



Addendum to application for certification as a worker organization to train nursing home workers under Minn. Stat. 181.214

Establishing Eligibility

Executive Board members

The governing body of AFSCME Council 65 is the executive board made up of AFSCME members from Locals across Minnesota and South Dakota. There are four (4) executive offices, four (4) at large members, four (4) district members, three (3) trustees and a Retiree President. There are no employer representatives on the AFSCME Council 65 board or holding positions within AFSCME Council 65

Officers and Executive Board Members

Kari Zieske, President (10/2027)

Local 480 – Hibbing School

Peggy Kinzler, Vice President (10/2025)

Local 2789 - Carver County Health & Human Services

Jennifer Simota, Secretary (10/2027)

Local 3215 - Brainerd School

Kristine Hamm, Treasurer (10/2025)

Local 2685 - Wright County HHS

Betsy Whirley, District #1 Board Member (10/2027)

Local 580 – Itasca County HHS

Amanda Due, District #2 Board Member (10/2027)

Local 748 - Stearns County HHS

Eric Anderson, District #3 Board Member (10/2027)

Local 737 - Red Wing Public Works

Amy Birchard, District #4 Board Member (10/2027)

Local 559 – Kandiyohi County HHS

Christina Hendrickson, District #5 Board Member (10/2027)

Local 1025 – Sioux Falls School

Deb Tauer, At Large Board Member (10/2027)

Local 105 - Allina New Ulm Medical Center LPNs

Michelle Peterson, At Large Board Member (10/2027)

Local 455 – Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital

Jessica Loons, At Large Board Member (10/2027)

Local 545 – Cloquet School

Jeremy Hanson, Trustee (10/2025)

Local 639 - Itasca County Dispatch

Heather Burr, Trustee (10/2026)

Local 1243 - Benton County Human Services

Chastity Moore, Trustee (10/2027)

Local 2685 - Wright County HHS

Jeff Birttnen, Retiree President

Retiree Chapter 565

Evidence of Experience and Advocacy

Although AFSCME Council 65 was not officially Chartered by the American Federation of State County and Municipal Workers, AFL-CIO until 1963, AFSCME Council 65 started representing workers in Minnesota as early as 1937.

AFSCME Council 65 currently represents seventeen (17) nursing home or long-term care facilities. Some of these facilities have more than one AFSCME bargaining unit. The history of AFSCME certifications in

nursing homes goes back to the late 1950's when Nursing homes were certified by the Minnesota State Conciliation Service. Our representation of Nursing Homes is across the state of Minnesota, with some being attached to Hospital or Clinic settings, and some being stand alone facilities. We have our original certification information for the units we represent.

In 2001, the Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurses Association (MNLPA) affiliated with AFSCME Council 65. This affiliation still exists today with roughly 600 LPNs across the state in various healthcare facilities including nursing homes. AFSCME/MLPNA holds an annual conference for LPNs run by LPNs to offer education units for nurses.

AFSCME has partnered with other unions in local facilities and at the legislature to advocate for nursing home workers. We have encouraged and assisted our members who work in nursing homes to provide testimony at the legislature.

Please contact us if you would like more information regarding our experience and advocacy.

Plan for Staffing Training

AFSCME Council 65 will utilize Labor Representatives to train our members. We have 17 Long-Term Care/ Nursing home facilities across the state. We will have 10 staff trained to complete the NHWFSB trainings.

Trainees will receive business cards from the trainers with AFSCME Council 65 telephone, email & address, along with a "Know your rights" card.

Sample Certificate of Completion

