

AFSCME International Leadership



President Lee Saunders, was elected at the 40th International Convention in 2012. A member from Cleveland, Saunders was a labor economist before becoming a leader for AFSCME. Saunders is the first African American to Serve as President.



Secretary-Treasurer Elissa McBride, joined the labor movement as an organizer with the AFL-CIO. She joined AFSCME in 2001 as the Director of Education and Leadership Training, helping build the next generation of AFSCME local leaders. She has worked tirelessly to help train and support all of our local treasurers.



International Vice-President Shannon Douvier, joined AFSCME in 2004 as a member of Local 3628 as a Family Service Worker. She served as a local steward and later as local president before becoming a labor representative for Council 65. Shannon is also the Executive Director for AFSCME Council 65.



AFSCME International President Lee Saunders with AFSCME Council 65 Executive Director & International Vice-President Shannon Douvier at the 2021 Council 65 Convention.

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AFSCME is Working for You

American Rescue Plan

What's in it?

- \$360 billion in Relief Funding for State & Local Governments
- \$170 billion in aid to local schools to help them reopen safely.
- Up to \$1,400 in relief to working families.
- \$100 billion in aid to public transit systems.
- \$200 million for enforcement of workplace safety.
- Emergency COBRA Subsidies for workers laid off.
- Local Healthcare Grants & Emergency Funding
- Major increases to the Child Tax Credit, and Earned Income Tax Credit.

What it took:

In order to get this passed, it took a nationwide effort from our AFSCME family. Together we:

- Generated more than **138,000 calls and letters** to Congress & the White House.
- Partnered with **800 Governors & Local Officials** to stress the needs of frontline workers.
- Shared stories through 33 press events, all with the unmistakable message: Fund the Frontlines.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders hailed the signing of the relief bill as “a historic victory for public service workers and working families across the country,” and called it “a bold and comprehensive expression of our values.”

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

What's in it?

- Grants to help State & Local Governments to repair roadways and bridges.
- Increased funding for operating and maintaining local public transit systems.
- \$11.7 billion for drinking water projects, \$15 billion for lead pipe replacement, and another \$11.7 billion for waste water projects.
- \$42 billion for broadband access.
- And so much more!

More AFSCME Wins:

- Confirmed **Marty Walsh**, U.S. Secretary of Labor.
- Build Back Better Act Passed in the U.S. House.
- Overhaul of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
- Confirmed **Pro-Union Pro-Worker NLRB Members:**
David Prouty, Gwynne Wilcox, Jennifer Abruzzo
- Confirmed **Pro-Worker Judges:**
Jennifer Sung-Oregon Federal District Court
Lucy Koh-U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
- **Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act** was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Learn More About AFSCME International: WWW.AFSCME.ORG

AFSCME Advantage

Scan the QR Code to see all of the ways your **AFSCME 65** membership is working for you!

Scan this code to learn more:



- [AT&T Discounts](#)
- [Personal Loan](#)
- [Credit Counseling](#)
- [Scholarships](#)
- [Travel Deals](#)
- [Public Safety Protection](#)
- [Car Rentals](#)
- [Concerts & Events](#)
- [Restaurants](#)
- [Car Shopping](#)
- [Legal Services](#)
- [Professional Moving](#)

Health Benefits:

- [Dental](#)
- [Prescriptions](#)
- [Alert Monitoring](#)
- [Vision](#)
- [Hearing](#)
- [Medical Bill Negotiating Services](#)



Insurance Benefits:

- [Life Insurance](#)
- [Home Insurance](#)
- [Renters Insurance](#)
- [Auto Insurance](#)
- [Accident Insurance](#)
- [Pet Health Insurance](#)

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AFSCME Free College Program

You and your family can earn a certificate or a degree with no out-of-pocket costs!

Certificates & Associate's Degrees:

- Advertising
- Cannabis Fundamentals
- Cyber Security
- Data Analytics
- Digital Marketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Science

- Finance
- Informational Tech.
- Hospitality
- Human Resources
- Labor Studies
- Marketing
- Waste Management
- Fire Science
- Medical Coding
- Medical Scribe

Bachelor's Degrees:

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Communications
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- History
- Legal Studies
- Math
- Psychology

[And Many More!](#)

[And Many More!](#)

For You and Your Family

Family includes children (or step children), grandchildren (or step grandchildren), parents, siblings, spouses, domestic partners, and financial dependents. Family members do not have to live with you and there is no age limit.

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Classes start every 8 weeks.

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Staffing Updates

Welcoming New Team Members & Saying Goodbye to others.

Executive Director, Shannon Douvier (Left), & AFSCME 65 President, Mark Reger (Right), Present Linda Kresal (Center) with a plaque recognizing her years of service to Council 65.

New Staff:

Membership Coord.
Bonnie Hinders



Membership Coord.
Chae Norman



Labor Rep. NW MN
LeiLani Hauge



Labor Rep. SC MN
Audra Waylett



Retiring Staff:

Linda Kresal, has been an integral part of our AFSCME 65 family for over a decade. Serving as the council's Finance Director, Linda helped keep our union running.

While we are happy for her well earned milestone, we are sad to say goodbye to one of our AFSCME 65 family members. On Behalf of our entire council, we wish you a long and joyful retirement



Finance Administrator
Bev Pekerna



Labor Rep. S Dakota
Puja Datta





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Looking Ahead to 2022

Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association Annual Conference



April 26th, 27th, 28th, 2022
Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN

45th International AFSCME Convention



July 11th-15th, 2022
Philadelphia, PA

59th Annual AFSCME Council 65 Convention



October 6th, 7th, 8th, 2022
Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

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