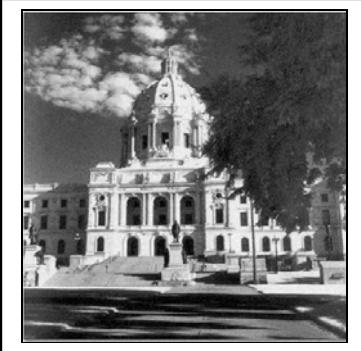


# talk...table talk...ta

AFSCME Council 5 Locals 34, 552, 1719, 2822, 2864, 2938

Issue 1 – February 2007



## DAY ON THE HILL

**Wednesday • March 7**

**7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Crown Plaza Riverfront • St. Paul**

Eighty percent of us got a 4% cost of living increase on January 24. We earned every cent with a hard fought contract campaign in 2005 that ended a string of zeros. Now we need to channel the same powerful energy into our contract campaign for 2007. Despite our best contract in years, our wages are losing ground to inflation. And the high cost of benefits may be increasing compensation, but not take-home pay. That's why our wallets are empty after a trip to the pharmacy and gas station.

The “Wal-Martization” of pay and benefits is attempting to ooze its way into Hennepin County! Signals from Labor Relations tell us that another tired old PTO plan is heading our way. Such a plan would cut our severance pay and force parents to use precious vacation time to care for sick children. So-called “Consumer Driven Healthcare” proposals will do nothing more than shift the costs of our health care onto our already strained family budgets. The promise of health care for retirees and part-time union members could still become a thing of the past.

What can you do? It's time to use the clout we earned through unprecedented political activism in the 2006 elections. Join thousands of your AFSCME sisters and brothers from across Minnesota to let the legislature and Governor Pawlenty know that we are the permanent government! Let your local presidents know you want to be at the State Capitol on March 7.

By participating in Day on the Hill, you can also help restore local government aid to the county. Our successful levy campaigns convinced commissioners that the services we provide are essential to the citizens of Hennepin County. Now we must take that message to state legislators.

Watch *Table Talk* newsletters for ways to get involved in our 2007 Hennepin County AFSCME Contract Campaign. There's a role for everyone. In solidarity,

Patrick Guernsey – President, Hennepin County AFSCME Policy Committee.