



The St. Paul Union Advocate

126th Year, No. 3, Issue 5460

For union homes in Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Chisago counties

September 2022

Do Something!

Visit the Labor Pavilion at the fair

Every day during the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota AFL-CIO will offer a daily lineup of family-friendly programming at the Labor Pavilion, located at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper near the Snelling Avenue entrance.

The Labor Pavilion theme in 2022 is "Union Workers are Essential."

Stop by the pavilion and spend part of your fair visit learning about the unions of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, many of which will have kiosks offering information, demonstrations and free swag. And union musicians will take the stage each evening from 5 to 7 p.m.

Fairgoers can also win an official, union-made 2022 Minnesota AFL-CIO fanny pack by completing the union scavenger hunt. Start at the Labor Pavilion and snap pictures of union-related items across the fairgrounds to claim the prize.

The Labor Pavilion will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. all 12 days of the fair, which runs from Aug. 25 to Labor Day, Sept. 5. Check mnaflcio.org for more programming information.

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www.stpaulunions.org

Connecting union members in Ramsey, Washington, Dakota and Chisago counties.

"Our management, our leaders have failed. What is happening in our hospitals is not sustainable."

– Amy McGlone, Children's Hospital nurse

15,000 Minnesota nurses vote to authorize strike

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Nurses at 15 Minnesota hospitals voted Aug. 15 to authorize a strike, after union negotiators accused health care executives of refusing to bargain contracts that protect the safety of their patients and address the crisis facing their profession.

"What we are being forced to do is totally against every ethical principal that we have," Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) President Mary Turner said, choking back tears during a press conference announcing the strike vote. "But we have no choice."

A strike could put as many as 15,000 nurses on the picket line at 12 hospitals in the Twin Cities and three in Duluth. According to the MNA, it would be one of the largest nursing strikes in U.S. history, and the first time Twin Cities and Twin Ports nurses have gone on strike together.

Bargaining units are legally obligated to give hospitals 10 days' notice before any work stoppage. MNA representatives have said any strike resulting from nurses' authorization vote last month is not likely to be an open-ended work stoppage.

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Children's Hospital nurse Amy McGlone speaks during a press conference at MNA headquarters announcing the strike vote. Union Advocate photo

Building Trades celebrate 'Yellow Ribbon' status for veteran outreach

By Steve Share
Minneapolis Labor Review editor

MANKATO – On the eve of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council's convention, delegates and guests met for an outdoor ceremony July 20 to celebrate the Council's completion of a nine-month process to win designation as a "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company."

Winning this designation means that the Council with its 15 affiliated unions now has in place a formalized plan and active program to bring military veterans into the trades and to support active duty service members and National Guard members and their families.

"You are an extraordinary partner to our military members," said Col. Ed Suarez of the Minnesota National Guard, who spoke at the ceremony and presented a proclamation announcing the Council's new status as a "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company."

The Council becomes Minnesota's 83rd "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Company,"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

'RIDING THE UNION WAVE'



Minneapolis Trader Joe's workers Sarah Beth Ryther and Francisco Lopez embrace after hearing the results of their union election. Union Advocate photo

Minneapolis Trader Joe's workers win landslide union election

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Minneapolis is home to the nation's second unionized Trader Joe's store, after workers voted overwhelmingly last month in favor of joining together to bargain with the

retailer for better wages and safer working conditions.

About a dozen workers on hand Aug. 12, when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) counted votes in a delivery bay behind the downtown store, celebrated the landslide result –

a 55-5 win for the union – with hugs and chocolate chip cookies.

"We are so absolutely excited," crew member Sarah Beth Ryther said after the vote count. "This has taken so much time and work and dedication."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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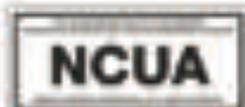
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Letters

• Send letters to: 353 W. 7th St., Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55102
 • Email them to: mmoore@stpaulunions.org

The Union Advocate

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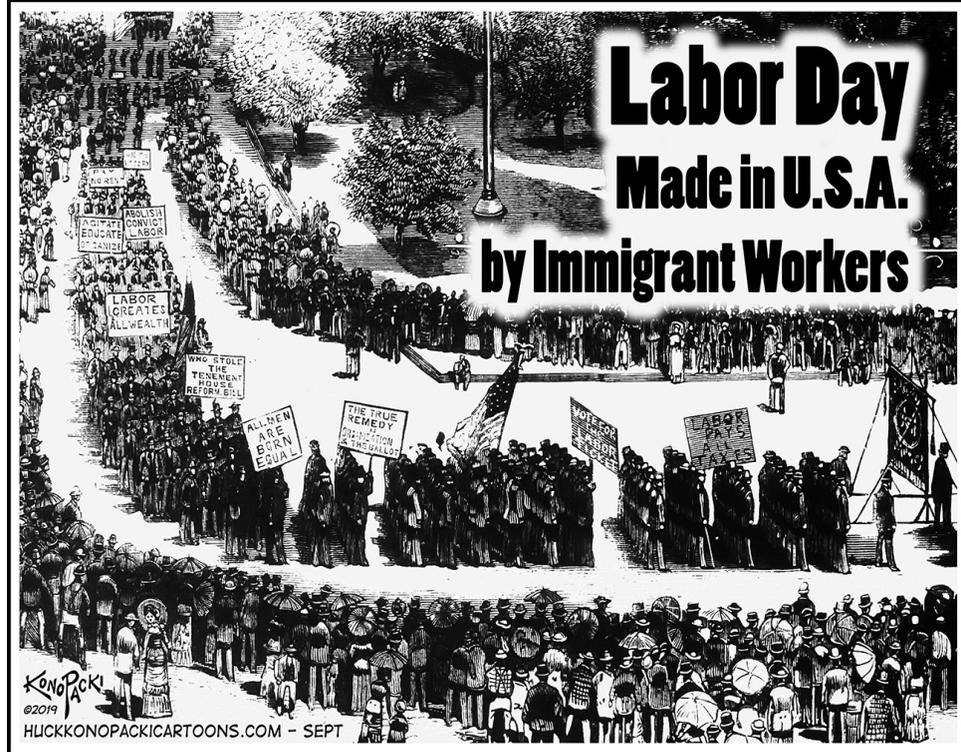
1.8% Unemployment rate in Minnesota, the lowest recorded in history and half the U.S. rate, 3.5%

2.3% Job growth this year in Minnesota, outpacing the nationwide growth rate, 1.9%

19,100 Jobs created in Minnesota in July

\$9.25 billion Projected state budget surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development



Labor Voices: Kera Peterson

Organizing surge shows what's possible at the polls

We've all seen the headlines: From Amazon warehouses to hospitals and clinics, from bookstores to coffee shops, we are in the midst of a historic upswing of labor organizing. Working people in Minnesota and across the country are coming together to fight for better wages, safer workspaces, and dignity and respect on the job. And they are looking to our unions for solidarity and support in that fight.

Unions are more popular this Labor Day than they have been in the past 50 years. We have seen a surge in U.S. workers looking to exercise their freedom to stand together in unions, driving up the number of petitions filed at the National Labor Relations Board by 69% compared to last year.

And more often than not, those NLRB elections are going workers' way here in Minnesota. Our state's union density – the share of union members in the total workforce – has increased in each of the last two years, bucking a national trend. More than 16% of Minnesota workers are union members. We are 416,000 members strong and growing!

This momentum is exciting and inspiring. It is also the product of decades of worker frustration, driven by low wages, unsafe workplaces, unaffordable health care, and a lack of respect and dignity on the job. When we join together in union as workers, we have the opportunity to make better lives for ourselves and our families. Our unions help ensure safer workplaces, and our union contracts help build a stronger and more fair economy by raising standards for all workers, whether they are union members or not.

But working people are also looking to the labor movement to restore balance to our economy, which for too long has been stacked in favor of corporations and the wealthy.

Corporate special interests have lobbied successfully for massive tax breaks and deregulation, while financing legal attacks on workers' rights and protections. Companies like Amazon pit states and municipalities against each other for public subsidies and incentives, while avoiding billions in federal taxes. Meanwhile, working families paying their fair share in taxes have seen the cost of health care, child care and energy cut deeper into their paychecks. Sometimes it feels like the deck has been stacked against us, and in many ways it has.

“Organizing gives us a chance to have our voices heard and call out the powerful, both at work and at the ballot box.”

– Kera Peterson



As a labor movement, it's imperative that we take the same momentum driving this surge in workplace organizing and use it to mobilize union members to get to the polls and vote in our General Election on or before Nov. 8. The progress that we've fought for and our future and freedom as workers are on the ballot this fall. Only the power of organized labor can combat the power of organized money, corporate special interests and the billionaire CEOs who aggressively attack our fundamental freedom to have a voice on the job.

We're excited to take on that work here at the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation. Between now and Election Day, union volunteers will be reaching out to fellow union members on the phone and at the doorstep to connect about what's at stake in this election and which candidates share our values. Our federation will coordinate dozens of phone banks and door knocks – opportunities for union members and retirees to make a real difference this election cycle.

We'll never outspend the corporations and billionaires, but we can always outwork them. Organizing gives us a chance to have our voices heard and to call out the powerful, both at work and at the ballot box.

Together, we can help elect pro-worker candidates who support our freedoms to join a union, to earn a good living, to access affordable health care and to vote for our representatives in free and fair elections. I hope you'll join me in this work.

– Kera Peterson is president of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. The SPRLF unites over 50,000 union members who live and work in Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties. Learn more about the federation, its endorsed candidates and how to volunteer with the Labor 2022 campaign at stpaulunions.org.

Editor's Note: "Voices" is a forum for opinions from across the labor movement. It appears regularly in The Advocate. We encourage readers to respond to our columnists' opinions. To write a letter to the editor, see the upper-right hand corner of this page. To inquire about contributing to "Voices," call 651-222-3787, extension 112. This column does not reflect the position of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation or its assemblies.

Minneapolis Trader Joe's workers will seek better wages, safety protections in first contract

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The organizing campaign began in early spring, and workers approached management in June with a petition, signed by a majority of employees, requesting voluntary recognition of their union.

The grocer denied that request, prompting workers to file for an election with the NLRB.

Corporate executives filled the six weeks between receiving workers' petition and balloting with an effort to undermine support for the union drive. "They were taking employees aside, telling them untrue things about what a union could be in our store," Ryther said.

It didn't work, she explained, because workers understood they were the union. "We'd been having conversations with each other since early spring about what we wanted our union to look like."

Workers in Hadley, Mass., were the first in the 535-

store grocery chain to unionize in late July. Both groups elected to join Trader Joe's United, an independent union that is not affiliated with international unions or federations like the AFL-CIO.

But workers in Minneapolis said they already feel at home in the labor movement, which has seen a recent burst of organizing at nationwide chains like Starbucks and Half Price Books. Trader Joe's United has active organizing drives at other locations too, including Colorado.

"It feels like we're riding the new union wave," Ryther said. "We're psyched to be the second Trader Joe's to do this, and if other Trader Joe's workers want to join us, we'd welcome them with open arms."

In bargaining a first contract, workers intend to push for better wages and benefits, and for more robust safety training and security measures after a string of unsettling

incidents in the store earlier this year.

Ryther said when local managers have passed along workers' safety-related concerns to corporate in the past, they "have fallen on deaf ears." That will change now that employees have a seat at the table.

The California-based grocery chain has expressed a willingness to engage in bargaining. After workers in Hadley won their election, the corporation released a statement saying it was disappointed but "prepared to immediately begin discussions with union representatives for the employees at this store to negotiate a contract."

"We are willing to use any current union contract for a multi-state grocery company with stores in the area, selected by the union representatives, as a template to negotiate a new structure for the employees in this store; including pay, retirement, healthcare, and working conditions such as scheduling and job flexibility."



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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Stakes are high as unions launch midterm political push

Carpenters plan car and bike show

The 9th Annual Carpenters Car and Bike Show will raise funds for the union's food shelf Sept. 17 at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters headquarters at 710 Olive St., St. Paul.

The show, which is open to the public, will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with same-day registration available. The first 50 entries will receive a dash plaque, and all entries will be included in drawings for door prizes. The top 20 entries will receive awards, as will Best in Show.

There is no admission fee for spectators, but donations to the Carpenters Union Food Shelf will be accepted.

For more information, contact Noah Pratt at 651-341-4438.

Freedom Library to host Labor Solidarity Picnic

The East Side Freedom Library will open its front lawn to the public Saturday, Sept. 10, for a Labor Solidarity Picnic from 3 to 6 p.m. The free event will offer refreshments, music and entertainment celebrating the spirit of Labor Day.

"For more than 120 years, American workers have come together in early September to celebrate Labor Day as an expression of unity and solidarity," ESFL's website says. "We need such a celebration now more than ever."

The independent, nonprofit library is located at 1105 Greenbrier St. in St. Paul. Learn more at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

After watching most of their endorsed candidates cruise to victory in Minnesota's primary election, the state's unions are ready to launch the Labor 2022 campaign to get working people to the polls on or before Nov. 8 in support of Gov. Tim Walz and other labor candidates.

The strategy is simple, Minnesota AFL-CIO Field Director Haylee Hilton said. It's all about engaging union members in one-on-one conversations with other union members about what's at stake in this election.

"We need as many union members as possible to step up and reach out to their fellow union members about the importance of getting labor-endorsed candidates elected, about why that matters," Hilton said. "We're going to engage our members to fight for working-class values and expand the solidarity of all of us in the labor movement to work together to further our collective goals."

Those goals include re-electing Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, protecting a labor-friendly majority in the Minnesota House and winning a majority in the Senate.

In the last legislative session, Senate Republicans blocked investments in public schools and infrastructure jobs - as well as a tax cut - despite a \$9 billion budget surplus. They also refused to pass House measures that would expand paid family leave and keep refinery workers safe.

Labor 2022 volunteers also will support labor-endorsed candidates for Congress like 2nd District Rep. Angie Craig, whose district is among the most hotly contested in the country.

State Attorney General Keith Ellison

and other constitutional officers are Labor 2022 endorsed, and the campaign intends to give select union members on the ballot a boost this year too, Hilton said. The Minnesota AFL-CIO recently held a two-day training for union members running for political office.

"We have union members up and down the ballot," Hilton said. "Of course, Tim Walz was a union member when he was a teacher, but we also have a lot of union members stepping up to run in city, county and school board races, too."

"Now that the primary is over, we're looking to see what we can do to get those folks across the finish line in November."

Labor-endorsed candidates on the primary ballot fared well in the East Metro.

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (SPRLF), which brings together union members in Ramsey, Washington, Dakota and Chisago counties, had 58 candidates endorsed in its jurisdiction before the primary. All but one advanced to the general election, including U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, who fended off a well-funded challenger for the DFL nomination.

From now until election day, SPRLF President Kera Peterson said, the federation will be connecting union members and retirees with opportunities to volunteer in support of Labor 2022.

"The conversations our volunteers will have with union members over the next three months will help shape the outcomes of the November elections, and the future for working people in Minnesota and across the country," Peterson said. "I invite union members to join us in this powerful work."

LABOR 2022

AFL-CIO

Get involved!

- Interested in making a difference this election cycle? Volunteer with the Labor 2022 campaign! The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation needs volunteers to phone bank and door knock Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in September.
- Saturday door knocks are another fun, high-energy volunteer option. Monitor mnaflcio.org for dates and locations.
- To sign up for a volunteer shift, call Colleen Nocerini at 612-408-2412.
- Find a list of Labor 2022 endorsed candidates on Page 6.

Labor 2022 volunteers are needed to knock doors, make calls and send texts to fellow union members, with both in-person and remote volunteer shifts available.

"What's so amazing about our program is we have a connection with the folks we're reaching out to," Hilton said. "We can reach them better than anyone else can because we are reaching out as union members. We're

Happy Labor Day from the 86,000 members of Education Minnesota!

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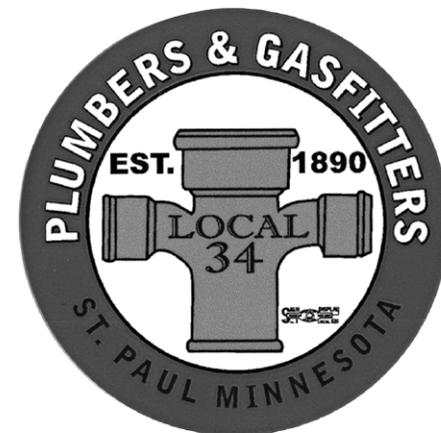


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Have a safe & enjoyable Labor Day. You earned it!

From the members of St. Paul Plumbers Local #34



LABOR ENDORSED

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

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Governor: Tim Walz
Lt. Governor: Peggy Flanagan
Attorney General: Keith Ellison
Secretary of State: Steve Simon
Auditor: Julie Blaha

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 2: Angie Craig
District 4: Betty McCollum
District 8: Jen Schultz

MINNESOTA SENATE

District 33: Nancy McLean
District 36: Heather Gustafson
District 39: Mary Kunesh
District 40: John Marty
District 41: Judy Seeberger
District 44: Tou Xiong
District 47: Nicole Mitchell
District 52: Jim Carlson
District 53: Matt Klein
District 55: Lindsey Port
District 56: Erin Maye Quade
District 57: Jackie Craig
District 58: Clarice Grabau
District 64: Erin Murphy
District 65: Sandy Pappas
District 66: Clare Verbeten
District 67: Fong Hawj

MINNESOTA HOUSE

District 28b: Katie Malchow
District 33a: Hanna Valento
District 33b: Josiah Hill
District 36a: Susie Strom
District 36b: Brion Curran
District 39b: Sandra Feist
District 40a: Kelly Moller
District 40b: Jamie Becker-Finn
District 41a: Patricia Driscoll
District 41b: Tina Folch
District 44a: Peter Fischer
District 44b: Leon Lillie
District 47a: Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger
District 47b: Ethan Cha
District 52a: Liz Reyer
District 52b: Ruth Richardson
District 53a: Mary Frances Clardy
District 53b: Rick Hansen
District 55a: Jess Hanson
District 55b: Kaela Berg
District 56a: Robert Bierman
District 56b: John Huot
District 57b: Erin Preese
District 64a: Kaohly Her
District 64b: Dave Pinto
District 65a: Samakab Hussein
District 65b: Maria Isa Perez-Hedges
District 66a: Leigh Finke
District 66b: Athena Hollins
District 67a: Kaozoupa "Liz" Lee
District 67b: Jay Xiong

CHISAGO COUNTY

District 1: Jim Swenson
District 2: Rick Greene
District 4: Ben Montzka
District 5: Cindy Erickson

DAKOTA COUNTY

District 2: Joe Atkins
District 3: Laurie Halverson
District 4: Seema Maddali
County Attorney: Matt Little

WASHINGTON COUNTY

District 2: Stan Karwoski
District 4: Karla Bigham

LABOR 2022

Minnesota trade unions go 'Beyond the Yellow Ribbon'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Suarez noted, adding that the Council submitted the best plan the state program has seen to date. "You went well and above," he said.

Joe Fowler, president of the State Building Trades Council, accepted the proclamation. Like a cohesive military unit, "Building and Construction Trades [work] is a team sport," Fowler said. "We use our diverse talents and backgrounds to come together."

The steering committee which developed the Council's plan included several members who are themselves former members of the military.

Fowler and Col. Suarez gave a special shout-out to Katrice Trahan, who helped facilitate the work of the steering committee. A veteran of both the U.S. Navy and the Navy Reserve, Trahan provides administrative support to the State Building Trades Council and also is office manager for the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council.

"People don't really think about our military service members when they come home," said Trahan, who deployed to Kuwait in 2005.

Marking the completion of the



Minnesota State Auditor Julie Blaha looked on as Col. Ed Suarez of the Minnesota National Guard presented the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" proclamation to Joe Fowler, president of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council. Labor Review photos

"Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" planning was important to her, Trahan said. "It's an awesome feeling

because we put in all this work."

Another veteran who served on the steering committee was Trinidad Uribe, business manager of Sprinkler Fitters Local 417, who served eight years on active duty in the U.S. Army. He noted that his father, brother and son-in-law also are veterans.

"I was a beneficiary of these types of organizations," he said.

Uribe added that "the discipline, the structure, the ability to work productively" learned in the military provide good preparation to enter an apprentice program.

The steering committee also included Justin Rost, director of Minnesota's Helmets to Hardhats program. Rost served four years in the U.S. Marines before joining Sheet Metal Workers Local 10.



Justin Rost is the director of Minnesota's Helmets to Hardhats program.

"We are beyond proud to be declared a Yellow Ribbon Company," Fowler said.

And he urged the crowd: "Continue to ask yourself, 'What more can we do?'"



The audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the ceremony.



Let's get together, union members!

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation's local labor assemblies bring working people and retirees together to exchange ideas and take action on issues that matter most in their communities. Assembly meetings are open to all union members who live or work in our four-county area.

Chisago County Assembly

Sept. 27, 6 p.m.

To register for the Zoom meeting, email cnocerini@stpaulunions.org

Dakota County Assembly

Sept. 8, 7 p.m.

Dakota County United Educators
6950 W. 146th St., Apple Valley

Ramsey County Assembly

Sept. 27, 6 p.m.

To register for the Zoom meeting, email kpeterston@stpaulunions.org

Washington County Assembly

Sept. 28, 6 p.m.

To register for the Zoom meeting, email kpeterston@stpaulunions.org



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Building Trades delegates ask state lawmakers to pass bonding bill in special session

By Steve Share,
Minneapolis Labor Review editor

MANKATO – The Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council’s annual convention delivered an in-person request to guest speaker Gov. Tim Walz and legislative leaders: call a special session to take up the unfinished business of the 2022 legislative session.

In addition to remarks by Walz, the convention heard from Attorney General Keith Ellison and other state officials, and delegates passed 14 resolutions on topics ranging from the bonding bill to the use of toxic materials in construction. The convention also passed a resolution citing the threats posed by climate change and the need for raw materials found in Minnesota for renewable energy technologies, and affirming the council’s support for “safe and responsible copper-nickel mining in Minnesota.”

Meeting July 21-22 at the Mankato Civic Center, the

convention drew delegates from the 15 affiliated unions, which together represent about 70,000 skilled workers.

Joe Fowler, business manager of Laborers Local 563 and president of the state council, introduced Walz to a standing ovation. Fowler noted that Minnesota’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic became a national model and that “Tim’s decisive action saved lives.”

“Minnesota was the first state in the nation that designated our Building Trades workers as essential workers,” Walz reminded delegates.

“I’m a union member myself,” said Walz, who was a high school social studies teacher and football coach before entering politics and winning six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Walz also served 24 years in the National Guard. The council endorsed Walz for re-election earlier this year.

“As long as I’m governor of Minnesota, we will be a

labor state,” Walz said. “I promise to be a labor governor, to support your rights, to move our state forward.”

“The issue of the day is how do you provide for your families,” Walz said. “We’re doing things right,” he said, citing record low unemployment, high budget surpluses, and low COVID deaths.

Delegates also greeted Ellison with a standing ovation. He is running for re-election to a second term and asked for – and received – the convention’s endorsement. Ellison has established a wage theft unit in the Attorney Generals’ office and worked to address misclassification of workers.

“My office only works well in relationship with you,” Ellison said. “I believe organized labor is the best chance working people have.”

“I know you’ll take care of us and take care of our membership,” Fowler told Ellison.

Appeals court tosses lawsuits targeting Minnesota public employees’ unions

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in July dismissed lawsuits seeking to force public-sector unions to pay back fees collected from non-members for representation and costs related to the collective bargaining agreement covering their position.

Unions stopped collecting so-called “fair-share fees” in June 2018, after the Supreme Court ruling in Janus v AFSCME. Since then, the same anti-union, corporate-backed legal funds that bankrolled Janus have been pushing litigation to claw back up to 40 years’ worth of fees from unions like AFSCME Council 5 and Education Minnesota.

Both unions called the lawsuits another thinly veiled effort to weaken public-sector workers’ bargaining power. So far, it hasn’t held up in court.

“The national, coordinated legal strategy to destroy unions of public sector workers for speaking up for their members and their communities has suffered another loss,” Education Minnesota President Denise Specht said.

“Court after court have ruled that unions should not be penalized when they obeyed the law and provided a service to people who benefitted from it.”

Janus allowed public-sector workers to claim the benefits of a union contract without sharing in its costs.

Prior to the ruling, public-sector unions could collect fees from non-members to pay for the cost of bargaining and enforcing employment contracts. Unions are required by law to cover all workers in bargaining unit, whether members or free-loaders. The fees could not fund political or organizing work.

The appeals court upheld lower court rulings that unions acted in good faith in collecting fair-share fees, and were in compliance the law of the land at the time.

“The employees did not present a submissible case that the unions collected fair-share fees in subjective bad faith in any event,” the court wrote. “Therefore, the district court correctly granted summary judgment for the unions on

these claims.”

But both Specht and AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl acknowledged the forces behind the legal attacks are likely to continue making their case.

“While this is a victory in this moment, the working-class and unions are under constant attack in the courts, the halls of power and our workplaces by anti-worker, pro-corporate organizations like the Freedom Foundation, Upper Midwest Law Center, the Center of the American Experiment and others,” Bleyhl said. “No matter what, our union will fight for workers’ right to be treated with dignity and respect in the workplace, defend due process protections and protect our right to retire with dignity and security.”

Specht added: “This case may go to the Supreme Court. If it does, our union is ready to stand with other unions of working people to make our case. Today’s working people owe it to future generations to protect the freedom of all Americans to come together in union for the common good.”

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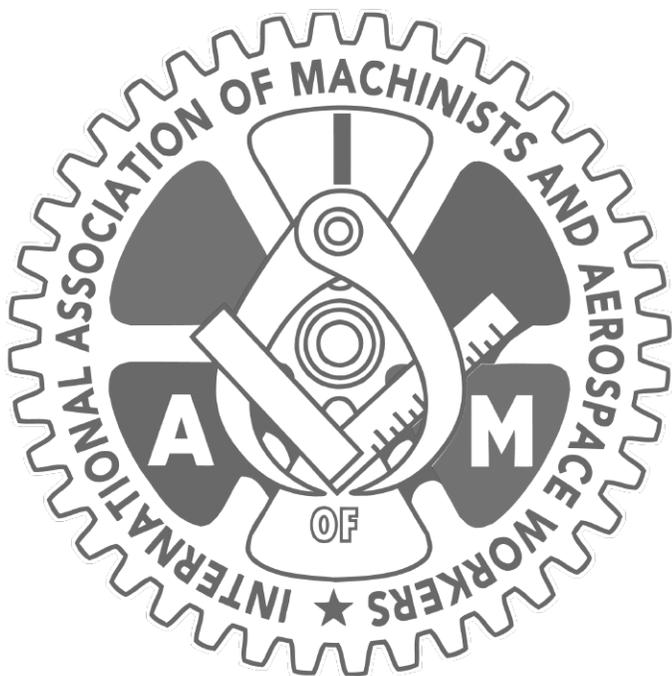
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Minneapolis Starbucks workers strike

By Max Nesterak
minnesotareformer.com

Starbucks workers at a south Minneapolis store began a two-day strike July 31, joining workers in Boston, Seattle, Philadelphia and other cities who are ramping up pressure as they seek to negotiate union contracts.

Customers who pulled up to the drive-thru on Sunday morning at 4712 Cedar Avenue were told there'd be no coffee today or tomorrow but other Starbucks locations were still open as usual.

Workers say the surprise two-day strike – a first for a Minnesota Starbucks – is in protest over management failing to negotiate with them over a first contract and changing the store's hours without negotiating with them.

"It's obviously just them trying to push us around and see if they can get away with it," said barista Emily Mahoney in between handing out leaflets about the strike to customers.

A spokesperson for Starbucks shared a statement on behalf of the company saying it respects its employees "right to engage in any legally protected activity or protest without retaliation."

"We are grateful for each partner who continues to work, and we always do our best to listen to the concerns of all our partners," the statement said.

Workers at the Cedar Avenue store were the second to unionize in the state, winning an election in May to be represented by Workers United, an affiliate of the Service Employees International

Union. Since then, workers say the company hasn't provided them the information they've requested on wages and discipline to begin bargaining, and the two parties haven't met for formal negotiations.

More than 200 Starbucks stores in 32 states have voted to unionize since the first store in Buffalo, N.Y. unionized last December, inspiring the wave of union drives across the country. More than a hundred more stores have filed petitions seeking elections with the National Labor Relations Board, which oversees private sector unions.

In Minnesota, four stores have unionized, with two more stores – in Edina and Roseville – awaiting elections. Two stores voted against unionizing, but Workers United is challenging both elections.

No store anywhere in the country has yet ratified a first contract, and Starbucks faces widespread allegations of failing to negotiate and retaliating against workers as it tries to stop the spread of labor organizing at its roughly 9,000 stores nationwide.

Earlier this month, an NLRB judge ordered Starbucks to cease and desist from interfering with workers trying to unionize and ordered the company to post notices informing employees of their right to collective action.

The company faces more than 200 complaints for unfair labor violations, including the one by workers at the south Minneapolis store.

Kasey Copeland, a barista and trainer at the Cedar Avenue Starbucks, says since



Starbucks barista Gracie Nira (L), who works at a St. Paul location, supports fellow Starbucks workers Ethan Tinklenberg and Kasey Copeland (R) on strike in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Labor Review photo

she and her colleagues unionized the company has cut workers' hours, meaning fewer workers on the floor during busy shifts.

Then, the store manager told them they would be opening a half hour later and closing a half hour later. While the change sounds small, U.S. labor law forbids companies from unilaterally changing working conditions with unionized employees, and the Starbucks workers see it as company managers taunting them.

For Copeland and other morning shift employees, who have largely been leading

the unionization effort, the change means about four fewer hours of pay each week.

"If Starbucks is listening, we won't be pushed around," Copeland said. "We're being treated unfairly and we're not going to take it."

Customers took the strike largely in stride, with some voicing or honking their support. Sonia Srichai said she walks to the store every Sunday morning for coffee but doesn't mind finding somewhere else to go this weekend.

"I'm totally supportive of the employees," she said.

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

FROM **Liz Lee** FOR MN HOUSE

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Organizing Update

More WCCO staffers join SAG-AFTRA

Fifteen digital and streaming team producers and assignment desk editors at Minnesota's WCCO-TV joined colleagues at the station as members of SAG-AFTRA last month, after voting unanimously in an election with the National Labor Relations Board.

The employees produce digital content and source info for the newsroom, WCCO.com and the CBS News Minnesota streaming service. They began discussions with the union in January 2019, and the NLRB tallied votes Aug. 5, 2022.

"On behalf of the Twin Cities Local Board, I congratulate the WCCO digital and streaming team, and assignment desk editors, on their victory," said Twin Cities Local President Peter Moore, son of local TV legend Dave Moore. "Their victory is proof of the value and necessity of union membership and the power of solidarity. We are thrilled to welcome our newest brothers and sisters."

On-air WCCO-TV employees and newsroom producers were already members of SAG-AFTRA. Now, the producers and editors in WCCO's expanding digital footprint have joined their ranks.

"These digital producers and assignment desk editors have sent a strong message about the power of community and solidarity," SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree Ireland said. "Their unanimous vote to join their colleagues at the station reinforces their commitment to their colleagues and to the craft of journalism."

SAG-AFTRA also represents employees at Minnesota Public Radio, MPR music stations and WCCO-AM radio.

MN United agrees to union election with video board techs

Video board technicians who work at Allianz Field in St. Paul reached an agreement last month with Minnesota United FC regarding the terms of a union election. The 27 part-time employees are seeking to join Local 745 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

The agreement called for ballots to be mailed Aug. 29 and due back by Sept. 20. The National Labor Relations Board will count votes Sept. 21.

"We thank [Minnesota United] for cooperatively working through the election stipulation process," the union posted on Twitter. "We hope they continue to commit to neutrality throughout the election."

An overwhelming majority of technicians signed cards requesting IATSE representation, according to the union, but the soccer team denied their request for voluntary recognition earlier this summer. "We tried to improve our wages and working conditions without a union, but we were constantly told 'no' at every turn," said Colin Brookfield, a camera operator with the team for 10 years. "We believe joining IATSE is the best way to improve our workplace."

Edina baristas' vote gives state its fifth unionized Starbucks

Edina Starbucks workers voted 9-0 to form a union last month, joining baristas at four other Minnesota stores in unionizing with Workers United, an SEIU affiliate.

The National Labor Relations Board certified votes cast by workers at the 5122 Edina Industrial Blvd. location Aug. 18, after three weeks of mail-in voting. The store's organizing committee released a statement saying union members were excited to begin the negotiation process and proud to be among workers at nearly 200 stores nationwide who have won union elections.

"It's amazing to see the collective voice of our store has finally been heard," the committee said. "This isn't just a win for us, but for all members of the working class to have the chance to be heard."

Workers at the Starbucks located at 2305 Fairview Ave. in Roseville were participating in a union vote scheduled to conclude Aug. 23. Other union locations in Minnesota include 300 Snelling Ave. S. in St. Paul, 3704 Silver Lake Rd. in St. Anthony, the first floor of the Mall of America and two stores in south Minneapolis, 5351 Lyndale Ave. and 4712 Cedar Ave.

Marching for a fair contract with SPSS



St. Paul Public Schools employees who are members of AFSCME Local 844 are still without a contract after nine bargaining sessions with the school district since April. The union represents clerical and technical workers in the district. They rallied with educators and other union members in advance of the July 19 school board meeting, calling on management to come back to the table with a better wage offer and to get serious about the union's demand for training and "onboarding" of new staff. "No one comes and talks to them about their benefits when they start," Local 844 President Martin Hoerth said. "They just hope and pray people sign up for their insurance and other benefits." The two sides were scheduled to enter mediation this month. Union Advocate photo

I'm proud to stand with the working families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Labor Day!

Betty

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Paid for by McCollum for Congress



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-Jim Gleb, President-



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THANK YOU, UNION MEMBERS!



Greater Twin Cities United Way's 2022-23 workplace campaign will be coming to your work site soon.

Your generous support is needed – and appreciated – more than ever!

'Sky's the limit' as women workers revive Minnesota's CLUW chapter

By Michael Moore,
Union Advocate editor

Outrage over the Supreme Court decision rescinding women's right to an abortion has sparked a renewed interest among a growing number of local union members in the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

CLUW is a constituency group affiliated with the AFL-CIO that offers space and support for women in the labor movement to advocate for shared issues. Minnesota's CLUW chapter had been dormant for a decade.

That's no longer the case. A first meeting earlier this summer drew 44 activists, who got to work drafting bylaws and applying for recognition of the re-emergent Minnesota CLUW chapter. After a second meeting in August, Co-chair LeiLani Hauge said they should have an officially recognized charter by Labor Day.

"We're still in an infancy stage," said Hauge, a representative with AFSCME Council 65 who lives in Fergus Falls. "But it's beautiful to see as we move forward what our potential is."

Minnesota CLUW intends to meet the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Meetings will be hybrid, with some joining virtually and others gathering in a union hall. So far, the Minnesota AFL-CIO in St. Paul has been the in-person gathering spot, but organizers hope to move meetings across the state.

Participation is open to all union members in good standing.

"We have public-sector workers, private-sector workers, women of color," said

Co-chair Leah Midgarden, a field organizer with the Southeast Area Labor Council. "We've got some younger folks in their late 20s or early 30s, and we are very blessed to have some retirees who were around during the previous iteration of Minnesota CLUW."

Union members founded CLUW in 1974 - a year after the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision - around four core objectives, which "continue to be the cornerstone of CLUW's activities," according to the organization's website. They are:

- empowering women for greater participation at all levels in the labor movement.
- organizing the unorganized.
- promoting affirmative action, social and economic justice in the workplace.
- increasing the participation of women in the political and legislative processes.

CLUW says its members "speak out for equal pay, child and elder care benefits, job security, safe workplaces, affordable health care, contraceptive equity, and protection from sexual harassment and violence at work."

But the Supreme Court's attack on reproductive freedom was the spark that led to CLUW's awakening in Minnesota, and organizers said they hope to inform and advocate for abortion rights within the movement and beyond.

"Let's be honest, there is still a sentiment in the public as well as organized labor broadly of not understanding why family planning is fundamentally a workers' rights issue," Midgarden, who lives in Red

Wing, said. "There are social and economic impacts when childbearing people are not able to make the decision about when they will become parents."

"Some of our folks are the ones who were actually picketing and marching when Roe v. Wade came onto the circuit in 1973," Hauge said. "As a young union member and representative, I'm learning a lot from these folks."

Hauge and Midgarden said union members or retirees who want to learn more about the Minnesota CLUW chapter should look for a table at upcoming union events, like the Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention this month. And they can also reach out by email at lmidgarden@semlc.org or lhauge@afscme65.org.

"I believe the sky's the limit," Hauge



said. "We've got very passionate people, and because we all come from a labor-movement background, we know how to fight. We fight every day."

Happy Labor Day

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Prepared and paid for by Fischer for Representative, 2443 Standridge Avenue, Maplewood, MN 55109

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On Labor Day let us remember the men and women that have fought tirelessly for Workers Rights.

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- A message from the St. Paul Building & Construction Trades Council

LABOR DAY GREETINGS

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Highland Park Picnic Pavilion

Martagon to head Building Strong Communities program

Rick Martagon, former apprenticeship coordinator and training director for Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, accepted a position as executive director of Building Strong Communities last month. Martagon joined the apprenticeship-preparatory program after serving as manager of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Apprenticeship Minnesota initiative.

Building Strong Communities is a free training opportunity designed to attract women, people of color and veterans to careers in the trades by preparing them for registered apprenticeship.

During the 12-week program, participants are introduced to 15 different trades before graduating in May - just in time for the summer construction season. It offers hands on experience, four college credits through North Hennepin Community College and opportunities to meet and interview with prospective employers.

"The Building Strong Communities program pro-

vides opportunities for those who have been traditionally underrepresented to start a career in the building and construction trades," Martagon said. "My career has focused on growing registered apprenticeship programs, and I am happy to have the opportunity to be able to help women, BIPOC and Veterans achieve careers in the construction industry."

Martagon is a Navy veteran, and his 27 years of experience in the construction industry include a term as president of the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of Minnesota. Tom Dicklich, executive director of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and president of the Building Strong Communities Board, said Martagon's experience and passion make him a "perfect fit" for the program.

"We are excited that he decided to come on board and lead BSC," Dicklich added. "BSC recently graduated its first class of participants, and we know that with Rick's leadership we will be able to bring more people into union careers."

East Side Freedom Library names Ratsabout new director

The East Side Freedom Library Board of Directors introduced Saengmany Ratsabout as the organization's new executive director last month. The nonprofit, independent library is planning a series of community events this fall to introduce Ratsabout to its network of community supporters and partners.

In announcing the news, ESFL's founding co-directors, Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary, called the choice "unanimous and enthusiastic."

"We, ESFL's co-founders, and members of the board and staff cannot imagine a more suitable leader for the next phase of ESFL's evolution," they wrote. "We know that Saengmany will have the support of an energized Board, an ever more cohesive community, a network of

scholar-activists across the state and beyond - and you and your organizations."

Born in Laos, Ratsabout was the first member of his family to attend a university and now holds multiple advanced degrees. Ratsabout's research interests include migration history, U.S. refugee resettlement programs and policies, experiences of immigrants and refugees, return migration and social remittances. Ratsabout spent over a decade at the University of Minnesota in various capacities.

Outside of academia, Ratsabout served as commissioner and vice-chair of the City of Newport Planning Commission and was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans in 2016.

The ESFL opened its doors on the East Side in 2014, moving into the Carnegie Library building at 1105 Greenbrier Street after the City of St. Paul relocated the Arlington Hills Branch. Rachleff is labor historian who taught at Macalester College, and the ESFL has partnered with local unions to offer academic and training opportunities, an annual job fair, film screenings, book readings and more.

Learn more about the ESFL, its programming and its work in the community at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

Ellison plans 'BBQ Honoring Labor'

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's re-election campaign will host "Keith's Annual BBQ Honoring Labor" Sept. 3, from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Wabun Picnic Area C at Minnehaha Regional Park.

In past years the event has featured speakers who are involved in current union organizing campaigns as well as union members who are organizing around workplace and community issues.

Ellison is running for re-election to a second term with the Minnesota AFL-CIO's endorsement.



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Labor History

Labor Day's founding has its roots on St. Paul's East Side

By Peter Rachleff

Most of us, from St. Paul workers and labor activists to labor historians like me, have been unaware of the role that St. Paul workers played in the establishment of the Labor Day holiday.

In April 1894, railroad workers from Montana to Chicago struck the Great Northern Railroad. Owner James J. Hill had cut their wages three times since a depression had begun in the fall of 1893, and, across all the running trades, workers had joined the new American Railway Union under the charismatic leadership of Eugene V. Debs. Debs made the case to workers that, facing the country's biggest corporations, they were ill-served by belonging to 14 different craft unions rather than coming together in one big union of railroad workers. By spring of 1894, this argument made sense to tens of thousands of engineers, firemen, brakemen, switchmen, trainmen, conductors, maintenance of way workers and more.

The very center of the strike was the East Side of St. Paul. Strikers met in the second-floor meeting room of a mutual benefit society located at 896 Payne Ave. Following their spirited meetings, they would march, singing, to the newly built overpass above the tracks three blocks south on Payne, just north of Minnehaha Avenue. There they dumped garbage on the tracks, seeking to interfere with the scab-operated trains that Hill had funded. Great Northern trains on these tracks ran from the flour mills on the Minneapolis riverfront, through St. Paul's Swede Hollow, on their way to Duluth. There, barrels of flour would be loaded onto ocean-going ships and sent across Lake Superior, out the Saint Lawrence Seaway and across the Atlantic Ocean. Due to the productivity of midwestern wheat farming, flour milling and transportation, barrels of Minnesota flour undersold European flour in cities across the continent

and made the Pillsburys, Washburns and Crosbys oligarchs to rival Hill.

And they were unhappy when "his" workers went on strike and disrupted the shipment of "their" flour. Pillsbury called on Hill and urged him to settle with his workers. Hill agreed to participate in the first ever third-party arbitration of a major strike and to allow Pillsbury to serve as arbitrator. Debs agreed, too. Lo and behold, Pillsbury ruled in favor of the American Railway Union and ordered Hill to restore the wage cuts!

Most of us have been unaware of the role that St. Paul workers played in the establishment of the Labor Day holiday.

Word spread among railroad workers that the American Railway Union had defeated Big Jim Hill, and in the next months Debs was deluged with requests for membership. One of those requests came from the machinists, molders and foundry workers who made Pullman sleeping cars in a company town just outside Chicago. Pullman had not only cut his workers' wages several times, but he had refused to reduce their rents or the prices charged by his company stores. Workers explained to Debs that, while they did not work on moving trains, they were railroad workers, and he agreed. And when they added that they were already on strikes, Debs called for a nationwide "boycott" of all trains that included Pullman cars. This was tantamount to calling a nationwide railroad strike, since virtually all trains included Pullman cars, and the East Side railroad

workers, back on the job only two months, returned to the picket lines.

Pullman hired the former U.S. Attorney General Richard Olney to help him break the strike. Olney argued before a federal judge in Chicago that, because every train included a mail car, the strike was interfering with the shipment of the nation's mail. The judge agreed and issued the first ever federal injunction against a strike. Debs was hauled into court and told to issue an order ending the strike. When he refused, the judge found him in contempt and ordered him to jail. Debs would spend the next 18 months in prison, refusing to call off the strike.

President Grover Cleveland decided to send the National Guard to break the picket lines in Chicago. There was considerable violence, and the strike began to crumble. But this "success" sullied Cleveland's political reputation, and the Democrat's advisors told him he had to do something to win back working class support, which had put him in office. And so, in August 1894, he decreed there would be an annual national holiday called "Labor Day."

On Saturday, Sept. 10, from 3 to 6 p.m., the East Side Freedom Library will host a Labor Solidarity Picnic on our beautiful front lawn. Come learn other labor history stories that you and your families might not know. And come hear about current labor struggles, from union organizing at Starbucks, Amazon and Half Price Books to the struggles of railroad workers nurses, nurses and other health care workers, and of Building Trades workers today.

Yes, there is history to learn, and there is history to be made. Join us!

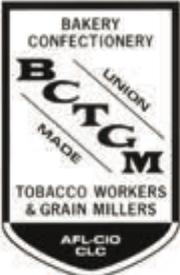
- Peter Rachleff is co-executive director of the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul. Learn more about the independent library at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.

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Happy Labor Day to all union members!

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Labor Day greetings to all union families!

Iron Workers Local 512



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Labor Day greetings to union families!



A message from the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 9.
www.local9.com

Wishing a happy and safe Labor Day to all workers!



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Local Union 1 – MN/ND/SD
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Happy Labor Day to all working people!
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HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association from eight different hospitals announce plans to take a strike vote during a press conference at the union's St. Paul headquarters. Union Advocate photo

Nurses: Hospitals' refusal to address staffing crisis leaves 'no choice' but to fight for patients, profession

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

aMNA members have been in bargaining with the hospital systems – Allina Health, M-Health Fairview, Children's, HealthPartners and North Memorial in the Twin Cities – since March. They have focused their contract campaign on improving patient care by investing in measures to keep hospital nurses at the bedside.

It's the first round of talks since COVID-19 shocked the health care landscape, and MNA members – in the media, at the Capitol and via workplace actions – have been sounding the alarm about the toll staffing shortfalls are taking on patient care and staff morale.

A report issued by the Minnesota Department of Health earlier last month showed a 33% increase in adverse events in Minnesota hospitals from 2020 to 2021. Union leaders pinned the blame on short staffing and retention issues, noting MNA members' own reports of unsafe staffing concerns have increased 300% since 2014.

"Our management, our leaders have failed," said Amy McGlone, a nurse and member of the Children's Hospital bargaining team. "They have failed us nurses, as well as the patients and families who come through our doors for care... What is happening in our hospitals is not safe and not sustainable."

As the crisis continues to deepen, even more nurses are considering giving up on the profession or moving to positions away from the bedside, studies suggest.

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the

Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) issued a report in June that found 51% of surveyed nurses considered leaving the profession within the next year, and they cited short staffing and moral distress as the driving factors. That constitutes a "public health crisis," Turner said, and it is a direct consequence of "corporate health care policies pursued by our hospital executives with million-dollar salaries."

"Our integrity dictates we demand the kind of care that we would want for ourselves, our families and our loved ones – for every single patient that crosses our threshold," said Meghan Matteson, an acute rehab nurse at Fairview Riverside.

"The best care possible is not receiving emergency care in a hallway. The best care possible is not having to wait hours for a higher level of care – sometimes days. The best care possible is not having nurses with more patients than we can care for safely. Unfortunately, this is our current reality."

To turn the tide in their profession, Minnesota nurses are seeking

33%

Increase in adverse events in Minnesota hospitals from 2020 to 2021, according to the MN Department of Health

300%

Increase in MNA nurses' reports of unsafe staffing since 2014

new contracts that include wage increases and a seat at the table in decisions about staffing levels in their units.

They also want paid family leave, after many health care workers zeroed out their paid time off while isolating, quarantining or caring for family members affected by the pandemic. At least one hospital system, according to a nurse at the bargaining table, has responded to the request for paid family leave by suggesting nurses buy their own short-term disability insurance.

"Fairview has taken advantage of our goodwill during this pandemic and has highly normalized this chaotic staffing situation that we are currently in," HealthEast nurse Katie Donner said. "We've risked our lives and the health of our families to care for our community. Our community recognizes us, so why won't Fairview?"

The community may get an opportunity to stand with nurses on picket line soon, if the strike vote doesn't prompt hospital executives to get serious about the union's demands.

"We don't take this decision lightly," Turner said. "All 15,000 nurses want to be at the bedside, but we have been driven to this. We have tried to put forward proposals that would bring back nurses to the bedside, but they are not interested. For the safety of our patients, we need to take this action."

The strike-authorization vote, recommended by nurses' bargaining committees, drew support from a two-thirds "supermajority" of nurses who cast ballots.

Labor Bowl raises funds to serve union families during hardships

Local union members and friends of labor laced up their bowling shoes Aug. 15 for Labor Bowl. The annual event, in its 11th year, is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation's nonprofit, the Saint Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center (LSRC), which advocates for and assists union members and their families in Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties.

The LSRC, through its Community Services program, connects union members and their families to community resources and assistance programs. The LSRC also partners with labor unions to provide strike and lay-off preparation training, community outreach and coalition building.

"Thank you to the organizations, sponsors

and bowlers who supported this fun event," SPRLF President Kera Peterson said. "By participating in the Labor Bowl, you gave back to our community – and supported an organization that supports the work of organized labor."

High- and low-score bowlers from each of the event's three shifts received prizes and, for the high scorers, trophies crafted by Carpenters union retiree Brian Beedle. Pictured clockwise from top-left are SPRLF Vice President Perry Schmidt and Kate Sigrist (AFSCME Local 1842); Ron Laumeyer (ATU Local 1005) and Sheniqua Mattix (IUPAT District Council 82); Chris Peltier and Carrie Roth (LIUNA Local 563); President Peterson and Mark Nikol (Machinists Local Lodge 459); and Executive Board member Kelly Gibbons.



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Minutes of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation

JULY 13, 2022

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation met in regular session on the above date and was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Peterson at 6 p.m. Board members in attendance were Beedle, Beissel, Engeldorf, Gale, Hoerth, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, McNamara, Michelson, Peterson, Ryan, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Tastad-Damer, Vanderport, Vandassor, and Wynn. Excused were Edwards, Gibbons, Guertin, Hoppe, Luneburg and Varco. Absent were Renne, Sansom, and Terry.

President Peterson read the Code of Conduct. She will go over the Code of Conduct at the beginning of each meeting. The Code states: The AFL-CIO is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and equality and conduct themselves in this meeting consistent with those values. The RLF meetings that are held the Second Wednesday of the month will have a designee as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks they have experienced discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior. President Peterson has assigned two designees as points of contact that will be announced at the start of each meeting. We urge you to contact him/her if you have any concerns. The designees are Bunny Engeldorf, Secretary-Treasurer and Perry Schmidt, Vice President.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials were received from AFSCME Local 722. President Peterson administered the Oath of Obligation to those new delegates and alternates in attendance.

ST. PAUL LABOR STUDIES AND RESOURCE CENTER JULY 13, 2022

Business to come before the LSRC Board to be acted upon consisted of LSRC's 2021 Audit presented by Jamie McNamara, Trustee.

M/S/C TO APPROVE THE 2021 LSRC AUDIT.

There being no further business to come before this board the meeting stood adjourned.

COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE) MINUTES JULY 13, 2022

COPE met in regular on the above date and was called to order by President Peterson at 5 p.m. Board members in attendance were Beedle, Beissel, Engeldorf, Gale, Hoerth, Krey, Lohmann, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, McNamara, Michelson, Peterson, Ryan, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Tastad-Damer, Vanderport, Vandassor, and Wynn. Excused were Edwards, Gibbons, Guertin, Hoppe, Luneburg and Varco. Absent were Mayer, Naseth, Renne, Sansom, Terry and Wise.

Items to come before this board included:

- The Chisago County Labor Assembly requested recommendation to grant labor endorsement to:

- Jim Swenson, Chisago County Commissioner District 1
- Rick Greene, Chisago County Commissioner District 2
- Ben Montzka, Chisago County Commissioner District 4
- Cindy Erickson, Chisago County Commissioner District 5
- The Washington County Labor Assembly requested recommendation to grant labor endorsement to:
 - Stan Karwoski, Washington County Commissioner, District 2
 - Karla Bigham, Washington County Commissioner, District 4
 - Screened in District 5 and no recommendation at present.
- President Peterson reported on the

Union volunteers in action



The Saint Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, which is the nonprofit arm of the Regional Labor Federation, joined with the Teamsters Service Bureau and Minneapolis-based Working Partnerships to form a team of 20 volunteers at Greater Twin Cities United Way's annual Action Day event, held at U.S. Bank Stadium in July. Volunteers helped fill backpacks with school supplies for local students. submitted photo

following:

- Ward 1 Saint Paul City Council appointment due to the resignation of Dai Thao.
- Northeast Area Labor Council Jennifer Schultz, CD8 screening recommendation.
- Dakota County Labor Assembly will be screening tomorrow night for Commissioner and County Attorney.

• **M/S/C TO RECOMMEND THE DELEGATE BODY SUPPORT THE COPE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT LABOR ENDORSEMENT TO: JIM SWENSON, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1; RICK GREENE, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2; BEN MONTZKA, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4; CINDY ERICKSON, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5; STAN KARWOSKI, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2; KARLA BIGHAM, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4.**

There being no further business to come before this committee, the meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES JULY 13, 2022

The Executive Board met with those same members present who are duly elected to this board.

Items to come before this board included:

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
 - Trustee Jamie McNamara presented the SPRLF 2021 Audit. Legacy Professionals was retained to perform the audit where due to their operating procedure they continue to inform the executive board of a material weakness that has been presented and addressed for over the past 15 years. The executive board has evaluated and discussed the options concerning the Federation obtaining the capabilities of preparing financial statements that would not require significant changes by the auditor. The Board has decided that it would not be cost beneficial to hire another employee to perform such a task or train current employees to be able to do so. The Board believes that it is in the best interest of the Federation to continue to retain the auditing firm to prepare the Federation's financial statements in con-

junction with the year end audit.

– President Peterson reported on the following:

- * Strategic Plan.
- * AFL-CIO Solidarity Grant report.
- * Political Organizer Job has been posted internally and will be posted externally next week.
- * Greater Twin Cities United Way Day of Action on July 21 at U.S. Bank Stadium, to pack backpacks with school supplies.
- * Eleventh Annual Labor Bowl, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, shift times are 2, 4 and 6 p.m.
- * Nominations for Geographical Slate and Trustee positions will be held in August after written notice has been given to affiliates.

* President Peterson will be attending the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council Convention.

* The re-established Minnesota Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

* Pride at Work Convention will be in August in Minneapolis.

* Application has been submitted to the Minnesota State Fair for the RLF's participation as a marching unit at the Labor Day Parade.

* Minnesota AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention will be held Sept. 18-20, 2022. The Saint Paul RLF will be the host organization for the COPE reception and President Peterson will explore possible tickets for beverages and bring information back to the board for decision.

• **M/S/C TO APPROVE THE SAINT PAUL REGIONAL LABOR FEDERATION 2021 AUDIT AS PRESENTED BY JAMIE MCNAMARA.**

• **M/S/C FOR THE SAINT PAUL REGIONAL LABOR FEDERATION TO PROVIDE A MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO LEGACY PROFESSIONALS REGARDING THE MATERIAL WEAKNESS IDENTIFIED BY LEGACY IN THE 2021 AUDIT.**

• **M/S/C TO APPROVE THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS FOR 2023.**

• **M/S/C FOR THE RLF TO MAKE A \$500 CONTRIBUTION TO THE 22ND ANNUAL GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA GOLF TOURNAMENT BEING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022.**

• **M/S/C FOR THE RLF TO MAKE A**

\$500 CONTRIBUTION TO LABORER'S DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MN & ND ALONG WITH MN LECET'S FAMILY FUN-RAISER AND PICNIC BEING HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022.

• **THANK YOU NOTES** received from Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34 for the RLF's \$400 contribution to the 30th Annual Al O'Neill Memorial Golf Tournament and the Minnesota AFL-CIO Retiree Council for the RLF's \$500 donation to the Council's 17th annual Fun(d)raiser.

• **ORGANIZING UPDATES/CAMPAIGNS:** AFSCME, Bakery Workers Local 22, IATSE Local 745, Minnesota Nurses Association and Teamsters Local 120 gave an update on their organizing activities.

There being no further business to come before this board, the meeting adjourned.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Secretary-Treasurer Engeldorf reported on the financial status of the Federation as of June 2022. The report was accepted as read.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Peterson reported on the SPRLF 2021 audit; Strategic Plans and Goals for 2023; AFL-CIO Solidarity Grant; Political Organizer position currently posted internally will soon post externally; Greater Twin Cities United Way Action Day; SPRLF marching unit in the Minnesota State Fair Labor Day Parade; Eleventh Annual Labor Bowl; Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention Sept. 18-20 with a convention call for nominations in August; Minnesota St. Paul Building Trades Council Convention in Mankato; establishment of a new chapter of Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in Minnesota; Pride at Work Convention; and Liz Schuler elected President for a full term at the National AFL-CIO Convention. President Shuler presented vision and goals of increasing union membership over the next ten years as well as the National AFL-CIO developing a Sports Union Council.

REPORTS OF STAFF/LABOR LIAISONS

• On July 27 retiree's will be calling unregistered voters, on August 15 the start of phone banking. Door knocking will begin after Labor Day.

• Erica Dalager-Reed, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison for the St.

Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center, the non-profit arm of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, reported that the Minnesota State Fair officially accepted the RLF's application for 75 marchers in the Labor Day Parade. Please contact Erica at 651-222-3787 ext. 120 if you are interested in signing up to get a ticket. Line up will be at the south side of Como.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

• Michael Madden reported on behalf of the Chisago County Labor Assembly. The CCLA had some positive candidate screenings. Our next meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. via zoom.

• Connie Beissel reported on behalf of the Dakota County Labor Assembly. Letters have gone out for our annual school supply drive. We will be screening for Dakota County Commissioner and Dakota County Attorney. Our next meeting will be the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in person. Contact Colleen Nocerini or Kera Peterson if you would like to be included.

• Brian Beedle reported on behalf of the Washington County Labor Assembly. We screened and made recommendations for endorsement of Washington County Commissioner District 2 and District 4. Our first ever \$500 scholarship has been awarded. Our next meeting will be the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. via zoom.

• Marty Hoerth reported on behalf of the Ramsey County Labor Assembly. We will be screening for Ramsey County Commissioner. Our next meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. via zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

• President Peterson called for a floor vote on the COPE Committee recommendations to grant Labor endorsements.

M/S/C TO GRANT LABOR ENDORSEMENT TO: JIM SWENSON, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1; RICK GREENE, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2; BEN MONTZKA, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4; CINDY ERICKSON, CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5; STAN KARWOSKI, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2; KARLA BIGHAM, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4.

GOOD AND WELFARE

IUPAT, Painters Local 61 will be at the Minnesota State Fair, the AFL-CIO Retiree's will be holding their 17th Annual Fundraiser on August 20, 2022, with free food, music, games and parking.

There being no further business to come before this delegation, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
BERNADINE ENGELDORF
Secretary-Treasurer



Endorsement notice

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation may consider recommendations for labor endorsement in legislative, county, municipal and school board elections at its Sept. 14 delegate meeting.

For more information, call 651-222-3787.

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Workers at the Millennium, site of the AFL-CIO's Pride at Work Convention, lead a march from the convention floor into the lobby of the Minneapolis hotel. The workers are members of UNITE HERE Local 17.

Union Advocate photos

After walking away from TA, Millennium Hotel gets heat from convention delegates

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Housekeepers and other hotel employees took the stage on Day 1 of the AFL-CIO's Pride at Work convention and told delegates that the Millennium Hotel had pulled back tentative agreements with their union two months after booking the convention.

Delegates didn't take the news sitting down.

They marched out of the Millennium ballroom and into the lobby, with hotel staff in the lead, and held a lively rally in their defense. When security guards demanded demonstrators move to the sidewalk outside, they refused, holding the lobby for nearly a half hour.

The action marked a spirited start to the three-day convention that began Aug. 18, bringing together representatives of the AFL-CIO's constituency group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer-plus workers.

Christa Sarrack, president of UNITE HERE Local 17, said the situation could have been avoided if the Millennium had honored the agreements it struck with union members in May.

"When the convention contacted us to see if it was OK to have it at this hotel, there was no labor dispute," Sarrack said. "We thought we had a tentative agreement."

Two months later, the hotel sent an "incredibly regressive" settlement agreement for the union to sign. It would have

stripped longstanding language around breaks and schedule adjustments for housekeepers.

Local 17, which represents about 45 Millennium employees, has filed charges of unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board, but the show of solidarity will help keep morale high, Sarrack said, as the process plays out.

"Workers don't always get to see the actual support that they have," she said. "So I think this was incredibly meaningful for the workers to see. And to be able to be onstage in a group like this - they're normally in the back of the house and don't interact in this way with the groups - is huge."

Back in the ballroom, delegates to the convention worked their way through an agenda packed with panels, workshops and awards. The group's convention call promised to tackle two big issues: combating the radical right, and gathering allies for that work in advance of the November election.

Speakers included several Minnesota elected officials and labor leaders, including Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham.

The convention also honored AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond and News Guild President Jon Schleuss with Solidarity Awards for championing LGBTQ+ workers.

- PAI Union News Service contributed reporting.

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