

3801



Name the news!
See pg. 2 for logo and title naming contests and PRIZE info!

AFSCME Local 3801, UMD Clerical & Technical Workers

Volume 1, Number 1

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3801 represents UMD Clerical (Unit 6) and Technical (Unit 7) staff on issues pertaining to all terms and conditions of their employment contract with the University of Minnesota, specific to employees of the Duluth campus.

Welcome to New Members!

Welcome to all AFSCME-represented employees who have recently become full-share paid members! Your full-share fees (approx. \$2-3 dollars more per pay period than fair-share fees) are what comprise our local unit's budget.

Haven't become a full member yet?

No problem — fair-share employees can become full-share at any time to receive voting privileges, access to

members-only sections of the website, and the knowledge that you're supporting the organization that supports you! Remember, all AFSCME employees reap the benefits of union-negotiated contracts and advantage programs, but it's the full members who make decisions and feel the pride of knowing that they make a difference for their fellow workers. It's never too late: find the membership form online or send email to union@afscme3801.org.

For new UMD employees

AFSCME's new Welcome Committee, formed after the September strike, has customized a welcome packet to give to all newly-hired UMD AFSCME employees. This packet includes a wealth of useful information about the union, including a full-share membership sign-up card. The committee will be going through some training on December 12 to learn about approaching and greeting new hires, and they plan to start personally welcoming new hires in January.

Special Thanks

The Executive Board would like to thank Julie Smith for creating Local 3801's non-university website on the last day of the 2007 strike, and also for paying for the domain listing. Please see www.afscme3801.org to see the great job she's doing for us, and to see some amazing AFSCME resources.

The Board also thanks our new committees for taking great initiative!

Getting Involved

There is still room on most of the committees that were formed this fall. Contact union@afscme3801.org if you are interested in joining the Education Committee, Internal Organizing Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Social Committee, Welcome Committee, Newsletter/Website/Media Committee, Labor Management Committee, or Political/Legislative Committee.

Operation Toy/Gift Drop — at our December 12 membership meeting (see box on pg. 2) we are collecting donations for the Duluth AFL-CIO Community Services Program. If you are unable to make a financial contribution, please consider bringing a wrapped toy/gift, labeled as to gender & age. Our Board will deliver to AFL-CIO.

Community Services is seeking donations and volunteers for a variety of holiday events, one being a children's gift wrapping on Saturday, December 22, 1:00-3:00 PM in Wellstone Hall. Contact Yvonne Harvey about the variety of donated items needed, e.g. gifts for teenagers, gift certificates, large t-shirts, etc:

yharvey@unitedwayduluth.org

UM Locals Meet in Hinckley to Develop Action Plan

Reprinted from AFSCME Council 5's Action Update on November 16, 2007

University of Minnesota Lo-

cals 3800, 3801, 3937 and 3260 recently met in Hinckley in a cooperative effort to move forward in their strug-

gle for economic justice. They developed an action plan that includes both internal and political organizing, PEOPLE check-off, and a legislative agenda for the future.

About 30 people attended the event, and all locals have committed to working together.

The group plans to meet again in January, and each local is taking turns sponsoring the gatherings.

We welcome Kurt Errickson as the new field representative for U of M Locals 3800 and 3260.

Tip of the Month

by Yvonne Harvey, Community Services Director of United Way

Open a savings account and pay yourself first with any amount — \$5.00, \$10.00, whatever you decide — to set aside as any emergency fund in case we find ourselves striking again during our next employment contract negotiations (approximately 1 year, 9 months away!).

AFSCME Local 3801, UMD Clerical & Technical Workers

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We're on the web!
www.afscme3801.org

GREAT BENEFITS FOR AFSCME EMPLOYEES!

This nationwide AFSCME web site has links to special discounts on Auto, Legal, Financial, and Health Services, Education, Travel, & Union Businesses — just in time for **Holiday Shopping!**

<http://www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm>

GET IN TOUCH / STAY IN TOUCH WITH FELLOW MEMBERS

Don't forget that you can utilize the special Members section of our local web site for member directory information, discussion forums, chats, and more!

<http://www.afscme3801.org/member.htm>

Write to union@afscme3801.org to request your login/password!

Create & Win!

Submit newsletter title and/or logo design ideas to the Media Committee — union@afscme3801.org.

Chosen title wins \$35 Cub Foods gift certificate

Chosen logo wins \$50 Cub Foods gift certificate

Holiday Gathering & Social

December 12, 2007, 5 p.m.

AFSCME Council 5 office
211 W 2nd Street
Conference Room 2nd Floor

Free parking in back of building

Food, Fun, Friendship,
Games, Music

Child Care & Activities Provided

Strike Readiness Notebook

Local 3801 would like to gather feedback from our members about guidelines, policies, and procedures that you would like to see in place, in the event of our facing another strike.

Please e-mail your thoughts to Nancy at ndamberg@d.umn.edu.

Please patronize Duluth's union bars, restaurants & hotels:

HOTELS: Holiday Inn • Radisson

RESTAURANTS: Greenery • Pickwick • Porter's • Sneaker's • Top of the Harbor •

BARS: All American Club • Blue Crab Bar • Carmody Irish Pub • Fifth Avenue Lounge • Kom-on-Inn • North Pole Bar • O'Gilby's Bar • Reef Lounge • Rustic Bar • T-Bonz Bar • Twins Bar

WHAT MY UNION DID TO ME

I pay \$35 per month in Union dues and all I get for my money is:

I must accept high wages and good working conditions.

I must accept overtime pay for all hours worked after 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week.

I must accept good medical, dental, and optical coverage.

I am forced to have a good grievance procedure so that I am treated fairly by management.

I am forced by my Union to work in a safe and healthy environment.

I also cannot believe that my Union is going to force me to receive a good pension when I retire.

What right does my Union have forcing seniority rights in our shops that move workers up in the progression ladder in a fair and just manner?

My Union also is very democratic and regularly asks for my input. What is wrong with our Union leaders anyway, running a Union like this? My Union leaders tell me that *I am the Union!* Some nerve!

Unions are really terrible, that's for sure. I think that I will contact the National Labor Relations Board and see if I can get my Union decertified.

I am sick and tired of the Union doing all of these things for me. Just think, without the Union I'd be working for minimum wage without benefits, but at least I wouldn't have to pay any more Union dues.

... A Message from a Brother

This Month in Union History

(compiled by the Education Committee)

December 8, 1886 - The American Federation of Labor was organized in Columbus, Ohio, by 25 craft unions. It grew out of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which had been formed in 1881 in Pittsburgh. The AFL represented nearly half a million workers at its inception. Its goals included the eight-hour workday, an end to child labor, and compensation for workers injured on the job.

December 16, 1977 - Eight women in Willmar, Minnesota, initiated the first bank strike in U.S. history. They earned international attention as The Willmar 8. Although they didn't win their strike, they became enduring symbols in the struggle for women's rights and for social and economic justice.

Submit any newsletter ideas/items to Lindsay Brown, lcbrown@d.umn.edu.