

Minneapolis Labor Review

117th Year

No. 2

July 27, 2024

www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



2024 Legislature

- What labor bills passed and did not pass
 - Lawmakers enact stronger worker misclassification bill
 - No bonding bill this year
 - Minnesota AFL-CIO sees another year of progress
- See page 10

Minneapolis park workers' strike fights union-busting



Labor Review photo

MINNEAPOLIS — As the *Labor Review* went to press July 25, City Employees Local 363 members who work at the Minneapolis Park Board were entering a fourth week on strike. At a Park Board meeting July 24, a majority of Park Board commissioners rejected an amendment to their agenda to consider a resolution to direct the Park Board administration to drop its proposed anti-union contract language and settle the strike. So the resolution was never even discussed. See story pages 8-9. *Photo above:* After a July 4 rally at the United Labor Centre on the first day of the strike, Local 363 members and supporters marched across the 3rd Ave. bridge. U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, second from right, spoke at the rally and helped to carry the banner during the march.

National AFL-CIO endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. President

WASHINGTON — One day after President Joe Biden announced he would not seek re-election, the executive council of the national AFL-CIO announced the labor federation's endorsement for Vice President Kamala Harris for President.

"From day one, Vice President Kamala Harris has been a true partner in leading the most pro-labor administration in history," said AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler. "At every step in her

distinguished career in public office, she's proven herself a principled and tenacious fighter for working people and a visionary leader we can count on. From taking on Wall Street and corporate greed to leading efforts to expand affordable child care and support vulnerable workers, she's shown time and again that she's on our side. With Kamala Harris in the White House, together we'll continue to build on the powerful legacy of the

Biden-Harris administration to create good union jobs, grow the labor movement and make our economy work for all of us."

Prior to running with Biden as his Vice President in 2020, Harris won election in 2016 as one of California's two U.S. Senators.

In four years in the U.S. Senate, Harris earned a 98 percent lifetime voting score on working family issues tracked by the AFL-CIO.

Harris previously served six years as California's attorney general and seven years as district attorney for San Francisco.

Harris is contrasting her background as a former prosecutor with the record of former President Donald Trump, who is running for the White House again — as a convicted felon.

In the first week of campaigning for President, Harris highlighted her strong support for unions. See page 6.

AFL-CIO endorsed Ilhan Omar faces August 13 primary election contest

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota voters will go to the polls Tuesday, August 13 for this year's primary election.

Early voting began June 28 and continues through August 12.

For information about where and how to vote, including information about early voting, or to request an absentee ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org.

Any eligible voter may vote

early for any reason.

For Minneapolis residents, in-person early voting is available at the Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services office at 980 E. Hennepin Ave.

Extended weekday hours are available there for in-person early voting and weekend hours will be available August 3-4 and August 10-11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both weekends.

For voting information for

AFL-CIO Endorsements

See page 7

Minneapolis residents, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

Several candidates who are running with AFL-CIO endorsement face primary contests.

They include:

■ U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, who is seeking re-election to represent the Fifth Con-

gressional District, which includes the city of Minneapolis and suburbs.

■ Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache, who is seeking re-election for the District 5 seat representing parts of Andover, Coon Rapids and Fridley.

■ Minnesota Senate District 45 candidate Ann Johnson Stewart, running in a special election,

For more on key primary contests, see page 6.

Count on the *Labor Review* to be your trusted source for labor organizing and election news these next six months

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

For the next six months the pages of the *Labor Review* are going to be covering a historic moment in time for the labor movement.

In one lane we have been amidst a record-breaking stretch of organizing activity for workers across all sectors. From healthcare workers to restaurant workers, the local labor movement is growing and welcoming new members.

Local unions also are increasingly mobilizing their members for better contracts

— the latest example is the groundbreaking LIUNA City Employees Local 363 strike at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

As this issue of the *Labor Review* went to press, despite downed trees all across the city, the strike has yet to be resolved due to the union-busting tactics of the administration.

This growing momentum for worker organizing and worker action over the next six months will continue to drive our narrative and our headlines — ultimately shaping the future of organized labor for years to come. And while traditional media has been increasingly covering labor stories due to rising union popularity — you won't get the in-depth coverage from the workers' point of view anywhere else.

In another lane, we will be playing a



Misinformation continues to spread as a tool to sow division. The voice of the local labor movement and the stories in these pages are going to be your trusted source for news

central role in driving the stories about the labor movement protecting our democracy amidst a critical election over the next six months. As the national conversation about our country's politics grows increasingly alarming, our local relationships, conversations, and community work will be the strongest tools to counter the distrust and division that is being purposefully sown.

We are in unprecedented times as misinformation continues to spread and be used as a tool to sow division amongst the electorate. The voice of the local labor movement and the stories in this

newspaper are going to be your trusted source for news, stories and political empowerment during what is going to be a very difficult period.

Not only will we be bringing you the news, we'll also give you the tools to get involved in your local community. We want folks to feel empowered to attend their union meetings, talk to their neighbors and co-workers, and — of course — to VOTE!

What you do over the next six months will BE the stories that we are telling.

These two lanes, strengthening the labor movement and protecting our democracy, will be coming together right here in real time. These next six months we will be setting the stage for 2025 and beyond — and you aren't going to want to miss a moment of it.



Coming from MFT, Mary Hampton joins MRLF staff as new community organizer

By Steve Share, *Labor Review* editor
MINNEAPOLIS — Mary Hampton began working July 15 as a new community organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"I like organizing and building relationships within my community," she said.

Hampton brings to the MRLF her experience as a union member and activist.

She comes from a union family and has been a union member herself for six

years. Working as a special education assistant at Roosevelt High School in south Minneapolis, Hampton became active in the Educational Support Professionals Chapter of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers.

Hampton served on the bargaining MRLF page 15



Mary Hampton

MRLF endorses three labor activists for city council races in Brooklyn Park, Plymouth, St. Francis

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting via Zoom, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO voted July 10 to approve the MRLF endorsements for three labor activists for city council races in Brooklyn Park, Plymouth, and St. Francis.

The endorsements include: Tony McGarvey for Brooklyn Park City Council, West District; Kim Nelson for Plymouth City Council, Ward 1; and Crystal Krelow for St. Francis City Council, At Large.

For local races, the MRLF endorse-

ment is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

Brooklyn Park City Council:
Tony McGarvey

Tony McGarvey won the West District seat on the Brooklyn Park City Council in a special election August 8, 2023 to fill a vacancy. He is now running for a full four-year term. An 18-year resident of Brooklyn Park, McGarvey is a 21-year member of Painters and Tapers Local 386. He worked 13 years in the field before becoming a union organizer. Since 2017, McGarvey has worked as di-

ENDORSED page 15

'Welcome' to 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 Labor Review mailing lists. For subscriber service, see page 15.

Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

Next issue:
August 24, 2024
Labor Day Issue!

Deadline:
August 7, 2024

See page 15 for complete 2024 schedule

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

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Events

August 3: Mill City Museum offers 'Women's Work,' a local labor history walking tour

MINNEAPOLIS — Learn the stories of women who lived and worked in Minneapolis by joining an outdoor walking tour with a Mill City Museum guide.

The museum's next "Women's Work" labor history walking tour will be Saturday, August 3 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Additional tours, on Saturdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. include: August 24 and September 7.

Learn about women's labor — paid, unpaid, legal, and illegal — in industries from laundries and sewing factories to brothels.

Be inspired by the stories of activists

including Eva Valesh and Nellie Stone Johnson who fought to improve the lives of working women.

The tours include about 1.5 miles of moderately-paced walking.

The tours will start and end at Mill City Museum, 704 South 2nd St. Minneapolis (just down the block from the Guthrie Theatre).

The cost for the tour is \$14, with a 20 percent discount for Minnesota Historical Society members.

To learn more, or to register for one of the tours, visit www.mnhs.org/events/1546.

August 20: Journalist John Judis discusses, 'Where Have All the Democrats Gone?'

MINNEAPOLIS — Political journalist John B. Judis will be the featured speaker for a virtual forum Tuesday, August 20 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. discussing, "Where Have All the Democrats Gone? Has the Democratic Party Betrayed its Principles and Why They May Lose in 2024."

The online event is hosted by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Judis is a long-time political journalist and author, currently an editor-at-large at *Talking Points Memo*, and has written for *In These Times*, *The New Republic*, *Mother Jones*, and *Washington Post*.

With co-author Ruy Teixeira, Judis

recently published a new book, "Where have all the Democrats gone? The Soul of the Party in the Age of Extremes" (Henry Holt & Company, 2023, 336 pages).

As the Democratic Party gathers in Chicago for its national convention, some observers say its prospects in the 2024 elections are dampened by its loss of the working class and the center of the American electorate. John Judis dissects the sources of this abandonment and how Democrats can avoid political disaster in the days ahead.

To register for the August 20 event, which is free, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/event/where-have-all-democrats-gone.

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

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 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 August for

Fare For All's sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

■ **Anoka, Thursday, August 29, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursday, August 22, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Friday, August 23, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

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

■ **Chaska, Thursday, August 29, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran
FARE FOR ALL page 4

Next Labor Review: August 24
Deadline: August 7

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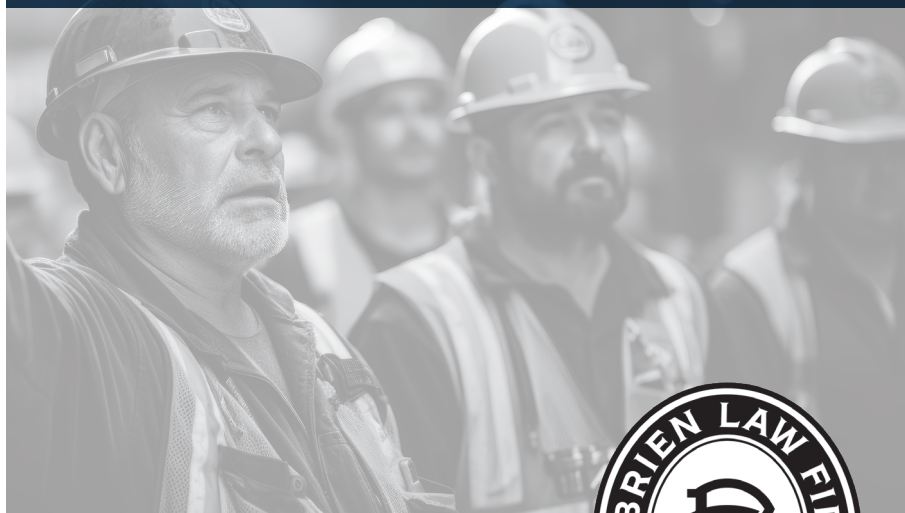


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Twins beat Oakland for annual 'Trades Night' at Target Field



Minnesota Twins photo

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins hosted the Oakland Athletics June 17 for the annual "Trades Night at Target Field," which drew more than 1,000 local building trades union members and their families. The Twins beat the A's 8-7, with Jose Miranda hitting a tie-breaking home run in the eighth inning. Prior to the game, the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council hosted a pre-game picnic. IBEW Local 292 retiree Paul Klesmit (photo above, left) threw out a ceremonial "first pitch" for the game. Klesmit, Loretto, is a Vietnam veteran, a 46-year member of Local 292, and former business representative. An active volunteer, for the past 28 years Klesmit has chaired the Minneapolis Building Trades' Dollars Against Diabetes fundraiser. His work has helped "DAD'S Day" raise nearly \$800,000 for the Diabetes Research Institute.

Events

September 4: Trades host annual 'Dollars Against Diabetes' (DADs Day) golf event

HAM LAKE — The Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will host its 28th Annual Dollars Against Diabetes golf fundraiser Wednesday, September 4 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE in Ham Lake.

The day will begin with registration from 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m., golf from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., social hour from 1:30-2:30, and banquet from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

The registration fee is \$200 per golfer, \$800 per foursome, or \$100 per dinner and drinks only.

For golfers, the fee includes continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf (including cart), award banquet, steak dinner and two drinks from the beverage cart or bar.

Proceeds from the event benefit diabetes research.

Mail checks for fees to: Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, 312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 556, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

For a link to register online, visit mplsbctc.org.

For details or questions, contact Dan McConnell at dan@mplsbctc.org.

September 30: Golf tournament will benefit Working Partnerships' aid to union members

COON RAPIDS — Save the date for the Tenth Annual Working Partnerships Golf Tournament, coming Monday, September 30.

The Golf Tournament will take place at Bunker Hills Golf Club, 12800 Bunker Prairie Rd. NW in Coon Rapids. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

Funds raised will support Working Partnerships' mission to assist union members who are in financial distress due to a strike, lock-out, unemployment, illness, or family emergency.

Working Partnerships is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and is the community services arm of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Working Partnerships also is a United Way Community Partner.

The Working Partnerships Golf Tournament is soliciting sponsorships at different levels of support, including:

- Major Sponsor, \$5,000;
- Founding Sponsor, \$3,000;
- Partnership Sponsor, \$1,500;
- Hole & Foursome Sponsor, \$1,000;
- Foursome Sponsor, \$700;
- Exclusive Hole Sponsor, \$500;
- Hole Sponsor, \$300.

Annual donations of any amount also are welcome.

For more information about what's included in the different sponsorship levels, or any other questions, contact doug@workingpartnerships.org.

Make checks payable to "Working Partnerships" and send to Working Partnerships, 312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 542, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

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Fare For All: Offers fresh produce packs and frozen meat packs, beginning at \$10-\$11

continued from page 3

an Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Friday, August 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Friday, August 30, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursday, August 15, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**, Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ **Minneapolis, Wednesday, August 6, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, note new location: Mill City Church, 685 13th Ave. NE. For many years, the Laborers Local 563 union hall served as Fare for All's northeast Minne-

apolis location but, due to Local 563's recent move, the last Fare for All pick-up there was February 9.

■ **New Hope, Wednesday, August 21, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Tuesday, August 8, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, August 27, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, August 21 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

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

Bigger than basketball: Wolves' playoff run highlights sports' other community impacts

By Rod Adams and Casey Hudek

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves' most successful season in more than 20 years came to an unfortunate close May 30. After an historic Game 7 comeback and dethroning last year's Denver Nuggets NBA champions, the Dallas Mavericks proved too much in the Conference Finals, defeating the Timberwolves 124-103.

However, those of us with overlapping sports and labor movement affinities enjoyed the ride!

And our team's deep playoff run provides an opportunity to appreciate the impact that the Timberwolves and the sports world broadly are having beyond the hardwood.

The Timberwolves, like all major sports teams in our state, play in an arena constructed by union labor, the men and women of Minnesota's building trades unions.

Additionally, on any given game night, hundreds of workers — security guards represented by SEIU Local 26, audio visual professionals, stagehands, riggers represented by IATSE Local 13, concessions workers represented by UNITE HERE Local 17, and others work to make the games happen.

Thanks to collective bargaining, the

players themselves, most of whom come from working class backgrounds, have been able to command their larger piece of a very large pie.

The National Basketball Players Association has roots in a wildcat strike of black and white players during segregation. Back then, players (the workers) were essentially tied to a team's ownership, for very low wages and with no voice on the job. The successful strike paved the way for the formation of the free agency system.

Players in the NBPA, like athletes in other unions, have stood up for many causes outside the game.

Boston Celtics star Bill Russell joined labor leaders like A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin at the 1963 March on Washington, demanding voting rights and labor rights.

In the 2020 election, players were active in ensuring that arenas could be used as polling sites in urban areas, including in many states where anti-worker politicians were rolling back voting rights, actively closing polling locations, and using onerous voter ID laws.

Fast forward to today: Karl-Anthony Towns (KAT) of our hometown Minnesota Timberwolves was this year's recipient of the NBA's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar



Credit: nba.com

Social Justice Champion Award.

For the award, presented since 2021, all 30 teams in the NBA nominate one player from their roster to be honored, with a committee drawn from both the NBA and the social justice community determining the finalists and winner.

In 2023, KAT and the Timberwolves partnered with The New Justice Project of Minnesota (NJP), a labor-aligned black worker center and community organizing hub, on Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. They and others participated in the Minnesota Restore the Vote Coalition to work to restore voting rights for felons in and on Get-Out-The-Vote efforts.

In presenting the award, NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum said to KAT, "your role in the Restore the Vote legislation will have a lasting impact on thousands of Minnesotans."

As our unions continue to organize and grow, partner with community groups and engage in important work — including gearing up for this critical election season — we'll keep rooting for the home teams and fighting for what we all need together.

Rod Adams is executive director New Justice Project and Casey Hudek is co-executive director of Workers Confluence Fund.

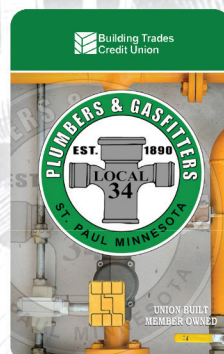


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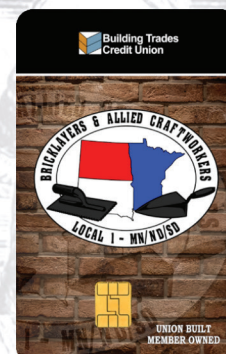
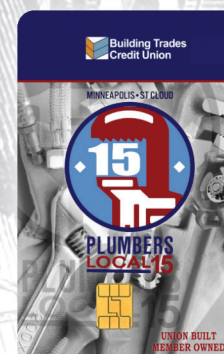
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Kamala Harris kicks-off new race for President with pro-union message

Harris quickly won endorsements from the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, American Federation of Teachers, CWA, IBEW, Laborers, SEIU, UFCW and other labor groups

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Kamala Harris launched her campaign for President voicing her strong support for unions and working families' issues.

In her first major speech, July 23 in the Milwaukee suburb of West Allis, Wisconsin, she declared: "We believe in a future where every person has the opportunity not just to get by but to get ahead; a future where no child has to grow up in poverty; where every worker has the freedom to join a union; where every person has affordable health care, affordable childcare, and paid family leave. We believe in a future where every senior can retire with dignity."

Echoing President Joe Biden, Harris continued: "So, all of this is to say: Building up the middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency."

She said Donald Trump, by contrast, "intends to give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations and make working families foot the bill."

And she said, if you read the "Project 2025" agenda developed for a second Trump term as President, "you will see Donald Trump intends to cut Social Security and Medicare" and end the Afford-

able Care Act.

Two days later, Harris addressed the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers in Houston, Texas. She began, "to the members of AFT, I thank you for your service to our nation. From the public service workers and higher education faculty to the school bus drivers and the custodians to the school nurses and our teachers — you all do God's work, educating our children — the whole ecosystem of who are AFT members."

"Today, we face a choice between two very different visions for our nation: one focused on the future and the other focused on the past," Harris said. "And we are fighting for the future."

Again referencing the Trump "Project 2025" agenda, she said, "Project 2025 is a plan to return America to a dark past. Donald Trump and his extreme allies want to take our nation back to failed trickle-down economic policies, back to union busting, back to tax breaks for billionaires."

"America has tried these failed economic policies before," Harris said. "But we are not going back. We are not going back."

"No, we will move forward," Harris



Kamala Harris spoke July 25 at the American Federation of Teachers convention.

said. "And one of the best ways to keep our nation moving forward is to give workers a voice: to protect the freedom to organize — to defend the freedom to collectively bargain, to end union busting."

"President Joe Biden and I promised to sign the PRO Act into law, and I promise you I will keep that promise. Because when workers join together and demand what is fair, everyone is better off."

"Understand — and I — I say this everywhere I go — understand: You may not be in a union member, but you should thank unions... for the five-day workweek, for the eight-hour workday. Thank unions for sick leave and paid

family leave and vacation time. Because the fact is unions helped build America's middle class," Harris said. "And when unions are strong, America is strong."

Harris closed out both her West Allis speech and her Houston speech to the AFT convention summoning a familiar union chant. She called out, "when we fight..." And the audience roared back: "we win!"

In just a few days, Harris has brought to the campaign an energy and sharpness that many observers and just plain regular voters feared 81-year-old Biden could not deliver.

In her West Allis speech, Harris drew on her background as a prosecutor: "Before I was elected vice president, before I was elected a United States senator, I was elected attorney general of the state of California. And I was a courtroom prosecutor before then. And in those roles, I took on perpetrators of all kinds — predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So, hear me when I say: I know Donald Trump's type. And in this campaign, I promise you I will proudly put my record against his any day of the week."

Within days of Harris announcing her run for President, she received endorsements from the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Amalgamated Transit Union, American Federation of Teachers, IBEW, Laborers, Painters, SEIU, UFCW, and other unions.

Primary Election: August 13, 2024

Ilhan Omar seeks re-election as champion for unions, working families

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — "Your labor is what makes the city and the state work," said Ilhan Omar. At the podium at the United Labor Centre July 4, Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar offered encouragement — and inspiration — to a roomful of members of City Employees Local 363 as they were about to begin their union's historic, first-ever strike at the Minneapolis Park Board.

Omar began, however, by recalling the nervousness and uncertainty she experienced as a member of AFSCME Local 3800 when her union of clerical workers was about to go on strike at the University of Minnesota back in 2007. "I remember my union siblings telling me we have each other's backs," she said. To Local 363 members, Omar said, "your union siblings will have your back."

Minneapolis parks don't "magically" rank among the top in the nation, Omar said. The park board workers make it happen. "You should be striking; They should be willing to do a fair contract."



Ilhan Omar spoke at the July 4 rally kicking-off the Minneapolis park workers strike.

Following the rally, Omar didn't rush off: she marched with workers and helped carry their LIUNA Local 363 banner.

During Omar's three terms representing the Fifth Congressional District, she's helped inspire the crowd at countless labor rallies and marches.

She's met regularly with a labor roundtable convened by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation to provide up-

dates about her work in Washington — but more importantly, she told the *Labor Review*, to hear directly "how the rank and file is feeling about things."

Omar is AFL-CIO endorsed. "I think we're deeply connected," she said. "For me and most Democrats, what really grounds us is understanding who we fight for."

And Omar's voting record shows it. In 2023, she earned a 100 percent voting score from the national AFL-CIO on working families issues. Over her three terms in Congress, her lifetime AFL-CIO score is 91 percent.

Omar is the only member of the House from Minnesota on the House labor committee. She helped pass the Meals Act, to provide meals to students during the pandemic, helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act to create 10,000 jobs per year for 10 years in Minnesota — "green union jobs," she noted, and more.

"We working to build a world that cares for all of us," Omar said.

Website:
ilhanomar.com

Labor ally Mike Gamache runs for re-election to Anoka County Board

ANDOVER — Labor ally Mike Gamache faces a primary contest as he seeks re-election for Anoka County Board, District 5. It's a three-way race and only two candidates will advance to the general election.

"I'm taking it seriously," Gamache said. "I'm out doorknocking... The response is good."

Gamache is running with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

First elected to the Anoka County Board in 2014, Gamache represents parts of Andover, Coon Rapids and Fridley. He currently serves as the Board's chair and is seeking a fourth term on the Board. Gamache is a former mayor of Andover.

Website:
reelectmike.com

Minnesota AFL-CIO

Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

President of the United States:

Kamala Harris

U.S. Senator:

Amy Klobuchar



Photo: whitehouse.gov

Kamala Harris: Endorsed by AFL-CIO for President

U.S. Congress, 1st District:

Rachel Bohman

U.S. Congress, 2nd District:

Angie Craig

U.S. Congress, 3rd District:

Kelly Morrison

U.S. Congress, 4th District:

Betty McCollum

U.S. Congress, 5th District:

Ilhan Omar

U.S. Congress, 8th District:

Jen Schultz

**LABOR
2024
AFL-CIO**

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 13

Early voting now underway through August 12

General Election: Tuesday, November 5

Early voting begins September 20

Minnesota House of Representatives

Matt Norris	32B	Cheryl Youakim	46B
Brian Raines	34A	Lucy Rehm	48B
Melissa Hortman	34B	Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn	49B
Zack Stephenson	35A	Julie Greene	50A
Kari Rehrauer	35B	Steve Elkins	50B
Janelle Calhoun	36A	Michael Howard	51A
Kristin Bahner	37B	Nathan Coulter	51B
Huldah Hiltzley	38A	Brad Tabke	54A
Samantha Vang	38B	Jess Hanson	55A
Erin Koegel	39A	Fue Lee	59A
Sandra Feist	39B	Esther Agbaje	59B
Ned Carroll	42A	Sydney Jordan	60A
Ginny Klevorn	42B	Mohamud Noor	60B
Cedrick Frazier	43A	Jamie Long	61B
Mike Freiberg	43B	Aisha Gomez	62A
Tracy Breazeale	45A	Anquam Mahamoud	62B
Patty Acomb	45B	Samantha Sencer-Mura	63A
Larry Kraft	46A	Emma Greenman	63B

Minnesota Senate District 45 Special Election

Special Primary Election, August 13, 2024

Special Election, November 5, 2024

Ann Johnson Stewart

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

Anoka County Commissioner:

Mike Gamache, District 5

Julie Jeppson, District 6

Mandy Meisner, District 7

Brooklyn Park City Council:

Tony McGarvey, West District

Minneapolis School Board:

Greta Callahan, District 6

Plymouth City Council:

Kim Nelson, Ward 1



St. Francis City Council:

Crystal Kreklow

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org to learn your districts, find your polling place, learn how to vote early, view a sample ballot

This list of candidates current as of July 22, 2024. For updates: www.minneapolisunions.org

This list of AFL-CIO endorsed candidates for Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate includes only districts in the MRLF's seven-county jurisdiction. For the complete list of state legislative candidates endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO, visit mnaflcio.org

City Employees Local 363 Strike

Minneapolis Park Board workers strike for three-plus weeks

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — As the *Labor Review* went to press July 25, a strike by City Employees Local 363 members at the Minneapolis Park Board was entering a fourth week. Workers went on strike July 4.

Workers authorized a strike after seven months of negotiations with the Park Board failed to reach an acceptable settlement.

The union maintained that the Park Board wage offer was insufficient plus the Park Board was seeking contract concessions that threatened workers' basic rights.

Over the course of negotiations and the first weeks of the strike, the union moved towards some of the Park Board's proposals — including the wage offer — but management refused to drop proposed changes in contract language that the union called “poison pills.”

As the strike began, the union reported, workers were being threatened by management with retaliation if they did go on strike, including threats of a lock-out and demotions.

“Minneapolis is better than this,” Local 363 business manager A.J. Lange said, calling out Park Board management's “illegal, reckless, anti-union behavior.”

The union filed Unfair Labor Practice charges in response to management's threats of an illegal lock-out.

The union initially planned a one-week strike. But when July 15 negotiations failed to reach a settlement, the strike continued.

Local 363 represents about 300 workers who care for the parks, park buildings and park facilities, and the trees along the city's streets and parkways.

Local 363 members worked throughout the pandemic and the period of civil unrest following the police murder of George Floyd.

“We worked hard every day,” said Lanel Lane, who has worked 10 years for the Minneapolis Park Board.

Yet wages for Minneapolis Park Board workers lag \$8 per hour behind surrounding cities, Lange said. “They don't have a justification for their low wages.” And, he added, the Park Board is sitting on \$30 million in reserves.

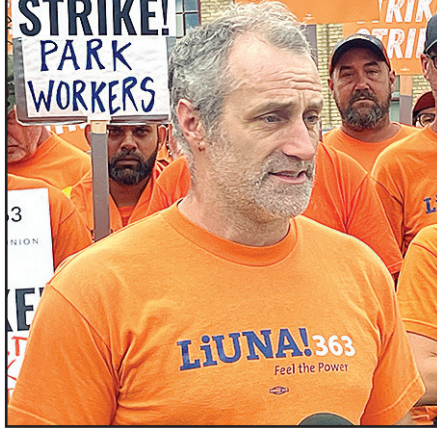
The Park Board recently approved a 10 percent wage increase for the Park superintendent Al Bangoura, Lange noted. And although the pay for the park system's executive positions has outpaced inflation, Lange said, “our positions have not.”

“We're not asking for special treatment,” Lange said at a June 25 rally in front of the Park superintendent's Park Board-provided home. “We're asking for fair treatment... We're not asking to get ahead — we're asking to stay afloat.”

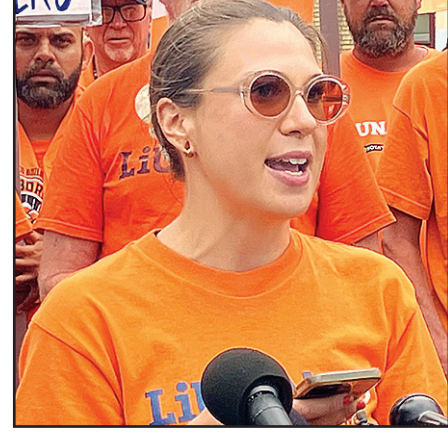
STRIKE page 9



Photo, above: Striking workers and supporters marched July 24 from Boom Island Park to Park Board headquarters.



Photo, left: Nick Grebe, arborist and negotiating team member, spoke at a July 15 news conference outside the Bureau of Mediation Services: “Give us a fair contract... We want to go back to work.”



Photo, right: Kari Hudka, seasonal gardener, outside the Bureau of Mediation Services: “I'm embarrassed for the Park Board... I live paycheck to paycheck.”

Photo, right: A.J. Lange, Local 363 business manager and former arborist, addressed the crowd outside Park Board headquarters July 24. Later that night, after the Park Board failed to take action, he issued the following statement: “The Park Board's inaction exposes their true agenda: to break the will of workers, not to reach a fair deal... Their tactics have needlessly prolonged this strike, harming park workers, our families, and the residents of Minneapolis.”



City Employees Local 363 Strike

Strike: The #1 park system in U.S. needs to invest in its workers



Photo above: Minneapolis Park Board forestry division workers put up a picket line July 14 at the operations center at 38th St. and King's Highway. Note, behind them, the row of white forestry division trucks sitting idle. In the wake of an early-morning storm that day, trees were down all across the city. "There's stuff down everywhere," said Kerrick Sarbacker, Minneapolis Park Board forestry arborist. "There's limbs hanging that are super hazardous." Normally, the morning after a weekend storm, calls would go out to ask members of City Employees Local 363 from the forestry division to come in to work to clean up the mess. Instead, arborists and other park workers are on day 11 of the strike.

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The strike began with a rally July 4 at the United Labor Centre, followed by a march across the Third Ave. bridge to the site of the Park Board's July 4 festival.

In the next days and weeks, Local 363 planned picketing at sites that moved from park to park.

Visitors to the iconic settings of the Minneapolis parks — the Lake Harriet Bandshell, Minnehaha Falls, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden — also found Local 363 picketers and their supporters from other unions and the broader community.

As a group of picketers marched around the refectory at Minnehaha Falls one day, people eating on the patio cheered.

When a Local 363 member explained to a waiting crowd why the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra concert at Lake Harriet Bandshell was canceled — because the orchestra's union musicians would not cross the Local 363 picket line — the would-be con-

cert-goers applauded.

Wherever Local 363 set up picket lines, people walking by or bicycling by or driving by shouted or honked their support.

Support also came from elected officials: Minneapolis city council members, state legislators, Attorney General Keith Ellison and Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar.

Local 363 members originally voted by a margin of 94 percent to go on strike.

July 19, the members took another vote on the Park Board's "last best and final offer." More than 91 percent voted no.

July 24 Local 363 members and supporters marched from Boom Island to the Park Board meeting. When a motion failed to amend the agenda to add a discussion of a resolution to direct the administration to drop anti-union proposals and settle the contract, workers shut down the meeting.

Addressing Park Board members, "nobody does this unless they're busting the union," said the Laborers' Kevin Pranis.



With City Employees Local 363 on strike, the Minnesota Orchestra canceled its annual free concert scheduled for the Lake Harriet Bandshell July 8. Representatives of Local 363, Twin Cities Musicians Union, and Stagehands Local 13 were on hand to explain to the public why the concert was canceled. Most planned concerts by the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra at Lake Harriet also were canceled or moved to another location.

Last-minute update before going on the press...

Local 363 reports tentative agreement with Park Board

July 26 at 7:27 a.m. — as this very last page of the *Labor Review* was headed to pre-press, City Employees Local 363 posted on Facebook: "We have a tentative agreement with the @Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board! Picket plans today are canceled. We're back at bargaining this morning to finalize details about returning to work. More will be announced soon." For updates to this story, visit minneapolisunions.org.

"The Park Board's inaction exposes their true agenda: to break the will of workers, not to reach a fair deal," LIUNA Local 363 business manager A.J. Lange said June 24. "Their tactics have needlessly prolonged this strike, harming park workers, our families, and the residents of Minneapolis who depend on our services. The time for posturing and power plays is over — Minneapolis deserves better from its Park Board."

What labor bills passed and didn't in Minnesota this year

Editor's Note: This story, reprinted from the Minnesota Reformer, has been edited for length. For the full story, published May 24, 2024, visit minnesotareformer.com.

By Max Nesterak, deputy editor, Minnesota Reformer

SAINT PAUL — Uber and Lyft drivers can expect their pay to rise more than 14 percent when a new wage floor takes effect in December. The legislation also expands insurance requirements to cover driver injuries, codifies procedures for firing — or “deactivating” — drivers and mandates greater pay transparency.

The bill traveled a rocky road over 18 months, dividing both drivers and Democrats over whether to enact minimum rates despite threats by Uber and Lyft to leave the state, or to hammer out a deal with the two ride-hail giants. Ultimately, Democrats came together around a deal supported by the companies that also preempts Minneapolis from enacting the rates the City Council passed earlier this year over the companies' objections.

The bill allows Uber and Lyft to continue treating drivers as independent contractors without explicitly defining drivers as such, leaving open the possibility for a legal battle over the classification of gig workers down the road.

Employers will face higher penalties for misclassification

Employers will face harsher penalties — up to \$10,000 for each violation — for misclassifying employees as independent contractors to avoid paying for minimum wages, overtime, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation.

The bill empowers all workers — not just construction workers — to sue their employers for misclassification, and the state Department of Labor and Industry will be able to issue stop work orders where violations are occurring.

The bill also updates the test used to determine if construction workers are independent contractors and makes it easier for state officials to go after bad actors who try to evade penalties by setting up their companies under new names.

The tougher penalties were pushed by Democrats and trade unions, who argue state regulators need to provide a stronger check on the economic incentives driving misclassification.

Lawmakers also created a partnership between several state agencies that allows them to share information about ongoing investigations.



2024 Legislature

The intergovernmental group won't be subject to open meeting laws, which agency leaders cited as a barrier to collaborating on investigations.

Minimum wage carve-outs will be eliminated

Virtually all employees in Minnesota will be entitled to a single state minimum wage starting January 1, when a lower minimum wage tier is eliminated for employees at small businesses, employees under 18 years old and foreign workers on J visas in the hospitality industry. Those workers will see their wages rise by more than \$2 an hour to the state's minimum wage for large employers — \$10.85 per hour and set to rise with inflation on January 1. Tips cannot be counted toward the minimum wage.

The new law — included in a package of labor policy signed by the governor (SF3852) — also increases the cap on how much the state minimum wage can rise with inflation from 2.5 percent to 5 percent, meaning minimum wage workers will get larger raises in years of high inflation.

A separate proposal to eliminate subminimum wages for disabled workers did not pass. Under a federal program, employers may pay people with physical or mental disabilities around \$3.50 an hour — far less than the federal minimum wage. The proposal has supporters and opponents among those close to the issue: Some say the subminimum wages are demeaning, while others worry that people with disabilities will be laid off and further isolated from society.

Employers must post salary ranges

Next year employers will have to include salary ranges in job postings, along with a general description of benefits and other compensation as part of the labor policy law signed by

the governor (SF3852). Employers who do not plan to offer a salary range must list a fixed pay rate.

U of M workers will have easier path to unionize

More than 23,000 University of Minnesota employees — including adjunct lecturers, medical residents and student workers — will have a clearer path to unionize under a bill passed by the Legislature.

Most workers form unions based on shared workplaces or similar job duties, but state law explicitly circumscribes 13 possible bargaining units for University of Minnesota workers, including two sprawling groups that are impractical to organize, according to university workers who pushed for the change. For example, one bargaining unit includes more than 5,500 staff across nearly 200 job categories — including over 1,000 instructors, five event planners, a hundred or so librarians and Athletic Director Mark Coyle (whose salary is \$1.4 million).

Those workers will soon be able to unionize according to the rules governing other public employees, which directs state labor regulators to consider job duties, geography and desires of the employees when determining a bargaining unit.

Prevailing wage will be required on affordable housing projects

In a significant victory for trade unions, Minnesota will be the first state to require developers to pay prevailing wages on affordable housing projects that receive funds through Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Prevailing wages largely align with what unions pay and are typically required on publicly funded construction projects — like highways, schools and parks — under the rationale that the government should not put downward pressure on wages.

Democrats also passed new requirements for developers of affordable housing aimed at weeding out contractors with histories of labor violations. Within 14 days of a request from the public, construction firms must disclose any past convictions, labor citations, lawsuits and investigations within the past five years.

As a condition of receiving state funding, project developers must hire “responsible contractors” with clean records. If contractors are found to violate wage laws on a subsidized project, developers must create wage theft prevention plans and could be banned from receiving state funds for three years if more violations occur.

The higher wage requirements will increase the cost of new development amid a housing crunch, while Democrats couldn't unify around overriding local zoning controls to expand development and reduce costs.

Democratic lawmakers and trade unions also hoped to add prevailing wage requirements on affordable housing projects benefiting from other tax subsidies, as well as local construction projects that are exempted from local sales tax, but those proposals did not pass.

'Shadow noncompetes' will be banned

Businesses and customers may not enter into contracts that restrict workers' employment choices. For example, child care centers will not be allowed to prohibit parents from hiring their teachers, and property maintenance companies will not be allowed to prohibit homeowners associations from hiring their workers. The law was signed by the governor (SF3852) and applies to new contracts starting July 1.

Child influencers will be entitled to compensation

Professional content creators must compensate any minors who appear in their videos regularly — defined as 30 percent or more of the content — under a law (HF3488) set to take effect July 1, 2025.

The law requires content creators to deposit the minor's share of the proceeds in a trust account until the child reaches adulthood. When minors are the main creators, all the proceeds must be deposited into their trust accounts. The law

prohibits children under 14 years old from working in content creation, but if they do, they are entitled to 100 percent of the proceeds from the account.

Under the law, children 13 years old and up will be able to demand deletion of profitable content that features them.

Court interpreters will get raises

Minnesota lawmakers funded a 15 percent pay increase for state-certified court interpreters (HF5216) after an unprecedented seven-week strike forced the court system to postpone hearings and turn to lesser qualified interpreters, sometimes through an expensive phone service.

Yet court interpreters, who are independent contractors and not unionized, say the higher pay of \$75 an hour still won't be competitive with other state courts or the private sector, and the Minnesota Judicial Branch will continue to struggle to uphold its constitutional mandate to provide interpreters to all court participants who are deaf or non-English speakers.

Court interpreters were demanding \$96 an hour to match the buying power they had in the 1990s, when they made \$50 an hour. That rate barely budged over nearly three decades; state court interpreters were paid \$56 an hour until January 8, when new rates increased their pay to \$65 an hour.

Workforce development hub will get funding

The state will give \$9 million to a nonprofit called Tending the Soil — founded by several labor unions and advocacy groups — to convert the former YWCA Minneapolis in Uptown into a workforce development hub called the Rise Up Center.

The new facility will have classrooms, a public gathering space, and offices for Unidos MN, SEIU Local 26, the New Justice Project, UFCW Local 663 and others. UNITE HERE Local 17, Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) and Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia are also involved in the effort.

What didn't pass

No bonding: The Legislature failed to pass an infrastructure bill — known as a bonding bill because it uses borrowed money — which typically creates thousands of union construction jobs repairing the state's roads, wastewater plants and other assets.

No public option: Giving workers without employer-sponsored health insurance the option to enroll in MinnesotaCare was a priority for many Democrats and a number of unions and progressive advocacy groups. Lawmakers didn't have the budget to fund the first year of the program — planned to start in 2027 — but also didn't request a federal waiver, a key step toward expanding publicly subsidized health insurance. The proposal faces resistance from Republicans as well as some Democrats who are leery of increasing subsidies to the health care industry without reining in costs.

No unemployment for striking workers: Labor unions wanted the state to extend unemployment benefits for striking workers, which would give unions a significant advantage in protracted work stoppages. New York and New Jersey already allow striking workers to apply for unemployment, with more than half a dozen other states also considering it, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

No new retaliation protections for nurses: Most of the Minnesota nurses union's “Healing Greed Agenda” failed to pass. That included protections from retaliation for nurses and other direct-care staff who refuse to accept more patients after raising concerns about unsafe staffing levels. The Minnesota Nurses Association, the union representing about 22,000 nurses, also wanted lawmakers to set stricter standards on hospital spending earmarked for the public's benefit. The union did celebrate lawmakers directing the Office of the Legislative Auditor to investigate nonprofit hospitals' public benefit spending.

MN AFL-CIO praises two years of legislative progress

SAINT PAUL — Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bernie Burnham made the following statement upon adjournment of the 2024 Legislative Session:

“In 2023 Governor Walz and DFLers delivered the most pro-worker legislative session in more than a generation. Their work in 2024 built on those wins and continued Minnesota's path towards becoming the best state for working people.

“In 2024, lawmakers strengthened our new Paid Leave and Earned Sick Time laws, empowered the state to prosecute employers who illegally misclassify workers, expanded and clarified collective bargaining rights and organizing standards in the public sector, added safety standards for workers installing broadband, guaranteed rideshare drivers higher and reliable pay statewide, and much more.

“While we understand that some compromise was necessary on the rideshare bill, we are concerned about the provisions that preempt Minneapolis from setting higher rates or collecting certain data. We acknowledge

this is not widespread preemption, however, we strongly urge lawmakers and Governor Walz to avoid preemption in the future. Labor renews our commitment to fight further preemption of local labor standards in the future.

“The 2023-2024 biennium was an unprecedented step forward for working Minnesotans, but much more remains before we can truly be considered the best state for working people — including protections for healthcare workers and further balancing the scales between workers and employers.

“The next step on the path to making Minnesota the best state for workers — no matter what we look like, where we come from, or what we do for a living — is to keep and expand the working families' majority in the Legislature for another two years.

“Union volunteers are ready to have conversations this fall with their fellow members at the workplace, at the doors, on the phones, and online about what happens when we elect people who share our values and the importance of returning them to the Capitol in 2025.”

For union members, hunting and fishing continues family traditions — or starts new traditions — all while experiencing time outdoors together

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — “There’s a lot of trades folk who enjoy the outdoors,” says IBEW Local 292 member Dan Bremseth. “A lot of them come from smaller towns — that’s the norm... It’s for the harvest of the animal, to put food in the freezer.”

This year, three union members volunteered to share their hunting and fishing lives with the *Labor Review* for this annual feature story: Bremseth; Tyler Malkowiak, Laborers Local 563 member; and Shawn Theis, Painters Local 386 member.

Dan Bremseth, IBEW Local 292 member

After working about eight years as a non-union electrician, Dan Bremseth joined IBEW Local 292 in 2014 after he got a phone call from a friend who worked at a shop that was going union. Bremseth next completed the Local 292 apprentice program. “That was the best thing I ever did,” he says. Working non-union with limited book knowledge, he tried twice to pass the state test — and “I absolutely bombed it,” he shares. “I went through our apprentice program and I walked out with an 83” (a score of 70 is needed to pass).

Working as a union IBEW journeyman, Bremseth became a job steward at three different job sites.

For an electrician working in the field, Bremseth says, “it’s always something different every day, a different challenge.” Plus, “we get to see different buildings.”

For the past two years, Bremseth has worked for Local 292 as an organizer based in St. Cloud.

Bremseth, 37, lives now in Litchfield and grew up in the Willmar area. “My first job was throwing bales,” he says. His mom’s parents owned a dairy farm and “we were big into 4-H growing up.”

“My family is very outdoor,” Bremseth says. “As soon as I could walk, I was hunting with my dad... ducks, geese, pheasants and deer, we did it all.”

Now his wife Callie and daughter Willow, age 8, join him in hunting.

“I just love being out in nature,” Bremseth says. “It’s quiet, it’s usually calm, you’re just enjoying the outside world without the phone going off.” He adds: “If you do harvest something, it’s a bonus.”

Bremseth shares a story about coming home from work in Iowa to fish walleye with his dad on the opener. “I won’t tell you the lake,” he begins. “I first thought I had a carp,” he continues, but he landed a 32-3/4 inch walleye. “That’s my biggest walleye I ever caught. I have that on the wall.”



IBEW Local 292 member Dan Bremseth hunting Canada Geese last fall in Meeker County with daughter Willow.

Discovering how working union changed his life, “I got my younger brother to join the union,” Bremseth reports. “I got him to come over to a union shop and he’s been fine ever since.” His brother Jordan Bremseth now works at the Painters District Council 82 training center.

Shawn Theis, Painters Local 386 member

Shawn Theis was working as a manager at the Gander Mountain store in St. Cloud when in-laws told him he could be earning more working union construction. “Most of my wife’s family were union carpenters,” Theis says. He thought he had gained a spot as an apprentice carpenter but that fell through. Instead, he began working as an apprentice with Painters Local 386 in 1998. “I kind of fell into it and luckily enough I loved every second of it,” he says.

Theis worked for drywall companies as a taper for 19 years.

In 2017, he started working as an organizer for Painters District Council 82 and in 2024 became director of organizing.

“I love being an organizer for the fact of knowing the benefits I’ve enjoyed as a union member,” Theis says, and he finds it’s “really rewarding” to share that opportunity with people who aren’t familiar with unions.

Theis grew up in Big Lake and in the Kimball area, graduating from Kimball Area High School.

“I’ve always loved being outside. I always fished. I did that a lot with grandpa,” Theis relates. After high school, Theis lived for a time with his grandfather, Stanley Blesi, who was a member of the Laborers union and helped build the Monticello nuclear power plant. “I have his 50-year medallion.”

“My mom and dad didn’t hunt; I don’t know how I fell in love with it,” Theis says. But when his family moved to the Kimball area he started bow-hunting for white-tailed deer at age 14.

Theis, 50, is primarily a bow-hunter today, he says, hunting on his own seven acres near Kimball or on his in-laws’ 100 acres of land. “I prefer bow-hunting,” he says. “It’s a longer season. You can go out in September when it can be 90 degrees all the way to the end of the year when it can be 15-20 degrees.” With bow-hunting, he adds, you have to be within 25-30 yards. I like the idea of being close.”

“I’ve never gone on a hunting trip,” he says. “I’ve never shot what somebody would call a trophy buck... Most of my best hunting stories are things I’ve seen in the woods, whether I’m watching squirrels, pheasants, opossums... [or] calling in an owl... Now that I’m taking my kids with me, it’s even better... It’s more the story of being outside.”

HUNTING AND FISHING page 12



Painters Local 386 member and bow-hunter Shawn Theis: “This is one of my happy places. Sitting in a tree in the fall.”

Game Fair returns for 43rd annual outdoor expo for hunting and fishing enthusiasts

ANOKA — The 43rd annual Game Fair will run Friday to Sunday, August 9-11 and Friday to Sunday, August 16-18, open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

This annual outdoor expo for hunting and fishing enthusiasts is presented at Armstrong Ranch in Anoka, in a natural setting of rolling hills, woods and water.

Vendors sell outdoor gear while conservation groups offer information booths.

Game Fair’s “Family Days” will be Friday, August 9 and Friday, August 16 — offering free admission for kids with a

paid adult admission.

For all ages, Game Fair offers hands-on hunting and fishing experiences.

A full schedule each day offers seminars and demonstrations. Crowd favorites include trick shooting exhibitions and hunting dog competitions.

Adult admission is \$15, \$10 for age 62 and older, \$10 for veterans, \$5 for kids ages 6-14, free for kids 5 and under, and free for active military with an ID.

For more information about Game Fair, visit www.gamefair.com.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL
43rd Annual GAME FAIR

#1 IN AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS!
Aug. 9, 10, 11 & 16, 17, 18
Open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day
An annual sporting event for the entire family in the real out-of-doors situated on 80 beautiful acres of woods and water at
Armstrong Ranch, Anoka, MN
Hundreds of Outdoor Exhibits

- Free Seminars • Dog Clubs • Shotgun Shooting Events • Pheasants Forever •
- Duck & Goose Calling Contest • Upland Game Area • Special Kids Events •
- Fun Dog Events • Sportsmen's Clubs • Waterfowlers Hill • Archery: 3-D Range •

For complete details & seminar schedules visit our website at:
www.gamefair.com
(763) 427-0944

Bring your dog leashed

Bring your shotgun cased

Laborers Local 563 celebrates new union hall in downtown Minneapolis



Labor Review photos

MINNEAPOLIS — Laborers Local 563 celebrated the opening of its new union hall in downtown Minneapolis June 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. Elected officials and other guests joined Local 563 members for the event. Local 563 rehabbed an existing building at 620 12th Ave. So. to provide offices, meeting space, and even a rooftop patio with views of the downtown skyline and U.S. Bank Stadium.

Photo above: Local 563 business manager Joe Fowler used a giant scissors to cut an orange ribbon held by Governor Tim Walz, to his left, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, to his right, and other Local 563 leaders.

Photo above, right: Freya Long twirled in her green party dress atop the rooftop patio. She's the daughter of Chelsea Long and Ben Long, looking on with daughter Astrid. Ben Long is a 12-year LIUNA member and instructor at the Laborers Training Center.

Photo below, right: Photo shows the south door to Local 563's new union hall and its proximity to U.S. Bank Stadium. Photo below, left: The meeting hall can accommodate nearly 600 people — and Local 563's semi-trailer!



Hunting and fishing

continued from page 11

Theis and his wife Tracy have three children, Izaak, age 20, Jordyn, age 17, Kennedy, age 15. The couple met as Kimball high-schoolers in the Future Farmers of America.

About 15 years ago, Theis reports, he got involved with trapping. He helps property owners who are having problems with beaver dams flooding property, raccoons living in a barn, and other issues. He's a life member of the Minnesota Trapping Association and a certified trapping instructor. "I do classroom talks trying to spread the word of how trapping is still needed and safe and regulated."

"Most anybody who traps has a high regard for all animals," he emphasizes. "It's just another way of managing the resource."

Tyler Malkowiak, Laborers Local 563 member

"I'm a transplant," says St. Michael resident Tyler Malkowiak. He moved to Minnesota from New Jersey with his family when he was in sixth grade. After graduating from St. Michael-Albertville high school, he earned a degree in natural resources and wildlife management from the University of Minnesota Crookston with minors in water resource management and law enforcement. He hoped to work for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. While working for Three Rivers Park District, he got a call from his good friend since sixth grade, John McCabe: "Our company has an opportunity." And so Malkowiak went to work for Molin Concrete Products and became a member of Laborers Local 563.

Going on six years later, "I've been working in the

union ever since," Malkowiak says, and he continues to work at Molin. "I still love what I do everyday. My co-workers are like a big family." The company produces pre-cast concrete pieces — planks, beams, columns, wall panels — which are used to build large buildings. "It's been a good learning lesson," Malkowiak says. "It's fulfilling to see a project completed after we're done."

Malkowiak, 32, had grandparents who were union members and he first learned to fish from them. "My grandpa and my dad and I used to fish in trout streams in New Jersey." With his other grandfather, he fished at a family cabin in Michigan's upper peninsula. "I got the best of both worlds from that," Malkowiak says.

After moving to Minnesota, he fished at Mille Lacs, the nearby Crow River and, visiting friends' cabins, "I started fishing with my friends all over the state."

"From there, I started to fish tournaments," Malkowiak says. "I've been very competitive my whole life."

Malkowiak's tournament fishing partner is his old friend since sixth grade, John McCabe, whose phone call led to Malkowiak's career as a union laborer.

The two friends travel the state and the U.S. competing as a team in 17 walleye tournaments during the year, including the National Walleye Tour. Going pro and finding sponsors — including Cabela's — meant "taking a leap of faith and giving it your all," Malkowiak says.

Last year, he and McCabe competed in the AIM state walleye championship on Lake Winnibigoshish. After day one of the two-day event, they were in the top five.

"Day two came and we didn't have any fish in the boat until 11:00," Malkowiak recounts. Then, with five minutes left, they still needed one more fish. "I casted on it; I set the hook and missed it... I casted on it again and



Tyler Malkowiak (right) with friend and tournament fishing partner John McCabe (left) at a 2023 Cass Lake walleye tournament. Both are Laborers Local 563 members.

it bit... I missed it a second time... We literally had three minutes to go... Finally, on the third cast, I got the fish to bite and we landed it." With that 26-inch walleye, "we ended up getting fifth place. We needed to get in the top five to get to national."

At that national tournament earlier this year — on Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota — "we did okay," Malkowiak reports. "The fish didn't cooperate."

"I'm always trying to learn something new, make myself better, whether at work, at home, with the family or fishing," Malkowiak says. "You've got to try new things; You never know what you might like. That's why I'm with the Laborers union."

Local Union News

Carpenters Local 322:

Annual picnic coming August 18

Members of Carpenters Local 322 and their immediate family members are invited to the 13th annual Local 322 picnic, planned Sunday, August 18.

The picnic runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Long Lake Regional Park, 1500 Old Hwy. 8 in New Brighton.

The event will offer family fun, food and prize drawings.

Online registration is required. For the link to register, visit local322.net.

Firefighters Local 82:

2025 calendar available

The 2025 fundraising calendar from Twin Cities Firefighters now is available for \$25.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Twin Cities Firefighters Operation Warm, which provides brand-new, American-made winter coats to local children in need.

The calendar includes photos of firefighters from the Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Richfield and St. Paul fire departments.

Both a 2025 men's calendar and a 2025 women's calendar are available.

For more information, or to order online, visit stpaulfirefighterscalendar.com.

IATSE Local 13:

Front-facing staff at Guthrie Theater vote to form union

By a vote of 61-22, the front-facing staff at the Guthrie Theater have voted to unionize with Local 13 of the Interna-

tional Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

The new bargaining unit will include about 135 workers who work in audience services, box office, guest services, environmental services and public safety.

The results of the secret ballot National Labor Relations Board election were announced June 10.

In early May, the front-facing staff went public with their organizing campaign and asked the Guthrie to voluntarily recognize the union (*Labor Review*, May 25, 2024).

May 21, theater management declined to voluntarily recognize the union.

Still, the time elapsed from the union request for voluntary recognition to the election date was relatively short.

IATSE Local 13 already represented 170 Guthrie production workers, who will remain in their own bargaining unit.

IBEW Local 292:

Family picnic set for August 17

Members of IBEW Local 292 and their families are invited to Local 292's annual family picnic Saturday, August 17, running from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the union hall at 6700 W. Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park.

The family-focused event includes free food, drinks, drawings, games and prizes all day.

No pre-registration is required.

Picnic-goers are welcome to bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets.

For more information, contact the Lo-

cal 292 office at 612-379-1292 or e-mail office@ibew292.org.

IBEW Local 292:

Members vote down proposed Limited Energy agreement

IBEW's statewide Limited Energy membership voted down the employers' contract offer June 26 with 97.5 percent voting to reject the contract.

Contract negotiations with the involvement of a mediator took place again July 15.

Local 292 business manager Jeff Heimerl provided an update July 17:

"We made very little movement in furtherance of a settlement but we have another bargaining session scheduled for July 31... Hopefully, our next bargaining session brings better results. We will continue to bargain for a fair and equitable agreement for our statewide IBEW Limited Energy members.

The statewide Limited Energy agreement covers about 1,200 IBEW members who work for contractors who are part of three different regional contractors associations which are all part of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Members may log in at ibew292.org to view the employers' latest offer.

Laborers District Council:

Family "Fun Raiser" is August 17

The annual family "Fun Raiser" for members of LIUNA locals will be Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Como Midway Picnic Pavilion at Como Regional Park, 1199 Mid-

way Parkway in St. Paul.

The event will feature prizes, a hot dog lunch, sweet corn, ice cream, a kids jump zone, face painting and putt putt golf.

The event is free for LIUNA members and contractors with a voluntary charitable donation.

Plumbers Local 15:

Members ratify inside agreement

After three weeks on strike, members of Plumbers Local 15 who are covered by the union's Inside Construction and Maintenance agreement voted May 23 to accept a revised contract proposal.

The original proposal was rejected almost unanimously by a May 1 vote by members, leading to a work stoppage at commercial sites and multi-family sites, unless covered by a Project Labor Agreement (*Labor Review*, May 25, 2024).

The revised contract proposal improved the wage offer.

After the May 23 vote to approve the agreement, "our members were back to work in large part the next day," reported Scott Gale, outgoing Local 15 business manager.

"The strike cost work, it cost jobs," said newly-elected business manager Tom Pahkala. "Luckily the economy is good and we'll be able to rebound quickly."

The new agreement covers about 1,000 Local 15 members who work for about 120 employers who are members of the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association

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Retiree Meetings

Carpenters Retirees:

Next meeting August 29

Carpenters Retirees will meet Thursday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul. Lunch follows the meeting. The meetings will continue through October on the last Thursday of each month.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees:

'Senior Sparkies' will meet August 13

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — "Senior Sparkies" — will meet Tuesday, August 13 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.

Save the date for the Retirees summer picnic: August 15.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Next meeting in September

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will be taking a summer break. Meetings will resume in September, the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. In-person meetings take place at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers office, 67 — 8th Ave. NE.

Fall meeting dates include in-person meetings September 24 and October 22 and a Zoom meeting November 26.

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

Minnesota Nurses Association Retirees:

CARn will meet August 14

The Council of Active Retired Nurses (CARn) will meet

Wednesday, August 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Minnesota Nurses Association, 345 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

CARn meets the second Wednesday of the month. Future meeting dates for 2024 include: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11.

All retired members of the Minnesota Nurses Association are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Barb Martin at jimbarbmartin@aol.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' take summer break

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 "Rusty Tinnners" retirees club will be taking a summer break. The next meeting will be September 10.

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.

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: 'Now to November' Committee will plan election and outreach work this summer

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council members will be discussing and planning election and outreach work over the summer through the MRRC's 'Now to November' Committee.

If you are interested in participating in election work, please reach out to Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or graeme@minneapolisunions.org for our meeting schedule and details.

The MRRC is not planning a regular membership meeting for August.

MRRC membership meetings will resume Thursday, September 19 at the United Labor Centre in Minneapolis.

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.

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or Metro Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors.

Plumbers Local 15:

Scott Gale retires, Tom Pahkala wins election as business manager

Tom Pahkala won a contested election June 6 to become the new business manager of Plumbers Local 15.

Incumbent Scott Gale, who served as business manager since 2018, did not seek re-election and has retired.

Pahkala, Blaine, first joined Local 15 in 1995. He won election as business agent in 2018, previously serving the local as executive board member, vice president, president, instructor and organizer.

As Pahkala moves into his new role as business manager, “the most important thing for Local 15 is to move forward into the future to bring our market share and density to greater heights,” Pahkala said.

Founded in 1890, Plumbers Local 15 today includes about 2,000 members.

“I firmly believe we need to take the 100-year view,” Pahkala said.

In other Local 15 election results, Joe Lane was re-elected as business agent while Dave Lilliback, Jr. and Michael Brandt were newly-elected as business agents.

SEIU Local 284:

Minneapolis Public Schools food service workers win contract gains

After working for nearly one year under an expired contract, 195 food service staff who work for the Minneapolis Public Schools now have a newly-ratified contract.

The workers are represented by SEIU Local 284 and work at MPS school sites across the city as well as the Davis Center and the Production Center on Plym-

outh Avenue.

Following the vote by workers to ratify the new contract, the Minneapolis School Board voted its approval June 11. The new agreement will cover the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026

Workers will receive retroactive pay for hours worked since July 1, 2023.

A few highlights of the new three-year contract include:

- Raising the pay floor by more than 18 percent.
- 15-25 percent pay increases across the board over the life of the contract.
- New longevity pay increase for workers with 6-9 years of service.
- A major increase to the district



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Workers at Kim's restaurant organize, vote yes

MINNEAPOLIS — Workers at Kim's restaurant in Uptown voted June 27 in a National Labor Relations Board election to organize with UNITE HERE Local 17 (see story below). Exactly one week in advance of the vote, Kim's workers and community supporters rallied a block away from the trendy restaurant June 20 and then marched together for an informational picket outside Kim's doors (photo above). Kim's server Theo Hofrenning addressed the June 20 crowd: “The union is for everyone,” Hofrenning said. “We are the ones there for each other... We have right on our side.”

match for deferred compensation 403(b).

Nicole Popowitz, a kitchen coordinator at Lake Nokomis Keewaydin Elementary School, and member of the bargaining team, highlighted what the win meant to members: “This is an important contract for our union members because we have guaranteed steps moving forward! Instead of having to beg for step increases every time we negotiate, they will be automatic!”

Kelly Gibbons, executive director of SEIU Local 284, spoke about the importance of this win: “This contract settlement shows that when workers come together in their union, they can win double-digit raises. It also shows that school districts can do better with their hourly workers than what we are hearing many other districts say at the bargaining table and in the media. After decades of our members falling behind financially, elected leaders need to take action to address the staffing crisis in our schools.”

UNITE HERE Local 17:

Workers at Kim's restaurant vote to unionize in NLRB election

With 65 percent voting in favor, workers at Kim's restaurant in Uptown voted June 27 to unionize with UNITE HERE Local 17 in a National Labor Relations Board election.

About 60 cooks, dishwashers, servers, support staff, and bartenders work at Kim's, a restaurant offering Korean-American cuisine located at 1432 W. 31st Street.

Despite a persistent anti-union campaign by the employer to encourage a “no” vote, workers voted 65 percent in favor of unionizing.

“I started organizing because I was tired of worrying about my income week to week,” said Kaylee Murphy, Kim's bartender and server. “I've been devoted to hospitality for 20 years, I felt it was time I got some devotion back. Kim's being a union restaurant is such a benefit to Uptown, because I know improving our jobs will also improve the restaurant for everyone. I'm excited for the future and look forward to bargaining a contract.”

Local 17 also reports that workers are organizing at two other highly-regarded restaurant operations: Tex-Oaxacan eatery Colita, located at 5400 Penn Ave. So., and the four locations of Café Ceres — all establishments from prolific restaurateur Daniel del Prado.

About 60 dishwashers, bartenders, cooks, and servers work at Colita. About 30 baristas work at the four Café Ceres locations across Minneapolis.

A group of the workers participated in training programs with Restaurant Opportunities Center of Minnesota about exercising their rights on the job, including their rights to collective and concerted action.

UFCW Local 663:

Half Price Books workers win first contract after long campaign

Workers from four Twin Cities Half Price Books locations ratified their first union contracts May 31, 2024 after multi-year contract campaign.

The Minnesota bookstore workers unionized with the United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 663 and 1189 to secure better wages, working conditions, and a seat at the table.

Because of Minnesota workers' unionization efforts, employees company wide were able to realize 33 percent raises, with starting wages rising from \$12 to \$16. The contracts include job protections such as just cause, grievance procedures, and union representation.

Workers at Minnesota Half Price Books' locations were the first in the nation to form a union with UFCW.

In 2022, the Minnesota workers won their union elections at Coon Rapids (Northtown), Roseville, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul.

Their collective advocacy sparked nationwide unionization efforts at other Half Price Books locations in Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, and California.

“Through the hard work of the entire bargaining committee, we have shown all of our coworkers the priceless value of having a union contract. This is going to help everyone at Half Price Books and it will continue for decades to come,” said Aaron Kerr, bookseller at the Roseville Half Price Books.

Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: August 7.

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your January-June 2024 dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Golf Tournament

The Annual Pipefitters Golf Tournament is September 8, 2024. Information will be sent out and on our website.

Twins Night Out

Twins Budweiser Roof Deck night out will be held on September 13, 2024. Information will be sent out and on our website.

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Vernon Greeninger, Gerald Babin, and Edwin Marjapori.

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

Endorsed: MRLF endorses in three city council races

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rector of governmental affairs for International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82. Earlier this year, McCarvey helped lead the successful effort for the Brooklyn Park City Council to adopt a local prevailing wage ordinance.

Plymouth City Council: Kim Nelson

In March of 2024, the Plymouth City Council appointed Kim Nelson to fill a vacancy for the Ward 1 seat on the council. She now is running for a full four-year term. Nelson is a nine-year resident of Plymouth. She currently serves as deputy political director for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, where she has worked five years. She previously worked 10 years as an

organizer and political director for SEIU in several states and for the American Federation of Teachers in Colorado.

St. Francis City Council: Crystal Kreklow

Appointed in 2023 to fill a vacancy on the St. Francis City Council, Crystal Kreklow is running for election for a full four-year term. She is in a four-candidate race, which includes another incumbent, with the top two to be elected.

Kreklow has lived in St. Francis since 2018. She currently works as state field director for AFSCME Council 5 and has served on the Council 5 staff since 2016.

Kreklow previously worked for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where she became a member of AFSCME Local 2181 and later was elected president of AFSCME Local 1349.

MRLF

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committee for the last two contract cycles, joined the executive board and this spring was elected as the ESP chapter's first vice president.

"I was on the bargaining team when we were on strike [in 2022]," she noted. "If we didn't have all our people supporting us on the outside, we wouldn't have gotten our work done on the inside."

On Hampton's first day on the job with the MRLF, Hampton was providing support at a City Employees Local 363 picket site.

"Seeing the power that comes out of a strike really motivates people," she observed. But a strike also can show a union where it can improve and grow stronger, she added. "The membership are the reason that things happen."

Hampton grew up in south Minneapolis and graduated from El Colegio charter high school in 2010. She continued her education at Ripon College in Wisconsin and Normandale

Community College in Bloomington.

She was working with special education students when she heard about a job opening doing similar work at Roosevelt. "They mentioned it was a union job. That was enticing," she said.

"I really liked my job there — the students, the community, the school culture," she said. "There were a lot of active union members at my site," she added.

Hampton's mother, Cathy Murck, is a retired union welder and Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 member. Her father, Oscar Hampton, is a retired AFSCME Local 343 member who was a Hennepin County social worker.

Hampton lives in the Phillips neighborhood in south Minneapolis with her sister and twin nieces.

In beginning her work at MRLF, "I think it's super cool to work with a bunch of different unions and build connections with a lot of labor groups," Hampton said. "I'm excited to learn from people and do something new."

To contact Mary Hampton:
mary@minneapolisunions.org

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IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Summer Picnic: August 17

Local 292's annual summer picnic will be Saturday, August 17 at the Hall, 6700 W. Broadway Ave, Brooklyn Park. This family event runs from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plan to attend for great fun and plenty of awesome food!

Brotherhood

The Local 292 Brotherhood Committee assists members in need or distress, either with a gift card

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

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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.

Condolences

Brother Nathan J. Pickens; Brother Ralph Bryant; Brother Jeffrey R. Lange; Brother Michael B. Erickson; Brother Lawrence E. Schwartz.

Minneapolis Labor Review 2024 Publication Schedule

August 24

Deadline: August 7
Labor Day Issue

October 19

Deadline: October 2
General Election Issue

November 16

Deadline: October 30
Holiday Shopping Guide

September 21

Deadline: September 4

December 14

Deadline: November 27
Holiday Issue

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

Women Building Success

Annual awards night celebrates all women in the building trades



Photo, above: Women Building Success board members gathered for a photo with this year's award-winners.



Photo, left: The crowd included Amanda Heiser, Mound, six-year member of Carpenters Local 322 (left) and Sydney Sirek, Minneapolis, one-year member of the Carpenters' Industrial Local 2055 (right). "I really like the fact that the union includes the girls," Heiser said. "It's nice being able to make new friends through the Sisters in the Brotherhood... We'll always face discrimination... but you can't let that stop you... Things are moving in a better direction but we've still got work to do."

Labor Review photos

WHITE BEAR LAKE — The annual Women Building Success awards night June 6 celebrated the women who work as members of the region's building trades unions.

"People enjoy it. They want to be here," said Jennifer Mudge, Women Building Success co-chair and assistant business manager of IBEW Local 292. "We're trying to give more time for networking in the beginning," she said, as the crowd of about 250 enjoyed drinks and appetizers at Kelleman's event center before the evening's program began. "When we first put on the event, we didn't know if we would fill the room." Mudge added: "We try to make it unbelievably positive."

The awards program began with a video showing how past award-winners had progressed to positions of leadership in their respective unions, for example, a former "Apprentice of the Year" who is now an instructor.

This year's awards competition drew 75 nominations. "Every year we get more," said Jenny Winkelaar, Mudge's co-chair and workforce director for Operating Engineers Local 49. "We would love to have even more nominations than we had this year."

This year's winners included:

Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Maria Lemus, IBEW Local 110. Honorable Mentions: Morgan Atkins, IBEW Local 292; Stephanie Mullin, Plumbers Local 34; Eleanora Miller, Plumbers/Pipefitters Local 589; Anna Cochran, Ironworkers Local 512.

Tradeswoman in Leadership

Winner: Aimee Paquette, Elevator Constructors Local 9. Honorable Mention: Annie Peper, Laborers 563.

Journeyworker of the Year

Winner: Ruth Lindeman, Operating Engineers Local 49. Honorable Mentions: Maria Pinzon, Pipefitters Local 455; Jordana Stiffarm, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1.

Women's Advocate of the Year

Winner: Grecia Palomar, IUPAT District Council 82. Honorable Mention: Derra Range, Laborers Local 563.

For more information:

womenbuildingsuccess.org



Photo, above: Morgan Atkins, member of IBEW Local 292, received a plaque for winning one of the four honorable mention awards for "Apprentice of the Year."



Photo, above: One table at the event included a group of five graduates and two staff from Building Strong Communities, a local pre-apprentice program which helps prepare workers for a career in the building trades.



Photo, above: Laurie Johnson, 35-year member of Laborers Local 563, currently serves as her local's elected president. She advised women considering a career in the trades: "Go for it. You can do it. Work hard, show them you're capable... It's a great career."