

# GREENPIECE

## Local 517 Officers

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## MN AFSCME Council 5

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

GOV'T CENTER-LL ROOM 20

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There are lots of things to report on since the last newsletter. But first we need someone to volunteer to do the Greenpiece Newsletter. Please contact either me or Kathy Cunnien if interested.

Keep Dec. 17 open for our Holiday Party.

We've met twice with the County in Negotiations and they have offered nothing; no step increases, no cost of living and no more insurance contribution than the current rate. It's sounding like a lot of the other counties and what the state proposed to their workers. See, it does effect us. What happens at the state flows down to us. That's why we need to watch what happens to them because we know the County will do the same to us. We need to work harder than ever next year to get a Governor in office that will be AFSCME friendly. AFSCME has endorsed Mark Dayton as our

candidate for governor. Jeff Birttnen and I attended several screenings put on by the AFL-CIO and two others put on by AFSCME. Mark Dayton was picked by AFSCME. He has a strong history of standing up for us on these issues: affordable health care, retirement security, no contracting out and no cuts to vital public services. Mark's devoted to public service - he's been a public school teacher and a social worker. He's also led 3 state agencies: Economic Development, 1978; Energy & Economic Development, 1983-87; and State Auditor, 1991-95. Mark will raise \$3.8 billion by asking the wealthiest 10% of Minnesotans (who earn more than \$150,000) to pay their fair share of income taxes. Mark has the experience to lead Minnesota out of its revenue crisis. For more information on Mark Dayton and AFSCME issues, you can contact either Judie Atkins or Jeff Birttnen.

We need members to attend the Truth in Taxation Meeting Dec. 8 in the County Board Room at 6:00 p.m. Our presence needs to be felt and seen by the County Board and Administration.

I hope that several of you will plan on attending Day On The Hill (DOTH) in March. Jeff Birttnen will be asking people to go. He volunteers to work on that committee and does an awesome job. Go the Council 5 website to check out more interesting topics ([www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org)). Also, our minutes from the Local E Bd and General Membership Meetings are posted on our website ([www.local517.org](http://www.local517.org)).

Automatic dues increase for next year is \$.60 a month.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

## NET ROOTS: GET ACTIVE!

It's no surprise that Minnesota is one of the most civically active states in the nation, according to a recent article in the [Star Tribune](#). Now, progressive groups like AFSCME have a great opportunity to learn how to use technology (like Facebook and Twitter) more effectively to shape the public debate. The inaugural **Netroots Minnesota conference will be held November 20-21 at the St. Paul Garden Hilton**, 411 Minnesota Street. Registration is now open. [Reserve your spot today!](#) AFSCME is a silver sponsor of the event and we hope to see you there.

