

Minneapolis Labor Review

116th Year No. 5 October 21, 2023 www.minneapolisunions.org Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



Striking UAW members got a boost at their Plymouth picket line October 18 from other local labor unions plus Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, and other elected officials. See more, page 7.

United Auto Workers strike includes Plymouth and New Hope sites

PLYMOUTH — A strike by the United Auto Workers against the big three auto makers — Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis — extended to Minnesota September 21. Workers at two Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) parts distribution facilities in Plymouth and New Hope walked off the job that day, joining thousands of UAW members in other states who are walking picket lines. As the *Labor Review* went to press, the Minnesota UAW members have maintained their picket lines 24/7. Members of other local unions have boosted their lines for several solidarity rallies over the past few weeks. To learn how you can help, see page 2.

November 7 brings municipal elections, school board elections Voters in many school districts also will vote on school funding questions

MINNEAPOLIS — The November 7 general election ballot in many communities brings races for local city councils, mayors, and school boards.

Plus, in several local school districts, important school funding questions will be on the ballot.

Early voting has been underway since September 22 and will be an option through November 6. Voters can request an absentee ballot to vote early by mail, or go to their local city hall or other designated voting center to cast their vote early in-person.

List of AFL-CIO endorsed candidates, school ballot questions
See page 20

son.

Any registered voter may vote early for any reason, according to state law,

For Minneapolis residents, early voting will be available at Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin Ave. E., through November 6. The hours will be Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., through October 27. Monday through Friday hours will be extended to 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. October 30 through November 3. Week-end hours will be available 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. October 28-29 and November 4-5.

For more information, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

For Bloomington residents, early voting will be available at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

For early voting hours there, visit bloomingtonmn.gov.

For all residents of the Osseo

Area school district, which has a school bonding referendum, early voting will be available *only* at Brooklyn Park City Hall, 5200 85th Ave. North.

For early voting hours there, visit district279.org.

To learn about early voting options in other communities, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org.

Visit minneapolisunions.org for the most up-to-date list of endorsements by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (or see page 20 of this newspaper).

General Election: Tuesday, November 7

- Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- State law allows you to take time off the morning of Election Day to vote, if you notify your employer.
- Minnesota allows same-day voter registration if you're not already registered. Bring ID such as MN drivers license AND current utility bill with your name and current address.

To Find Your Polling Place

Anoka County	763-323-5275
Hennepin County	612-348-5151
Scott County	952-496-8161
Carver County	952-361-1910
McLeod County	320-864-1210
Meeker County	320-693-5212
Wright County	763-682-3900
Minnesota Secretary of State's on-line pollfinder:	
http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/	

Inside

- 8 Local school districts bring funding requests to voters
- 9 Three endorsed for Anoka-Hennepin school board
- 10-11 Bloomington mayor, city council endorsements
- 12 Bloomington school board incumbents endorsed
- 13 Key races for Minneapolis city council
- 15 Two union members run for Fridley school board

Our local UAW members striking in Minnesota need your support

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

To our striking friends at the United Auto Workers, we support you!

As UAW members who work at two parts distribution facilities in Plymouth and New Hope, Minnesota enter the fourth week of their strike, they need the support and solidarity of the local labor movement like never before.

The entire country is watching what happens with this national strike — the first time that the UAW has gone on strike against all of the “Big Three” U.S. auto-makers at the same time.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, profits at the “Big Three” auto companies — Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (formerly known as Chrysler) — jumped 92 percent from 2013 to

2022 to a total of \$250 billion. Workers simply are demanding their fair share.

The strike is being marked as a critical moment in the trajectory of labor’s collective power.

Some states are seeing UAW strike lines affecting workers in the hundreds and thousands.

Here in Minnesota, however, a small but mighty group of about 50 workers are holding the weight of that heavy charge on their shoulders.

These Minnesota striking workers do the important work of parts distribution for Stellantis auto dealerships all throughout our region.

And these workers — all mighty 50 of



Striking UAW members in Minnesota need the support and solidarity of the local labor movement like never before

them — are the faces of the strike that is poised to change the balance of power in one of our country’s most significant industries.

These workers are proving that you don’t need to be a giant plant to have an impact on large, strategic campaigns.

Their sacrifice is not an easy one, however.

Their paychecks are not coming and the timeline for resolution is not known.

Our local UAW members’ 24-hour picket line is covering two locations and now the cooler weather is upon us — making the overnight hours particularly brutal.

Four weeks in to the strike also means that mortgages and rents are coming due for the first time.

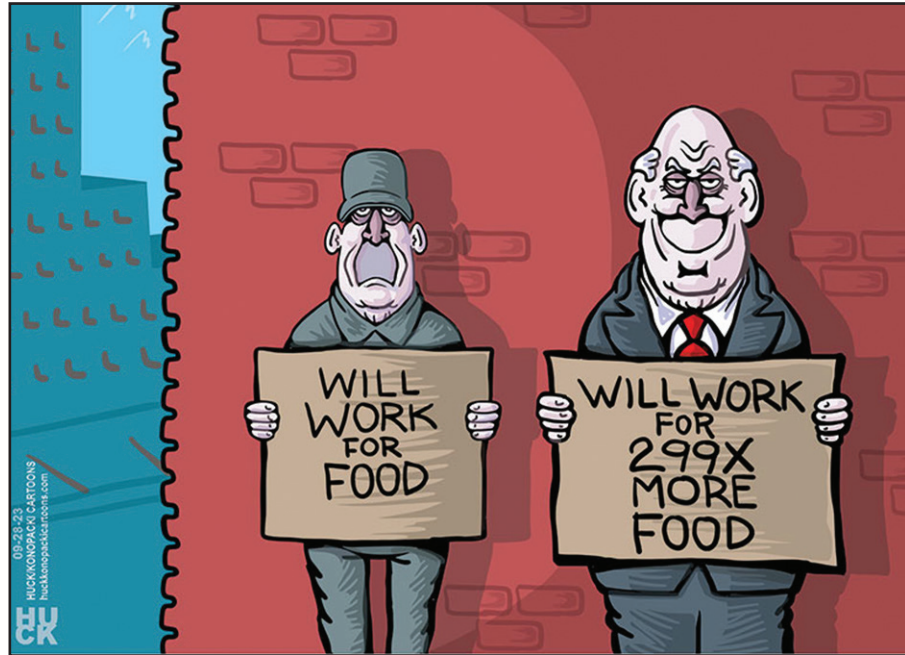
Despite all of these challenges, we join our UAW sisters and brothers

and say, “One Day Longer, One Day Stronger!”

Join us on the picket line 24/7 and watch for upcoming rallies. The two local Stellantis facilities are located at 13005 Hwy. 55 in Plymouth and 3440 Winpark Drive in New Hope.

We’ve also begun to ask supporters to drop off gift cards for groceries and gas anytime during the day to the picket lines so these striking workers can continue to support their families.

Or, contribute to a new hardship fund: Make checks payable to Working Partnerships, 312 Central Ave. S.E., Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Write “UAW Local 125” in the memo line.



MRLF votes final round of 2023 endorsements

Seven candidates endorsed for races for Hopkins mayor, Hopkins and Minnetonka city councils, plus St. Louis Park mayor and school board

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS —Delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO voted October 11 to approve a final round of endorsements for the 2023 elections, supporting seven candidates — including three current or former union members — who are seeking local elected office.

MRLF delegates voted endorsements for Hopkins mayor, Hopkins city council, Minnetonka city council, St. Louis Park mayor and St. Louis Park school board.

Early voting is now underway for the November 7 general election.

For all local elections in the MRLF’s seven-county jurisdiction, the MRLF endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

Hopkins Mayor: Patrick Hanlon endorsed for re-election

The MRLF voted to endorse Patrick Hanlon for re-election as mayor of Hopkins. He first won the seat in 2021, defeating the incumbent mayor in a three-candidate race and winning nearly 59 percent of the vote. Hanlon is running unopposed this year. He is a former

member of AFSCME Local 9 and also a former member of the Minneapolis Professional Employees Union as well as the Minneapolis Supervisors Union. Hanlon currently works as a deputy commissioner for the Minneapolis Health Department.

Website: hanlonforhopkins.com

Hopkins City Council: Incumbent Brian Hunke endorsed

The MRLF voted to endorse Brian Hunke for re-election for Hopkins city council at large. Hunke has been a member of the city council since 2018. Four candidates are in the race, including another incumbent, with the top two vote-getters to be elected.

Website: hunke4citycouncil.com

Minnetonka City Council: Dana Minion, Rebecca Schack, and Paula Ramaley endorsed

In the races for Minnetonka city council, the MRLF voted to endorse Dana Minion in Ward 1, Rebecca Schack in Ward 2, and Paula Ramaley in Ward 3.

ENDORSED page 4

Welcome, new Minneapolis Labor Review readers!

As a member of a union affiliated with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, you now are receiving a subscription to the monthly *Minneapolis Labor Review*. Several affiliates recently have updated their mailing lists. For subscriber service, see page 19.

Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

Next issue: AFL-CIO

November 18, 2023
General Election Issue

Deadline:

November 1, 2023

See page 19 for complete 2023 schedule

“The rights labor has won, labor must fight to protect.”
—Floyd B. Olson, Minnesota Governor, 1930-1936

Minneapolis Labor Review (USPS 351120) (ISSN 02749017) is published monthly, except January and June, 10 times per year for \$10.00 per year in the United States by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 312 Central Avenue SE, Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097. All other countries \$5.00 additional per year. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER send address changes to: Minneapolis Labor Review / Minneapolis Labor Review Newspaper, 312 Central Avenue SE, Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097.

Office (612) 379-4725 Fax (612) 379-1307
laborreview@minneapolisunions.org
www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO Executive Board

Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President; Greta Callahan, Executive Vice President; Jeff Heimerl, First Vice President; Scott Bultena, Second Vice President; Dan McConnell, Financial Secretary-Treasurer; Kelly Wilson, Register Clerk; Annette Davis, Deputy Register Clerk; Grace Baltich, Reading Clerk; Cabbas Abdi, Recording Secretary; Tommy Bellfield, Sgt.-At-Arms; Uriel Perez Espinoza, Aaron Hill, Russ Scherber, Mary Turner and Jigme Ugen – Trustees; Judy Russell Martin, Sterling Sanders.

Events

Through November 15: Art exhibit inspired by 1934's pivotal Minneapolis Teamsters strikes

NORTHFIELD — An art exhibit at Carleton College casts the pivotal 1934 Teamsters strikes in Minneapolis as part of a larger struggle against fascism.

Minneapolis artist Brooks Turner has focused on this era before — in 2020, Turner produced a newspaper-style publication, “Legends and Myths of Ancient Minnesota,” which he paid to distribute as an insert in about 36,000 copies of the *Star Tribune* newspaper.

“Pedagogy and Propaganda: New and Recent Work by Brooks Turner” runs through November 15 at the Perlman Teaching Museum, located in Carleton College’s Weitz Center for Creativity at 320 Third St. in Northfield.

The 90th anniversary of the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes now is approaching next year, with the strikes long-credited for breaking the power of the anti-union Citizens Alliance and transforming Minneapolis into a union town.

The 1934 strikes included innovative tactics such as roving pickets to intercept delivery trucks, as well as pitched battles in the streets between strikers and a private army fielded by the anti-union Citizens Alliance. July 20, 1934, Minneapolis police opened fire on strikers, killing two men and injuring many more.

Turner’s exhibit at Carleton College

features a newly-created series of oversized tapestries to tell the story of the 1934 strikes, using a mash-up images originating from photographs of the conflict and even headlines from the *Minneapolis Labor Review*.

Adjacent exhibits include a 2020-2021 project by Turner blending archival, primary source content from newspapers and Turner’s original drawings.

Carleton’s Perlman Teaching Museum admission and parking are free. Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

A supplemental display also is on view on the fourth floor of Carleton’s Laurence McKinley Gould Library, located nearby at One North College St.

The Gould Library display features artwork by Turner and others, including a focus on the role of Native American leaders in the 1934 strikes. The library display also features materials related to Minnesota strike history from the Carleton archives and the East Side Freedom Library archives.

Northfield is a little less than a one-hour drive from downtown Minneapolis.

For more information, visit carleton.edu/museum/exhibitions/brooks-turner.

‘Fare For All’ offers savings of 40 percent on groceries at monthly community pop-up sales

MINNEAPOLIS — Stretch your grocery dollars by visiting a community location for a Fare For All pop-up food sale, which offers discounted grocery packages.

Fare For All offers a savings of 40 percent on grocery items.

Fare For All’s regular offerings include a produce pack for \$10, a mini meat pack for \$11, a combo produce and mini meat pack for \$20, a mega meat pack for \$25. Other monthly specials also are available.

Fare For All is open to everyone and has no income requirements.

Cash, credit cards, debit cards, and EBT cards are accepted. Checks are not accepted. No need to call or register in advance — just stop in to shop!

Here is the schedule for November for Fare For All’s sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

■ **Anoka, Tuesday, October 31, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursday, November 9, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Friday, November 17, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesday, November 7, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ **Chaska, Thursday, November 16, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Friday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Wednesday, November 22, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursday, November 9, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**, Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ **Minneapolis, Friday, November 10, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Laborers Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE. (one-half block **FARE FOR ALL page 14**)

Educator Endorsed Candidates for Anoka-Hennepin School Board



Erin Heers-McArdle
District 1 – Anoka, Ramsey, Andover, Coon Rapids



Susan Witt
District 2 – Blaine, Coon Rapids



Dr. Michelle Langenfeld
District 5 – Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Coon Rapids, Fridley

Anoka-Hennepin educators support Erin Heers-McArdle, Susan Witt and Dr. Michelle Langenfeld in the district school board seats up for election this fall. Be a voter for candidates who will support our students, educators and schools! Your vote is your voice!

Erin, Sue and Michelle will be positive leaders who seek to bring people together and are willing to listen to all points of view and go forward. Communities are built by uniting us and building upon our strengths rather than dividing us.



Be a voter on or before Nov. 7 for Anoka-Hennepin School Board!

Prepared and paid for by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, 3200 Main St., Suite 360, Coon Rapids, MN 55448, in support of the above-named candidates. This material is not approved by the candidates nor are the candidates responsible for it.



Emergency Heating & Air Conditioning Services 1-Click Away

MINNEAPOLIS

612-800-8026

CALL NOW



Pipefitters Local 539 is proud to service the Minneapolis region through this all union program!



Call HVAC 911 to get union-trained service technicians for all your residential HVAC Work 24/7/365

"We need leaders who share our values and priorities."

**Monica S.,
Minneapolis resident and
LIUNA Local 363 Laborer**

LIUNA! MINNESOTA & NORTH DAKOTA
Feel the Power
MINNESOTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE UNION

Your vote matters.

Elect leaders who are committed to:

- Delivering quality city services
- Investing in housing, streets and parks
- Creating good jobs
- Keeping us safe

liunaminnesota.org/vote



MICHAEL RAINVILLE IS THE "L" IN DFL



ENDORSED BY

AFSCME Council 5
IBEW Local Union 292
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49
LiUNA Minnesota & North Dakota
Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council
Minneapolis Fire Fighters Local No. 82
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
SEIU Minnesota State Council
Teamsters Joint Council 32
UNITE HERE Local 17 - Minnesota's Hospitality Union

Prepared and paid for by the Rainville Volunteer Committee • PO Box 18753, Mpls, MN 55418 / www.rainvilleward3.org

rainvilleward3.org



MRLF hosts annual 'meet and greet' with its endorsed candidates for local elected office

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO hosted its annual "meet and greet" with some of the MRLF's endorsed candidates for local elected office September 29. Candidates who joined the event included (left to right): Aurin Chowdhury, candidate for Minneapolis City Council, Ward 12; Chao Moua, candidate for Bloomington City Council, At Large; Michelle Langenfeld, candidate for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 5; Sophia Ginis, candidate for Golden Valley City Council, At Large; Isaaq Rooble, candidate for Bloomington City Council, District IV. See complete list of MRLF-endorsed candidates, page 20.

Endorsed:

continued from page 2

Websites:

danaminion.com
rebeccaschack.com
paula4minnetonka.com

In the Ward 1 race, the incumbent is not running and four candidates are seeking the seat. MRLF-endorsed Dana Minion is a former 20-plus years member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10. "I now work for the Minnesota Twins and enjoy supporting all the great union labor here at Target Field," Minion told the *Labor Review*. "I believe the reason we receive so many awards and positive comments is due to the quality that union labor offers."

In the Ward 2 race, MRLF-endorsed Rebecca Schack is the incumbent and faces one opponent. Schack is an attorney practicing family law and provides pro bono legal services for low income individuals.

The incumbent is not running in the Ward 3 race, which has three candidates. MRLF-endorsed Paula Ramaley is a fourth-generation Minnetonka resident. If elected, she identifies one of her priorities as promoting "a wide range of housing options and opportunities." Her website states, "everyone who works in Minnetonka should be able to afford to live here — from CEOs to teachers and firefighters to our neighborhood barista (and our adult children)."

Minnetonka has ranked-choice voting, which could be a factor in the city council races in Ward 1, Ward 3, and Ward 4, which all have more than two candidates.

(The MRLF previously endorsed incumbent Kissy Coakley in Ward 4).

St. Louis Park Mayor: Nadia Mohamed endorsed

The MRLF voted to endorse Nadia Mohamed for mayor of St. Louis Park. The incumbent mayor, Jake Spano, is not running and has endorsed her campaign. Mohamed has served as the At Large B member of the St. Louis Park city council since 2020. She is a 17-year St. Louis Park resident.

Website:
votenadiaforslpmayor.com

St. Louis Park School Board: Saul Eugene endorsed

The MRLF voted to endorse Saul Eugene for St. Louis Park school board.

Five candidates are in the race, including two incumbents, with the top four to be elected.


The MRLF previously endorsed incumbent Virginia Mancini.

Saul Eugene works as a national political account executive for NGP VAN, a tech provider for Democratic candidates. In that job, he is a member of Boston-based Communications Workers of America Local 1400, which represents NGP/VAN's remote workers. Eugene is the son of a public school teacher and a former substitute teacher himself. He previously worked as a staff member for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and for U.S. Representative Dean Phillips.

Website:
SaulforSLP.com

See page 20 for a complete list of the MRLF's endorsed candidates.

TECH TUESDAYS



Laying the Foundation for Digital Finance

Building Trades Credit Union

Get ready to level up your knowledge in the digital finance game at BTCU's **TECH TUESDAYS.**

Join us every Tuesday for content on topics such as:

MOBILE APP MASTERY

Get hands-on help to navigate our app like a pro.

DIGITAL PAYMENTS

Learn the ins and outs of online transactions.

CYBERSECURITY INSIGHTS

Protect your assets with expert tips and tricks.

Don't miss this chance to become a tech-savvy financial wizard!

763.315.3888
buildingtradesCU.com



November Holiday Pack



\$35

Holiday pack contents

- Ferndale Turkey 10-12 lbs (local)
- Arctic Spray Pollock Fillets 11lb
- Cheddar & Bacon Brats 1lb
- 28 oz Hillshire Farm Lil Smokies
- Organic Cut Green Beans 10 oz (local)
- Pecan Pie 32 oz



Scan this code with your camera to find a site near you & sign up for reminders.

Available Friday, November 10, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,
Laborers Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE., Minneapolis

fareforall.org | 763-450-3380

VOTE LANGENFELD FOR ANOKA HENNEPIN SCHOOL BOARD

District 5- Parts of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Coon Rapids



Dr. Michelle LANGENFELD

More than 30 years of dedicated service in both urban and suburban public schools

Vote early in person at the Anoka Co. Government Center or November 7 at your precinct.

www.MichelleLangenfeld.com

Prepared and paid for by Michelle Langenfeld for Anoka Hennepin



RE-ELECT

Jake Karnopp Fridley School Board



- 23-year member, National Association of Letters Carriers
- Teacher and Para-educator endorsed
- Advocate for career/apprenticeship high-school programs

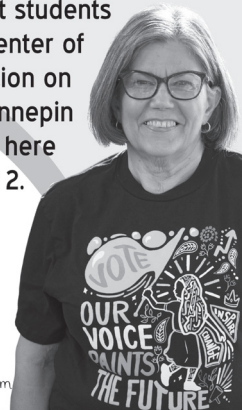
facebook.com/Jake4Fridley

Paid for by the Jake4Fridley Campaign
482 Rice Creek Terrace NE, Fridley, MN 55432

My name is Susan Witt. I'm proudly labor endorsed, a retired teacher, and I am running to put students back at the center of the conversation on the Anoka-Hennepin School Board here in sub-district 2.

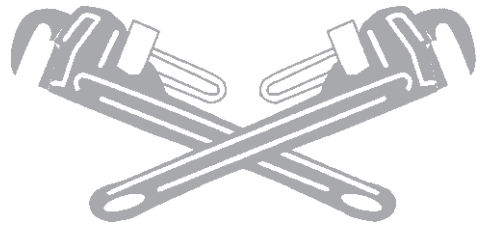


SusanWittforSchoolBoard.com



Prepared and paid for by Susan Witt for School Board, www.SusanWittforSchoolBoard.com

Vote on or before Tuesday, November 7



PIPEFITTERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 539

- Support Labor-endorsed candidates**
- Support your local school levies**

...And remember Minnesota law now provides “no excuses” absentee voting. You can vote before election day either in-person at local election offices or by mail by absentee ballot. For information: www.mnvotes.org

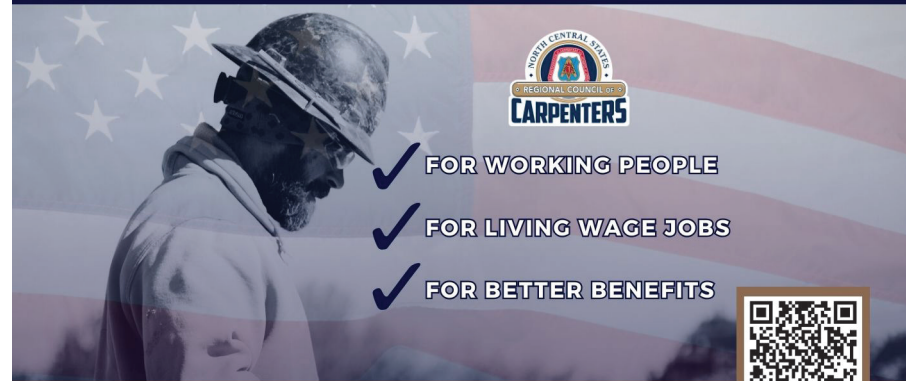
“And so we shall have to do more than register and more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud with enthusiasm.” – *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Do your part to elect leaders with morals & principles this election day, November 7th – Get out and Vote!



From our AFSCME Local 34 family members
Hennepin County Social Services and Related

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD THIS ELECTION



LEARN ABOUT CARPENTER ECONOMICS

VOTE NOV 7
CARPENTER ECONOMICS

WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYCARPENTER.ORG



Delivering Your Vote!

Thank you for your support!

Minneapolis Letter Carriers
Branch 9, National Association of Letter Carriers



Let's elect labor-endorsed candidates who support investing in our transportation infrastructure

From the Members of Local 1005

United Auto Workers Strike

Minnesota UAW members join picket lines for nationwide strike

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

PLYMOUTH — Visiting the picket lines of striking United Auto Workers members at the Stellantis parts distribution facility in Plymouth, you can strike up a conversation with just about anyone and get a powerful story about why they've walked off the job to join the ongoing nationwide strike against the "Big Three" automakers.

"The one thing really big to me is ending tiers," said Alex Tivis, Coon Rapids, who has worked as a forklift operator and maintenance worker there for almost 10 years. He's in Tier 2.

"There's a big wage gap between newer employees and some of us older employees," said Bonita Burns, Minneapolis, a Local 125 member who has worked at the site for 10 years.

"I don't believe it's right that I'm working next to someone who can't make the same wage that I do," Tivis said.

Tivis is a second-generation UAW worker there. His father has worked at the Plymouth site for 25 years. "We work together," Tivis said. "There's a lot of heritage not only in our facility but within the UAW in general," he said.

"The legacy of the American automobile is built on the backs of the people who build and service those vehicles," Tivis said.

For many of the workers, like Tivis, that's a family legacy, too.

Brandon Lee, Becker, and his sister Rachel Lee, Maple Lake, both work at the Plymouth Stellantis facility — where they are third generation UAW members. Their dad, Loren Lee, started working there in 1999. Their grandfather, Ray Korblick, worked 32 years at the site and retired in 2021.

"Growing up, we've seen how the job has provided for our families," Brandon Lee said. "We want to see people down the road make as much as we are."

Rachel Lee graduated college with a B.A. but came to work at Stellantis because "I saw what kind of benefits my dad had."

But, she continued, "I'm on the lower tier, the third tier. I'll never make as much as my dad does, as my brother does."

The Lee family illustrates the inequity of the tier system. Dad Loren Lee is Tier 1, his son Brandon is Tier 2, and his daughter Rachel is Tier 3. "It's just simply corporate greed," Brandon Lee said.

Members of other unions have turned out at the Plymouth site for rallies, stopped by just to talk, or brought food and drink.

"All the support, there's really no words for it," Burns said. "To know you have all that support makes you even more compelled to stand up and fight harder and longer, however long it takes."

Learn about strike support, page 2.



Photo, left: Brandon Orr, UAW Local 125 member, Anoka, was joined on the picket line October 18 by his two children, ages 6 and 10. At a previous solidarity picket line event, Orr told a reporter, "we're out here to be able to continue to make a living wage."

Orr has worked nine years at the local Stellantis warehouse and parts distribution facilities as a checker/packer.

The two local Stellantis sites, one in Plymouth, one in New Hope, together employ about 65 workers and supply parts to auto dealers in a five-state region.

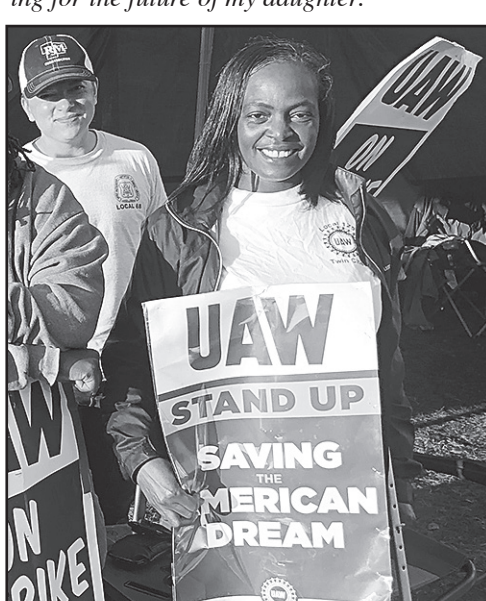
Labor Review photos



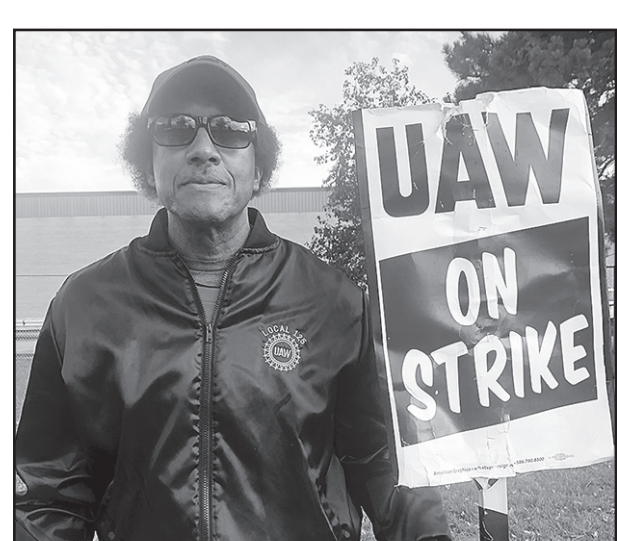
Photo above: Alex Tivis, UAW Local 125 member, spoke to the media at an October 18 rally, saying "I'm working for the future of my daughter."



Photo above: UAW Local 125 member Brandon Lee (left) and his sister, Rachel Lee (right), also a Local 125 member. They are third-generation workers at the Stellantis facility in Plymouth.



Photo, left: Bonita Burns has worked 10 years at the Plymouth site. "What I like most is that it's a union," she said.



Photo, right: UAW Local 125 member Dan Manuel is the most senior worker at the Plymouth facility, with 45-plus years on the job.

Osseo schools asking voters to back funding for school buildings

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MAPLE GROVE — As a district teacher, and as a district parent, the need for the Osseo Area school district's voters to pass a proposed bond referendum is very clear for Ternesha Burroughs.

"Over-crowding is for me the number one reason why residents should vote for the bonding referendum," Burroughs said. "There are a significant number of schools in our system that are overcrowded."

November 7, the Osseo Area school district is asking voters to approve issuing just over \$223 million in bonds. The funds raised would support a broad range of improvements to all of the district's aging school buildings. The funding also would provide for the construction of a new elementary school in northwest Maple Grove and add classrooms and a new cafeteria at Maple Grove Senior High School.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO has endorsed the Osseo bond referendum.

"Every school is getting improvements, every elementary site, every middle school site, every high school site," said Burroughs, who has taught math in the district for 20 years and in July became president of the district's teacher's union, Education Minnesota Osseo.

According to the school district's website, "the average age of our school build-

ings is 47 years old. The newest school, Woodland Elementary School, opened in 2002. The oldest school, Osseo Senior High School, opened in 1952."

The bond referendum will fund security improvements at all schools, add classrooms, expand and modernize career and technical education spaces, modernize library media centers at all schools, and more.

The district's aging buildings also need HVAC improvements "to make sure everyone's breathing healthy air," Burroughs added.

The district's website provides extensive detail about the proposed improvements.

"As I look through what's listed by site, what I like as a parent is that everybody's getting something," Burroughs said. "It's not going to be east side versus west side."

"What I don't want people to think is that the improvements are only on the Maple Grove side of the district," she said.

The district conducted comprehensive studies to determine building needs and consulted many stakeholders.

"The recommendations came from a committee that represented both parents, staff and district personnel," Burroughs reported. "Building personnel were consulted about what their buildings needed."

OSSEO page 15

Richfield and St. Francis public schools seek voter support

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Voters in school districts across the state will be asked November 7 whether or not to approve tax levies or bond referenda to support their local schools.

Two of the districts on opposite sides of the metro area seeking voter support are the Richfield Public Schools (ISD #280) and the St. Francis Area Schools (ISD #15).

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO supports the Richfield and St. Francis ballot questions and urges a "yes" vote, along with the two districts' teachers unions.

Richfield Public Schools: Two ballot questions

Voters in the Richfield school district will be asked to consider two ballot questions.

Question 1 renews an existing technology levy for a third time and will not bring a new tax impact.

Question 2 will revoke and replace an existing operating referendum, leading to an additional \$16 per month for a home valued at \$300,000.

"The technology tools and software we've got available from [the current technology levy] is phenomenal," commented Dave Clark, a 10th grade Richfield biology teacher who has worked 20 years in the district and is treasurer of the district's teachers union, Education Richfield.

"It really allows us to personalize instruction through our online learning system," he said.

And, he added, "every student has a Chromebook to use" because of the funds from technology levy.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, he noted, those Chromebooks already in-hand allowed student learning to continue — while other districts scrambled to provide similar technology for distance learning.

"To us, to continue to maintain the technology infrastructure we've built is critical going forward," Clark said. "I don't want to think of a world where this doesn't pass and pick up the pieces."

Question 2 will double the support

which the district receives from the current operating levy, Clark said, but he's quick to point out that the increase will simply bring Richfield's operating levy in line with neighboring school districts.

"Over time, state funding is not keeping up with inflation," he said. "In today's dollars, our funding is actually less than it was 20 or 25 years ago."

Clark said Question 2 will allow the district to hire additional support staff, retain teachers and stabilize future funding through a mechanism to adjust the levy to keep up with inflation.

Referring to the \$16 per month tax impact for the average home in the district, Clark said, "in looking at the impact it can provide, we hope the voters feel it is nominal."

Clark said a community group, "Vote Yes for Richfield Kids," will be working to educate voters and urge support for the two ballot questions.

Visit richfieldschools.org for more information.

St. Francis Area Schools: Two ballot questions

Voters in the St. Francis Area school district also will be asked whether to support two ballot questions.

Question 1 is a 10-year operating levy to provide \$325 per student for a total \$1.5 million per year.

Question 2 is a 10-year annual capital projects levy which will provide \$880,000 annually.

Question 2 cannot pass unless voters also approve Question 1.

According to the school district's website, "if voters approve the referendum, a home valued at \$375,000 would see a monthly tax increase of \$9 for Question 1 and \$5 for Question 2, for a total of \$14 per month starting in 2024."

The local school board decided only in August to go forward with the two questions but "they voted 7-0 — that was a big deal," said Ryan Fiereck, president of Education Minnesota St. Francis.

SCHOOLS page 15

'Over time, state funding is not keeping up with inflation. In today's dollars, our funding is actually less than it was 20 or 25 years ago.'

— Dave Clark, 10th grade biology teacher, Richfield

AFL-CIO endorsed school funding questions

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO has endorsed school funding questions in eight school districts which will be on the November 7, 2023 ballot. See below for the list of districts and ballot questions and for district websites which provide more information.

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose (ISD #877)
Bond referendum
www.bhmschools.org/elections

Columbia Heights (ISD #13)
Operating levy
Capital project levy
www.colheights.k12.mn.us/2023referendum

Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted (ISD #2687)
Operating levy
<https://hlww.k12.mn.us/referendum/>

New Prague Area (ISD #721)
Operating levy
www.npaschools.org/apps/pages/referendum

Osseo Area (ISD #279)
Bond referendum
www.district279.org/betterfuture

Richfield (ISD #280)
Question 1: Technology levy
Question 2: Operating levy
www.richfieldschools.org/about/referendum

St. Francis Area (ISD #15)
Question 1: Operating levy
Question 2: Capital projects levy
(Question Two cannot pass unless Question One also passes)
www.sfstrongfuture.org/

Westonka (ISD #277)
Question 1: Capital projects levy
Question 2: Bond referendum
www.westonka.k12.mn.us/election2023

Erin Heers-McArdle: 'We need to be loud about successes, honest about shortfalls'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

ANOKA — “It makes me sad how pockets of people in our community don’t believe in public schools anymore,” says Erin Heers-McArdle. Sometimes, she notes, those voices are very loud. “We need to be loud about our successes and be honest about our shortfalls and have a plan in place to make it better.”

Heers-McArdle is running for re-election to represent District 1 on the Anoka-Hennepin school board. Four years ago, she defeated the 20-year incumbent to win her first term on the board.

District 1 includes Anoka and parts of Ramsey, Andover and Coon Rapids.

As in her first campaign, Heers-McArdle is running with endorsements

from the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and also from Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and SEIU. Her website declares: “I’m proud to be pro-union, pro-worker, and pro-teacher!”

Running four years ago, she told the *Labor Review*: “There’s a way to work with people and be respectful... One of my biggest things is giving parents and families and teachers a voice.”

“I’m all about building relationships... really getting to know teachers, principals, staff,” she says as she runs for re-election.

Heers-McArdle says one of her



Erin Heers-McArdle

District 1

proudest accomplishments from her first term on the board was working to see Regional High School move into the Sandburg building and, next year, to see the Bridges and Pathways programs move from rented locations into the district’s former Franklin elementary school. All three programs had been in rented spaces not designed for students. “We’re giving them a better

place,” she says. For Heers-McArdle, a priority is “making sure our students’ needs are met no matter where they start...”

For the next four years, getting all

students to meet the third-grade reading levels will be a priority for the board, she says, because attaining those skills impacts future achievement. “That will continue to be one of the biggest things we aim for.”

A continuing challenge: “Everybody across the country has a shortage of teachers and staff at every level.”

“Anoka-Hennepin has a history of fiscally conservative practices that have worked really well for us,” Heers-McArdle says. When the COVID pandemic hit, other districts that were less fiscally-stable really suffered, she notes. “We have a fund balance that really holds up... We need to keep it that way.”

Website: erinforschoolboard.com

Susan Witt: 'Every decision should have the students at the center'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

BLAINE — “Being a teacher, one of my first concerns is always for the students, the kids,” says Susan Witt. “Every decision should have them at the center.”

Witt, who is a retired teacher, is running for the open District 2 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin school board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. She also has been endorsed by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and SEIU.

District 2 includes several precincts in Blaine and one precinct in Coon Rapids.

Over the years, “I’ve doorknocked a lot of this area for other candidates,”

Witt says — and one year for her own race. In 2016, Witt ran for the Minnesota House seat representing part of the area but came up just 168 votes short of winning. Several precincts where she ran before now overlap with the District 2 school board race.

Witt has lived 11 years in Anoka-Hennepin District 2, moving from neighboring Spring Lake Park after she retired from a 30-year career as a teacher including 27 years teaching in the Spring Lake Park Public Schools. She primarily taught third grade.

Witt was active in her union, winning election as vice president of Spring Lake

Park Teachers United.

She also served as PTA president for Spring Lake Park’s Park Terrace elementary school.

“I’ve been immersed in public schools my whole life,” Witt says.

“I really wanted to be a teacher for as long as I could remember — it started in 4th grade,” she says.

Witt’s husband is a retired chemistry teacher and, she adds, “all my brothers and sisters are teachers and their spouses are teachers.”

In running for school board, “I bring a wealth of background,” Witt says. “I know what goes into a school day.” With her experience, she says, she will “be able to ask the right questions.”

“Everybody’s concerned about the academic progress of kids,” Witt agrees, but she also emphasizes that “we need to make sure schools are a welcoming place where kids feel they are welcome and safe.”

“To me, the job of a school board member is to listen and make good decisions for kids,” Witt says.

Unfortunately, she observes, her opponent is “talking more about the needs of the parents.”

As a union member since 1987, “I really feel strongly how unions are extremely important to our economy and the welfare of all,” Witt says.

Website: susanwittforschoolboard.com



Susan Witt

District 2

Michelle Langenfeld: 'Come together around what kids need most'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

COON RAPIDS — “My overarching goal is how do we as a community come together around what kids need most,” says Michelle Langenfeld. “We really need to all come together.”

Langenfeld is running for the open District 5 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin school board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

She also has been endorsed by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota.

District 5 extends along both sides of the Mississippi River, including parts of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Coon Rapids and Fridley.

“I have a deep and strong tie to the community,” says Langenfeld.

A former classroom teacher, Langenfeld worked 15 years in the Anoka-Hennepin district in positions including associate superintendent, school principal, assistant principal and dean.

She currently has two grandchildren who attend the Anoka-Hennepin schools.

Langenfeld served the Green Bay, Wisconsin school district as superintendent from 2011-2020, where she led a staff of 3,500 employees at 42 schools with 21,000 students (the Anoka-Hennepin district includes about 38,000 students).

During Lanegenfeld’s tenure in Green Bay, she reports, graduation rates rose for all student populations and she worked to strengthen programs that led students to careers in the building trades, in partnership with local trades unions.

Langenfeld took charge in Green Bay at the same time that Governor Scott Walker and the Republican-controlled legislature passed the very controversial Act 10, which severely weakened collective bargaining rights for teachers and other public employees. Langenfeld says she worked hard to make all the teachers and staff “feel valued and respected.”

“It’s very important to recognize that I am a relationship-builder in addition to my years as an educator,” she says.

For Langenfeld, working in education was a second career after earning a degree in criminal justice. When her kids were in school, “I was volunteering in the schools,” she says. She realized, “this is where it matters.”

As a school board member, Langenfeld pledges to “bring people to the table to listen and to engage in what matters most to us... Together, we can come to the best solutions for our kids.”

Website: michellelangenfeld.com



Michelle Langenfeld

District 5

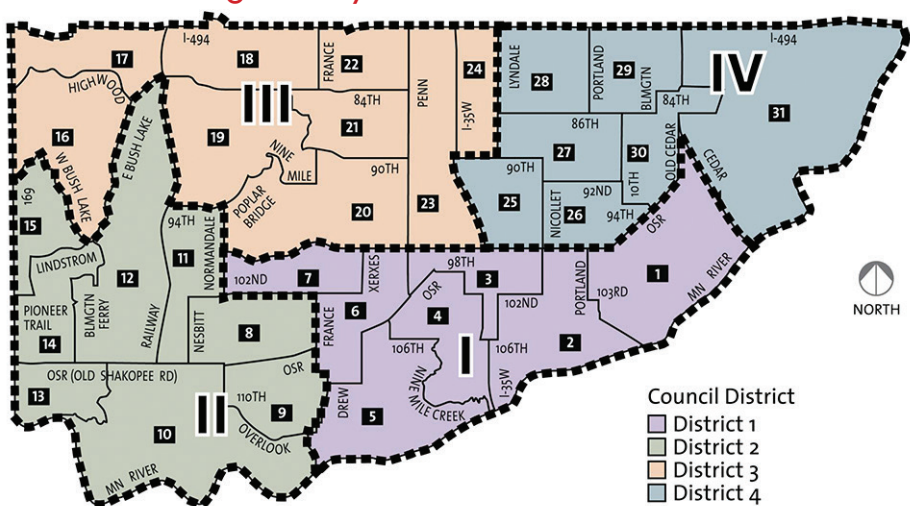
Bloomington increasingly leads in jobs and pro-worker policies

Bloomington is Minnesota's fourth largest city, after Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester. But Bloomington also has more jobs per capita than Minneapolis or St. Paul. Jobs and development at and around the Mall of America, and also along the Interstate 494 strip, make Bloomington a key contributor to the economy of the metro region and the state. The current leadership of the city also is making Bloomington a state leader in developing policies to advance the interests of working families.

Bloomington has been charting a progressive course by adopting policies like requiring businesses to offer workers earned sick and safe time, and by investing in affordable housing, and by developing a new five-year strategic plan and a new master plan for its parks. In the 2023 election, voters will decide whether to elect leaders who will continue progress in those areas and others — or go backwards.

— Reporting pages 10-11 by Steve Share, *Labor Review* editor

Bloomington City Council Districts and Precincts



Tim Busse: 'Do we continue to move forward?'

BLOOMINGTON — “This is a big election for Bloomington,” said Mayor Tim Busse. “Do we continue to move forward? Or do we move backward, to say, 1958?”

Busse was addressing a crowd of labor and community volunteers who were about to head out doorknocking on a recent Saturday morning. “This is how we win elections,” he said.

Tim Busse is running for a second term as Bloomington mayor with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In running for mayor in 2019, “after eight years on the city council... I kind of knew what I was getting into,” he told the *Labor Review*. But, two months after getting sworn in as mayor, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

“Within the city of Bloomington, we rely on the hospitality industry for a good part of our budget,” he noted. Revenue from the city’s liquor and lodging taxes? “It went to zero.”

“We had about a \$6 million hole in our budget. We knew we were going to have to make cuts.”

To determine a way forward, the city formed a community budget advisory committee comprised of diverse representatives, including labor, looking for ways to cut but maintain services.

“Despite the pandemic, and all of the challenges, we were able to put together a community-driven strategic five-year plan,” he said. “We’ve got to continue what we’ve been working on.”

The hospitality industry now has rebounded — not quite yet back to 2019 — but Bloomington’s recovery is out-pacing the two downtowns and the state as a whole, Busse reported.

Busse grew up in a union household, he related. “It shaped who I am.” “I’m always so appreciative of the work that labor unions do and continue to do at all levels,” Busse said.

Website:
busseforbloomington.com



Tim Busse
Mayor

Chao Moua: 'We have a shared future'

BLOOMINGTON — “We all come from different places. The one thing we have in common is we have a shared future,” says Chao Moua.

Moua was appointed to an At Large seat on the Bloomington city council in January 2023 to fill a vacancy. He’s now running for that seat in a special election set for November 7 with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In serving on the council this year, Moua says, “it’s the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my life.”

He sees his role on the council as not just addressing issues like affordable housing and transportation, but also helping people “grow their ideas” in Bloomington, whether that’s starting a business or a nonprofit.

Moua grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin—LaCrosse with a degree in biology, and later earned an MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Moua’s parents were Hmong refu-

gees from Laos, who came to the U.S. with nothing. But, Moua said, “when my dad started working at Nestle and joined the union, it created stability in our life.”

His father was a member of UFCW Local 1473 and worked at the Nestle plant in Eau Claire. From his father, he learned “how important it is to have good management who support the workers.”

From his mother, who opened a Hmong grocery store and deli, he gained the viewpoint of a small business owner.

For Moua, honoring his immigrant heritage and the challenges his family and other immigrant families have faced is important — and offers lessons for the country and the city of Bloomington — so we can build on “the hard work of those who came before.”

“It’s important for us to provide opportunities for the workers who are the backbone of our community,” Moua says.

Website:
mouaforbloomington.com



Chao Moua
At Large

Jenna Carter: Offers public health perspective

BLOOMINGTON — “A public health lens is something valuable I bring to the council,” says Jenna Carter. “What does it mean to be a healthy community where people can thrive and have access to opportunity?”

Jenna Carter is running for re-election for a second term as an At Large member of the Bloomington city council. As in her first run, she carries the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Carter moved to the Twin Cities years ago to earn a Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota. “For 15 years, I have worked within and across sectors to advance community health and equity with a focus on policy and systems change,” she says.

Just weeks after joining the city council in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. “As I think about being on the council during that time, it was valuable to have my perspective,” she says. In February 2020, she recalls asking her city council colleagues, “what

are we doing to prepare?”

“One of the things I pushed hard for was making sure we had [informational] materials in other languages,” she says.

Carter says she’s proud of the work to enact Bloomington’s earned sick and safe time policy. “When I ran in 2019, it was a question. When the pandemic arrived, it highlighted the absolute necessity for people to be able to stay home when they’re sick. I pushed hard to make sure we got that policy moving forward.”

Racial equity issues are another focus for Carter. In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, she led in seeing Bloomington declare racism to be a public health crisis. The city has since moved to develop a racial equity business plan involving every department.

“I’m really grateful for the support of the labor unions and appreciate the involvement of members and their families,” Carter says.

Website:
jennacartermn.com



Jenna Carter
At Large

Dwayne Lowman: 'We're a major force'

BLOOMINGTON — “I intend to keep fighting for Bloomington,” says Dwayne Lowman.

Dwayne Lowman is running for a fourth term to represent District I on the Bloomington city council — his fourth race with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

His other labor endorsements include AFSCME Council 5, IBEW Local 292, the Laborers district council, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, and UNITE HERE Local 17.

Lowman is currently the longest-serving member of the Bloomington city council. That gives him a long record of experience to offer not just to District I, but to the entire city.

Running four years ago, Lowman emphasized that Bloomington was not just another suburb. “We’re a major force from an economic standpoint.”

Lowman wants Bloomington to be

“a community of choice,” adding, “I don’t know if young folks today can come back and live in this community... It’s not a place you can choose to live if you can’t afford to pay the rent.”

He sees two priorities: “bring good-paying jobs to Bloomington” and “make sure there is an affordable place to live.”

Born and raised in Bloomington, Lowman has lived in the city for 45 years.

He graduated from Kennedy High School and went on to earn a B.A. in urban planning and political science at Augsburg University.

His first job was a union job, bagging groceries at Byerly’s as a UFCW member. He also is a former member of the Communications Workers of America.

He currently works as a business analyst for the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank.

Website:
dwaynealowman.com



Dwayne Lowman
District I

Shawn Nelson: Housing is number one issue

BLOOMINGTON — “We have more jobs than housing,” says Shawn Nelson. For him, the number one issue is “making sure we have housing for the workers in our community.”

Shawn Nelson is running for re-election for a third term representing District II on the Bloomington city council. He is running again with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

“We’re also trying to grow the number of jobs we have but also [develop] housing that’s affordable for working people,” Nelson says. “We’d like to build on what we’ve been doing in the housing area.”

“COVID had a big impact on us, navigating the needs of the city,” he notes. “We did a lot to support small businesses and their employees so they could keep paying people.”

Creating flexibility with city rules was particularly important for restaurants, he says.

Nelson supported the effort to pass Bloomington’s earned sick and safe time policy. “I’m really happy the city of Bloomington was a leader in that issue,” he says. “We don’t want people going to work when they’re sick and getting other people sick.” He adds, “as a small business owner, I’m glad the state has taken it over.”

Looking ahead to serving another term, Nelson says the city’s transition to a full-time fire department will provide a higher level of service — and bring higher costs, too.

“As a community, we’re going to be having more and more discussions about our budget,” he notes, as the city takes on needed infrastructure improvements. “Property taxes are always a concern for people.”

Addressing Bloomington union members, Nelson says, “I want to make sure your needs and concerns are recognized.”

Website:
nelsonforbloomington.com



Shawn Nelson
District II

Lona Dallessandro: Committed to working families

BLOOMINGTON — “The process of running a municipal government is complex... It’s for good reasons,” says Lona Dallessandro. Unlike her experience in the business world, she finds local government to be cautious and slow, in part for reasons of transparency and in part to be a good steward of the public’s tax dollars. “It’s important for the public to know these things are in their best interest.”

Lona Dallessandro is running for a second term to represent Bloomington’s District III on the city council. Like her first race, she’s running again with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Her other labor endorsements include AFSCME Council 5, IBEW Local 292, the Laborers district council, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, and UNITE HERE Local 17.

In her first term, Dallessandro says she helped to “get the ball rolling” on city initiatives including the new parks

master plan, a traffic calming management plan and bike trail improvements. “This time four years from now we will have made a lot of progress,” she says.

She’s excited for the next four years, too, about the consolidation of city functions to create a natural resources management office and also a small business center. “We’re going to see a lot more coordinated effort to improve our outcomes for people here.”

“Housing has to be part of what we do because it’s such a crisis in the state,” Dallessandro adds.

“As a city council member, I find it incredibly important — number one — and incredibly inspirational to have a large [number] of working families represented by unions in this area,” she says. “I’m committed to working on their behalf.”

Dallessandro recently joined with the Carpenters union to be a city leader for a new coalition to combat wage theft.

Website:
voteforlona.com



Lona Dallessandro
District III

Isaak Rooble: 'Continue the work we've done'

BLOOMINGTON — “I’m a community activist most of the time. I try to address equity issues across the spectrum,” says small business owner Isaak Rooble.

Rooble is running for the District IV seat on the Bloomington city council with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Incumbent Pat Martin is not seeking re-election and encouraged Rooble to run “to make sure we continue the work we’ve done over the years,” Rooble says.

District IV is in the northeast corner of the city.

In talking with district voters, Rooble says, their chief issues are public safety, housing, and economic development — and a concern that resources are not going to the city’s east side. And he says, members of the BI-POC community feel left out.

Rooble moved to Bloomington eight years ago. As a Somali-American, “I have been a refugee and immigrant advocate for over 15 years,” he

relates. Working as a translator at Hennepin County Medical Center, he was a union member of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild.

He also has worked as a translator for SEIU Healthcare and for the DFL Party.

“I believe workers should have the right to speak up when people violate labor and employment rights,” he says.

In running for city council, “engaging the labor community was really important,” Rooble says. “We want to be part of the labor family.”

“Pay attention during this election cycle,” Rooble urges. “Our values are on the line. We’re up against people who are calling unions outsiders” and who want “to push back progress.”

“I’m someone who can move an issue from where it is to a better future,” Rooble says. “If people come out and vote, they elect the right candidates.”

Website:
isaakrooble.com



Isaak Rooble
District IV

MRLF endorses Bloomington school board incumbents Korman, Olson, Starks

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
BLOOMINGTON — Six candidates are vying for three seats on the Bloomington school board for the November 7 election — and the stakes couldn't be higher.

“What’s so important is that we have a school board that really believes in public education and believes in the community,” says Wendy Marczak, school social worker and president of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers. “That’s what’s at stake.”

The three school board incumbents in the race — Nelly Korman, Mia Olson, and Heather Starks — are running with the endorsement of the Bloomington Federation of Teachers and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In Marczak’s experience, these current board members are “the first group that actually goes over to the State Capitol to advocate for students.”

“They were down there supporting public education and it’s clear they believe in public education,” Marczak said.

“They’re determined to be a ‘no drama’ board,” Marczak added, “and it real-

ly showed during COVID.”

Around the state, school board members who were diligently trying to follow public health guidelines drew harassment from right-wing COVID-skeptics. Many embattled school board members quit.

Korman, Olson and Starks, however, “kept going back to what was best and following the Governor’s order,” Marczak said. “They weathered it.”

“It was impressive,” Marczak said. “One of the most difficult times in public education and they didn’t quit. They stayed steadfast.”

Now the Bloomington school board, like other school boards across Minnesota and across the country, is facing outraged parents seeking to ban certain books from school libraries and from the school curriculum.

“Why now?” Marczak asks. “What’s going on now?”

The book-banners are targeting books addressing racial justice or social justice issues in the United States or books that speak to the experiences of LGBTQ youth.

“It feels more like a political campaign than a grassroots campaign,”



Nelly Korman

At Large



Mia Olson

At Large



Heather Starks

At Large

Marczak noted. “It isn’t organic.”

The book-banners are following the lead of websites that tell them which books to target, which passages to cite.

If some parents don’t want their own kids to read certain books, that’s fine, Marczak said.

But “other parents don’t want a small group of people deciding what their kids can read,” Marczak maintained.

Unfortunately, Marczak reported, two other candidates in the Bloomington school board race have aligned themselves with the book-banning forces.

All three of the labor-endorsed candidates are current or former educators themselves. “Nelly, Mia and Heather all have teaching degrees or are substitute teachers,” Marczak noted. “You feel like they’re with us — that we’re all one big team trying to educate the Bloomington community.”

Candidate websites:
kormanfourschools.com
miaforbloomingtonschools.com
starksforschools.com

SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 10
Supports all Labor-Endorsed
Candidates
VOTE November 7, 2023



Your lunch box
is connected to
the ballot box



The officers of Local 15
urge you to get out and vote
for labor endorsed candidates
on November 7th

Support your local school levies
and labor-endorsed candidates!



Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local #34
www.insulators34.org

VOTE NOVEMBER 7 TO PROTECT
WORKING CLASS FAMILIES



Aurin Chowdhury: 'We can bring everyday people to be a part of crafting policy'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
 MINNEAPOLIS — “We can really bring everyday people... to be a part of crafting policy,” says Aurin Chowdhury. “What my work has really been about is organizing on the ground through the city or neighborhood organizations.”

Aurin Chowdhury is running for the Ward 12 Minneapolis City Council seat with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

She also has been endorsed by the DFL Party.

Her other union endorsements include IBEW Local 292, the Laborers district council, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, OPEIU Local 12, SEIU

Minnesota State Council, and UNITE HERE Local 17.

Chowdhury also has the endorsement of the incumbent Ward 12 council member, Andrew Johnson, who is not running for re-election.

Ward 12 includes eight neighborhoods bordering the Mississippi River and along or near Hiawatha Ave.

If elected, Chowdhury already will know how to make things happen at city hall.

She’s worked the past two years as a policy aide for Ward 9 council member Jason Chavez and previously worked for two years as an aide for former Ward 3 council member Steve Fletcher.



Aurin Chowdhury

Ward 12

Chowdhury spent her early years growing up in south Minneapolis and later earned a political science degree at the University of Minnesota.

As a student organizer and through working on one of Keith Ellison’s campaigns, “I fell in love with that kind of work,” she says, “where the voices of everyday people and working people were heard.”

While working at the non-profit Minnesota Youth Collective, Chowdhury and co-workers organized their workplace and joined OPEIU Local 12. It was the third organizing attempt

there. “We got a pretty good contract and the organization is still unionized,” she reports.

“I’m super-proud to have the support of the MRLF” and other unions, Chowdhury says. She adds: “To really have a pro-labor city council and pro-labor city of Minneapolis, it’s important to vote in this election.”

As a council member, Chowdhury says her priorities will include addressing affordable housing, public safety, and climate change.

Engaging with community members to create solutions will be the key, she says. “I’m really open to community members... to reach out and connect.”

Website:
aurinchowdhury.org

Jeremiah Ellison: 'Workers have allies and advocates on the City Council'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
 MINNEAPOLIS — “I want workers to know they’ve got allies and advocates on the City Council,” Jeremiah Ellison says. “A growing and increasing labor movement makes our job that much easier.”

With the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Jeremiah Ellison is running for a third term for the Ward 5 Minneapolis City Council seat.

Ellison’s other labor endorsements include the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and the SEIU Minnesota State Council.

Ward 5 in north Minneapolis is bordered largely by Lowry Ave. on the north, Basset Creek and Interstate 394 on the south, Xerxes Ave. N. on the west, and the Mississippi River and downtown on the east.

“Representing north Minneapolis, it is a working-class neighborhood,” Ellison says. “It is a neighborhood that has a steep depth of need.”

“Housing dignity and stability has been my biggest focus,” Ellison reports. He’s worked on a renter protection ordinance and also worked to hold landlords responsible without displacing tenants.

In partnership with the building trades unions and CTUL, Ellison worked to pass the city’s wage theft ordinance and backed strong enforcement measures.

Going forward, “it’s really important

that we get the Labor Standards Board up and off the ground,” Ellison says. While the proposal has had lots of discussion, he says, “we have to be committed to making it real next term.”

Ellison supports a green jobs facility developed in partnership with unions.

“I also think it’s important for us to revisit rent stabilization,” Ellison says. “I think there’s a reasonable policy [that can work] and not be a doomsday scenario.”

Ellison wants to see the city promote measures such as rent-to-own to eliminate the home-ownership gap between whites and everyone else.

He’s also concerned that private investors are buying up single-family homes and renting them. “I think it’s the wrong direction,” he says, and suggests one idea to counter this trend could be to limit the number of rental licenses someone can have.

Ellison maintains that the perception of division on the City Council is overhyped. “It’s easy to write about conflict; It’s less exciting to write about ways council members work together... There are disagreements but we’re all trying to learn from each other... Disagreements are okay; They’re healthy... We’re not going to be aligned 100 percent of the time but when it comes to working together, that’s what mostly exists.”

Website:
jeremiahforward5.com



Jeremiah Ellison

Ward 5

Andrea Jenkins: 'A strong advocate for equity and racial justice'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
 MINNEAPOLIS — “I’m a strong advocate for equity and racial justice on the City Council,” says Andrea Jenkins. “That has to be a part of the City Council’s work going forward.”

Andrea Jenkins is running for a third term to represent Ward 8 on the Minneapolis City Council with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Celebrating her “strong partnerships with labor unions,” Jenkins’ other labor endorsements include AFSCME Council 5, Firefighters Local 82, the Laborers district council, Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, SEIU Minnesota State Council, and Teamsters Joint Council 32.

Ward 8 includes eight south Minneapolis neighborhoods, stretching from Lake Street to 50th Street, and from Lyndale Ave. to Cedar Ave.

Jenkins currently serves as City Council president, elected by her peers.

Pointing to a record of accomplishment over the past term, Jenkins cites historic investments in affordable housing, the creation of the city’s Climate Legacy Initiative and the creation of a new Department of Public Safety, which includes not just police but also a behavioral response team as well as a team of

“violence interrupters.”

“Now we’re in the midst of talking about this Labor Standards Board which I think can bring some positive impacts for workers in our community,” Jenkins says.

Looking to priorities for another term, Jenkins highlights affordable housing, public safety and climate change and “working to revitalize George Floyd Square to really create the kind of memorial to social and racial justice that is befitting...”

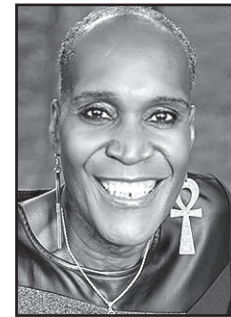
An internationally recognized writer, Jenkins says “like many artists during this moment of uprising, I’ve been able to write some new poems, new essays... It’s really been a part of how I’ve been maintaining my own mental health.”

Jenkins teaches writing part-time as an adjunct professor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, noting “I am a labor member, dues-paying member” of SEIU Local 284.

At City Council, “I’m absolutely 100 percent advocating for labor unions and workers rights,” she says.

Jenkins noted the surge of labor union activity locally and nationally. “I think we’re seeing a revitalization of the labor movement and I’m all for it — we’re moving in the right direction.”

Website:
andrea-jenkins.com



Andrea Jenkins

Ward 8



LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota photo

Inaugural 'Yellow Ribbon Ribfest' draws crowd for BBQ cook-off, Building Trades career fair

ARDEN HILLS — A fundraiser to support veterans and military families, the inaugural "Yellow Ribbon Ribfest" organized by the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council drew a crowd to the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Headquarters September 16. The event featured BBQ tasting, live music, and games plus an Army National Guard and Building Trades career fair. Special guest speakers included Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, who had a 24-year career in the Army National Guard. The event's BBQ cooking contest drew 24 teams. A Minnesota Building Trades' spokesperson reported that the "Yellow Ribbon Ribfest" raised more than \$40,000 to benefit military service members, veterans and military families.

Fare For All: Special 'Holiday Pack' available for November offers turkey, pie, and more

continued from page 3

November Holiday Pack: \$35

west of Central Ave. on 14th Ave. NE).

■ **New Hope, Wednesday, November 8, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Tuesday, October 31 AND Tuesday, November 28, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, November 21, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, November 15, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

The Fare For All sale at the Laborers Hall in northeast Minneapolis is hosted by Working Partnerships, the community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

See www.fareforall.org for more information and dates for all 30-plus locations.

With the holidays just around the corner, Fare For All is ready to help with your family's feast. Stretch your budget and get fresh produce and quality frozen meats without breaking the bank this holiday season.

Fare for All's November Holiday Pack features a 10-12 lb. local turkey, local green beans, pie, and more.

The December Holiday Pack will feature a 8-9 lb. ham.

Holiday packs cost \$35.

Cash, card, EBT accepted.

November Holiday Pack contents:

- 10-12 lb. Ferndale Market turkey (local);
- 10 oz. Sno Pac organic green beans (local);
- 1 lb. pollock fillets;
- 28 oz. smoked sausages;
- 19 oz. cheddar and bacon brats;
- 32 oz. pecan pie.

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS FOR OVER 40 YEARS!

- Founded by unions
- For unions and union members
- Still owned and controlled by the same unions!



union
BANK AND TRUST

312 Central Avenue SE • Minneapolis
612-379-3222 • www.ubtmn.com • Member FDIC
A Tradition Since 1976

Labor Review Archive 1907-present

www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Labor Review 2023 Holiday Issue

Publication Date: December 16

Deadline: November 29

Discounted Ad Rates Available

For more information, to suggest a story idea, or to advertise, contact the editor at 612-715-2667 or laborreview@minneapolisunions.org

U.S. Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

PS Form 3526

1. Publication Title Minneapolis Labor Review 2. Publication Number 351-120 3. Filing Date 10-01-2023 4. Issue Frequency Monthly, Except January and June 5. Number of Issues Published Annually 10 6. Annual Subscription Price \$10 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) Minneapolis Labor Review, 312 Central Ave. SE, Ste. 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097 Contact Person Steve Share Telephone 612-715-2667 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, 312 Central Ave. SE, Ste. 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor Publisher Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, 312 Central Ave. SE, Ste. 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097 Editor Steve Share, Minneapolis Labor Review, 312 Central Ave. SE, Ste. 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097 Managing Editor Same as editor 10. Owner Full Name Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation Complete Mailing Address 312 Central Ave. SE, Ste. 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1097 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. [Box checked] None 12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: [Box checked] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months 13. Publication Title Minneapolis Labor Review 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09-23-2023

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	54,150	53,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	20,399	19,001
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	30,728	30,173
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	NONE	NONE
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	NONE	NONE
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	51,127	49,174
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	20	27
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	300	300
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	320	327
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	51,447	49,501
g. Copies not Distributed	2,703	3,499
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	54,150	53,000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.38%	99.34%
*If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
If present, check box [Box left blank]	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	[Left blank]	[Left blank]
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c)+ Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	[Left blank]	[Left blank]
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	[Left blank]	[Left blank]
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	[Left blank]	[Left blank]
[Box left blank] I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.		

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership [Box checked] Publication required. Will be printed in the 10-21-2023 issue of this publication.
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner [Signed] Steven H. Share, Editor Date 10-01-2023
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Two union members run for Fridley school board

FRIDLEY — Two union members are running for Fridley school board. One-term incumbent Jake Karnopp is a member of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 9. First-time candidate Erik Keeler is a first-year apprentice and member of Plumbers Local 15. Both Karnopp and Keeler are running with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.



Jake Karnopp



Erik Keeler

The MRLF also has endorsed a third candidate in the race, incumbent Sara Jones. Jones, Karnopp and Keeler are running in a field of five candidates, with the top three to be elected.

Karnopp said running for school board initially grew out of his community involvement as a volunteer coach, getting to know kids and their families. “There was a need for board members to be more in tune with the community; I

felt I met that at the time,” he says.

Karnopp has a son who is a 6th grader in the district’s Sibley Middle School.

Keeler is a 2013 graduate of Fridley High School. “I have great memories there and I want to see it thrive,” he says.

Like Karnopp, “I’ve been involved in the community,” Keeler said. “I wanted to have a bigger impact.”

For more information on Karnopp and Keeler, visit minneapolisunions.org.

Osseo

continued from page 8

If voters pass the bond referendum, the school district’s website said the resulting tax increase “would be less than \$7 per month” for the average-value \$300,000 home in the district.

That modest increase, however, doesn’t mean that passing the bond referendum is a sure thing.

In 2022, Osseo Area school district voters passed an operating levy by a comfortable margin while a technology levy passed by only 221 votes.

To urge support for the bond referendum, “we have a ‘vote yes’ committee made up of union members and parents,” Burroughs reported. “We’re getting some phone bank nights set-up to call residents and encourage them to get out and vote yes.”

“We’re getting support from the trade unions,” Burroughs added.

For members of building trades unions, a \$223 million investment in school building projects means jobs.

The Laborers union is taking the lead in organizing the region’s building trades unions to support the Osseo bond referendum.

“We are going to do a phone bank in support,” said Adam Hutchens, marketing representative for LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota.

“We spoke to the district and got involved on the front end,” Hutchens reported, winning a new commitment from the Osseo school district to use prevailing wage requirements in bid specs for the proposed construction work. “It will be built with prevailing wage provisions which will mean good union jobs.”

Hutchens noted that the Osseo Area school district is one of the metro area’s fastest-growing regions. “That population growth is really going to need investment to keep up.”

Right now, Osseo math teacher Terneisha Burroughs sees the area’s growth leading to overcrowded classrooms.

“As a math teacher, I can provide some individual assistance to 25 students and get to know students and their needs,” she said. But “when I have 35-40 students,” she added, it becomes “impossible to make sure each student gets what they need.”

“Overcrowding means that someone’s kid is not getting what they need,” Burroughs said. “We’ve really got to do something about the lack of space.”

Visit district279.org/betterfuture for more information.

Schools

continued from page 8

Fiereck is a business education teacher with 18 years in the district.

He said passing both questions is essential. “We’re struggling here... We’ve done more with less for a long time.” Indeed, the district has made \$10 million in cuts in the past 10 years.

“We can’t retain staff,” he reported, which also means that “kids have fewer

program options.”

In addition, “our class sizes continue to grow,” he said, which results in student behavior concerns.

Passing the two questions also will help the district grow popular new course offerings in career and tech ed, he said, and allow the district to offer something unique versus other districts to help maintain student counts.

Visit sfStrongFuture.org for more information.

Vote November 7!

Support labor-endorsed candidates and your local school levies!

For information about voting, including early voting, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website: mnvotes.org



LiUNA!

Feel the Power

Construction & General Laborers’ Union
Local 563

www.local563.org

Dana

MINION

For Minnetonka
Council Ward 1

DANAMINION.COM

“As a union member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 for over two decades, I know how to roll up my sleeves and get things done.”

Please reach out with any questions: Dana@DanaMinion.com

Paid for by Dana Minion for Minnetonka Ward 1

Vote November 7th

How you vote is up to you.
Vote for the candidates that support...

UNION LABOR!

Roofers & Waterproofers
Local 96



2023 is an election year for several local municipalities and school districts. Election Day is November 7, 2023; However, you can vote early now.



IBEW Local 292 has taken special considerations to recommend candidates running for public office who support our labor issues. Who you vote for is your business, but please consider voting for those candidates who support all of us. Members can find updated endorsement information on our web page.

For IBEW Local 292 endorsements:
ibew292.org/political

JAIL!

***For people who
commit wage theft!***



PAINTERS & ALLIED TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL 82

Painters & Drywall Finishers, Sign, Display & Screen Process, Glaziers & Glass Workers

Affiliated Locals 61, 106, 386, 681, 880, 1324, 1922, 1962, 2002

Local Union News

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Metro Transit negotiations continue, employer seeks unacceptable language

As negotiations continue for a new contract with Metro Transit, “management has introduced contract language that we will NOT accept,” Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 reported to members October 10.

Metro Transit seeks “discretion to place a new employee at any step in a wage progression,” Local 1005 reported.

The union’s update shared that management has increased the economic package to three percent, including the shift differential, plus a 3.5 percent wage increase in year one, a 2.25 percent wage increase in year two, and another 2.25 percent wage increase in year three.

But for base wages, “there’s got to be more movement,” ATU Local 1005 president Ryan Timlin told the *Labor Review*. Due to action by the state legislature, “they have a dedicated source of funding now... They’ve got to start moving on wages to make these desirable jobs.”

With current pay levels, Timlin said, Metro Transit is having difficulty hiring to fill open positions— particularly for mechanics — although hiring for operators has improved somewhat.

Members of Local 1005 voted last month to authorize a strike, with 94 percent voting in favor (*Labor Review*, September 23, 2023).

As this issue of the *Labor Review* went to press, another negotiation session was planned for October 27.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Election of officers set for November 14

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 will vote November 14 to choose new leadership.

Active members must vote in-person at their work location.

Current Local 1005 president Ryan Timlin, who first was elected in 2017, is not seeking re-election.

The candidates for president include Jacquie Perkins and interim vice-president David Stiegers.

Candidates for vice president include Dave Butts and incumbent Miriam Wynn.

Tommy Bellfield, incumbent financial secretary-treasurer, had no opponent in seeking re-election.

Four candidates are seeking the position of recording secretary: Andrew Boardman, Veronica Carter, Monique Mitchell, and Vanetta Rennock.

In addition, eight other board positions have contested races.

Another eight board positions, however, drew only one candidate and they were declared elected after nominations closed.

AFSCME Local 3800:

President Cherrene Horazuk moves on
Cherrene Horazuk, president of AFSC-

ME Local 3800 since 2012, has resigned her union position and her University of Minnesota job effective October 20.

Horazuk begins a new job October 30 as senior campaign lead for the Association of Flight Attendants, where she will be organizing Delta flight attendants.

The granddaughter of 1934 Teamsters striker Harry Horazuk, Cherrene Horazuk had worked for the University of Minnesota since 2004 and served Local 3800 as chief steward for five years before becoming president.

AFSCME Local 3800 vice president for organizing, Max Vast, will become Local 3800 president and will serve the remainder of Horazuk’s term, which runs through May 2024.

AFSCME Local 3800 represents University of Minnesota clerical workers.

CWA Local 7250:

Call center workers organize at Rove Pest Control

Call center workers at Rove Pest Control in Oakdale voted September 15 to organize with Communications Workers of America Local 7250 in a National Labor Relations Board election.

Workers at the call center began discussing unionization last spring and contacted Local 7250 in June 2023.

“They self-organized and because they were a call center they reached out

to CWA,” reported Local 7250 president Kieran Knutson.

The Local 7250 newsletter reported: “The call center workers hung tough during Rove’s pathetic anti-union campaign (that CWA prepared them for) — and despite losing a couple of supporters who quit the job altogether, and another supporter being hospitalized during the vote, the workers voted overwhelmingly to unionize — only one of the call center workers voted against the union.”

The call center unit is small — under 10 — but the union’s organizing committee already is making contacts with Rove’s 30-40 outside technicians, who service homes and businesses.

Carpenters Local 322:

Local seeks donated tools and construction apparel for apprentices

Do you have tools you no longer need? Any construction apparel including work boots that you no longer require? Carpenters Local 322 apprentices would greatly appreciate your donation!

Please bring your gently used donations through October to the Local 322 office, 730 Olive Street, St. Paul.

IBEW Local 292:

Local’s health plan has re-partnered with TEAM for employee assistance

The IBEW Local 292 health care plan
LOCAL UNION NEWS page 18

Retiree Meetings

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your union retiree group is meeting in-person or online, and you want to share that information, or if you have other important announcements, contact the editor at laborreview@minneapolisunions.org or 612-715-2667.

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next meeting November 16

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, November 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for people at the in-person meeting after the meeting adjourns. The in-person meeting will be in Room 218 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

Parking will be reimbursed if you park in the Saint Anthony Public Parking Ramp (at the corner of 2nd St. SE and University Ave. SE), across University from the United Labor Centre building. Just park and when you come to the meeting we will give you a parking voucher.

To request the Zoom link for the November 16 meeting, or for more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees:

Meet first Wednesday of the month

The Southside Retirees of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 are now meeting for breakfast the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at the Richfield VFW, 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield.

Carpenters Retirees:

No meetings for November and December

Carpenters Retirees will *not* meet in November and December. The group normally meets the last Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees:

‘Senior Sparkies’ will meet November 14

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” — will meet Tuesday, November 14 at IBEW Local 292’s union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker

We’re planning our holiday luncheon for Wednesday, November 29 at Jax Cafe at 11:00 a.m. Sign-up information has been sent via U.S. Mail. RSVP required ASAP!

For more information, contact the IBEW Local 292 office at 612-379-1292.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Next meeting November 28

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will meet Tuesday, November 28 10:00 a.m. at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers office, 67 – 8th Ave. NE. (in-person only). Lunch will follow at 12:00 noon.

The tentative program will compare the Democratic Socialists of America agenda with the Social Democrats in Scandinavia and their agenda and belief systems. David Dorn, retired director of American Federation of Teachers International Department in Washington, D.C. will be the Social Democrat speaker. A DSA speaker has been invited.

Upcoming meeting dates include: January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 28 or 29. The January through March meetings will be via Zoom.

For more information, e-mail RTC59info@gmail.com.

Pipefitters Local 539 Retirees:

‘Fazed Out Fitters’ meet third Wednesday

Pipefitters Local 539 retirees — the “Fazed Out Fitters” — meet the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at Elsie’s, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis. New members welcome.

Plumbers Local 15 Retirees:

Meet the third Tuesday of each month

All retired Plumbers Local 15 members are invited to attend retiree meetings, continuing the third Tuesday of every month at 12 noon at Elsie’s Restaurant, Bar & Bowling Center, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis (corner of Marshall and 8th Ave.). For more information, contact the Local 15 office at 612-333-8601.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:

‘Rusty Tinnners’ meet November 14

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinnners” retirees club will meet Tuesday, November 14 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. A potluck lunch will begin at 12 noon. The meeting will follow lunch at 1:00 p.m. If available, one of our business agents and/or someone from our benefits office will share updates and answer questions. All retired Sheet Metal workers and spouses are welcome to our monthly meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, September through December and March through May. For more information, contact Frank Costa at 651-484-1363.

U of M Facilities Management and Maintenance Retirees:

Meet last Tuesday of month

Retirees from the University of Minnesota Maintenance Department have resumed meeting the last Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Elsie’s, 729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis. New retirees welcome!

continued from page 17

has re-partnered with the TEAM employee assistance program. Effective September 1, 2023, TEAM replaced Optum as Local 292's employee assistance program.

Local 292 members who need to reach TEAM can speak to a TEAM counselor by calling TEAM's toll-free number at 1-800-634-7710 or by calling local numbers at 651-642-0182 or 218-727-8589 day or night.

For more information, contact the IBEW 292 benefits office at 763-493-8830 or visit ibew292benefits.org.

Ironworkers Local 512:

Local 512 members built new 'Treetop Trail' at Minnesota Zoo

You may have heard about the new "Treetop Trail" at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley. But did you know that the project involved Ironworkers Local 512 members?

The one-mile-long elevated trail is built on top of the structure originally built for the zoo's monorail, which closed in 2013.

Bald Eagle Erectors and Danny's Construction Company, Inc. completed the \$39 million project, with work underway from July 2022 to July 2023.

"This is just a beautiful walk in the trees," said zoo director John Frawley, who got the idea to re-purpose the zoo's idle monorail infrastructure after visiting the High Line elevated park in New York City, which also is built atop an old rail structure.

Access to the "Treetop Trail" is included with general admission to the zoo.

For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit mnzoo.org.

Visit ironworkers512.com for a link to a video showcasing the construction work on the "Treetop Trail."



Pipefitters' annual 'Heat's On' volunteer day assists needy homeowners with repairs

MINNEAPOLIS — More than 100 Pipefitters union members volunteered Saturday, September 16 to provide free furnace repairs and inspections to senior, low-income and disabled homeowners as part of "Project Heat's On." In partnership with local Community Action Partnership agencies and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association, 110 homeowners in the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester received no-cost assistance from a local union member. Participating locals included Minneapolis and Saint Cloud Pipefitters Local 539, Saint Paul Pipefitters Local 455, and Rochester Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 6 (photo above).

Laborers Local 563:

Food drive continues to December 18

Laborers Local 563 is conducting a food drive to help re-stock local emergency foodshelves.

Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted through December 18 at the Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

Or, you can make a cash donation online for the LIUNA Virtual Food Drive by visiting givemn.org/story/F9hsbf.

Plasterers Local 265:

Business manager Tim House retires

Tim House, business manager of Plasterers Local 265 since 2010, retired October 13. House is a 43-year member of

Local 265 and served the local for 10 years as business agent before becoming business manager.

Seth Schroeder will be filling-out the remainder of House's term as business manager, which runs until December 2024. Schroeder joined Local 265 in 2001 and has served as Local 265's president for the past year. He previously served nine years on the local's executive board. Schroeder, who lives in Hugo, has been working for contractor Mulcahy Nickolaus.

UFCW Local 663:

Hormel workers ratify new contract

After voting in September to reject a final offer from Hormel Foods, United Food and Commercial Workers members

at Hormel plants in Minnesota, Georgia, Iowa, and Wisconsin voted October 9 to ratify a new, improved contract offer.

According to UFCW international president Marc Perrone, the contract "includes the largest wage increase in the company's history. In addition to gaining hourly wage increases of \$3-\$6 an hour, the new contract nearly doubles bereavement leave, protects healthcare coverage, and increases both pension and 401k benefits."

Minnesota's UFCW Local 663 represents the largest plant covered by the agreement, the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota with more than 1,700 employees.

UFCW Local 663:

After authorizing strike, Seward Co-op workers win new contract

Workers at Seward Community Co-op in Minneapolis voted unanimously October 2 to ratify a new contract.

The workers are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, which hailed the contract as "an industry leading union contract... that provides livable wages, pay equity and benefits."

Just four days earlier, September 26, the Seward workers voted overwhelmingly to authorize an unfair labor practices strike.

The strike threat helped to win a tentative agreement the following day.

(The union also had filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board but dropped the charges after the new contract was approved.)

Local 663 reports that the starting wage at the co-op grocery will rise to \$17.65 per hour, "which is among the highest starting wage for co-ops nationwide."

Over the three years of the new contract, full-time and part-time workers at the top or above scales will receive \$5.00 per hour more in pay. Full-time and part-time workers in the wage scales will receive a minimum of \$6.50 per hour more in pay over the three-year agreement. Some workers will gain upwards of \$8.00 per hour more by the end of the three-year contract.

"We unanimously passed a contract which works to benefit all of our workers in significant ways. This wasn't accomplished by a couple, a few, or even a dozen union members, it was everyone's effort for everyone's benefit. We won together," said Whitney Peterson, a multi-department clerk.

Seward Community Co-op employs about 180 workers and operates natural foods grocery stores at two south Minneapolis locations: 2823 E. Franklin Ave. and 317 E. 38th Street.

Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: November 1.

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your July-December 2023 dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Christmas Party: December 2

The Pipefitters Annual Christmas party will be on December 2, 2023. Information will be sent out in November.

Condolences

Condolences to the family of James Hall.

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

AURIN CHOWDHURY

FOR MINNEAPOLIS WARD 12

✓ VOTE AURIN AS YOUR FIRST CHOICE

PROUD TO BE YOUR LABOR ENDORSED CANDIDATE:

LIUNA! MINNESOTA & NORTH DAKOTA
Feel the Power

view full list on website:
AURINCHOWDHURY.ORG

Paid for and prepared by Neighbors for Aurin Chowdhury | P.O. Box 17133, Minneapolis, 55417

Re-elect AFL-CIO Endorsed Andrea Jenkins for Ward 8

www.Andrea-Jenkins.com

Paid for by Andrea Jenkins for Ward 8
P.O. Box 8078, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Educators join the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation in endorsing these candidates for Minneapolis City Council!

- Ward 1 – Elliott Payne
- Ward 2 – Robin Wonsley
- Ward 5 – Jeremiah Ellison
- Ward 9 – Jason Chavez
- Ward 10 – Aisha Chughtai
- Ward 12 – Aurin Chowdhury



Prepared and paid for by Local 59 Political Committee, 67 8th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Address Change? Subscription Instructions?

Please let us know if your address will be changing, if your household is receiving more than one Labor Review, or if you would like to cancel your subscription.

Cut out or photo-copy your mailing label from the front page of the newspaper and mail it to us with your instructions:

Attn: mailing list
Minneapolis Labor Review
312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 542
Minneapolis, MN 55414

No phone calls, please, to report address changes, stop duplicates, or cancel your subscription. Thanks!

Are you on facebook? 'Like' the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation...



- News Updates • Action Alerts •
- Links • Photos of Union Events •

www.facebook.com/minneapolisunions

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION



Have a plan to vote — in person,
early, day of, or absentee by mail.

Check your ballot for
Labor Endorsed candidates!

SMART-TD Minnesota Locals
64, 650, 911, 1000, 1067, 1175,
1177, 1292, 1614 and 1976



WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

Serving Working Families in the Minneapolis & West Metro Region

- Emergency Food Program • Emergency Financial Assistance •
- Information and Referral •
- Education and Training • Civic Engagement •



United Labor Centre
312 Central Ave. Suite 524, Minneapolis
612-379-8130

www.workingpartnerships.org



IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Brotherhood

The Local 292 Brotherhood Committee assists members in need or distress, either with a gift card from our Local 292 food shelf or teams of Brothers and Sisters helping around the house.

If you need assistance or know of another member in need, please call our Brotherhood line at 612-617-4247 or send an e-mail to brotherhood@ibew292.org.

See you at the General Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m. on the Second Tuesday

Paid for by IBEW Local 292 • www.ibew292.org

Our Future

Journeyman, it is our responsibility and duty to train our apprentices. Train them to do quality work in a timely manner as we have learned from those before us. Remember, the future of our industry will be in their hands.

Condolences

Brother Orville E. Dahlk, Jr.; Brother Maynard H. Frisk;
Brother Louie J. Lutz; Brother Roman H. Meuwissen;
Brother Marvin B. Nastansky; Brother Richard A. Ness.

Minneapolis Labor Review 2023 Publication Schedule

November 18

Deadline: November 1
Holiday Shopping Guide

December 16

Deadline: November 29
Holiday Issue

Discounted two-ad package
available for November-December!

For more information, to suggest a story idea, or to advertise, contact the editor at 612-379-4725 or laborreview@minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education: 2023 Endorsements

General Election: Tuesday, November 7

Anoka-Hennepin School Board

Erin Heers-McArdle, District 1
Susan Witt, District 2
Michelle Langenfeld, District 5

Bloomington Mayor

Tim Busse

Bloomington City Council

Jenna Carter, At Large
Chao Moua, At Large (Special Election)
Dwayne Lowman, District I
Shawn Nelson, District II
Lona Dallessandro, District III
Isaak Rooble, District IV

Bloomington School Board

Nelly Korman, At Large
Mia Olson, At Large
Heather Starks, At Large

Fridley School Board

Sara Jones, At Large
Jake Karnopp, At Large
Erik Keeler, At Large



Early Voting

Continues through November 6

For voting information, visit mnvotes.org

Find out your district or ward, learn your polling place,
view a list of candidates, and view a sample ballot

Minneapolis City Council

Elliot Payne, Ward 1
Robin Wonsley, Ward 2
Michael Rainville, Ward 3
LaTrisha Vetaw, Ward 4
Jeremiah Ellison, Ward 5
Jamal Osman, Ward 6
Andrea Jenkins, Ward 8
Jason Chavez, Ward 9
Aisha Chughtai, Ward 10
Emily Koski, Ward 11
Aurin Chowdhury, Ward 12
Linea Palmisano, Ward 13

Minnetonka City Council

Dana Minion, Ward 1
Rebecca Schack, Ward 2
Paula Ramaley, Ward 3
Kissy Coakley, Ward 4

St. Louis Park Mayor

Nadia Mohamed

St. Louis Park School Board

Saul Eugene, At Large
Virginia Mancini, At Large

Golden Valley City Council

Sophia Ginis, At Large
Maurice Harris, At Large

Hopkins Mayor

Patrick Hanlon

Hopkins City Council

Brian Hunke, At Large

School Levy and Bond Requests Endorsed by Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose

Bond referendum

Columbia Heights

Question 1: Operating levy
Question 2: Capital project levy

Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted

Operating levy

New Prague Area

Operating levy

Osseo

Bond referendum

Richfield

Question 1: Technology levy
Question 2: Operating levy

St. Francis Area

Question 1: Operating levy
Question 2: Capital projects levy

Westonka

Question 1: Capital projects levy
Question 2: Bond referendum

This list of AFL-CIO endorsed candidates and AFL-CIO endorsed school funding requests current as of October 18, 2023. For updates: www.minneapolisunions.org