Legislative Session 2017 Wrap Up

Below you'll find a lot of details about what was and wasn't included in the 2018-2019 budget it isn't comprehensive. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email me ChrisS@local284.com.

The per pupil funding formula. The formula is bread and butter of education spending. Between 2003 and 2013 the formula lost $1,000 per student (adjusted for inflation), which forced districts to rely on property tax levies, expanding the disparity between property tax rich and property tax poor districts. The formula is increased by 2% each of the next two years. ($367 million)

Special Ed Funding received no increase funding above the amount already required by state law. ($0)

Voluntary PreK, which provides dramatic lifelong benefits to children and solid economic and social benefits to the communities in which they live received an additional investment of $50 million.

Student Support Services. Minnesota has the worst ratio of counselors to students in the nation. We need to support our students so they can focus on learning. No new grants available. ($0)

Full Service Community Schools, which put social, medical and supplemental academic services and enrichment activities on school campuses received no new money. ($0)

State Grants Program. Students should be able to attend college, regardless of economic status, without being held back by debt for the rest of their lives. These grants help students from low- and moderate-income families pay for educational expenses. This increased by $36 million.

University of Minnesota, state funding used to cover two thirds of the costs an undergraduate education at the U of M. It now covers less than one third. The tiny investment in the U of M will result in a dramatic increase in tuition to make up the difference. ($28 million)

Vouchers. We were successful in keeping Minnesota from adopting a Betsy Devos style voucher scheme. SEIU Local 284 opposes the use of public money for private school tuition as only public schools are required to accept all students.

SEIU Day With The St. Paul Saints– Ticket Available Now!

SEIU Day at the Saints with a picnic meal on the lawn. SEIU’s tickets include the picnic meal (burgers, brats, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, chips, and beverage). This is a $31 value; members pay just $14. Includes group seating in the Outfield Reserved Seats.

What: SEIU Local 284’s Annual Saints Game Outing

When: Tuesday, June 1, 5:30 PM Picnic Meal, 7:05 PM Game

Where: CHS Field, 360 N Broadway St, St Paul, MN 55101

Order tickets by going to our website and clicking on the Saints ticket order form link (website link below), complete the ticket order form and mail the completed ticket order form and make the check payable to: SEIU Local 284, 450 Southview Blvd, South St Paul, MN 55075 or www.seiu284.org

You can purchase multiple tickets for family or to go with a friend, but payment must arrive in the office before tickets will be mailed out and there is a limited number available. So act quickly!

Call the office 651-256-9110 or 651-256-9100 with any questions.
March For Science

On Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day), tens of thousands of Minnesotans marched in St. Paul as part of the March for Science MN. You probably saw or read about this in the news, but what you may not know is that leaders from the University of Minnesota, who are organizing with SEIU Local 284, along with some assistance from SEIU Local 284 staff, did much of the work to make this happen.

Their hard work and dedication paid off in a big way at the wildly successful march that brought attention to the need for funding and support of the sciences in our schools and communities. The massive crowd heard from scientists, students and regular folks like you and I who spoke out in favor of publicly accessible scientific findings and publicly funded research for the betterment of our lives, our communities, and our environment.

Thank you to everyone who put time and energy into making the event so successful, and to all who attended in support!

CLIMATES ARE A CHANGING

We are facing the biggest environmental challenge in our lifetime with climate change and arguably the biggest change in political climate following the most recent elections. As we highlighted in the last newsletter, and several newsletters for the past couple of years, “right to work” is on the march across the country and very soon will be back in the Supreme Court. As Neil Gorsuch takes his seat on the Court, he most assuredly will be the fifth vote needed to impose right to work on public sector unions. That means the Supreme Court could decide people get to enjoy the benefits of a union, including representation and the higher wages and benefits we win, without contributing—no dues instead a free ride. It’s like your favorite store being required to allow customers to cart whatever they want out the door and decide if they want to pay for it. It is an attack on working people and our families that are meant to weaken and severely disable unions, eliminate our ability to act together to improve the lives of our families. But “right to work” does not have to be a mortal injury to our union.

Local 284 has been preparing for “right to work” for the past few years and we continue with our plans to survive and thrive in a right to work environment. At our leadership assembly this past February, stewards and other union leaders learned about the history of the labor movement and how we have overcome adversity in the past. We also participated in a listening session that provides a venue to learn more about members concerns and ideas on critical issues to working people and their unions to guide us in our next steps. If you want to do a listening session in your district, contact your staff person.

Local 284 units are also looking at how we can increase our power and do more with less by exploring where Local 284 units, and other union’s units, can bargain together to have more power in their district and conserve our resources. We are also proposing, and fighting for, new language in our contracts that strengthens our union and our communities. We are looking at every opportunity that will keep us strong and able to fight for quality education and issues important to our members and working families. To ensure that we win these fights we need you to be involved by: attending or hosting a listening session, becoming a union steward, joining your bargaining committee, being a building representative, and talking to non-members about becoming members (they can sign up on-line at our website). We need everyone to work hard to preserve their freedom. Together, we will take action thru our union to fight for working people and our families.

—Matt Labo, Staff Director

Paraprofessional Training Conference

Save The Date Monday, August 10th

Our union will host a “Back to School Training” as a member only benefit. Our Paraprofessional Conferences have been very well attended by members who have given the conference great reviews and expressing interest in another Paraprofessional Conference.

Trainers are: Top 20 Training and SHOTS

Topics for this training are: 1. Living above and below the line, 2. Learning from mistakes, 3. Knowing how to see things differently, 4. Cultural differences and learning and 5. SHOTS—Gender identity and health.

All members are welcome to attend. We will be mailing out information soon to all paraprofessional members. Register on-line at http://284.seiu.org/page/s/2017-back-to-school-paraprofessional-training. If you have questions email Terri Buttleman at TerriB@local284.com for more information.
SEIU Local 284 has established a Member of the Year award. The award, to be given annually, will highlight members who stand out in their contribution in the support of the education of students, who maintain a high standard of professionalism, are active in their community and are involved in our union.

This year at the February leadership assembly Anna Gimerline was named the SEIU Local 284 “2017 Member of the Year.” Anna is a proud member of our union and works as a Night Lead Full Maintenance Custodian in the ISD 194 Lakeville School District. She serves as one of two Union Stewards for the Custodial Bargaining Unit. She is well known throughout her district as being helpful to her membership and to all who work with her. Anna works and interacts with students during the day and in the evening, and is known as someone who works well with community members and parents. Anna has testified at the Minnesota Legislature in support of equitable funding for schools, highlighting that schools should receive ample funding regardless of whether they come from a wealthy or less wealthy school district. Anna has also protested against a case before the Supreme Court that, if successful, would make public sector workers across the U.S. subject to “Right to Work” laws. In addition, she was elected by the membership to serve a three-year term as the 2nd Vice President of our Local.

**New Member Benefit**

I am pleased to announce a new member benefits program designed to help SEIU members get ahead. It’s no secret that higher education is now out of reach for too many Americans including our members. More families can’t afford to send their kids to college. Students are saddled with so many loans that college doesn’t pay off. Register to access member benefits at: www.seiumb.com

Thanks to a unique collaboration with College for America, earning a college degree just got simpler and more realistic for our members. SEIU Member Benefits is launching an affordable, flexible college degree program designed especially for working adults with busy lives.

The key features of the program are:
- **Online work, flexible schedule.** No preset times and 24/7 access 365 days a year.
- **$3,000 per year or less.** There are no additional fees or books to buy and federal student aid and financing are available.
- **Accredited university.** College for America, part of Southern New Hampshire University, founded in 1932, is a nonprofit, accredited degree program created especially for working adults.
- **Associate and bachelor degrees.** Members can earn college degrees in fields like early childhood development, healthcare management, communications, and general studies with help from dedicated learning coaches.

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**Highlighting Members**

-Kristi Scott, the first cook at McKinley-ALC school in the St. Cloud (742) School District, was recently awarded the 2017 Health Safety Award from Stearns County. The award is based off of a five-year performance review, and it means your health inspection reports have to show no infractions during that time.

You can read more about what the award means, and hear from Kristi herself, at seiu.mn/KristiScott where the District highlights this amazing achievement.

Congratulations to Kristi and a big thank you to all SEIU Local 284 food service members who do such outstanding work for our students and our community.

-Burnsville custodian and SEIU Local 284 member Mark Glende was highlighted in a recent Star Tribune article about work happening at the Sioux Trail Elementary School to make sure students are drinking all of their milk. From the story: “Before their campaign got rolling, Mark Glende, the school custodian, said the Burnsville school was on track to waste about 20 gallons of milk a week. The students brought that number down to less than 8 gallons a week, he said.

Glende would know. He weighs the waste bucket, a piquant combination of leftover milk, juice and water, six times a day after every breakfast and lunch.

In October, Glende began to notice that students were filling up the bucket at the end of lunch by pouring out their milk. He decided to approach the principal, Shannon McParland, and the two decided to take the issue up with the student council.”

Read the whole article at seiu.mn/MarkGlende.

Congratulations to Mark and a big thank you to all SEIU Local 284 custodial members who do such outstanding work for our students and our community.

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**Local 284 $500 Scholarship Winners**

Robert Doty, member Robert Doty - Minneapolis
Christopher Gerlach, member Victoria Gerlach – Mounds View
Derek Johanson, member Jody Johanson – St Michael
Daniel Scheiben, member Robert Scheiben – Mounds View
Alexandra Schreyer, member Stephanie Schreyer – Delano
Karla Yatckoske, member Karla Yatckoske – Brooklyn Center
LOCAL 284
SEIU Local 284
450 Southview BLVD
South Saint Paul, MN 55075
Phone: (651) 256-9100
Toll Free: 1 (877) 304-6042

If you have an article or suggestion for the newsletter, please contact Andy Running:
andrear@local284.com

LOCAL 284 OFFICERS
Executive Director: Carol Nieters
President: Keith Niemi
Vice Presidents: Mark Hanson
Anna Gamberline
Trustees: Steve Miltich
Sue McNerney
Amanda Reineck
Members at Large: Anne Bipes
Mike Poke
Valerie Rolstad
Lori Smith
Michael Sylvester
Sergeant at Arms: Cynthia Gross
Senior Member: Vacant

The Officers of Local 284 make up the Executive Board. Executive Board meetings are open to all members in good standing. Please contact Union headquarters if you would like to attend.

Local 284 Meetings
6/15/17 Executive Board Mtg 9am-5pm @ Union Office
6/15/17 Finance Committee Mtg 5pm-6:30pm @ Union Office
7/20/17 Executive Board Mtg 3-6pm @ Union Office
9/21/17 Executive Board Mtg 3-6pm, Old Chicago, Apple Valley
9/21/17 General Member Mtg 6-7pm Old Chicago, Apple Valley

*Paraprofessional Conference, August 10th, Maple Grove Community Center, Maple Grove

Change of Address or Phone Number?
Please let us know by contacting our office at (651) 256-9100
Or by emailing Terri at terrib@local284.com