



# WELCOME TO AFSCME COUNCIL 65

Greetings New AFSCME Member!

AFSCME Council 65 represents both public and private sector employees primarily outside the Twin Cities/Duluth areas in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. We are a proud union established over 50 years ago. AFSCME Council 65 is part of the 1.3-million-member AFSCME organization throughout the United States.

Council 65 represents members in over 130 organized locals that are comprised of roughly 430 bargaining units. Our members work in a variety of sectors including counties, cities, school districts, healthcare, and more. Council 65 works to improve the pay and working conditions of its members and is committed to winning respect through strong contracts for its members.

Council 65 is membership driven through the local units. Members of the local union elect their own officers, send delegates to Council conventions, and conduct the day-to-day business of their local through membership meetings. Dues that members pay each month go to the International Union, Council 65, and your local union for use as the membership sees fit.

Each person who joins AFSCME makes the Union stronger and strengthens the Union at the bargaining table. Council 65 provides a staff representative to assist in legal issues, contract negotiations, enforce the contract and provide training to locals for contract administration (grievances), contract negotiations (bargaining) and organizing.

AFSCME International and Council 65 lobby both federal and state legislators on laws that affect public and private sector employees and work to ensure adequate funding is provided for the services that our members perform. AFSCME is also involved in the political arena as your right to collectively bargain is enshrined in state law. Therefore, we engage in the political process at the local, state, and federal level to elect politicians who improve governmental services, are committed to quality public services, respect collective bargaining and public employees. AFSCME members have their own independent political organization called Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality (P.E.O.P.L.E). Union dues cannot be given directly to candidates. So therefore, please consider donating to P.E.O.P.L.E. to help you, as well as your brothers and sister in the labor movement, to protect your rights in the workplace-ask your union officials or your staff representative on how to be involved in the P.E.O.P.L.E. program.

AFSCME Council 65 welcomes you to its Union family and asks you to get involved in your Local. Your Local President will assist you on how you can be involved in making your workplace better. The best way to start getting involved is to attend a union meeting.

Attached are materials to familiarize you with the many benefits of being an AFSCME member.

***Solidarity and welcome.***