

The St. Paul Union Advocate

127th Year, No. 4, Issue 5471

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

October 2023

✓ Labor Endorsed

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023

St. Paul City Council

Ward 2: Rebecca Noecker
Ward 4: Mitra Jalali
Ward 5: Hwa Jeong Kim
Ward 6: Nelsie Yang

St. Paul School Board

At Large: Chauntyll Allen,
Yusef Carillo, Carlo
Franco, Erica Valliant

Hastings School Board

At Large: Matt Bruns,
Mariah Ring, Matt
Seeger, Brandy Wentzler

Rosemount-Apple Valley Eagan School Board

At Large: Sachin Isaacs,
Corey Johnson, Jackie
Magnuson, Anna Williams

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Schools

School Board At Large:
Rowen Elsmore
Levy Referendum: Vote Yes

Stillwater Area Schools

School Board: Chris Lauer
Bond Referendum: Vote
Yes



www.stpaulunions.org

CRAFTING PETALS OF METAL



Volunteer members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 continued their union's tradition of crafting and giving away free roses at the Minnesota State Fair this year. Local 10 retiree Gary Sutliff and active member Danny Hintzman worked the kiosk on Labor Day. "I tell people you don't have to water this rose, and it won't ever die," Hintzman said. "And if you want it to turn green, just leave it outside for 15 to 20 years." Local 10 was among several unions with a presence at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion during the great Minnesota get-together.

Union Advocate photo

Hudson GM workers 'waiting to get the call' to join Big 3 strike

By Michael Moore

Union Advocate editor

Autoworkers at General Motors' parts-distribution facility in Hudson, Wis., say they are ready to strike if their international union directs them to the picket line.

"We're on standby right now, just waiting to get the call," United Autoworkers Local 722 President Steve Frisque said. "If we have to go out, we'll be ready to go."

Local 722 members were not among the autoworkers who went on strike when the UAW's contracts at GM, Ford and Stellantis - which cover about 146,000 workers nationwide - expired Sept. 15.

In what organizers call a "stand-up strike," the union is calling walkouts at targeted locations, and it started with three of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Metro Transit workers vote to authorize strike for higher pay

By Michael Moore

Union Advocate editor

Metro Transit workers have voted overwhelmingly to authorize their union leaders to call a strike, holding firm to their demand for wages that outpace inflation.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005, which represents about 2,000 operators, mechanics and other workers in contract negotiations with the Twin Cities' transit agency, reported that 94% of members who voted Sept. 10-11 supported strike authorization.

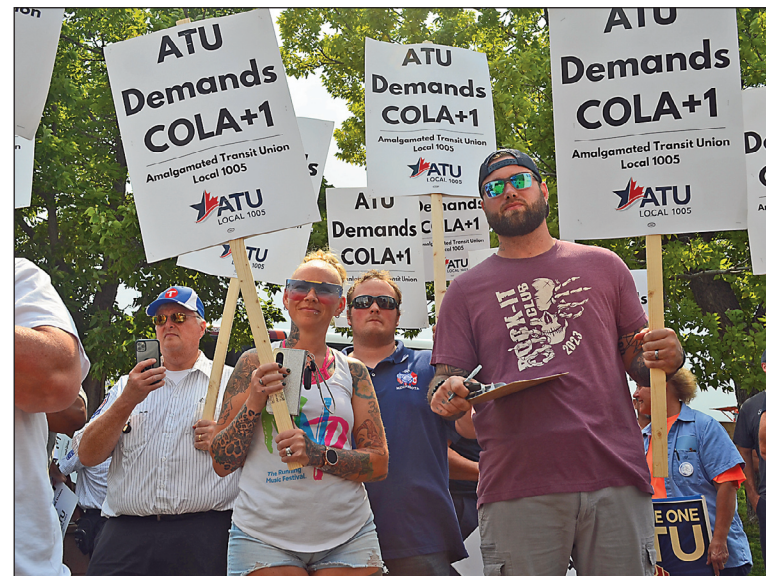
Bargaining began in March, and Local 1005 President Ryan Timlin said Metro Transit's first offer left a lot of union members "very pissed off." The agency has proposed a 3% raise in the contract's first year and 2% in the fol-

lowing two years, according to Timlin.

That's a similar wage package to the one approved by union members in their previous three-year contract, which expired July 31. But with inflation outpacing their earnings, transit workers are looking for more this time around.

Potential new hires are doing the same, Timlin said. The agency has struggled to hire despite plans to expand the local transit system, with Local 1005's membership down about 400 since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"Their offer isn't reaching market value," Timlin said. "And among our members, there's still a lot of anger about how management worked from home during COVID. Everything's been building."



Members of ATU Local 1005 rallied in July outside a Met Council committee meeting in Minneapolis.

Union Advocate photo

Local 1005 members voted a year ago to make a "COLA +1" wage formula their union's top priority at the bargaining table in 2023. Rather than fixed raises,

the proposed contract language would determine wage increases by adding 1% to the current rate of inflation.

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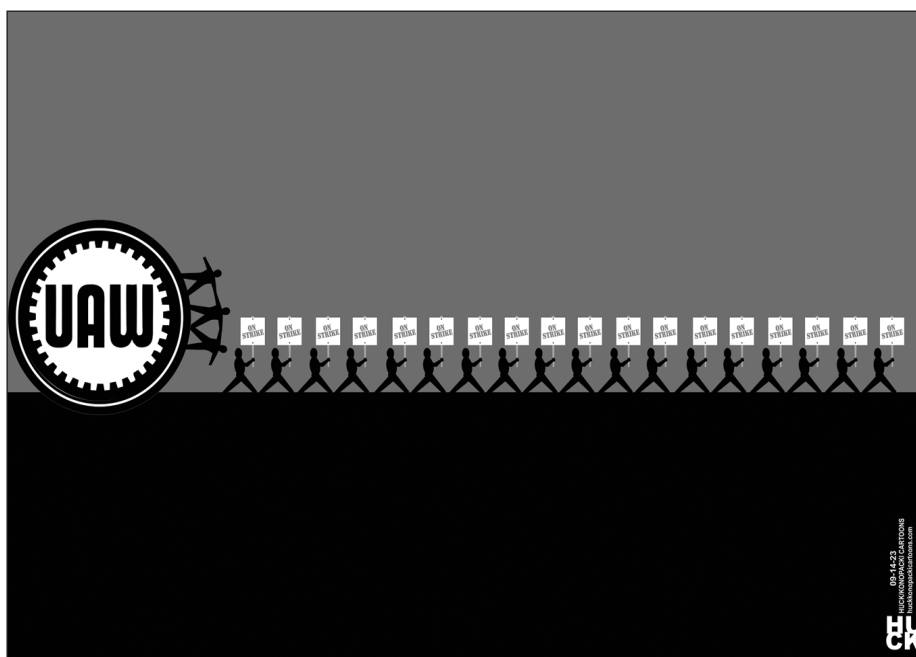
Go Figure

67% Unions' approval rating in a nationwide poll taken in August

61% Share of Americans who believe unions help rather than hurt the U.S. economy

75% Support among Americans for striking UAW members at the Big 3 automakers; polling found similar support for striking film industry workers

Source: 2023 Gallup Work and Education Poll



Labor Voices: Kelly Gibbons

There's a class war in our schools, and the rich are winning

As the academic year starts back up, it feels like a good time to step back and take stock of what is really happening in public schools across our state and nation. I'm proud to be the leader of a union that represents nearly 10,000 education support professionals across Minnesota. Our members are the backbone of their schools, working as bus drivers, special education paraprofessionals, food service workers, engineers and more. They also are parents of students in our schools. They care deeply about the success of our students and our schools, but they've seen the challenges piling up on educators, students and our whole school systems.

Look at the ongoing challenges facing education workers, who lack the respect, pay, benefits and job stability to support their own families. Or look at the extremists who are trying to ban books and block the teaching of our country's history. And we know that all of these challenges are tied together.

While Minnesota politicians have made big pushes to invest in education, including record levels of funding during this last legislative session, we know we still have work to do, after decades of underinvestment, to build the schools our students and educators need. And you know who is stopping us from having what we need? The ultra-rich, the corporations and the politicians they back, who would love nothing more than to end public education as we know it.

The education crisis is real, and it is harmful for families in every corner of our state. For decades, anti-public school politicians slashed public school funding. The result? Crumbling buildings, school staff leaving in droves from overwork and extremists working to use the challenges caused by these intentional choices to further disinvest in our schools. In the years following the Great Recession, disinvestment has robbed our children's education of a staggering \$600 billion nationwide, and our children and education workers – especially in communities of color – are paying the price. Almost 70 years since *Brown v. Board of Education*, non-white students are getting \$2,200 less in investments than white students, a national problem we know is especially dire here in Minnesota.

The rich thrive while crumbling schools too often don't have enough staff to do the work they need to do. While our communities are facing these huge crises, corporate taxes plummet, with some billionaires shamelessly avoiding federal income taxes, while the top 1% evades \$160 billion in owed taxes each year. Who pays the price? Working families. Kids. Education workers. All of us.

“The rich thrive while crumbling schools often don't have enough staff to do the work they need to do.”

– Kelly Gibbons



Minnesota can and must be a leader in showing a path forward. Minnesota is one of the richest states in the richest country in the world. We have one of the highest per-capita collections of Fortune 500 companies. We have the resources to create the highest quality child care system, the best K-12 schools, and debt-free higher education. But that push has to include all of us demanding change.

Here's the good news: That's exactly what SEIU Local 284 members are doing as we speak. Our members, along with our students, families and communities, are at the heart of a revived movement for strong public schools and racial and economic justice for everyone in our state. SEIU members are on the front line of a push for unions for all, for transformational investment in our children, and for respect for the people who educate and care for them.

Right here in Minnesota, the members of Local 284 fought hard for a better education system. We won free meals for Minnesota students and unemployment insurance for hourly workers so we can make sure schools retain talent over the summer months. We helped make sure we sent part of the record budget surplus back into our schools. We have raised our voices to say that every student – no matter their zip code, wealth or race – deserves a world class education. We know that this isn't possible without amazing school staff like our members.

This past year the DFL House and Senate, along with Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, made steps towards building the schools our families need. Now, we all need to come together again and demand those who have seen their wealth skyrocket during and after COVID-19 pay their fair share so we can go beyond just fixing the harm done in the past, and actually build the world-class schools Minnesotans deserve.

– Kelly Gibbons is executive director of Service Employees (SEIU) Local 284. Her column originally appeared on the *Minnesota Reformer* website, minnesotareformer.com.

Letters

- Send letters to: 353 W. 7th St., Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55102
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The Union Advocate

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Lift your voice in support of striking film workers

The SAG-AFTRA Twin Cities Local and local members of the Writers Guild of America will hold rally in St. Paul's Rice Park from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, to show solidarity with striking film industry workers across the nation.

All supporters are welcome to join the event, which will take place rain or shine and feature speeches, special guests and union songs from an "ad hoc Solidarity Chorus." The chorus welcomes all voices; to join a brief rehearsal via zoom before the event, email twincities@sagaftra.org.

Visit sagafrastrike.org to find detailed information about the strike, updates, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Register now for New Brookwood workshops

New Brookwood Labor College, the independent, non-accredited school dedicated to educating union members, began its fall term last month. Registration for several workshops will remain open until they fill up. Offerings include:

- Contract Costing, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 16, via Zoom.
- Leadership Communication, 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 11, in person at a St. Paul location to be announced.
- Minnesota Workers Make History, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18, at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul.

New Brookwood offers a sliding and flexible tuition scale. Learn more and register for workshops online by visiting newbrookwood.org.

Freedom Library to hold discussion of race, class

The independent, nonprofit East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul will host a discussion with author George Lakey and local organizer and minister JaNaé Bates on Sept. 28, billed as "Justice Unbound: Building Race and Class Solidarity."

Moderated by ESFL co-founder and labor historian Peter Rachleff, the discussion will consider how activists can work together across differences to fight for racial and economic justice, how polarization creates surprising new possibilities and how to build power together.

The event is part of the book tour for Lakey's memoir, "Dancing with History: A Life for Peace and Justice."

The event will run from 7 to 9 p.m., with participation available via Zoom and in person at the ESFL, located at 1105 Greenbrier St.

To sign up for the Zoom invitation, or to learn more about this and other events taking place at the ESFL, go to eastsidefreedomlibrary.org.



Union and non-union construction workers marched together along Central Avenue in northeast Minneapolis during a week of action to pressure prominent local multifamily residential developers to raise labor standards on their jobsites. Union Advocate photo

Week of action puts pressure on three local developers to join labor monitoring program

By Steve Share
Minneapolis Labor Review editor

The Twin Cities has two realities for construction workers. In the unionized sector, workers are paid well, receive benefits and enjoy the protections of a union contract. But in the non-union construction sector, which is largely comprised of immigrant workers, they encounter a range of abuses, from misclassification as independent contractors to wage theft, unsafe working conditions, sexual harassment and, in extreme cases, labor trafficking.

"We are demanding dignity and respect for workers," Douglas Guerra, construction worker and member of worker center CTUL, said at a Sept. 12 rally in Minneapolis.

Toward that goal, CTUL has adapted international models to create its Building Dignity and Respect (BDR) Program. It aims to enlist developers to sign onto a list of employment standards to which they will hold their contractors and subcontractors accountable.

CTUL has shared research reporting that at least one in four construction workers in Minnesota experiences payroll fraud.

"We can change the rules of the economy to make sure it's an economy where everybody prospers," CTUL Co-Director Veronica Mendez-Moore said.

For two years, CTUL has waged a campaign asking three developers who are active in the Twin Cities to sign onto the BDR Program: Solhem Companies, Yellow Tree, and United Properties. The worker center alleges the developers and their general contractors have awarded work to subcontractors that have a track record of labor abuses.

CTUL ratcheted the campaign up a few notches with a week of action culminating in a news conference at Minneapolis city hall Sept. 11 and a mile-long march the following day. At the news conference, CTUL announced that 30 state and local elected officials had signed an open letter urging support for the BDR program.

CTUL's news conference and march included representatives of Minnesota's Building Trades unions.

"General contractors have the ability to control and change



Workers created plaster casts of their hands, which they placed outside a Solhem project along the route. Labor Review photo

the culture on their construction sites," said Kim Nelson, assistant political director of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

"There's no reason why the developers should not sign onto the program," said Carlos Garcia, CTUL's lead organizer for the construction campaign. "There's enough money for the developers to make their profit... Without these workers' hands, none of these things get built..."

Educators plan to be bold in bargaining new union contracts after historic investment from state

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Minnesota students are back in the classroom this fall, and educators across the state are heading back to the bargaining table for contract negotiations that will give frontline staff a say in how their school districts invest a historic windfall in state funding over the next two years.

Local union leaders say they plan to be bold in bargaining for wages and benefits that will keep educators in the classroom and address staffing shortfalls that have plagued school districts statewide in recent years. They also intend to bargain over issues like equity and mental health services.

"It is a daunting task, and I don't think it makes things any easier just because there's more money," Mounds View Education Association President Stacey Vanderport said. "You still have to be able to work with management to come to a place where you have solid agreements for the good of the district's students and staff."

Earlier this year, Gov. Tim Walz and DFL majorities in the Legislature passed legislation to increase schools' per-pupil funding formula 4% this year and 2% next year, and tie future increases to inflation. The state also increased funding for special education and English language learning costs, which should free up more funds in districts' operating

budgets.

That's on top of funds lawmakers directed to provide universal school meals, to cover unemployment insurance for hourly school workers and to invest in mental health supports, early learning scholarships and other initiatives.

Retain and recruit

In all, school districts will see nearly \$2.3 billion in new funding over the next two years. In the St. Paul Public Schools alone, the new state investments amount to almost \$84 million.

The St. Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE), which represents 3,600 teachers, education assistants and school professionals in the district, plans to unveil its specific contract proposals over the course of negotiations, which began Sept. 21. But President Leah VanDassor said union members will be seeking "significant" gains.

"We're well aware of the money that's available," VanDassor said. "We're going to be bold with the demands we're going to be making. We also know the superintendency group got a really huge raise, and nobody seemed to even bat an eye at that."

Compensation increases for school administrators won't do much to stem the tide of educators walking away from the profession. In a nationwide survey of its members last year, the National Education Association - the nation's

largest union of educators - found 55% were thinking about leaving the field earlier than they had planned.

When asked about potential ways to address the issue, respondents pointed to higher salaries, providing additional mental supports for students, hiring more teachers, hiring more support staff and less paperwork.

"We are in a crisis in terms of staffing," Vanderport said. "We do have people who are retiring, who are choosing another profession. And we don't have a huge bench of people applying for open jobs. A few years ago, you'd have one position and 150 applicants. That isn't happening anymore."

"Now is the time to do the right thing and make this a job that is desirable again," VanDassor added. "I hear from my members all the time that they love their jobs, but their work mode is becoming untenable."

It's what people deserve

Both SPFE and MVEA will look to balance health care costs with wage increases during negotiations, with an eye toward "getting more money into teachers and educators' pockets" without sacrificing coverage, Vanderport said.

"It is what people deserve," she added. "Funding for education has been so far behind the curve, and we feel like this is the opportunity to get back to the curve or ahead of the curve for the first time in over a decade."

SPFE contract talks open to public

The St. Paul Federation of Educators participates in open bargaining with the St. Paul Public Schools, meaning sessions are open to the public. And the union encourages supporters to attend.

Talks between the SPFE and SPPS have grown increasingly contentious in recent years, with strike authorization votes becoming the norm. SPFE went on a historic, one-week strike for the "schools St. Paul students deserve" in March 2020.

But in the last round of bargaining, the district sought to claw back hard-fought gains educators made during that strike, including mental health supports, class size limits and even guaranteed recess for elementary students. The district settled just hours before educators' stated strike deadline in March 2022.

"We don't exactly know what to expect from the district this time, but we've got a fight on our hands, we know we do," SPFE's Leah VanDassor said. "We're not planning to strike, we're preparing to win. And that means being ready to strike."

SPFE and the district held their first bargaining session Sept. 21 and plan to meet roughly every other Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the union's headquarters, located at 23 Empire Dr.

Great River employees reach first union contract with St. Paul charter school

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Two years after voting to form a union with Education Minnesota, the teachers, support staff and other frontline workers of Great River School in St. Paul entered the 2023-24 school year with a first union contract in place.

Representatives of the Great River School Union and the charter school district drafted the agreement in bargaining over the course of about 18 months.

GRSU spokesperson Abby Mesnik, a high school math teacher, said the contract delivers on many of the objectives Great River employees had in mind when they sought a union election in May 2021, including pay transparency and greater stability regarding employees' benefits and work rules.

"People wanted some things in writing," Mesnik said, noting that Great River was on the cusp of a leadership change during the union drive. "It wasn't that they were necessarily unhappy with the current practices, but they wanted it preserved, and they wanted some consistency in what working in the school looked like. And I think the

contract does that."

Mesnik credited school administrators for taking a collaborative approach to negotiations. The district even brought in its own pro-union consultant to better understand the process and its staff members' perspectives.

"We brought a draft of the contract that was very pro-union, and we just negotiated from that draft," Mesnik said. "They never brought us their own version that we would try to reach a middle on; we would just make edits to ours."

The contract covers about 120 employees at the Montessori school, which serves students in grades 1 through 12. GRSU is a "wall-to-wall" union, meaning teachers are in the same bargaining unit as support staff and even student workers, potentially.

That created a bargaining dynamic that's unique in public education.

"We could not be separated in bargaining for funds," Mesnik said. "We're not just trying to move teachers up or just trying to move support staff up. We all rise together."

The new contract puts every position covered by the unit into one of three pay scales, ensuring greater

"It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people. But it's really exciting to join the labor movement and take power back as workers."

— Abby Mesnik,
GRSU spokesperson

transparency and equity, Mesnik added.

"Now we can clearly track down what step and what lane people are on, what salary scale goes with which position," she said. "Previously, there were not clear raises for folks. Some people were getting 5%, some were getting 2%, some knew to go talk to their boss and ask for a certain amount. Now there's clarity."

Other highlights of the contract include new incentives for advanced training in some positions, language around paid-time-off rollover, and a new independent retirement savings benefit, with an employer match after one year.

The contract also spells out for the

first time what constitutes a working day and how many working days there are in Great River's school year.

GRSU is one of five charter school unions in Minnesota. Teachers at the Twin Cities German Immersion School in St. Paul formed the state's first charter school union in 2014.

Charter schools are publicly funded but exempt from some state laws in order to increase flexibility, autonomy and innovation. Minnesota is considered the birthplace of charter schools, having passed a first-in-the-nation law establishing their framework in 1991. Now, 180 charter schools serve about 76,000 pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students statewide.

Mesnik said she and other GRSU activists often get asked by fellow union educators what it's like to bargain a contract from scratch.

"I tell them it takes a lot of effort from a lot of people," she said. "But it's really exciting to join the labor movement and take power back as workers. We have a lot of power collectively, and it's really cool to be on the other side with a contract and be able to say that these things are enforceable."



Members of PPNCs United, a union of Planned Parenthood workers in Minnesota and four other states, held a rally in July outside a bargaining session with the nonprofit health care organization.

Union Advocate photo

After ‘unprecedented’ disrespect from Planned Parenthood, union members plan to escalate contract campaign

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

The union of over 400 Planned Parenthood workers in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas will enter mediation with the North Central States (PPNCS) chapter after a frustrating round of bargaining prompted another elected union leader to resign from the organization.

In a press conference Sept. 7, April Clark said she used to joke that she was a Planned Parenthood “lifer,” but the senior training and development specialist is now working her final two weeks with the sexual health nonprofit after eight years of service.

Clark was among 14 original members of the union’s bargaining team, and her departure will mean more than half of those elected leaders are no longer with PPNCS, after management slapped all 14 with “final written notices” four months into the bargaining process.

The disciplinary action, which the union has challenged as retaliatory and illegal, means any subsequent infraction – no matter how serious – could result in termination. “I feel paranoid about every action that I take, which is not a great way to feel the majority of your waking time,” Clark said.

The move has had a chilling effect throughout the bargaining unit, which voted 264-26 in favor of forming a union with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa last year. The nonprofit’s already high turnover rate – a reason workers cited as a factor in forming their union – has climbed to 44% since contract

negotiations began, according to organizers.

“For my mental health, I am leaving – like so many other leaders of this bargaining team have done since receiving their final notices,” Clark said, choking back tears. “Unfortunately, so are many of our other coworkers. I don’t know anyone who isn’t actively looking for employment elsewhere, and that isn’t hyperbole.”

For Clark and others, the final straw came during negotiations held the week before Labor Day. Previous sessions had yielded “slow but steady progress,” health educator and LGBTQ care coordinator Elizabeth Wolfe said, and at a meeting in July, management pledged to bring a new health insurance proposal to the next session.

But instead of new health care language, Wolfe said, PPNCS executives offered the union a choice between a three-year contract with “minimal wage increases,” or one with bigger raises that clawed back several agreements reached earlier in negotiations, including longevity pay, increases to paid time off and floating holidays, expanded bereavement leave and new professional development opportunities.

“What the negotiators and leaders of our union have told us is that they’ve never seen an employer make a proposal to undo so many substantial pieces of progress already won through the bargaining process,” Wolfe said.

Workers have long since given up hope that Planned Parenthood, an organization with deep progressive

roots, would seek a collaborative relationship with their union.

PPNCS refused workers’ petition for voluntary union recognition despite overwhelming support, and the attacks on bargaining team members have drawn comparisons to Starbucks and Amazon from veteran SEIU leaders. The union rescinded its endorsement of PPNCS CEO Ruth Richardson, who served in the Minnesota Legislature until her abrupt resignation in August.

But until now, the union’s frustrations had stemmed from actions away from the bargaining table. The unprecedented exchange before Labor Day has union members planning an escalation of their contract campaign.

Raven LaBeau, a health center associate in Minneapolis, said no options are off the table.

“We will accept nothing less than (contract) language that honors and is appropriate for the work that every single one of us does every day,” they said. “This work and those that perform it are too important – too necessary – to tolerate half measures and weak proposals made by management at the table.”

“My message to management is this. There are more of us than there are of you, and truly we don’t need you as much as you need us. We are the lifeblood of this affiliate, and it’s time to treat us accordingly.”

Stay informed

PPNCS union members encourage supporters to track their social media feeds – @PPNCsUnited – for information about upcoming calls to action and events.

AFSCME state employees vote to ratify new contract with 10% wage increases

Thousands of AFSCME Council 5 members across Minnesota voted in August to ratify a 2023-2025 state employee contract that brings sweeping improvements, including raises of more than 10% for all AFSCME-represented executive branch employees.

Beyond the across-the-board raises, dozens of job classifications won so-called “wage inequities” – raises to bring them better in line with the private sector.

“Our members fought for and won a contract with big investments in state workers,” said Bart Andersen, interim executive director of Council 5. “Minnesota is now better positioned to recruit and retain excellent workers.”

“Minnesotans deserve fully staffed, fully funded, excellent services. This contract will make huge progress towards these goals and we will continue to use our momentum to build upon our progress.”

The contract covers about 18,000 workers, many of whom will see a dramatic increase in pay. Contract language will increase the shift differential for overnight work by 246%, from 65 cents per hour to \$2.25 per hour, for example, and jobs that require multiple languages will receive a \$50 per paycheck bilingual differential.

The contract also outlines pilot programs for student loan reimbursement, better reimbursement rates for travel and lump sums to keep jobs internally balanced.


“From clerical and technical workers to secure facility staff, transportation workers to general maintenance workers, the 18,000 AFSCME Council 5 state workers covered under this union contract make Minnesota happen and without them, our state would cease to function,” Andersen said. “This contract reflects how important these workers are to Minnesota and we will continue our fight.”

Members also won expansion of zero-deductible and no-copay mental health insurance coverage.

The new contract also acknowledges the importance of telework and requires management to provide a 14-day notice before rescinding telework privileges, an important priority for many workers heading into bargaining.


Other highlights include credits to workers’ sick leave in case of a death in the family when they do not currently have the sick leave to cover it. The contract also fixes holes in the work-boot policy, allowing additional reimbursement for boots that get destroyed or become too worn to use.

– Adapted from www.afscme.org.




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Union members and supporters gathered for a photo at the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion on Labor Day during a rally in support of actors and performers on strike in the film industry nationwide. Union Advocate photo

Striking actors, writers enjoy broad public support

Minnesota State Fairgoers showed their solidarity with striking film and TV actors on Labor Day.

The state's largest labor federation, the Minnesota AFL-CIO, declared SAG-AFTRA Solidarity Day at the Labor Pavilion, with speeches, music and rallying in support of performers – and writers – who are fighting for fair compensation and worker protections in the film industry.

“We will not let them take us backwards,” SAG-AFTRA Twin Cities Local President Casey Lewis declared on the Labor Pavilion stage.

Actors and performers began their strike against the large production companies July 13, joining members of the Writers Guild (WGA), who began their strike more than two months earlier.

The two unions had not been on strike at the same time in over 60 years, but writers and performers are looking to address similar issues in contract negotiations this year. Their pay has failed to keep up with inflation, and residual payments are down as more viewers get their content through streaming services.

Lewis said film industry moguls are trying to “erase how the industry has run for decades, with actors and performers sharing in the success of movies and programs” that enjoy extended success with viewers.

“We fought hard for residual payments,” he added. “We rely on them and won’t give them up. You can’t take us backwards because the streaming model has moved our viewing habits forward.”

Artificial intelligence also poses a threat to film industry workers. Their unions are seeking protections that would prevent production companies from substituting computer-generated scripts and images for real

writers and actors.

“A fair contract means you don’t get to capture our work and capture our likeness and then replicate performances without consent and compensation,” Lewis said. “AI may be moving forward, but you are not taking us back as if our union protections never existed.”

Polls show a strong majority of Americans want to see striking writers and actors make gains at the bargaining table. A Gallup survey in August found Americans sympathize more with the writers than production studios by a split of 72% to 19%. Support for actors and performers came in at 67% to 24%.

Bethany Winkels, executive director of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, said Americans recognize that actors and writers are standing up to corporate greed.

“At the end of the day, every single union member knows that when we stand together, we can demand a fair return on our work, we can push back against exploitation and we can have an economy and a society where folks can live and work with dignity and respect,” she said. “And that is happening on the front lines, on every picket line that SAG-AFTRA has.

“They are going to keep fighting, and we are going to have their back.”

The strikes did not halt production of any films in Minnesota, but local SAG-AFTRA members say they are monitoring the negotiations closely in anticipation of future opportunities coming to the state, thanks to an expansion of the film-production tax credit, supported by lawmakers in each of the past two legislative sessions.

“We fought so hard for these improvements, and these are the jobs Twin Cities Local members have been waiting for, for decades,” Lewis said.

– Michael Moore, UA editor

Solidarity Alert!

- What: Rally in support of striking film industry workers
- When: 1 to 2 p.m. Sept. 30, rain or shine
- Where: Rice Park in St. Paul



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Labor News in Review

CLIMBING WORKERS WANT A UNION

Workers at five climbing gyms across the Twin Cities area are poised to vote in a union election after informing their bosses Aug. 24 that they had organized with the United Food and Commercial Workers. The election would cover about 90 workers at Vertical Endeavors gyms and Nicros, a climbing route setter.

“Unionizing was important for me to better support my coworkers and myself, hold our company accountable for actions, and just making sure that we can ensure safety for us and our customers,” said Esthi Erickson, a shift manager and team coach in Minneapolis.

Vertical Endeavors workers signed and submitted union cards during an organizing drive supported by UFCW Local 1189 and Local 663. Workers hope to bargain for livable wages, better working conditions and a seat at the table in decisions that impact their jobs.

“We want to help make Vertical Endeavors what the gym goes and staff want it to be,” Bloomington worker Suzie Miller said. “We work really hard at our jobs, we’re all really passionate about it, and climbing means a lot to us so it’s important to us to work together to make it an even better place to work.”

PEACE COFFEE CONTRACT DONE

Workers at Minneapolis-based Peace Coffee voted Sept. 6 to ratify their first contract.

The three-year agreement will provide a \$1.00 per hour wage increase this year and 75-cent increases in each of the following years. It also mandates clear job descriptions, establishes discipline procedures and protections, increases bereavement leave from three to five days and provides severance pay for workers with two-plus years at Peace Coffee.

The contract covers 19 workers who voted to join UFCW Local 663 in June 2022. *— Labor Review*

ISD 622 WORKERS JOIN SEIU

Behavior intervention specialists in the North Saint Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District (ISD 622) voted over the summer to join Service Employees (SEIU) Local 284 in a union election conducted by the state Bureau of Mediation Services.

Ker Lor, a BIS with three years of experience at Weaver Elementary, said the new bargaining unit will look to address a “lack of recognition and resources” that she and her colleagues face in the district, including inconsistent pay rates and wages that have not kept up with inflation. “This was such a long time coming,” Ker said. “We are so happy with this outcome and glad to be moving forward with SEIU.”

Local 284 represents about 10,000 school employees across Minnesota.

DARTMOUTH ATHLETES ORGANIZE

Men’s basketball players at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire last month filed for a union election, seeking to become the first collegiate athletes to collectively bargain a contract with their school.

Service Employees (SEIU) Local 560 petitioned the National Labor Relations Board on the players’ behalf. An election date had not been set when this issue went to press.

Writing in *The Dartmouth*, the school’s student newspaper, players Romeo Myrthil and Cade Haskins said they “are unionizing to be compensated like other student employees, with hourly wages similar to other student wages on campus.” They also want the school to cover health care costs players incur when they are injured on the court.

Dartmouth is not the first college where athletes have sought collective bargaining. Northwestern University’s football team filed for a union election in

2014. The NLRB denied their petition, but the board’s makeup has since changed. It also did not set a precedent establishing whether NCAA athletes are employees of their schools.

“Like these other groups of students on campus, we are asserting our right to act collectively,” Myrthil and Haskins wrote.

AFSCME LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Julie Bleyhl has retired from her position as executive director of AFSCME Council 5, and the public service union announced Aug. 22 that Bart Andersen, a former bridge maintenance worker with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will fill the position on an interim basis.

Julie Bleyhl was promoted to executive director in 2019 after serving as the council’s legislative director since 1994.

Andersen previously served as president of AFSCME Local 2792, and he helped lead the merger of his local and another into what is now AFSCME Local 221 (Metro MnDOT). In addition to serving as a union steward and president, Andersen served on Council 5’s executive board and as State Employee Policy Committee president, representing all AFSCME Council 5 state employees.

Later, Andersen joined AFSCME Council 5’s staff as a field representative, negotiating both public- and private-sector contracts, and was later promoted to field services director.

“As interim executive director, my goal is to ensure our members and staff are empowered to continue our critical work of representing our 43,000 members and by extension our loved ones and neighbors, as we set the standard for other employers across our state,” Andersen said in a statement.

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Union Career Spotlight

Broadcast Technicians bring energy, expertise to Twin Cities PBS studios

By Michael Moore

Union Advocate editor

Every Friday night, the Twin Cities PBS studios in St. Paul's Lowertown district come to life for a live broadcast of "Almanac." The award-winning public affairs show runs on PBS stations across Minnesota, and union members have been working behind the scenes since it went on the air nearly 40 years ago.

Around 35 members of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET/CWA) Local 57411 work at Twin Cities PBS as camera operators, videographers, directors, graphic designers, studio designers, tele-prompter operators and other roles.

The union has had a contract with the station for over 45 years. "Almanac" is its flagship production, but NABET/CWA members also help produce membership pledge programming, original documentaries, seasonal broadcasts and other specials.

And a new, three-year contract approved last month ensures union members will continue making television for the station. Local 57411 Steward Jon Van Amber said having a union contract ensures stability and professionalism at a time when many broadcasters are looking to increase automation in their productions.

"A lot of places have the robotic cam-



Union members gathered on the set of "Almanac" before a June broadcast included (L to R) Joe Kaczynski, Kai Holm, Scott Trotman, Eric Pagel, Michael Phillips, Annika Johnson, Jon Van Amber, Jim Kron and David Bales. Union Advocate photos

eras now," Van Amber said during a tour of the "Almanac" set before a broadcast earlier this year. "We're really proud, from the union point of view, that we have a live crew. You get a lot more energy, and I know the talent really likes it."

That much becomes clear during a

rundown before the live show, as crew members and longtime co-hosts Eric Eskola and Cathy Wurzer walk through the "Almanac" segments - without guests - to nail down their timing and block out the staging.

Crew members offer their feedback as Eskola workshops a snappy, stand-up opening, improvising his way through several versions before finally settling on the one he will use.

The intensity ramps up on set as the theme music plays and the broadcast begins. In three control rooms behind the scenes, NABET/CWA members provide direction to the camera operators, run the show's graphics, roll out the closed captioning and more. Members of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 292, meanwhile, operate the sound booth, roll pre-recorded segments and tape the broadcast for streaming on the web.

Local 57411 member Scott Trotman, who started working at Twin Cities PBS in 1996 and is now director and technical director of "Almanac," said he still gets a

few butterflies before every live show.

"If you're not getting that, you're probably not going to be at the top of your game," Trotman said. "You have to be a little on edge to have your senses heightened, and that way you're ready to do what you need to do if something goes wrong. You've got to be ready to react."

Back on set, camera operators glide across the floor between segments without making a sound. Longtime Floor Director David Bales gets guests mic'd up and into position for interviews while also moving furniture around the set, holding up time cards to keep the segments on schedule and relaying directions from the control room.

For all the intensity of a live show, the "Almanac" set also maintains a sense of ease that stems from the familiarity among talent and crew.

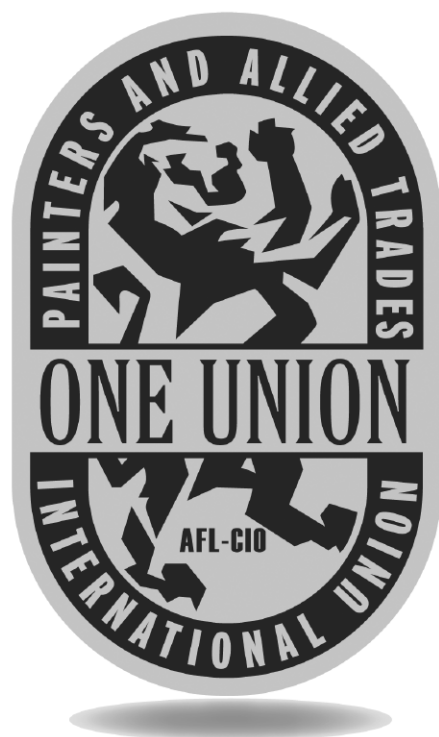
"I like working a live show because you can only do it once, but when you've been doing it for so many years like I have, I could do it in my sleep," camera operator Mike Phillips laughed. "Sometimes I probably have."

Most NABET/CWA members who work at Twin Cities PBS are part-time employees, giving the station a deep pool of talent to tap for special programs and its pledge drive.

The union's new contract makes gains on two key issues: staffing and wages. After merging four positions into two during the pandemic - to keep from crowding the control room - the station agreed to bring back all four positions: director, technical director, chyron operator and teleprompter operator.

Union members also won raises of 5% in the new contract's first year, 3.75% in the second and 3% in the third. Local 57411 President Joe Kaczynski, a photo-journalist at WCCO-TV, said that by the union's calculations, the wage increases should make up for what members lost to COVID cuts and inflation.

"Since they've returned to regular production at that station, it sounds like the workload has just been crazy," he said. "So these negotiations were really



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Camera operator Mike Phillips films "Almanac" co-host Eric Eskola's opening segment.

GM workers in Hudson 'on standby' as Autoworkers roll out strikes across Big 3

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the automakers' most profitable plants on Day 1 of the strike.

International union leaders succeeded in keeping the location of those strikes a secret, part of a new targeting strategy that the UAW hopes will maximize the impact of its strike fund. It means members of Local 722, who work in Hudson and at Ford's parts facility in Menomonie, Wis., won't know if they are going on strike until just before they walk off the job.

But if they do get the call, Frisque expects all 81 workers at the Hudson facility and all 42 in Menomonie to be on the picket line. Even though Wisconsin is a right-to-work state, Local 722 has full participation in its bargaining units.

"The thought of going on strike, it's a little scary, but the older people are already taking the younger people under their wings so they know what it's about," Frisque said. "We're unified and we're ready to go out. We will walk that

"Working next to some guy in a union shop doing the same job and making two different wages – that's not what the union was based on. That's what we're trying to get rid of."

– Steve Frisque
UAW Local 722

picket line for as long as it takes."

Taking on tiers

Although the parts-distribution shops are small by comparison to Big 3 manufacturing facilities, the ripple effect of a potential strike in Hudson would extend to dealerships in 11 states.

"It would shut dealerships down," Frisque said. "And unfortunately, it would hurt customers trying to get their cars fixed. But if it gets to the point where that's what it takes to get GM to listen to

us, then that's what we might have to do."

GM workers in Hudson went on strike four years ago over many of the same issues that have emerged as sticking points in current talks between the UAW and the Big 3, with union members seeking to claw back concessions their union made when automakers were on the brink of insolvency 15 years ago.

The contracts' use of two-tiered wage scales is among those concessions autoworkers want scrapped. In Hudson, workers hired since 2007 are paid on a lower scale than so-called "legacy workers."

The starting wage at the facility was \$19 per hour in 2007, Frisque said. It's \$17 today.

"Working next to some guy in a union shop doing the same job and making two different wages – that's not what the union was based on," he said. "That's what we're trying to get rid of."

Meanwhile, the Big 3 have netted

\$250 billion in profits over the last decade, and they are projected to add another \$32 billion to their haul this year. CEO pay is up 40% over the same period.

"The idea was, when we gave those concessions, that when GM became viable again, started making money again, we'd get those things back," Frisque said. "But we never have."

Strikes could expand

When this edition went to press, UAW locals representing a combined 12,700 workers were on strike at the GM plant in the St. Louis suburb of Wentzville, Mo.; at a Ford production and paint plant in Wayne County, Mich.; and at a Jeep/Stellantis plant in Toledo, Ohio.

But with no apparent progress at the bargaining table since the strike began, UAW President Sean Fain was already threatening to send workers at more facilities onto the picket line as soon as Sept. 22.

ATU says strike vote shows need for Metro Transit to get serious in talks

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"It gives us a safety net in this uncertain economy," Timlin said of the proposal. "But the members ultimately will have the final say."

ATU's bargaining team is also seeking a higher shift differential for workers clocking overnight hours, as well as new health and safety protections for operators exposed to drug use on the transit lines or dangerous weather during mid-route shift changes.

"Drivers who do relief, they go to a specific bus stop and wait until the bus pulls up to take it over," Timlin explained. "We're trying to get management to agree to provide a vehicle they can drive between Metro Transit garages and those relief points, to reduce any safety issues that might pop up."

Local 1005 and Metro Transit have bargaining sessions scheduled Sept. 22 and Oct. 5.

Before a strike could begin, the two sides would have to try mediation. The union must also give Metro Transit 10 days' notice of any work stoppage.

Metro Transit workers last went on strike in 2004, shutting down bus service in the Twin Cities for about six weeks. Retiree health benefits were the biggest sticking point in negotiations then, Timlin said.

Both locally and nationally, unions are taking strike votes to show employers that their bargaining teams have the support of rank-and-file members – and to pressure management to meet the union's demands. Timlin said ATU members "have been paying attention" to historic contract gains made by Teamsters at UPS and other unions.

"Our message to Metro Transit is let's get back to the table and really start negotiating," Timlin said.



Members of ATU Local 1005 voted last year to commit their union's bargaining team to winning "COLA +1" in their next contract with Metro Transit. Union Advocate photo

Regional Labor Fed's retirees meet Oct. 18

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation Retirees organization holds regular meetings the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at noon at the Labor Center, 353 W. 7th St.

Retirees of any union affiliated with the SPRLF are welcome to attend the meetings, which feature guest speakers, volunteer activities and actions in support of labor's political priorities.

For more information, call the SPRLF at 651-222-3787.



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

October 24, 6 p.m.

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

Dakota County Assembly

October 12, 7 p.m.

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

Ramsey County Assembly

October 25, 6 p.m.

Saint Paul Labor Center, 353 7th Street West

Washington County Assembly

October 25, 6 p.m.

Washington County Gov't Center, Stillwater.



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Minutes of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation

AUGUST 9, 2023

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, Edwards, Gale, Gibbons, Guertin, Hill, Hoerth, Luneburg, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, McNamara, Michelson, Peterson, Sansom, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Tastad-Damer, Varco and Wynn. Excused were Engeldorf, Hoppe, Ryan, VanDassor and Vanderport.

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 Mary Sansom, acting secretary-treasurer, and Perry Schmidt, vice president.

CREDENTIALS

Credentials were received from Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, and Construction and General Laborers Local 563. President Peterson administered the Oath of Obligation to those new delegates and alternates in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Colin Oglesbee, treasurer of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 21, spoke to the delegation.

MINUTES

M/S/C TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023, AS PUBLISHED IN THE UNION ADVOCATE NEWS-PAPER AFTER THE ACTING SECRETARY-TREASURER NOTES THERE ARE NO ADDITIONS OR CHANGES CALLED FOR.

ST. PAUL LABOR STUDIES AND RESOURCE CENTER BOARD AUGUST 9, 2023

Business to come before the LSRC Board to be acted upon consisted of LSRC's 2022 Audit, presented by Jamie McNamara, trustee.

M/S/C TO APPROVE THE 2022 LSRC AUDIT.

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

COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE) MINUTES AUGUST 9, 2023

COPE met in regular session on the above date and was called to order by President Peterson at 5 p.m. Board members in attendance were Beedle, Beissel, Edwards, Gale, Gibbons, Guertin, Hill, Hoerth, Krey, Luneburg, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, Mayer, McNamara, Michelson, Peterson, Sansom, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Tastad-

Labor raises funds for school supply drives in St. Paul, Chisago Lakes, RAVE districts



The labor community supported several school supply drives this fall, including the Jean Jones Initiative, sponsored annually by the St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center's AFL-CIO Community Services Program. Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation delegates and affiliate unions donated \$1,000 to the drive, which organizers used to purchase notebooks, glue sticks, crayons, scissors, pencils and more. At left, SPRLF President Kera Peterson (L) delivered the supplies to staff in the Saint Paul Public Schools' Title I program, Sandra Cortez (R) and Heather Alden. Two of the SPRLF's local labor assemblies held fundraising drives of their own as well. At top-right, Dakota County Labor Assembly Chair Connie Beissel (R) and political organizer Colleen Nocerini presented school supplies to Deerwood Elementary Principal Tyra Raasch (L). Deerwood was one of two schools in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District to receive a donation from the labor assembly; Blackhawk Middle School also received supplies. And the Chisago County Labor Assembly, chaired by Michael Madden, delivered school supplies to Chisago Lakes Elementary during the school's orientation for new educators.

submitted photos

Damer, Varco and Wynn. Excused were Engeldorf, Hoppe, Lohmann, Naseth, Ryan, VanDassor and Vanderport.

The Ramsey County Labor Assembly requested recommendation to grant labor endorsement to the following Saint Paul School Board candidates: Chauntyll Allen, Yusef Carillo, Carlo Franco and Erica Valliant.

President Peterson reported that candidate filings are still open, school districts will be running ballot referenda, and school board elections will be happening throughout the metro area.

M/S/C TO RECOMMEND THE DELEGATE BODY SUPPORT THE COPE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT LABOR ENDORSEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING SAINT PAUL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES: CHAUNTYLL ALLEN, YUSEF CARILLO, CARLO FRANCO AND ERICA VALLIANT.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 9, 2023

The Executive Board met with

those same members present who are duly elected to this board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Trustee, Jamie McNamara presented the SPRLF 2022 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 conjunction with the year end audit.

- President Peterson reported on the following:
 - Participation in actions with Starbucks, Saint Paul Fire Fighters, Teamsters, SAG AFTRA, ATU, and others.
 - Saint Paul Fire Fighters will be

holding an informational picket prior to Mayor Melvin Carter's address.

- AFSCME Council 5 members will be at the Science Museum on Minnesota at noon on Thursday, Aug. 10 in support of the union members who have been recalled to work.

- Saint Paul RLF volunteers helped assemble 800 backpacks at the Greater Twin Cities Action Day.

- The Saint Paul RLF will have a marching unit in the Minnesota State Fair's Labor Day Parade. A limited number of tickets are available. UFCW Local 1189 will be pulling a trailer. Please wear your union colors.

- Oktoberfest was discussed. The RLF will work with the insurance company to see if we can host the event as long as we do not serve or sell alcohol as separate insurance is no longer available. If you are serving or selling alcohol, you will now need a liquor license.

- The Minnesota Newspaper Guild contract has been settled.

- Discussion on finding another financial institution for depositing funds to keep with the FDIC limit.

- The Minnesota Training Partnership (MTP) plans to apply for grant funding from MN DOLI, that will

be regranted to LSRC, for ESST Education.

- M/S/C TO ACCEPT MTP GRANT FUNDING IF MTP IS AWARDED AN ESST EDUCATION GRANT.**

- M/S/C TO APPROVE THE SAINT PAUL REGIONAL LABOR FEDERATION 2022 AUDIT AS PRESENTED BY JAMIE MCNAMARA.**

- M/S/C FOR THE RLF TO SPONSOR TWO PEOPLE AT A COST OF \$400 FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL MINNESOTA SHOOT FOR A CURE HOSTED BY UFCW LOCAL 1189, 527, 663 AND UFCW REGION 6 ON MONDAY, AUG, 28, AT THE CARIBOU GUN CLUB IN LE SUEUR.**

- ORGANIZING: UPDATES/CAMPAIGNS: CBTU, SEIU Local 284, SEIU Minnesota Healthcare of Minnesota and Iowa, and Teamsters Local 120, gave updates on their organizing activities.

- THANK YOU NOTE received from the Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 for the RLF's \$200 contribution to their golf tournament.

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



Union members marched through the state fairgrounds on Labor Day wearing their union colors, and carrying their local banners and placards from the AFL-CIO declaring "it's better in a union."
Union Advocate photos



Members of the SAG-AFTRA Twin Cities Local – (L to R) Matt Roy, Tammara Melloy, Matt Saxe and Laurie Flanigan Hegge – carried their union's banner in the parade, showing solidarity with film industry workers on strike nationwide.

HOT LABOR DAY CAPS HOT LABOR SUMMER

Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation marching unit puts union pride on display in State Fair parade



Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation President Kera Peterson and Regional Vice President Brian Beedle marched at the front of the union delegation in the Minnesota State Fair's daily parade on Labor Day.



St. Paul-based Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 110 featured a solar-powered stock car in the Labor Day parade, with Krysta Doughty and David Swearingen aboard the trailer. Find more photos from the parade at facebook.com/SaintPaulRLF.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Sansom reported on the financial status of the Federation as of July 2023. The report was accepted as read.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

• Michael Madden reported on behalf of the Chisago County Labor Assembly. Our next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month via zoom at 6 p.m.

• Connie Beissel reported on behalf of the Dakota County Labor Assembly. She thanked all of the unions who have donated to our School Supply drive: "We were able to purchase every item on their list." The

assembly will be beginning the screening process for ISD 196 School Board either Sept. 6 or 7. Any unions that want us to screen elsewhere should call political organizer Colleen Nocerini with the request. The next meeting will be the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in person.

• Brian Beedle reported on behalf of the Washington County Labor Assembly. Its next meeting will be the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

• Martin Hoerth reported on behalf of the Ramsey County Labor Assembly. Its next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month via zoom at 6 p.m.

PRESIDENT REPORT

President Peterson reported on

AFSCME Council 5 action, Saint Paul Fire Fighters action, GTCUW Day of Action, Labor Day parade, Oktoberfest and participating in other union actions.

STAFF/LABOR LIAISON REPORTS

• Michael Moore, Union Advocate newspaper editor, thanked unions for supporting the Union Advocate and reminded unions that there are opportunities to advertise in upcoming issues, including the Labor Day edition.

• Erica Dalager Reed, AFL-CIO Community Services liaison, reported on assembling 800 backpacks at Greater Twin Cities United Way' 2023 Action Day at Target Field and the Saint Paul RLF marching unit in the upcoming Minnesota State Fair Labor

Day Parade.

NEW BUSINESS

• President Peterson called for a floor vote on the COPE Committee's recommendations to grant labor endorsement for Saint Paul School Board.

M/S/C TO ENDORSE SAINT PAUL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES CHAUNTYLL ALLEN, YUSEF CARILLO, CARLO FRANCO AND ERICA VALLIANT.

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

Submitted by,
MARY SANSON
Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Endorsement notice

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, may consider recommendations for labor endorsement in upcoming municipal and school board elections at its regular monthly meeting Oct. 11.


For more information about the endorsement process, call 651-222-3787.



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