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ed with a new pipeline. And northern Minnesota is in desperate need of the thousands of union jobs that will boost their entire economy right now.”

Even with the PUC’s June 25 decision, the Line 3 replacement project faces further regulatory approvals before construction can begin.

George urged: “No more artificial hurdles from our government. No more politics. No more bullshit. It’s time to replace Line 3.”

UFCW Local 663:

Members help Cub open temporary grocery stores on Lake St., Broadway

The East Lake Street and West Broadway communities in Minneapolis were significantly impacted when the looting which followed the George Floyd murder closed their local Cub Foods grocery stores. In response, United Natural Foods, Inc. rushed to open two smaller Cub “Community Market” stores to provide a temporary solution while the larger, damaged stores are rebuilt.

At the East Lake Street location, the new temporary grocery opened July 8 in a 13,000 square foot tent in the parking lot of the old Cub.

As the *Labor Review* went to press July 19, the West Broadway location was about to reopen within a few days inside part of the original store.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 worked to stock the newly-opening stores and are providing continuing staffing.

“You forget that this is a pop-up store,” said Heidi Esparza, executive assistant for Local 663, who posted a video tour of the Lake Street store to the UFCW Local 663 Facebook page. “You walk in,



Postal workers urge support for USPS funding

MINNEAPOLIS — Highlighting the important public good provided by the U.S. Postal Service, about 25 members of the Minneapolis Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union gathered June 23 outside the downtown Minneapolis post office (photo above). They asked the public to contact their U.S. Senators to urge support for the HEROES Act. The legislation would provide emergency funding of \$25 billion to the USPS to make up for lost revenue due to the COVID-19 economic slowdown. Without this aid, the USPS could run out of funds this year. The legislation also would provide hazard pay for postal workers and other front-line workers. An informational flier urged calls to 844-402-1001 to “tell your Senators to include postal funding in the next stimulus!” For more information, visit apwu.org/savethepostoffice.

you see a condensed store with all the necessities you will need, all the things you will want,” she said.

“It’s certainly serving the purpose of helping the neighborhood,” commented Matt Utecht, Local 663 president. “It’s cool how they could open something up so quickly... It’s kind of like a forest fire went through and you see a flower blooming.”

Utecht said about 50 members of UFCW Local 663 are working at each of the two temporary stores, including many who previously worked at those same locations.

A goal for UNFI was to place as many of those workers as possible in the two temporary stores, Utecht said, “so neighborhood folks would recognize the workers.”

UNITE HERE Local 17: Tattersall Distillery staff organize, prepare for union election

Tattersall Distillery in northeast Minneapolis was preparing to reopen its patio and cocktail room to customers but workers were dissatisfied with management’s lack of clear planning to keep everyone safe from COVID-19.

The workers came together around these concerns and other issues, including diversity, and sent management a June 16 letter that read, in part, “we want to communicate as a group and not be dictated to.”

Within a week, the workers asked management to voluntarily recognize UNITE HERE Local 17 as the workers’ collective bargaining agent.

Management refused, publicly sharing their anti-union stance and their desire for “flexibility” in a June 26 Facebook post. The post quickly generated a viral backlash of more than 1,000 comments, overwhelmingly pro-union.

June 29, hundreds of community members joined Tattersall workers for an informational picket supporting the workers’ right to organize a union.

Next, July 30 the local National Labor Relations Board office will be mailing ballots to the approximately 30 Tattersall workers so they can vote on unionizing with Local 17. The proposed bargaining unit would essentially be wall-to-wall.

“All of the employees acted like a union before we had a name for it,” said union supporter Lydia Turner, Minneapolis, a Tattersall bartender and server who began working there in April 2019. “We stood up for each other.”

Now, she added, with a formal union organizing drive underway, “it’s emboldened us to think, what would this job be ideally? What if service industry work had tools in place to support workers? This has opened our eyes to possibility.”

Over the past few weeks, “there’s been a lot of Zoom calls” among the workers, Turner reported. “We’ve seen value in sharing experiences and sharing our stories... It’s been really empowering.” While she and her co-workers had been close before, she said, “now we have this additional layer” to those relationships.

“It feels like the right season to do this,” Turner said. “Our hand is being forced by a pandemic that isn’t going away soon.”

Tattersall Distillery is located at 1620 Central Ave. NE in the historic Thorp Building in northeast Minneapolis.

Sources: *Minneapolis Labor Review* reporting and local unions.

Next deadline: August 5. To submit a story idea or news item, contact 612-715-2667 or e-mail laborreview@minneapolisunions.org.

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Updates during COVID-19 crisis
Due to the uncertain times with COVID-19, please watch your U.S. mail, the Pipefitters Local 539 website (pipefitters539.com) and the Pipefitters Local 539 Facebook page for updates.

Dues reminder
Please remember to pay your dues for July-December 2020. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Condolences
Condolences to the families of Steven Wrona and Rodney Lanners.

If you would like something added to the Pipers section of the Labor Review, call the office at (612) 379-4711.

Paid for by Pipefitters Local 539 • www.pipefitters539.com

Experiencing financial hardship?

Working Partnerships offers two COVID-19 emergency help funds

MINNEAPOLIS — Union members and hospitality industry workers who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 disruptions now can apply to Working Partnerships for emergency financial assistance.

Working Partnerships is the non-profit community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

For any union member needing emergency assistance, contact:
wpfund2020@gmail.com or 612-305-8747

For hospitality industry workers, union or non-union, contact:
tchospfund@gmail.com or 612-405-6985

Note: If you choose to call the listed phone numbers, please be sure to leave a message with your name and phone number. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Working Partnerships is a partner agency of Greater Twin Cities United Way.