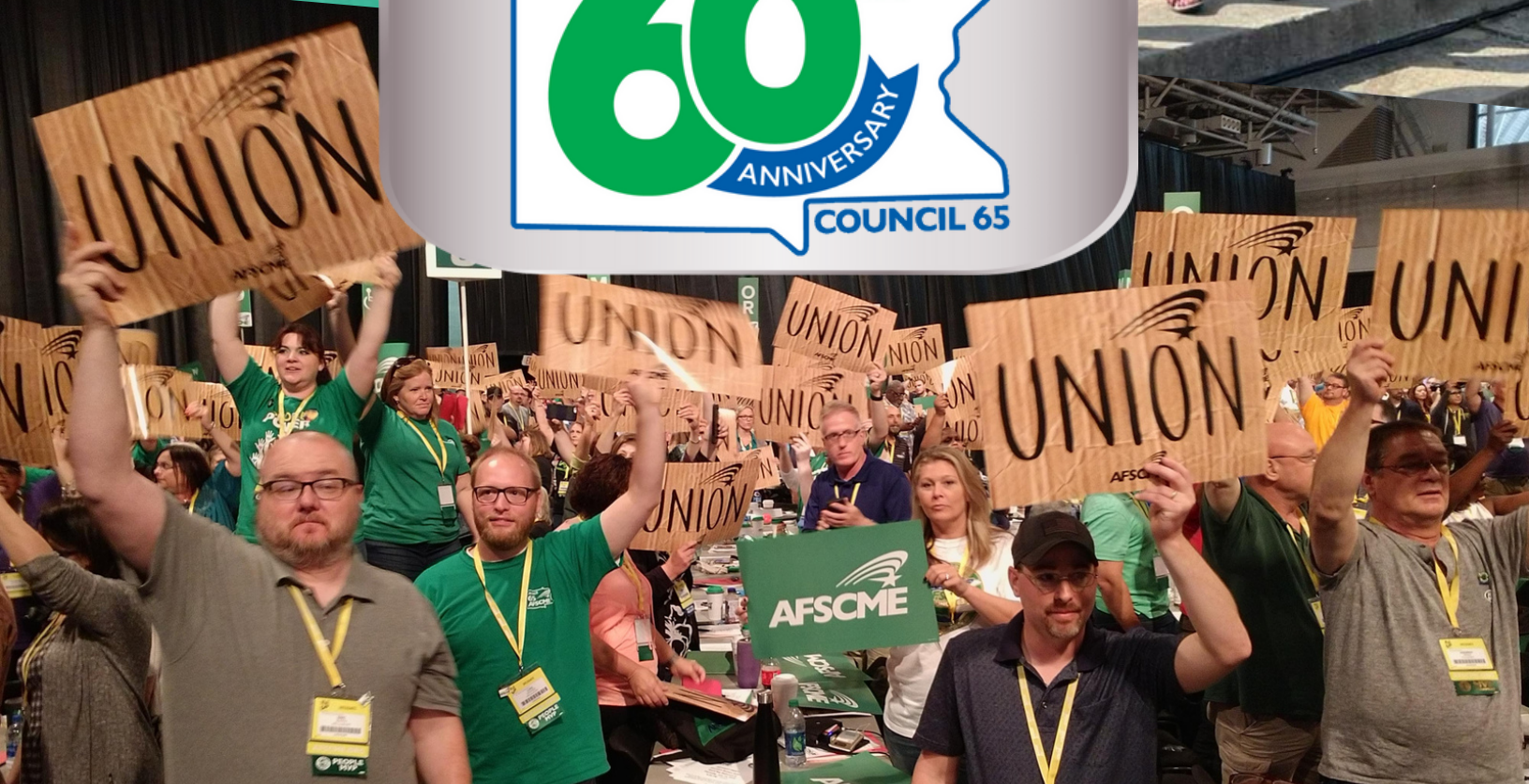


# 60 Years of Action





# 60 YEARS OF ACTION

AFSCME Council 65 is as strong today as ever before. We can be proud of what we have become over the last 60 years. Our Council was chartered in 1963, but some locals, like the cities of Hibbing and Huron, date back to the 1930s. They fought for workers long before the legal protections we are so accustomed to today. These early pioneers laid the foundation for the strong and influential labor organization that AFSCME Council 65 is today.



With a deep history of advocating for workers' rights and fair working conditions, our council has continuously fought for the well-being and dignity of public service employees. As we look towards the future, we remain committed to continue empowering workers in Minnesota & South Dakota.

## A DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY

Looking back, the last 10 years could have been a struggle that the labor movement hasn't seen in a generation. Still recovering from the Great Recession, we faced some of our greatest challenges. Anti-union forces accelerated their campaign to dismantle public service unions, culminating in the Janus V. AFSCME decision in 2018. Rather than give in, members mobilized so that we not only survived, but we became stronger. 2020 brought a global pandemic, and it was AFSCME 65's members on the frontline keeping us safe and healthy. Despite these struggles, we are still here, fighting to lift up workers in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Together we turned a decade of struggles into one of opportunity. We will always continue this fight.

Shannon Douvier  
Executive Director  
AFSCME 65

# 60 YEARS OF AFSCME 65

# Growing our AFSCME 65 Family

Just some of the new groups we welcomed into AFSCME 65 since 2013:

Great River Regional Library  
Becker County DAC  
MN Prairie Co. Alliance  
Pillager City  
Olmsted Co. Asst. Atty.  
Rock Ridge Schools  
SD Development Center  
Isanti County Probation  
Carver County Probation  
Rice County Attorneys  
Des Moines Valley HHS  
BOLD Schools  
Itasca Soil & Water  
Royalton City  
Aitkin City  
Hoyt Lakes EMS  
Rainy Lake Lab Techs  
Central Community Transit  
Grand Itasca Resp. Therapy

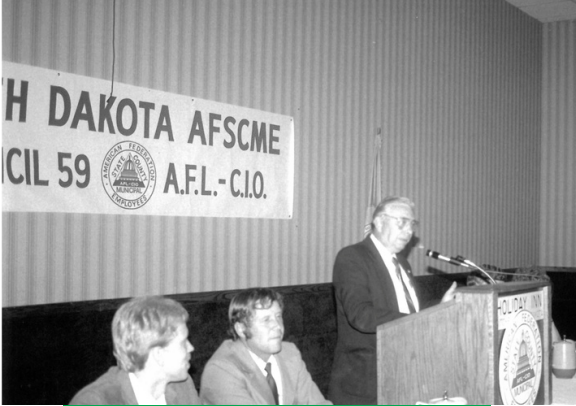
Willmar Bilingual Paras  
Leo Hoffman Center  
Steele County Probation  
Kittson Co. Court & Social Services  
Osakis Paraprofessionals  
Austin Schools Food Service  
Minnesota Schools  
Advocates for Family Peace  
Canby City Supervisors  
Kitchigami Regional Library  
St. Cloud Regional Airport  
Inter-Faith Care Center  
Minnewaska Paras  
Kandiyohi Transit  
Lake Region Cancer Center  
Grand Rapids Schools  
Willmar Sign Language Interpreters  
Cloquet Indian Ed. Tutors & Paras  
Prairie Lakes Juvenile Detention

Long Prairie Schools  
Clara City  
Rice City  
Holdingford City  
Montrose City  
Little Falls City  
Eden Valley City  
Buffalo Lake Hector  
Irondale Township  
Tyler City  
Osakis City  
Canby Schools  
Polk County HHS  
Nashwauk EMS  
Horizon Public Health  
Motley City  
Wadena Human Services  
Chisago Highway Supr.  
Fairview Range Techs.



# MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS COME TOGETHER

In 2015 AFSCME Council 59 joined with Council 65 bringing together Minnesota and South Dakota into one growing AFSCME family. Today AFSCME in South Dakota remains strong with record membership since the merger took place.



# 2015

# Solidarity Together





# JANUS, FRIEDRICHS

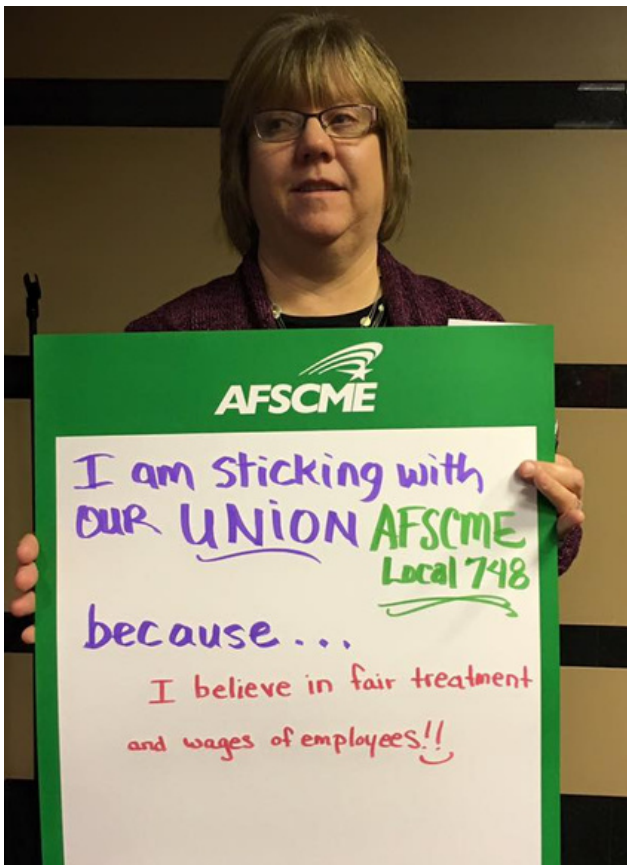


# AND AFSCME STRONG

Public service workers achieved a small reprieve in 2016. The Supreme Court did not end public sector unions' ability to collect fees from nonmembers. With a tie vote in Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, we knew this was only a temporary relief.

Sure enough, less than one year later, public sector unions were targeted again

Janus v. AFSCME lawsuit was an attack on the freedom of working people to come together. Although fronted by a lone Illinois state employee, the case was bankrolled by the National Right to Work Foundation and the Liberty Justice Center — the litigation wing of the Illinois Policy Institute — part of a network funded by billionaires and corporate CEOs who use their massive fortunes to tilt the playing field in their favor.



We created AFSCME Strong to prepare for the Friedrichs and Janus cases. The goal was to have one-one-one conversations with members about the importance of recommitting to their unions. Nationwide we had over 900,000 conversations before the Janus decision. After those conversations, almost 18,000 new public service workers joined AFSCME. The court's decision was not the end of public sector unions, it has only emboldened us to fight harder for working families.

# ON THE FRONTLINE OF A PANDEMIC



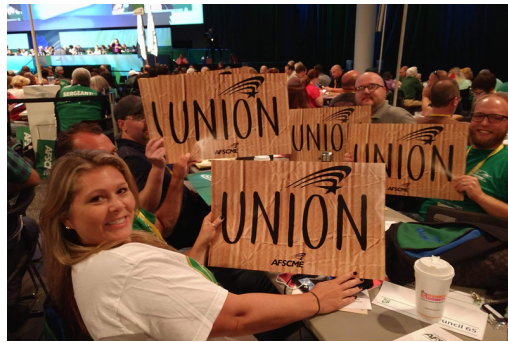
As the world shut down over a global pandemic, AFSCME 65 members were on the frontlines keeping our communities safe and healthy. Healthcare workers took care of our loved ones when sick. Public Health workers helped organize our community response. School workers provided childcare for essential workers. So many AFSCME members did so much, and each was a Frontline Hero.

Our union was there every step of the way. We ensured members could work from home when possible. For those who had to work in person, we pushed employers to follow proper safety protocols. At the capitol, we fought for better protections and recognition for frontline workers. Our union is stronger because of how we helped lead the way through this pandemic.

**We remember our AFSCME 65 siblings and their loved ones lost during the pandemic.**







# Just Some of the Pro Worker Legislation



## AFSCME 65 Members Helped Pass:

**Paid Family & Medical Leave**

**Unemployment Insurance  
For School Workers**

**Private Prisons Banned**

**Earned Sick & Safe Time**

**Nursing Home  
Workforce Standards Board**

**Ban on Captive Audience  
Meetings**

**Public Sector Card Check**

**Juneteenth Holiday**



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the 2023 legislative session & hear member testimony.





# Historic Wins For Working Families

In 2022, AFSCME members in Minnesota worked hard to elect politicians who respect public service workers.

That hard work paid off, as AFSCME members were able to secure major victories for Minnesotans in 2023 — banning private prisons/jails, securing unemployment benefits for school workers, getting paid leave for working Minnesotans, obtaining robust state funding for public services.



“The Minnesota Legislature just passed a long list of once-in-a-generation improvements for working families across our state,”

- Shannon Douvier,  
Executive Director of Council 65  
AFSCME International Vice-President.



Members from every corner of the state got involved in this year’s legislative session. They lobbied, testified, rallied, called, wrote letters, met with legislators and talked to the governor to get pro-worker legislation across the finish line.

“Every AFSCME member, Minnesotan, and their families will benefit from things like Paid Family and Medical Leave. Our school workers will finally be eligible for unemployment insurance like every other worker. All of this is a direct result of the thousands of doors knocked and calls made by AFSCME members to elect a pro-worker trifecta in Minnesota.”



AFSCME  
**60<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
COUNCIL 65

SOLIDARITY

Fair WAGES  
Fair TREATMENT  
Fair CONTRACT

Fair WAGES  
Fair TREATMENT  
Fair CONTRACT

Fair WAGES  
Fair TREATMENT  
Fair CONTRACT

SOLIDARITY

SOLIDARITY

It's About Freedom!

HONK FOR DEMOCRACY

AFSCME  
MINNESOTA COUNCIL  
65  
CONVENTION

NEGOTIATE

MINNESOTA  
65  
CONVENTION

AFSCME  
We Make America Happier

AFSCME  
We Make America Happier

ON STRIKE  
LOCAL 243  
AFSCME COUNCIL 65 AFSCME

ties97

Wellstone!

AMERICANNA  
INN

Let's Pull Together

Let's Pull Together

Local 844

Clerical and Technical

It's About Freedom!

AFSCME

