

Minneapolis Labor Review

117th Year

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www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Unions shift gears for a new race for White House

Labor 2024

First in a series

By Jean Hopfensperger

Special to the Labor Review

SAINT PAUL — Greg Hansen joined the upbeat crowd at the Carpenters union hall in St. Paul earlier this month to watch a live broadcast of the first rally of presidential hopeful Vice President Kamala Harris and running mate Governor Tim Walz. Hansen had been getting nervous about the Democrats' prospects in November, but now felt a blast of energy.

A union electrician for 35 years, Hansen said he'd been disheartened that the Biden-Harris administration wasn't getting



Ellen Perrault photo

The Harris for President campaign organized a Minnesota kick-off rally July 27 at the St. Paul Labor Center.

credit for its unwavering support for union workers. Now he was about to watch a new Democrat-

ic team, with strong new messaging, in a room full of supporters cheering, "Let's win this!"

"It was like a breath of fresh air, a case of Red Bull," said Hansen, IBEW Local 292 mem-

ber who works in Minneapolis. "It [winning the election] is going to take a lot of work. This is not going to be easy. But people are fired up."

Across Minnesota, the labor movement is gearing up for what is expected to be a tight presidential race between AFL-CIO endorsed Harris — and former president Donald Trump.

Minnesota is home to 356,000 union members, or 13 percent of the workforce, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. They, and union members and working-class folks around the nation, have become a key constituency in the battle for the White House.

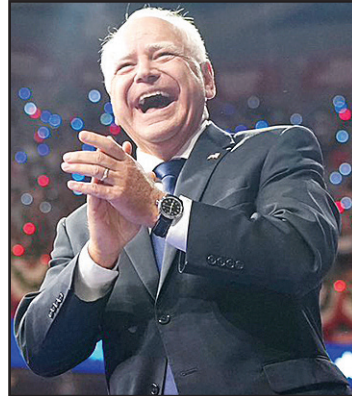
RACE page 12

MN Governor Tim Walz joins Kamala Harris as running mate

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota labor leaders are joining national labor leaders in cheering the selection of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as the Democratic nominee for Vice President.

"By selecting Governor Tim Walz as her running mate, Kamala Harris chose a principled fighter and labor champion who will stand up for working people and strengthen this historic ticket," said national AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler. "We know that Governor Walz will be a strong partner in the Harris White House, fighting every day to improve the lives of workers in communities across America. Governor Walz isn't only an ally to the labor movement, but also our union brother with a deep commitment to a pro-worker agenda."

"As Minnesotans, we're proud to have one of our own on a Presidential ticket," said Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bernie Burnham. "As working people and union members, we're even more thrilled to have one of our own as the Democratic nominee for Vice President."



Tim Walz

"As a parent, educator, coach, soldier, Congressman, and Governor, Tim Walz will be a Vice President who knows firsthand the challenges that working Americans and our families face and what we need to improve our lives," Burnham said.

In the days following Harris's August 6 announcement naming Walz as her running mate, the nation has learned more about Walz's story and the story of the pro-labor policies which he's helped to achieve in Minnesota.

WALZ page 7

AFL-CIO endorsed candidates score primary election wins

Ilhan Omar handily wins DFL primary

By Steve Share,
Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — "It was a great night to be an MRLF endorsed candidate... We won them all," said Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, president of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. She was reviewing results of the August 13 primary election the following day, speaking to the monthly MRLF delegate meeting.

All four AFL-CIO endorsed candidates in the Minneapolis area who faced primary contests won their races: Incumbent Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, Minnesota Senate District 45 candidate Ann Johnson Stewart, Minnesota House District 38A candidate Huldah Hiltley, and incumbent Anoka County District 5 Commissioner Mike Gamache.

For Omar, her win in the

AFL-CIO Endorsements

See page 9

DFL primary with 56 percent of the vote came in a rematch with former Minneapolis city council member Don Samuels. Two years ago, Omar narrowly defeated Samuels in the DFL primary by just 2,466 votes. This year, her margin of victory increased more than sixfold to 16,087 votes.

"Thank you all," said Omar, addressing an election night gathering of supporters in south Minneapolis. "Enjoy this win because it's yours."

Omar's campaign got an extra jolt of energy from a campaign rally 10 days before the primary election at Edison High School featuring Vermont U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith.

PRIMARY page 16

Governor Tim Walz's move to the national stage reflects 20 years of collective organizing and policy wins

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

My Minnesota roots are beaming with pride at the news of Governor Tim Walz being selected as Vice President Kamala Harris's running mate. I grew up in Eagle Lake, a small town just outside of Mankato, where Tim Walz taught high school for many years.

My personal journey with Tim Walz began back in 2004 — before he was ever a candidate for elected office. We were both volunteers doing Get-Out-The-Vote work the evening before Election Day.

In 2004, Tim Walz was a shining example of a union rank-and-file member volunteering for our democracy and now, in 2024, he's a Minnesota union member on the verge of being a part of our nation's highest office.

Seeing Tim Walz on the national stage reflects all the powerful organizing that the labor movement and our allies have done collectively across this state over these past 20 years. That "Minnesota Resume" making headlines is full of policy wins that we've achieved together through organizing.

The special thing about organizing in Minnesota is that we in the labor movement do it in relationship with other allies — and we do it in a collective way that makes us stronger for the next fight. For example, when we were fighting to raise wages for workers and championing new minimum wage laws, it was never just about the dollar figure.

As important as the policy win was



The special thing about organizing in Minnesota is that we in the labor movement do it in relationship with other allies

how we got there and how the new minimum wages were impacting folks showing up to work each day.

When fighting for the new Minneapolis and statewide minimum wage, workers got together and shared their stories and experiences about the ways employers tried to justify bad practices or to avoid minimum workplace standards altogether.

This direct in-the-field engagement helped to remove exemptions and exceptions and added in specific protections around gimmicks and loopholes — making Minnesota's minimum wage laws some of the best in the country.

This approach also gave some workers the encouragement to join together and form their own union, so they didn't have to rely on laws and politicians to get their workplace protections.

We also paid attention to the ongoing enforcement of these new laws and made employer and worker education as important as the policy itself. If workers are feeling empowered on the job site about their rights, the laws will work as they are designed. If workers do not have access to their rights, minimum wage laws or other protections won't achieve the intended results.

This in-depth organizing is how you get candidates who can get on a national stage and boast about how great their state is for workers. Every worker in this state should take pride in seeing our Minnesota values on display for a national audience.



Steve Share announces plan to retire as Labor Review editor early in 2025

MINNEAPOLIS — The longtime editor of the *Minneapolis Labor Review*, Steve Share, has announced his plan to retire after the first of the year.

Share became *Labor Review* editor in October 2003, coming from a position as communications coordinator of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action.

During Share's now nearly 21 years as editor, the *Labor Review* has won numerous awards from the International Labor Communications Association for writing, photography, and design, including first place for general excellence.

Share is the third-longest-serving editor in the 117-year history of the *Labor Review*.

He is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, publisher of the *Labor Review*, has begun a search process for a new editor.

(See ad, page 3).



Steve Share

MRLF announces another round of endorsements for local office, including three union members

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting via Zoom, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO voted August 14 to approve another round of endorsements for local elected office. The seven newly-endorsed candidates include three union members.

The endorsements include:

- Besty O'Berry for Anoka County Commissioner, District 1;
- Amáda Márquez Simula for Columbia Heights mayor;
- Laurel Deneen for Columbia

Heights City Council, At Large;

- MAPE member Peter Butler for Coon Rapids City Council, Ward 2;
- Christopher Geisler for Coon Rapids City Council, Ward 4,
- Carpenters member Rob Busch for Columbus City Council, At Large;
- LIUNA member Patrick Vescio for Fridley City Council, At Large.

For local races in the MRLF's seven-county jurisdiction, the MRLF endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

ENDORSED page 16

'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: **AFL-CIO**
September 21, 2024

Deadline:
September 4, 2024

See page 23 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

Through September 2: Visit Labor Pavilion at the Minnesota State Fair for music and more

FALCON HEIGHTS — The Minnesota State Fair runs through Labor Day, Monday, September 2 and the Minnesota AFL-CIO's Labor Pavilion will be open daily beginning at 8:00 a.m.

You'll find the Labor Pavilion located at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper (two blocks west of the fair's Snelling Ave. entrance gate).

The Labor Pavilion will feature free live music daily performed by members of the American Federation of Musicians.

The Labor Pavilion also will feature information about union careers, updates about organizing campaigns, demonstrations by skilled craftworkers as well as information kiosks staffed by volunteers from participating unions.

For more information about the daily music line-up at the Labor Pavilion, visit mnaflcio.org.

For more information about the Minnesota State Fair, visit mnstatefair.org.

September 1: Attorney General Keith Ellison hosts annual 'BBQ Honoring Labor' at Wabun

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison invites the labor community and friends to his annual "BBQ Honoring Labor" Sunday, September 1.

The event will run from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at Wabun Picnic Area, Shelter D, 4655 46th Ave. S. (located at Minne-

haha Regional Park just past the main pavilion along Godfrey Parkway before you get to Ford Parkway).

Come for food, beverages, and music plus special guest speakers in addition to Ellison.

The BBQ event is free but an RSVP is requested to rsvp@keithellison.org.

September 7: East Side Freedom Library hosts 'Labor Solidarity' picnic with food, music

SAINT PAUL — The East Side Freedom Library will host a "Labor Solidarity" picnic Saturday, September 7 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. with food, music, and speakers highlighting local labor issues and organizing campaigns. The free event will take place on the lawn outside the East Side Freedom Library, located at 1105 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul.

The Twin Cities Labor Chorus will perform.

The event also will feature a book sale and includes the opening of a photography exhibit sponsored by the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union, Local 1005, "Archives in Motion: The ATU Workers of Metro Transit," with photographs by Leslie Grant, Jeffrey Skemp and Isabela Escalona.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events for more information.

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

■ **Anoka, Thursday, September 26, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursday, September 19, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Friday, September 20, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesday, September 10, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, **FARE FOR ALL page 4**

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Minneapolis Labor Review Editor and Communications Director

The Minneapolis Labor Review and the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation are excited to announce our search for a new multitasking communications specialist to join our team later this fall. This position will be responsible for telling the stories of today's labor movement for generations to come.

We are seeking individuals who can carry on the 117-year legacy of our print publication, the Minneapolis Labor Review. In a time of constantly changing news/communication strategies, we are looking for a leader who can manage systems change while still covering day to day production timelines and content creation for both print and online platforms.

Producing the Labor Review includes all stages of production, from writing the stories, designing the layout and soliciting the ads all the way to managing the mailing list and other logistics. All of this production happens while exciting worker-led, union-led activity is unfolding all around us daily—making our work to positively impact our members' online experiences just as critical.

The ideal candidate will have print publication design experience and strong skills in Adobe InDesign.

If you have a strong sense of commitment to social justice, are innovative and independently motivated and would like to learn more about this opportunity, please submit a short letter of inquiry to chelsie@minneapolisunions.org. Your letter should include a short summary of your relevant experience and what skills you would be excited to bring to our team.

Additional job posting details will be posted online at minneapolisunions.org as available.



LABOR 2024

DAYS OF ACTION

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

- 9/7: **Teamsters Local 120**
9422 Ulysses St. NE, Blaine
- 9/14: **McCann Park Shelter**
7125 South Park Drive, Savage
- 9/28: **Anoka Hennepin Education MN**
3200 Main St. NW, #360, Coon Rapids
- 10/5: **Blaine TBD**
- 10/12: **Anoka Hennepin Education MN**
3200 Main St. NW, #360, Coon Rapids
- 10/26: **Shakopee TBD**

✓ Weekly Recurring Volunteer Opportunities

Union-Sponsored Events

We need you! We can build any type of volunteer opportunity around an existing event or personalized program for your members.

Contact: volunteer@minneapolisunions.org

Phone Bank at United Labor Centre

from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday

Door Knock Launch at United Labor Centre

from 1:00-4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday



September 21: Yellow Ribbon Ribfest will benefit veterans and military families

ARDEN HILLS — The second annual Yellow Ribbon Ribfest is coming Saturday, September 21.

Hosted by the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, the event will raise funds for programs to support veterans, service members, and military families.

Planned activities run from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. at the National Guard Readiness Center, 4800 Hamline Ave. N. in Arden Hills.

The afternoon will begin with a career fair featuring 30-plus hiring companies and registered apprentice programs, offered from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

The Ribfest fun begins at 2:00 p.m., with live music, food, and drink, plus the rib-tasting competition as well as kids' activities and a military flyover.

Visit yellowribbonribfest.org for more information about the day's program, tickets and sponsorships, plus volunteer opportunities for the day.

September 26: CTUL celebrates 17 years of building worker power with annual gala

MINNEAPOLIS — Worker center CTUL will celebrate its 17th anniversary with a fundraising gala Thursday, September 26 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave. So. in Minneapolis. Food, non-alcoholic drinks and a raffle will be available.

A basic ticket costs \$30, with a youth/student rate at \$18, and higher levels of

support at \$50 or \$100 per ticket.

CTUL is Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha — the Center of Workers United in Struggle. Worker-led CTUL empowers workers to gain a voice in their workplaces and win economic justice.

For tickets or more information, visit ctul.net.

September 30: Working Partnerships golf event will benefit union members in need

COON RAPIDS — Attention golfers! Monday, September 30 is set for the Working Partnerships Golf Tournament.

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

The nonprofit assists union members in need during times of economic hardship, family crises, strikes, layoffs, lockouts and other emergencies.

The Working Partnerships Golf Tour-

namment will take place at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, with a shotgun start of 9:00 a.m.

To sign-up a foursome to golf, or for more information on sponsorships and raffle item donations, contact Doug Flateau at 612-805-4236 or e-mail doug@workingpartnerships.org.

All proceeds benefit the programs of Working Partnerships to support union members and their families.

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

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1200 Highway 25 South.

■ **Chaska, Thursday, September 26, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Friday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Friday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursday, September 12, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**, Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ **Minneapolis, Tuesday, September 3,**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., note new location: Mill City Church, 685 13th Ave. NE.

■ **New Hope, Wednesday, September 18, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

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

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, September 24, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, September 18 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.

Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council

DADs Day

28th Annual Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Outing

September 4

Majestic Oaks Golf Club, Ham Lake



9:00 Shotgun start

9:00 Golf

1:30 Social Hour

2:30 Banquet

\$200/golfer or \$800/foursome

For details or questions:

Contact Dan at dan@mplsbctc.org

To register to golf, or for sponsorship information:

mplsbctc.org

FALL 2024

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WORKSHOPS MEET ON DATES INDICATED

CONTRACT COSTING

Thursday October 10th
6:00-9:00 pm

CLASSES!

REGULAR CLASSES MEET WEEKLY FOR 7 WEEKS STARTING SEPT 9TH

ECONOMICS AS IF WORKERS MATTERED

Tuesdays
6:00-8:30 pm

LABOR IN THE MEDIA

Wednesdays
6:00-8:00

All programs are online!
Times listed Central time but all are welcome.
Register today! newbrookwood.org/register.

Minnesota remains the best place for working people and their families

Guest Commentary

By Nichole Blissenbach, Commissioner, MN Department of Labor and Industry

As we near the end of another Minnesota summer, I'm reminded about why our state is the best place in the country for working people and their families. Last year's new laws were historic: earned sick and safe time; paid family and medical leave; a first-in-the-nation OSHA ergonomics standard to protect the safety and health of workers in hospitals, surgery centers, nursing homes, warehouses, and meatpacking plants; the Construction Worker Wage Protection Act; and the establishment of a Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board.

This year, with the help of organized labor and other worker advocates, Minnesota further expanded and updated protections and rights for working people. The Department of Labor and Industry continues to implement, educate and enforce our state laws so that employers and employees enjoy the benefits of a safe and healthy workforce.

You may have seen our statewide outdoor billboards and bus ads educating Minnesotans about the new earned sick and safe time law. Updates to the ESST law clarify who qualifies for ESST, the

rate at which ESST must be paid and the application of ESST to other paid time off. ESST can also now be used for funeral or bereavement leave.

Pregnant employees can now take leave for prenatal care medical appointments without it counting against their pregnancy and parental leave. And employers will contribute towards their health benefits during their pregnancy and parenting leave at the same level as if the employee were working.

Working Minnesotans now have the right to receive the full amount of tips paid by card or e-payment. Before August 1, 2024, employers could deduct the swipe fee for these payments from tips.

Landmark legislation was passed to combat employer misclassification fraud, taking a multifaceted approach to ensure that employers are not taking advantage of employees by naming them independent contractors without access to employee rights and protections. The new law increases penalties for employers who violate the law, streamlines the independent contractor test for building construction and improvement services, creates a private right of action for victims of employer misclassification, and takes a "whole of government" approach through a new partnership that will allow



Nicole Blissenbach

Minnesota state agencies to share information and coordinate investigations.

Rideshare drivers and their allies also succeeded in securing a statewide minimum pay standard, new insurance requirements and greater pay transparency and fair deactivation processes. Taken together, these new laws demonstrate a commitment to working people in Minnesota.

It is the mission of the Department of Labor and Industry to ensure all Minnesotans have equitable, healthy and safe working and living environments. We take seriously our role to ensure hard-working Minnesotans have easy access

'Workplace Rights Week' September 22-28 will ensure more workers and their employers understand their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. Visit dli.mn.gov for more information.

to the resources and information to understand their workplace rights and feel empowered to take action when needed. We know that safe and healthy workplaces are the backbone of our economic and community strength.

This year, we are excited to announce a new "Workplace Rights Week" during September 22-28. During this week, DLI will showcase our partnerships and educational resources to ensure more workers and their employers understand their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. Visit our website (dli.mn.gov) for more information and help us share information to support "Workplace Rights Week" this September.



Building Trades FCU Member Appreciation Week! Sept. 3rd - 6th

Celebrate the hard work and dedication of our members this Labor Day week!

- Free Lunch – Fuel up for the week ahead
- Free Raffles – Win some fantastic prizes
- BTCU & Union Swag – Grab your gear & show your pride

Special Thanks to our Union Sponsors for their generous donations and unwavering support:

- LiUNA MN & ND - BAC Local 1 - Roofers Local 96
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 417 - Pipefitters Local 539
- Laborers Local 563 - Cement Masons Local 633
- Boilermakers Local 647

Join us as we honor the backbone of our community. Don't miss out on the fun and the camaraderie!



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Happy Labor Day from the 87,000 members of Education Minnesota!

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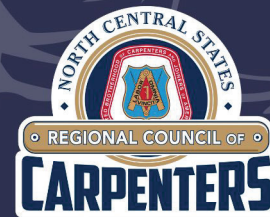


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TO ALL OUR HARDWORKING MEMBERS

HAPPY LABOR DAY



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LABOR



**HARRIS
WALZ**

Photo: facebook.com/KamalaHarris/photos

Kamala Harris named Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate August 6 in Philadelphia, her choice confirmed later at the Democratic National Convention.

Walz

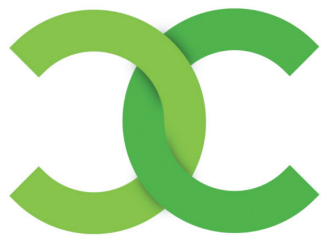
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“Over the last two years, Governor Walz and the DFL majorities in the legislature partnered with Minnesota’s labor movement to enact one of the most pro-labor legislative agendas in state history,” Burnham said. “Thanks to our shared work Minnesotans will have one of the most progressive paid family and medical leave pro-

grams in the nation, safer workplaces, more wage protections, tens of thousands of new construction jobs, reproductive freedom protected by law, fully-funded schools and public services, free nutritious school meals for our state’s kids — and, most importantly, greater freedom to organize unions at their workplaces.”

Walz declared in his August 21 acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago: “we’ll build a country where workers come first.”

In SOLIDARITY THIS LABOR DAY



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Kari
for MINNESOTA!

Kari Rehrauer for House 35B
Coon Rapids, Andover

Proud union member since
1999.

I will be a fierce advocate
for worker’s rights and
union freedoms.

Prepared and paid for by the Kari (Rehrauer)
for Minnesota committee, kariformn.com

**Happy Labor Day
from
The Labor Temple Association**

Owners of
United Labor Centre

Managed by: Brenda Thomas, 952-465-3350



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Amy Klobuchar

OUR UNITED STATES SENATOR

Happy Labor Day and thank you for all of your hard work supporting Minnesota workers!

Your friend,



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Klobuchar for Minnesota, P.O. Box 4146 - St. Paul, MN 55104

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Labor Day Greetings

*to our Members, Families & Friends
from the Officers and Staff*

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union 292



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Happy Labor Day! Thank you for the essential work you do!



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UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

Happy Labor Day!

*From your brothers and sisters of
USW Local 2002*

Minnesota AFL-CIO

Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

**President & Vice President
of the United States:**

**Kamala Harris
& Tim Walz**

**U.S. Senator:
Amy Klobuchar**

**LABOR
2024
AFL-CIO**

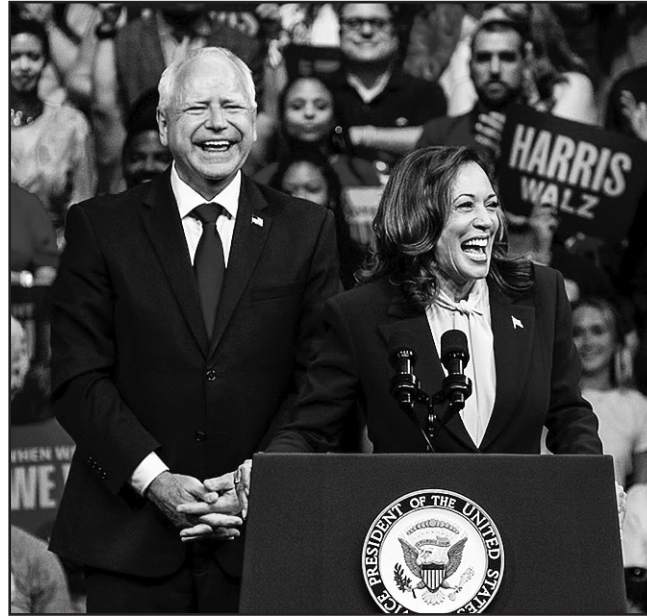


Photo: facebook.com/KamalaHarris/photos

Philadelphia, August 6: Vice President Kamala Harris named Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate.

General Election: Tuesday, November 5
Early voting begins September 20

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

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 Election, November 5, 2024

Ann Johnson Stewart

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation Committee On Political Education: 2024 Endorsements

Anoka County Commissioner:

Betsy O'Berry, District 1
Mike Gamache, District 5
Julie Jeppson, District 6
Mandy Meisner, District 7

Brooklyn Park City Council:

Tony McGarvey, West District

Columbia Heights Mayor:

Amáda Márquez Simula

Columbia Heights City Council:

Laurel Deneen, At Large

Columbus City Council:

Rob Busch, At Large



Fridley City Council:

Patrick Vescio, At Large

Coon Rapids City Council:

Peter Butler, Ward 2
Christopher Geisler, Ward 4

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 August 14, 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

Ann Johnson Stewart runs for MN Senate in what is expected to be a hotly-contested race

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNETONKA — The only Minnesota State Senate race on the ballot this year will be for District 45 in the west Minneapolis suburbs, where a special election November 5 will fill a vacancy.

Former State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart won the three-way Senate District 45 DFL primary contest August 13 with nearly 59 percent of the vote.

Senate District 45 includes communities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. The outcome of the November 5 election will determine whether the DFL Party or the Republican Party has a majority in the Minnesota Senate, so the race will be hotly contested — and is expected to draw heavy spending on both sides.

Ann Johnson Stewart is running with the endorsement of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. Johnson Stewart's other labor endorsements include: AFSCME Council 5, Carpenters Local 322, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, and SEIU Minnesota State Council.

The seat became vacant when the incumbent, Dr. Kelly Morrison, resigned from the Minnesota Senate to run for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senate District 45 consists of commu-



Ann Johnson Stewart

Senate District 49

nities surrounding Lake Minnetonka, including Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Long Lake, the north part of Minnetonka, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, St Bonifacius,

Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata, and Woodland.

Johnson Stewart represented part of this area before, when she won election as the DFL candidate in 2020 to represent the old Senate District 44. Redistricting led Johnson Stewart to leave the Senate after just two years.

***'I was raised in a union family... That's a family value I grew up with.'* — Ann Johnson Stewart**

During those two years in the Minnesota Senate, Johnson Stewart won a 95 percent voting score from the Minnesota AFL-CIO on working families issues.

"That's who I am and what I stand for," Johnson Stewart recently told the *Minneapolis Labor Review*. "I was raised in a union family. My mom and dad were teachers... That's a family value I grew up with."

A civil engineer by profession, "I see the value that unions bring to the construction industry," Johnson Stewart said. For individual workers, she added, she sees the difference between union and non-union workers and how they experience their careers.

More than 20 years ago, Johnson Stewart started her own engineering firm,

which grew to 26 employees. Her firm helped local and state government to build infrastructure across the state. Two years ago, she sold the company but continues to work there part-time. "I did that to focus on being in the Senate," she said.

"I was the first civil engineer to serve in the Minnesota Senate," Johnson Stewart

said. "We need somebody who really understands infrastructure and the value of state spending on local projects."

The bonding bill which the legislature is supposed to take up every two years is all about jobs, Johnson Stewart noted. "The bonus is you get a bridge."

When Morrison resigned her Senate District 45 seat, jumping in the race "was a very easy decision," Johnson Stewart said. "I really had a lot left I wasn't able to accomplish. I was excited for the opportunity to go back."

When she served previously in the Senate, Johnson Stewart said, "it was really demonstrating the importance of having an infrastructure expert on the bonding and transportation committees." She knew how to ask the right questions, she said. "Having somebody with that construction background was one of my biggest accomplishments."

Johnson Stewart grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin Platteville and a masters degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota. She has lived in Minnetonka for 27 years.

Website:

annjohnsonstewart.com

Minneapolis School Board

Former teacher, union president Greta Callahan seeks seat on Minneapolis School Board

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Late on a Sunday morning in mid-August, a group of supporters of school board candidate Greta Callahan met at Linden Hills Park to hear from the candidate and a couple of special guests and then go doorknocking.

"We are so lucky to have Greta in this race," said State Representative Frank Hornstein. "We have someone who is going to fight for our kids, fight for our parents, fight for our communities."

Callahan is running for the southwest Minneapolis District 6 seat on the Minneapolis School Board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the DFL Party.

Incumbent Ira Jourdain chose not to run for re-election.

Callahan was a kindergarten teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools for seven years and served as president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers for four years — leading the union during its 2022 strike.

(Callahan recently chose not to seek re-election as MFT president and has accepted a position working for the Minnesota Nurses Association).



Greta Callahan

District 6

As a kindergarten teacher, Callahan began inviting local elected officials to come to her classroom to read to the kids — so those officials could gain some firsthand classroom experience.

In addition to Hornstein, one of her guest readers was Keith Ellison, now Minnesota's Attorney General. He also was on hand to speak to Callahan volunteers at the August doorknock. He told her, "every step of the way, whether it's the kids, whether it's the union, you've put your heart out there, every step of the way."

The Minneapolis Public Schools face the challenges of declining enrollment,

possible school closings, and a continuing racial achievement gap.

In Callahan's view, the district needs to do more to meet those challenges head-on and engage with families to plan to revive the Minneapolis schools.

"I want MPS to be a place where people *want* to send their kids," she said.

Right now, she said, the district is on a path to "managed decline" when instead it should be developing a plan for "purposeful rebuilding."

During the height of the pandemic, with little chance for public input, the district adopted a controversial Comprehensive District Design plan which led to new school boundaries — and sped up an exodus of families from the district.

"Those of us at the time said, 'this is dangerous,'" Callahan said, and predicted the now looming school closings.

"We need to have the political will to expand and enlarge the MPS system," Callahan said. "The district continues to talk about cuts and closing schools... Where is your plan to get those kids back? Where is your plan to stabilize the workforce? What are we doing to retain families?"

"Families want safety and stability,"

Callahan said. "These are things I've been shouting about for a long time... These are things I'm hearing at the doors."

"I'm not coming and saying, 'here is my plan,'" Callahan stressed. Rather, she's amplifying what she's hearing from families and school staff. "The only way to be successful is to co-create it with them," she said. "Nothing will be successful without total buy-in."

Callahan maintains that restoring the health of the school system is vital to the future health and safety of the city.

Callahan grew up in southwest Minneapolis, attending Burroughs elementary and Anthony middle school. She lives in District 6 and her son recently graduated from Southwest High.

Callahan's campaign seeks volunteers for doorknocks and phonebanks.

She urged *Labor Review* readers who live in District 6: "Get a lawn sign... Keep spreading the word about what a pro-labor candidate will do to enhance the Minneapolis Public Schools and make Minneapolis a better place."

Website:

gretacallahanforschoolboard.com

Melissa Hortman

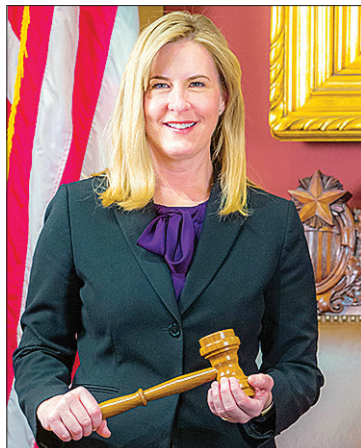
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Labor 2024: The Race for the White House

Race: Look at candidate records on issues, not just social media posts and sound bites

continued from page 1

Labor leaders are preparing for a blitz of campaigning in the weeks ahead. Phone banks, door knocks, letter-writing campaigns and election trainings will roll out after Labor Day.

The message: Harris has been an integral part of the Biden administration's staunch support for policies benefiting working Americans, bringing jobs to their communities and protecting labor rights. By contrast, the Trump administration record is of prioritizing big business and employers while rolling back worker protections, wages and rights to organize.

That message will need to cut through a barrage of political attacks and misinformation being thrown at union members on social media and certain conservative TV networks, labor leaders say. They also acknowledge that they need to break through Trump's tough guy image and cult of personality, which has been appealing to some members.

Look at candidate records on issues such as job creation, health care, wage protection and labor rights — what they did while in office — not just their social media posts and sound bites, they argue.

"When you see all that Joe Biden [and the Biden-Harris administration] has done for labor, but you vote for someone else anyway, what message does that send to other candidates?" asked Dan McConnell, president of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council.

"(It says) 'I don't even have to support labor, and I'll still get elected.'"

The Biden-Harris administration has delivered for the building trades on pension reform, massive investments in roads, bridges and infrastructure projects, manufacturing growth, and appointing a pro-worker NLRB (National Labor

Relations Board), "to name a few," said McConnell.

"All of these have been priorities for the trades for decades and have earned Biden the title of the most union-friendly president in our lifetime — if not all-time," he said.

Kamala Harris is expected to continue that legacy, supported by Walz, a longtime friend of Minnesota labor.

What's at stake

Harris has been piling up endorsements from national labor groups including the AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Service Employees International Union, and United Food and Commercial Workers. Unions representing carpenters, electricians, steelworkers, hospitality workers and many others also have pledged support.

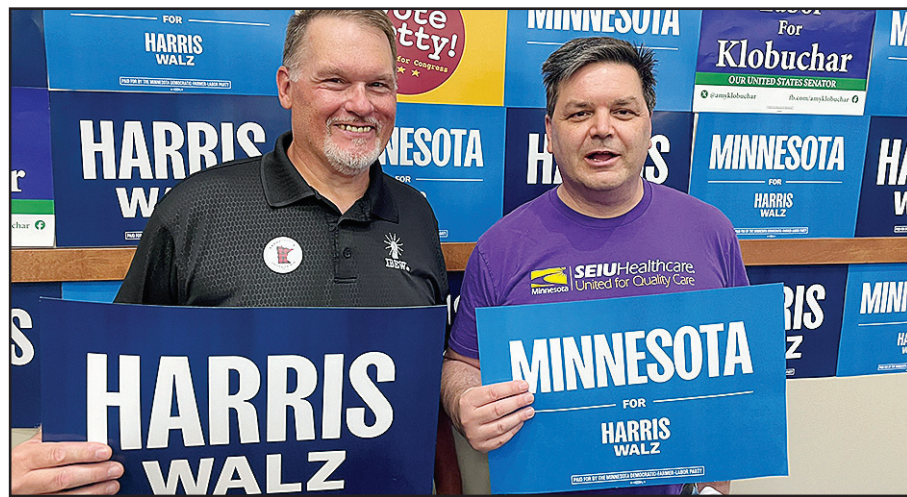
They're now working to translate that enthusiasm across the rank and file.

In 2020, Biden won the vote of union households 56 percent to Trump's 40 percent, according to exit polls. In 2016, Clinton outperformed Trump by a more narrow margin — 51 percent to 42 percent, polls showed.

In 2024, labor leaders hope to continue and grow that winning streak. Every profession, every trade, has a lot at stake.

Ternesha Burroughs, president of Education Minnesota-Osseo Local 1212, can't shake the memory of the U.S. Department of Education during the Trump Administration. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos continually proposed slashing the department's budget, even eliminating the entire department — an idea that Trump floated as recently as last year.

DeVos also fought to create a voucher system that would allow students to use public school funds to pay for private schools. Burroughs, a math teacher, de-



Jean Hopfensperger photo

The Carpenters union hall in St. Paul hosted a "watch party" August 6 for the first joint rally by running mates Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. Greg Hansen, IBEW Local 292 member (left), and Rick Varco, political director for SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa (right), held hot-off-the-press Harris-Walz signs.

scribed the plan as "defunding public education to pay for the rich people's private schools."

That's not to mention Trump's broader erosion of labor union rights, she said, such as policies to curb collective bargaining rights,

"It's enough to make any educator not support Trump," said Burroughs. "I tell members who [support the former president] — 'You're voting against your own self-interest.'"

For Carpenters union members, the protection of fair wages and benefits is a critical concern, said Richard Kolodzieski, government affairs director of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. Like Burroughs, he remembers the Trump record and the many setbacks for workers during the administration.

Trump, for example, has acknowledged he'd like to eliminate prevailing wage laws, he said. Those laws create a wage and benefit minimum for workers on government-financed construction

projects based on local market rates. They protect workers from wage exploitation and help ensure that workers can support their families, he said.

Trump also has said he supports a so-called federal Right to Work law, which would guarantee workers the right to not join their union and/or pay union dues. In states with such laws, it has resulted in lower worker wages, weakened unions and more leverage for employers.

Kolodzieski is particularly concerned about provisions in Project 2025, a policy blueprint for a next Trump administration, whose contributors include dozens of Trump's former advisors and aides. The project is a disaster for labor, he said.

Project 2025 would shrink overtime eligibility, let states opt out of federal overtime and minimum wage laws, ban unions for public employees — and more. Trump has recently tried to distance himself from the plan as it sparked growing controversy.


"These [proposals] are not just against

RACE page 13

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Labor 2024: The Race for the White House

Race: 'Harris a true partner in leading the most pro-Labor administration in history'

continued from page 12

labor, but against all workers," Kolodziecki said.

AFL-CIO report card

The AFL-CIO has issued its own statement regarding the records of Harris and Trump. Its Trump analysis also focuses on the anti-labor provisions of Project 2025.

Below are some of the reasons cited by the AFL-CIO for supporting the vice president, Harris:

■ Played a critical role in supporting Biden-administration programs to rebuild bridges, roads and transportation infrastructure, invest in good-paying union jobs, bring manufacturing back to America.

■ Cast a deciding Senate vote for the American Rescue Plan, which saved the pensions of more than one million workers and retirees. That includes 30,000 in Minnesota.

■ Led the administration's efforts to boost access to affordable child care and the child tax credit.

■ As a U.S. Senator, she fought to expand labor protections and fair wages for agricultural and domestic workers, and walked the picket line with the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) workers.

■ Consistently advocated for workers' rights to form or join a union, and to protect workers' rights.

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

"The AFL-CIO is proud of our early and steadfast support for the Biden-Harris administration," Shuler said, "and now we'll ratchet up our mass mobilization of union workers to elect Vice Presi-

"I tell members who [support the former president] – 'You're voting against your own self-interest.'"

—Ternesha Burroughs, president, Education Minnesota-Osseo

dent Harris as President."

Tight race ahead

But labor leaders are not taking this election for granted. Trump has been courting working class voters, especially those frustrated by higher gas and grocery prices, and general inflation. His messaging about certain social issues, immigration and culture wars also has resonated with a segment of union voters, they admit.

Harris, meanwhile, also will face challenges from voters not ready for a woman president, much less a woman of color president. Add on the constant distortions about her and Walz, now blasting across social media, and the scope of their battle to win the White House starts to become apparent.

Plus, many union members simply don't know much about Harris, who maintained a low public profile during much of Biden's administration. When



American Federation of Teachers photo

Ternesha Burroughs

she suddenly skyrocketed as top contender for the Democratic ticket in July, she was a relative unknown to most ordinary workers.

"People are a little confused, especially in rural areas," said Trevarious Pegg, of Carpenters Local 68. "They don't know what she stands for."

Pegg, Minneapolis, plans to vote for Harris.

But he is

among union members wanting to learn more, especially where she stands on issues that he sees on the job and in the community.

"I hope she really gets on the back of wage theft and [labor] human trafficking," said Pegg, a member of his union's political action team. "We've got a big problem."

His other concern is the fentanyl epidemic and making sure communities have resources to help people suffering through it.

Pegg is relatively new to political action, but is excited to get involved with the Harris-Walz campaign. For the first time, he's planning to do some door-knocking and phone-calling to get out the vote.

He's motivated by the issues, but also by the wild ride of this presidential race. In the past two months, Trump survived an assassination attempt, Biden dropped his candidacy, Harris almost immediately won her party's nomination, and Minnesota's own governor became her running mate.

"I think this election is going to be the most interesting ever," Pegg said.

For IBEW member Hansen, a DFL activist for decades, this year also is a first. The Maplewood electrician is heading to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, which runs August 19 to 22.

The first-time national delegate already has ordered his Harris t-shirt and nabbed some posters. He's also been asking about the seating chart at the convention hall.

Turns out the Minnesota delegates get a new improved section by virtue of their governor being on the ticket. Laughed Hansen: "We're getting a seating upgrade in Chicago."

Like other staunch Harris-Walz supporters, he hopes that the convention creates an even bigger blast of enthusiasm for the pro-labor candidates, and that the media exposure allows "the whole country will get to know them."

Said Hansen: "There's an energy out there that has just burst."

This story is part one of a three-part series reported for the Labor Review by Jean Hopfensperger, a retired member of the Minnesota Newspaper Guild who worked 35 years as a reporter at the Star Tribune.

To volunteer for a Labor 2024 door-knock or phone-bank, contact: volunteer@minneapolisunions.org

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City Employees Local 363 business manager A.J. Lange, third from left, spoke to the media August 1 outside the United Labor Centre to announce the result of the Minneapolis Park Board workers' contract vote.

Minneapolis Park Board workers ratify contract, minus employer's anti-union 'poison pill' proposals

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — After three weeks and a day on strike, Minneapolis Park Board workers reached a tentative agreement early in the morning of July 26. Planned picketing for later that day was called off.

The workers — members of LIUNA City Employees Local 363 — began their strike July 4.

They marched, picketed park sites daily, and packed Park Board meetings, culminating July 24 at the Park Board meeting when they refused to stand down at the end of a designated public comment time. The workers instead shut down that night's Park Board meeting as they voiced their concerns to Park Board commissioners and superintendent Al Bangoura.

Two days later, the tentative agreement was reached. July 31, the union organized a contract review meeting.

August 1, members voted and Local 363 announced early that evening that members had voted overwhelmingly to approve the tentative agreement.

Speaking to the media outside the United Labor Centre, Local 363 business manager A.J. Lange said, "I'm just really proud of all of our members, the bargaining committee, all the work that was put in, the sacrifices. We made our voices heard."

Lange said the new contract provides a 10.25 percent Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment over three years, plus a \$1.75 per hour market adjustment.

By 2026, wages will increase by \$5.42 per hour or \$11,302 per year on average.

"It's going to make a significant impact on people's lives," Lange said.

Overall, the new agreement will put \$2 million more in the pockets of the 300 Minneapolis park workers.

For seasonal workers, the new agreement doubles the paid time off and offers better guarantees for fulltime employment when vacancies occur.

"We didn't get everything we wanted," Lange said.

But, notably, the new contract dropped several anti-union proposals which the union had labeled as union-busting "poison bills."

The final agreement maintains full union rights for all seasonal workers, which management sought to cut.

The final agreement dropped both management's proposed restrictions on the number of stewards and proposed restrictions on stewards' access to workers.

The final agreement also dropped management's proposal to make step increases subject to management's discretion.

"It really was the members who stepped-up... and demanded these severe anti-worker concessions that were being demanded be dropped," Lange said.

"We were able to get a much fairer offer from the Park Board and that's why people showed up to vote in favor of it," Lange said.

Lange said shutting down the July 24 Park Board meeting became a turning point.

"We had been going to Park Board meetings for months before the strike even started," he noted. "We're not looking to disrupt their regular business."

"But it was clear they weren't up to the task of dealing with this. It was impacting not just workers, but the entire city. It became necessary at that point to demand to be heard at the meeting."

Lange said the action at the July 24 Park Board meeting "definitely translated [to changes] at the bargaining table. The tone changed. They seemed more willing to move on the language items."

In a later statement, Lange put the Local 363 strike — the local's first-ever strike at the Minneapolis Park Board — in a broader context:

"This contract fight is only part of our shared struggle for dignity and justice for the working class. Together, we'll build on this momentum to create stronger, more equitable workplaces for fellow working people."

"To everyone who supported us—joining picket lines, contacting commissioners, signing our petition, and donating to our hardship fund — your solidarity made a crucial difference. This victory belongs to all who stood with us."

"I was just blown away by all the solidarity from the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation and all of organized labor," Lange said, reporting on the strike's conclusion at the August 14 MRLF delegate meeting. "Your efforts really were super impactful and meaningful."

He added: "That's what this organization is for."

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Be safe this Labor Day!

IBEW
Local 160
ibew160.org

Primary: Stewart, Hiltley, Gamache advance

continued from page 1

“She is a powerful progressive leader across the nation,” Smith said of Omar. “She calls us to do better and be better.”

Senate District 45:

Ann Johnson Stewart

The only Minnesota Senate seat on the ballot this year will be for Senate District 45, where a special election will fill a vacancy. Former State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart won the Senate District 45 DFL primary contest with nearly 59 percent of the vote. Senate District 45 includes communities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. The outcome of the November 5 election will determine which party has a majority in the Minnesota Senate, so the race will

be hotly contested (see more, page 10).

House District 38A:

Huldah Hiltley

AFL-CIO endorsed Huldah Hiltley narrowly won the DFL primary for Minnesota House District 38A, defeating Wynfred Russell by 1,005-955 — a margin of 50 votes. Incumbent Representative Mike Nelson is retiring. District 38A includes parts of Brooklyn Park and Osseo

Anoka County Board District 5:

Mike Gamache

Incumbent Mike Gamache ran first in a three-way non-partisan primary, winning 42 percent of the vote. The top two vote-getters now advance to the November 5 general election. District 5 includes Andover, Coon Rapids and Oak Grove.

Endorsed: Three union members run for office

continued from page 2

Anoka County Commissioner:

Betsy O’Berry, District 1

In a three-candidate primary August 13, Betsy O’Berry ran a strong second. She’s now advancing to the November 5 election with the AFL-CIO endorsement. The District 1 election is a special election to fill a vacancy. District 1 includes all or part of Anoka, Ramsey, Nowthen and St. Francis.

O’Berry also has been endorsed by AFSCME Council 5 and by former Anoka County Commissioners Dennis Berg and Natalie Haas Steffen.

O’Berry is an accountant by profession.

Website: www.betsyo.org.

Columbia Heights Mayor:

Amáda Márquez Simula

Incumbent Amáda Márquez Simula is running for a third term as Columbia Heights Mayor with the AFL-CIO endorsement. When Simula won election in 2020, she became the city’s first non-white elected official. Prior to taking office, Simula had a long record of community involvement as a community organizer.

Website: www.voteamada.com.

Columbia Heights City Council:

Laurel Deneen, At Large

In running for city council, Laurel Deneen will bring her experience as a two-year member of the Columbia Heights Planning Commission. She recently began working as a contract manager for the Metropolitan Airports Commission and previously worked for nine years for the Metropolitan Council as principal contract administrator for light rail projects.

Website: laurelforheights.com.

Coon Rapids City Council

Peter Butler, Ward 2

Currently a member of the Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission, Peter

Butler is seeking the open Ward 2 City Council seat. The incumbent, Kari Rehauer, is running for Minnesota House and has endorsed Butler.

Butler works as a budget director for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where he is a two-year member of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees Local 2101.

Website: www.peterforcitycouncil.com.

Coon Rapids City Council

Christopher Geisler, Ward 4

A member of the Coon Rapids Planning Commission since 2019, life-long Coon Rapids resident and civic activist Christopher Geisler is running for City Council. Since 2017, Geisler also has served as a member of the Metropolitan Council’s Transportation Advisory Board.

Geisler is the son of incumbent Jennifer Geisler, who is retiring and not seeking re-election.

Website: votegeisler.com.

Columbus City Council:

Rob Busch, At Large

Incumbent Columbus City Council member Rob Busch is seeking re-election for a second four-year term. Busch is a 19-year member of Carpenters Local 322 a Local 322 business representative for nine years. He is a fourth-generation union carpenter.

Search Facebook for “Busch for Columbus.”

Fridley City Council:

Patrick Vescio, At Large

Patrick Vescio is running for an open seat for Fridley City Council, At Large. Vescio grew up in Fridley. He is a six-year member of City Employees Local 363 and union steward for the past two years. He previously worked for the City of Fridley and currently works for the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.

Website: https://sites.google.com/view/pv4fcc/home.

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www.local563.org

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Minneapolis City Council
Ward 3

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rainvilleward3.org

Prepared and paid for by Rainville Volunteer Committee,
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working families a safe and

Happy Labor Day

From the officers, executive board and members of

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Printing, Packaging & Production Workers Union

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Bill Wedebrand, Secretary-Treasurer
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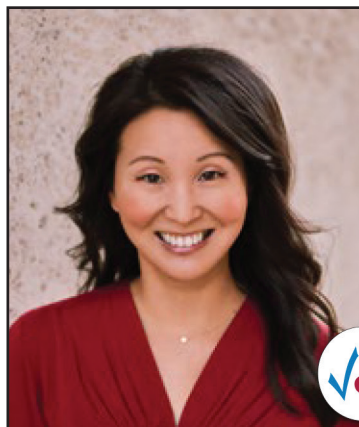
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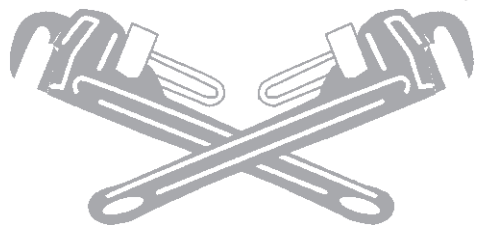


Minneapolis Area Local

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO

Office: 1234 4TH ST., N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55413

*To Our Members and Friends
We Extend Best Wishes
for A Great Labor Day*



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www.pipefitters539.com

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— 2024 —



**Members: Local #10's
Annual Picnic / Booya
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Labor Day Greetings

September 2, 2024



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for Minneapolis School Board, District 6



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LABOR DAY GREETINGS

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To Our Members & Union Friends



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Local Union News

AFSCME Local 34:

Public outcry scuttles proposed 49 percent pay increase for Hennepin County Commissioners

Hennepin County Commissioners August 6 withdrew a proposed 49 percent increase for their own salaries in the wake of a public outcry by community members and Hennepin County employees.

“They had so much blow-back from the community, from just everyday people, from employees — that was a lot all at once,” said Grace Baltich, president of AFSCME Local 34, which represents Hennepin County social services workers. “No employee has ever gotten a 50 percent pay raise all at once...”

The board trimmed its proposed pay increase to 5 percent per year for the next two years.

The proposed 49 percent pay hike came at the same time that the County has offered AFSCME members a new three-year contract with wage increases of 1.0 percent, 0.5 percent, and 0.5 percent.

The union has proposed 20 percent, 8 percent, 8 percent.

“We have been so short-staffed and overworked,” Baltich said. “We’d like to attract and retain staff.”

Baltich noted that the Hennepin County Board approved a 20 percent pay

hike in March 2024 for county administrator David Hough — retroactive to January 1. The vote was unanimous. “Our request is if David got 20 percent, give us 20 percent,” Baltich said.

Negotiations began in July for AFSCME’s Hennepin County contracts, which expire at the end of December.

The current AFSCME contracts provided wage increases of 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent — less than the rate of inflation.

APWU Minneapolis Area Local: President Peggy Whitney retires

Friday, September 6 is the retirement date for Peggy Whitney, president of the Minneapolis Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union.

That afternoon the APWU local will host a reception for Whitney from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at its office at 1234 4th St. NE in Minneapolis.

Whitney joined the Minneapolis APWU local in 1996 when she began working at the downtown Minneapolis post office as an overnight mail sorting clerk. She became a steward two years later and went on to serve 36 years in union leadership, including positions as business agent, executive vice president and president.

Whitney recently served as the rank and file chair for the APWU’s national negotiating committee for the current 2021-2024 contract.

IBEW Local 160:

Second annual ‘Pig Out’ planned September 26

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 160 will host its second annual fall “Pig Out” for members Thursday, September 26.

The event will offer food trucks and camaraderie from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. outside the IBEW Local 160 union hall, 13220 Co. Rd. 6 in Plymouth.

IBEW Local 292:

Members get better offer, ratify statewide Limited Energy Agreement

Members of five IBEW locals who work under the statewide Limited Energy Agreement voted August 16 to ratify a new three-year agreement.

Earlier this summer, IBEW’s statewide Limited Energy membership twice voted down the employers’ contract offers, with 97.5 percent voting June 26 to reject the first proposed contract (*Labor Review, July 27, 2024*) and members again voting down a second proposal August 2.

“The members showed amazing solidarity,” reported Local 292 business manager Jeff Heimerl. “They gave us the strength to go back to the table.”

“They took a chance on being out on the line and losing pay,” Heimerl noted. “They just said, ‘this is time. It’s our time to get a decent contract.’”

The newly-approved agreement — approved by a 90 percent margin — provides annual wage increases of 7 percent each year for three years plus five additional days of paid vacation yearly.

In addition, Heimerl noted, “we got full retro pay to the expiration of the contract, which was July 1.”

While the contract provides positive language changes, “we did give up an Earned Sick and Safe Time waiver,” Heimerl said.

To the Limited Energy members, Heimerl said: “You’ve done an awesome job... When you’re united, you can get good agreements.”

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.

Machinists Local Lodges 459 and 737: Members reject three Met Council contract proposals, win gains in fourth

Members of the Machinists union who work for the Metropolitan Council’s nine waste water treatment facilities have won a new contract — after first authorizing a strike for the very first time and voting down three unacceptable contract proposals.

“The first vote we took it was unani-

LOCAL UNION NEWS page 22

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: Monthly meeting coming September 19

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, September 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 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 is available at 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. The ramp recently moved to a new payment method, so contact Graeme Allen for more information about parking reimbursement.

To request the Zoom link for the September 19 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:

Next meeting September 26

Carpenters Retirees will meet Thursday, September 26 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 September 10

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” — will meet Tuesday, September 10 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.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Enjoy “Learning, Linking & Lunch” September 24

Retired Minneapolis Educators’ 2024-2025 calendar begins in September with monthly “Learning, Linking & Lunch” meetings. We meet from 10 am to 12 noon and then have lunch.

New 2024 retirees are invited to join us Tuesday, September 24 for a FREE LUNCH at the MFT office, 67- 8th Ave. NE across from Boom Island Park. Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna Witt will be our featured speaker.

Mark these Tuesdays on your calendar to join us for “Learning, Linking, and Lunch” meeting dates: September 24, October 22, December 3.

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

Minnesota Nurses Association Retirees:

CARn will meet September 11

The Council of Active Retired Nurses (CARn) will meet Wednesday, August 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Min-

nesota Nurses Association, 345 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

CARn meets the second Wednesday of the month. Future meeting dates for 2024 include: 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 Tinnars’ meetings resume September 10

After a summer break, meetings for the Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinnars” retirees club will resume Tuesday, September 10 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. A pot luck salad lunch begins at 12 noon followed by the meeting at 1:00 p.m. If available, one of our business agents and/or someone from the 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.

Workers at all four Café Ceres locations vote to unionize with UNITE HERE Local 17



MINNEAPOLIS — A majority of Café Ceres baristas voted ‘yes’ in a union election August 3, winning representation with UNITE HERE Local 17. About 30 baristas work at the four Café Ceres locations across Minneapolis. In June, a super-majority called on the employer to respect their decision, voluntarily recognize their union, and negotiate a contract. Baristas say they deserve better on issues from respect and stability to pay and benefits. Café Ceres baristas voted 88 percent in favor of unionizing, despite a persistent anti-union campaign by the employer. “I feel really proud today,” said Mariam Karkache, Café Ceres lead barista. “For too long my work has been dismissed as unskilled, and baristas like me disrespected and undervalued. But I’ve found the path to get the dignity and stable career I’ve always deserved — and that’s through a union.”

continued from page 21

mously rejected. They took a strike vote at that time,” said Andrew Peltier, chief negotiator for the Machinists Local Lodge 459 and Local Lodge 737, and the directing business representative for Machinists District Lodge 77.

Together, the two local lodges represent 55 machinists and mechanics across the nine waste water treatment facilities.

“The members stayed strong on all their votes,” Peltier said, fueled in part by “pent-up” frustration with the previous three contracts. Plus, he said, “there was just a total disconnection” by management “from what our actual people did.”

Some proposals — like a \$100 budget for a retirement party for someone retiring after 20 years — were received as a “slap on the face.”

“We were able to mobilize the members with their solidarity to echo what was being said in the shop at the bargaining table,” he said.

“Ultimately, we ended up getting a pretty decent deal,” Peltier said. “What we got is well-deserved and well fought for.”

The members voted to reject contract offers May 28, July 22, and August 6. August 12 they voted “nearly unanimously” to approve a revised offer.

Under the new agreement, Peltier reported, “members have the ability to get up to over 20.5 percent [in pay increases] over the life of the [three-year] contract.”

OPEIU Local 12:

HealthPartners members invited to join Contract Action Team

In preparation for HealthPartners contract negotiations which begin this fall, OPEIU Local 12 is inviting members to join weekly Contract Action Team meetings. The meetings take place via Zoom every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OPEIU Local 12 represents just over 1,000 members who work at HealthPartners.

Bargaining begins September 10.

“We’ll be fighting for fair wages and maintaining healthcare,” among other issues, said Kelsie Morgan, Local 12’s lead negotiator.

For more information, including a newsletter with updates and a link to register for the Contract Action Team meetings, members can visit www.opeiu12.org.

SEIU Healthcare:

Members at Rainbow Health face hardship after clinic’s sudden closing

About 60 union members who worked at Rainbow Health suddenly lost their jobs when the Minneapolis-based clinic abruptly closed in mid-July with only a one-day notice to employees.

The workers, who are represented by SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa, had contract language requiring a 30-day notice for any layoffs.

The clinic announced its sudden closing effective July 19 and posted a statement on its website citing unsustainable “financial challenges.”

“We are shocked, saddened and angered by this news, both as staff dedicated to Rainbow Health’s mission and even more so for our clients and community,” the Rainbow Health Workers Coordinating Committee said in a statement.

Workers and their union filed a request for bargaining immediately after the news came out July 18. The two sides had met twice before another session was canceled.

Workers at Rainbow Health voted overwhelmingly in March 2022 to join SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa (*Labor Review*, April 23, 2022).

The union and Rainbow reached agreement on a first contract about 14 months later.

Earlier in July 2024, two-thirds of the SEIU members at Rainbow voted “100 percent no confidence” in Rainbow’s CEO, who resigned shortly thereafter.

Rainbow Health was an AIDS service organization working in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota to assist Minnesotans living with HIV.

The nonprofit filed dissolution papers with the Minnesota Attorney General’s office in August, listing \$900,000 in liabilities.

Teamsters Local 120:

Sun Country flight attendants vote to authorize strike

Voting August 1-15, 558 flight attendants at Sun Country Airlines represented by Teamsters Local 120 in Minneapolis voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike.

Last year, Sun Country Airlines exceeded \$1 billion in revenue for the first time. In the first quarter of this year, they reported greater revenue than ever before. The flight attendants haven’t had a wage adjustment since 2016, the union reported, and their collective bargaining agreement became fully amendable on December 31, 2019. Their current pay scale puts them far behind their colleagues at similar carriers.

“We voted to strike for one simple reason — Sun Country is dragging out the negotiation process and we are fed up. We are fighting for the contract we deserve,” said Tanya DeVito, a flight attendant and member of the Sun Country Teamsters Local 120 bargaining committee. “99 percent of those eligible to vote have authorized a strike. That is not a number that Sun Country can or should ignore. We expect a solid economic package to be brought to us at September’s mediation session, or we will take this to the next level.”

Mediation sessions are scheduled for September 10-12 in Washington, D.C. with additional dates in October and December.

Sources: *Labor Review* reporting and local unions. Next deadline: September 4.

Attorney General ★★★★★

Keith Ellison

★ Everybody Counts, Everybody Matters. ★

Join us for Keith’s Annual BBQ Honoring Labor

Sunday, September 1 | Minnehaha Regional Park
12 noon – 2:00 p.m. | Wabun Picnic Shelter D
4655 46th Ave. So., Minneapolis

RSVP to rsvp@keithellison.org

Paid for by the Keith Ellison for Attorney General Committee, PO Box 17224, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your July-December 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.

Heat’s On: September 21

Heat’s On will be held on September 21, 2024. Information was sent out to the members.

Annual Retiree Luncheon: October 8

The Annual Retiree Luncheon will be held on October 8, 2024. More information will be sent out to our retired members.

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Werner Panning.

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



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From AFSCME Local 34
Hennepin County Social Services and Related

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IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

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Brotherhood

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

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

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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 Gregory G. Wadin; Brother Steven J. Berdahl; Brother Lee C. Mix; Brother David P. Wambeke; Brother Dale V. Digiovanni; Brother Harvey O. Dahl; Brother Thomas H. Larson; Brother Thomas F. Lynch; Brother Randy A. McNair.

Minneapolis Labor Review 2024 Publication Schedule

September 21

Deadline: September 4

November 16

Deadline: October 30
Holiday Shopping Guide

October 19

Deadline: October 2
General Election Issue

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**

YELLOW RIBBON RIBFEST



**RibFest 2024 is Coming Sept 21.
Become a Sponsor or Career Fair Participant!**

Career Fair: Noon - 2 PM

- 30+ hiring companies and Registered Apprenticeship Programs

RibFest: 2-5:30 PM

- Rib competition
- Flyovers, live music, kids' activities and more



YellowRibbonRibfest.org



Funds raised benefit military, veterans & families.

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MINNESOTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE UNION



WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!

Photo: LIUNA Local 363 members and allies marched for justice in July during Minneapolis Park Board workers' three-week strike. Through solidarity and sacrifice, workers prevailed, securing better wages and improved contract language and proving that our collective strength is more powerful than fear tactics and intimidation.

WE DO THE WORK.

Our sweat, skills, and unity build thriving families and powerful communities.

HAPPY LABOR DAY TO ALL.

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HAPPY LABOR DAY

to the courageous nurses and other workers who stand in solidarity against corporate power, to demand better for working people, our families, and our patients and communities.



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