

# Minneapolis Labor Review

117th Year No. 6 November 16, 2024 www.minneapolisunions.org Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

## Labor braces for impact of Trump's return to White House Republican 'trifecta' will bring control of Presidency, U.S. Senate and U.S House

By Steve Share,  
Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — The November 5, 2024 election will be remembered for sending a shock wave across the nation.

Former President Donald J. Trump won both a majority of electoral college votes and likely a majority of the popular vote — despite his felony convictions and pending felony charges, despite his continuing to deny that he lost the 2020 election, and despite the unforgettable images of the violent mob he sent to the U.S. Capitol January 6, 2021 in an attempt to block the peaceful transfer of power.

Political leaders, labor leaders, and, of course, the pundits all are weighing in on why the Republican ticket of Trump and running mate Senator J.D. Vance succeeded in defeating the Dem-

ocratic ticket of Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

The AFL-CIO and a long list of unions endorsed the Harris-Walz ticket.

In exit polls reported by CNN, 81 percent of Trump supporters said their family's financial situation was worse now than four years ago.

By contrast, the same exit polls reported that 82 percent of Harris supporters said their family's financial situation was better now than four years ago.

The exit poll reported by CNN said 53 percent of Harris supporters lived in a union household while 45 percent of Trump supporters lived in a union household.

Many observers are reporting that an increasing number of voters without college degrees



Labor Review photo

Labor union volunteers turned-out November 4 for a "Midnight Madness" rally at the United Labor Centre, followed by a lit drop.

have shifted away from the Democratic Party and instead now are supporting Republican Party candidates.

Jimmy Williams, Jr., general president of the International Union of Painters and Allied

Trades, won attention for his post-election comment: "the Democratic Party has continued to fail to prioritize a strong, working class message that addressed issues that really matter to workers. The party did not

make a positive case for why workers should vote for them, only that they were not Donald Trump."

Williams added, "working people deserve a party that understands what's at stake, and that puts their issues front and center when campaigning and governing. A potential Republican trifecta, along with Project 2025, will be catastrophic for unions, including my own. But if the Democrats want to win, they need to get serious about being a party by and for the working class."

Indeed, the Republican trifecta which Williams feared is now at hand. In addition to flipping the U.S. Senate to Republican control by election night, news media reported late on November 13 that the Republicans **ELECTION page 4**



Council Member Aisha Chughtai, lead author of the Labor Standards Board resolution, spoke at a November 8 news conference.

## Minneapolis City Council votes 9-3 to support Labor Standards Board

MINNEAPOLIS — With a vote of 9-3, the Minneapolis City Council November 14 adopted a resolution to create a Labor Standards Board to bring local workers and employers together to discuss and recommend policies concerning wag-

es, working conditions and job safety, among other issues.

The Council's vote capped a two-year grassroots organizing drive by local unions and community groups who support the concept.

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## National Labor Relations Board bans 'captive audience' meetings

WASHINGTON — In a landmark decision announced November 13, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that mandatory "captive audience" meetings convened by employers to espouse anti-union views and thwart union organizing drives are unlawful under the National Labor Relations Act.

"Ensuring that workers can make a truly free choice about whether they want union representation is one of the funda-

mental goals of the National Labor Relations Act," said NLRB chair Lauren McFerran. "Captive audience meetings—which give employers near-unfettered freedom to force their message about unionization on workers under threat of discipline or discharge—undermine this important goal."

The ruling, however, could be overturned once the incoming Trump administration moves to change NLRB members and staff.

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# Our work to expand workplace rights transcends national elections

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Today's labor movement is seeing its highest level of public support in modern history. And here at the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, we feel that energy to our very core. We see it in the eyes of every striking worker we have supported over the past several years. We see it in every worker that shares their story of resilience on the job site.

And we saw it in every energetic volunteer who came through our doors leading up to election night.

This is why, despite the national election results, we know that our local labor movement is still in good hands — because workers still believe in themselves. Our work to expand workplace rights transcends national elections.

It is a not-so-distant memory when national forces placed the *Janus* U.S. Supreme Court decision upon us, stripping many rights from our public sector workers. It was an attempt to weaken a critical sector of our labor movement from the inside out in order to weaken all of labor.

But our public sector union workers stood tall and the rest of labor stood in solidarity with them. And, despite the odds, they came out of that hit stronger than before and more resolute in their support for their unions.

We already know labor laws are stacked against us, yet we continue to

press forward with purpose in our work.

And we know the playbook of the incoming administration in Washington. It is not going to be an easy one to handle and it is going to have far-reaching effects on working families for generations to come.

But, at the end of the day, we get to decide the playing field for workers, not national forces bent on destroying worker voices.

Our organizing work will continue with purpose and we will do it with grace for our colleagues, co-workers and co-conspirators because so much of our community needs us now more than ever.

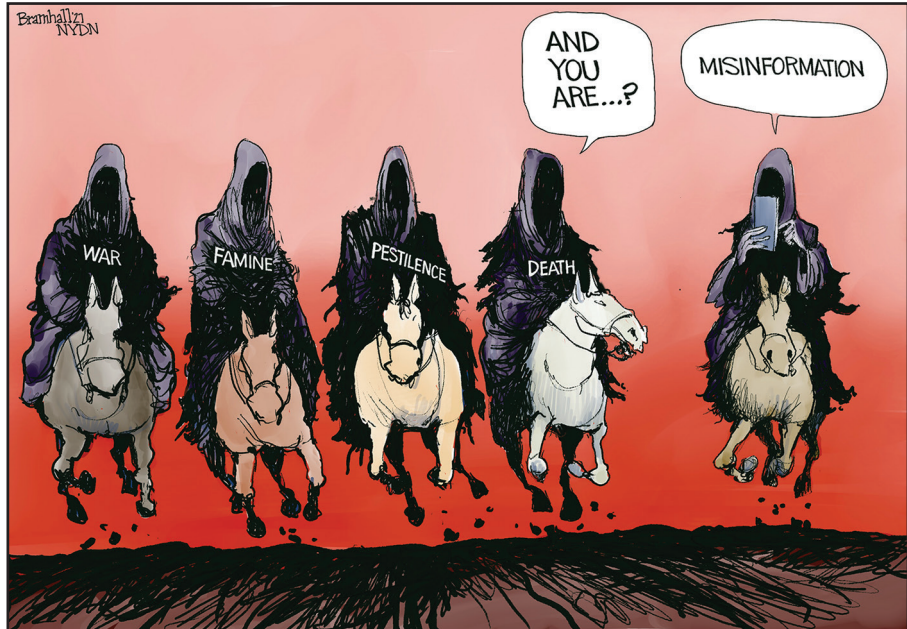


**Despite the national election results, we know that our local labor movement is still in good hands — because workers still believe in themselves.**

Labor will continue to be the trusted institution beyond politics. We will be the heartbeat for workers — whether they are in a union or not — as we collectively face the complex challenges that lie ahead.

We can still feel that national pull towards workers' rights — even if it might not always feel like it.

So let's all take a deep breath, then pull on our boots or lace up our running shoes, and go back to what we do best: work hard, listen to each other's concerns, build solidarity in our workplaces and among our unions, and organize coalitions in our communities to advance an agenda to defend and expand the rights of all workers and benefit working families. I encourage *you* to find your place in this important work.



Credit: 2021 Bill Bramhall/NYDN/TCA

## Labor Review wins three labor media awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The *Minneapolis Labor Review* recently won three awards in the annual labor media contest sponsored by the International Labor Communications Association. The ILCA awards, announced October 28, 2024, recognize work published in 2023.

The *Labor Review* awards included:

- First place for “Best Labor History Story;”
- First place for “Best Op-Ed, Editorial or Column;”
- Honorable mention for “Best Photo Essay or Gallery.”

The annual ILCA labor media contest draws thousands of entries.

The *Labor Review* is edited by Steve Share and is published by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

For these awards, the *Labor Review* competed in a group with other local, state, and regional labor organizations.

**First Place: Best Labor History Story**  
The *Labor Review* won first place for “Best Labor History Story” for “New musical tells story of Foshay Tower builder Wilbur Foshay and his support for union labor.” This story by *Labor Review* editor Steve Share was in part a theater review and in part a telling of the local labor movement's support for Wilbur Foshay, who used union labor to build and complete the iconic Foshay

Tower in 1929 at a time when the anti-union Citizens Alliance dominated Minneapolis. The story draws on the *Labor Review* online archive for quotes and images.

This story was published online-only July 26, 2023 on minneapolisunions.org and did not appear in the print version of the *Labor Review*.

**First Place: Best Op-Ed, Editorial or Column**  
The *Labor Review* won first place for “Best Op-Ed, Editorial or Column” for a column by MRLF president Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, “Take action to help pass legislation for paid family and medical leave,” published in the March 25, 2023 issue of the *Labor Review*.

**Honorable Mention: Best Photo Essay or Gallery**  
The *Labor Review* won honorable mention for “Best Photo Essay or Gallery” for photos by Steve Share which documented an action by CTUL's Building Dignity and Respect campaign. The five photos accompanied a story he wrote which was headlined, “CTUL campaigns for protections for non-union construction workers,” published in the September 23, 2023 issue of the *Labor Review*.

Visit minneapolisunions.org for links to the *Labor Review* award-winners. For more information about ILCA, visit laborcommunicators.org.

## '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 11.

### Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

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# Events

## November 30, December 1: MN Orchestra performs score of 'Back to the Future'

MINNEAPOLIS — For a holiday season treat, experience the thrill of the classic 1985 film “Back to the Future” on a big high-def screen with the Minnesota Orchestra performing Alan Silvestri’s dazzling musical score live.

Performances will include: Saturday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.

The members of the Minnesota Or-

chestra are members of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73.

For these performances, the Orchestra advises, “you can cheer for your favorite moments (and boo your least favorite characters) as you and the audience enjoy this truly unique and collective experience together.”

Visit [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org) for tickets and additional information.

## December 15: Explore Minnesota labor history at Mill City Museum with an indoor tour

MINNEAPOLIS — Join a Mill City Museum tour guide Sunday, December 15 for a “Minnesota Labor History Tour.”

The tour runs from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Mill City Museum, 704 South 2nd St. in Minneapolis.

The tour will tell of the actions taken by workers and activists to improve the lives of working people, including those in the milling industry and in related industries throughout the city.

Tour guests will also gain insight into how labor was divided across lines of race, class, and gender and the role of organized labor today.

Among the stories highlighted will be the 1903 and 1917 flour milling strikes, the Teamsters strikes of 1934 and the anti-union Citizens Alliance, and the life and career of Nellie Stone Johnson, a union organizer and the first African American elected to citywide office in Minneapolis.

The tour cost is \$25, with a 25 percent discount for Minnesota Historical Society members.

Visit [www.mnhs.org/events/2877](http://www.mnhs.org/events/2877) for more information or to register for the tour.

## 'Fare For All' offers December 'Holiday Pack' for \$35, including ham, apple pie, and more

MINNEAPOLIS — For all shoppers who are interested in grocery savings, a special December “Holiday Pack” for a festive meal is available for \$35 from Fare For All. The “Holiday Pack” will include: a 7-9 pound ham; 12 ounces of shrimp; 16 ounces of Homestyle meatballs; 1 pound of local pork breakfast sausage; 1.5 pounds of turkey tenderloin, 12 ounces of corn, and a 24-ounce apple pie.

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 coming schedule for Fare

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

■ **Anoka, Thursday, December 12, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursday, December 12, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Friday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesday, December 10, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ **Chaska, Thursday, December 19, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Friday, December 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Friday, December 20, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursday, December 5, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**, Oak Heights  
**FARE FOR ALL pack 4**

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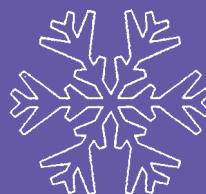
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## Minneapolis Labor Review 2024 Holiday Issue



Publication Date: December 14

Deadline: November 27

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# Election: AFL-CIO president says 'Labor's task will be to defend working people'

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had maintained their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trump and the Republican Congress now will enjoy the power to enact the agenda recommended by the Project 2025 policy blueprint prepared by Trump loyalists.

Trump may have courted working class votes during the campaign, but expect him and his billionaire buddies like Elon Musk to pursue tax policies that favor the rich and to roll back regulations that protect worker rights and worker safety, and to slash social programs that benefit the common good.

AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler commented, "now we are faced with the reality of a second Donald Trump term. The

Project 2025 agenda promises to dismantle labor unions because we are a pillar of democracy and a check on power."

"We've seen assaults on our fundamental rights before," Shuler said. "In the days, months, and years ahead, labor's task will be to defend working people," she said defiantly.

Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bernie Burnham issued a statement echoing Shuler and saying, "elected leaders come and go, but the labor movement endures in Minnesota, across the country, and around the globe."

Burnham noted that the labor movement's work in Minnesota produced positive election results: "Over the course of more than nine weeks, hundreds of union volunteers had tens of thousands of conversations with their fellow members at

work, online, on the phones, and in neighborhoods across Minnesota. Thanks to their hard work, union members helped Minnesota buck the national trend to deliver statewide victories for labor-endorsed Kamala Harris, Tim Walz, and Amy Klobuchar, a decisive victory for Angie Craig in the Second Congressional district, preserved the working families majority in the Minnesota Senate, and (pending recount) stopped an anti-worker takeover of the Minnesota House." (See state and local election reporting, pages 6-7).

The national outlook, however, is dire.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders minced no words: "Today, while the very rich are doing phenomenally well, 60 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck and we have more income and

wealth inequality than ever before. Unbelievably, real, inflation-accounted-for weekly wages for the average American worker are actually lower now than they were 50 years ago."

Sanders asked: "Will the big money interests and well-paid consultants who control the Democratic Party learn any real lessons from this disastrous campaign? Will they understand the pain and political alienation that tens of millions of Americans are experiencing? Do they have any ideas as to how we can take on the increasingly powerful Oligarchy which has so much economic and political power? ...In the coming weeks and months those of us concerned about grassroots democracy and economic justice need to have some very serious political discussions."

## Holiday Shopping & Entertainment Guide





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## Minneapolis

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"This board is about working class people having a seat at the table," said the measure's lead author, Ward 10 City Council Member Aisha Chughtai, speaking at a November 8 news conference in advance of the vote. Chughtai emphasized that a Labor Standards Board would be "simply an advisory body to the Council."

Food service worker and CTUL member Maria Palacios commented, "I'm excited people like me will have a voice... so we can be part of the decisions and making them when they affect us... The Labor Standards Board is the hope for a better future."

Council Members who voted against the measure included: Michael Rainville, Ward 3; LaTrisha Vetaw, Ward 4; Linea Palmisano, Ward 13. Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley was absent for the vote.

## Fare for All

continued from page 3

Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

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

■ **New Hope, Wednesday, December 11 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Tuesday, November 26, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St. (no December date at this location).

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, December 17, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, December 11, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

See [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org) for more information and dates for all 30-plus locations.

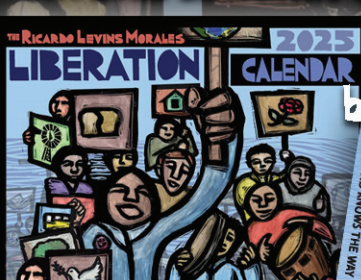
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# Rally at Carpenters union hall kicked-off final Get-Out-The-Vote effort

SAINT PAUL — Some 200-plus people gathered early on Saturday, November 2 outside the St. Paul union hall of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters for a Get-Out-The-Vote labor rally with labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed candidates.

Speakers included Minnesota AFL-CIO president Burnham, who noted that the “trifecta” elected two years ago in Minnesota — a DFL governor with a pro-labor majority in both the Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate — broke a logjam in state governance. “Big ideas... became a reality.”

Visit [minneapolisunions.org](http://minneapolisunions.org) for the full story and [facebook.com/minneapolisunions](https://facebook.com/minneapolisunions) for more photos.



Pat Nilsen, executive secretary-treasurer of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters: “Today is about freedom.”



Bernie Burnham, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO: “Big ideas... became a reality” with the DFL trifecta in the state.



The rally drew some 200-plus union members and other volunteers, some with children in tow.



Left to right: Ann Johnson Stewart, candidate for Minnesota Senate District 45, Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy.



Carpenters union members posed for a photo after the rally before heading out to knock on doors.

## STUFFED with TURKEY and GRATITUDE!

As we dive into a day full of turkey, stuffing, and all the fixings, we want to express how thankful we are for YOU, our incredible members.

We will be closed on November 28th to enjoy the holiday but we'll be back on November 29th, ready to serve, just a little fuller than before.

Wishing you a holiday packed with love, laughs, and all the pie you can handle!

Happy Thanksgiving



Building Trades Credit Union



## Labor-endorsed Klobuchar, Craig, Morrison, Omar post wins for Congress

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

SAINT PAUL — As election night progressed November 5, the crowd including labor union members at the DFL Party's headquarters at the Intercontinental Hotel celebrated wins for labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and U.S. House of Representatives candidates Angie Craig, Kelly Morrison, Betty McCollum and Ilhan Omar.

(But, as the night wore on, the mood became more subdued as the prospects receded for a win by the AFL-CIO endorsed Harris-Walz Democratic presidential ticket).

Klobuchar took to the podium shortly before 11:00 p.m., celebrating her re-election for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate.

She won 56.2 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Royce White by 1,789,118–1,289,030, just over one-half million votes.

Klobuchar increased her total vote total from six years ago by more than 200,000 votes.

"I will always stand my ground while seeking common ground," Klobuchar told the crowd.

Through 2023, Klobuchar has earned a lifetime voting score of 96 per cent from the national AFL-CIO on working families issues for her U.S. Senate votes.

She emphasized several key issues in her victory speech and declared, "we need



Labor Review photo

*Kelly Morrison addressed the DFL election night gathering after she scored a win in the race for the Third Congressional District, earning 58 percent of the vote.*

to protect our union members right to organize."

### Second District:

#### Angie Craig wins fourth term

Second District U.S. Representative Angie Craig, who did not speak at the DFL election night gathering, won re-election to a fourth term with 55.53 per cent of the vote, defeating Republican Joe Teirab by a vote of 231,750–175,620.

While Craig's Second District is con-

sidered one of the top battleground districts in the country, she increased her winning margin by nearly five percentage points compared to two years ago.

Speaking at a labor and DFL Get-Out-The-Vote rally November 2 at the Carpenters union hall in St. Paul, Craig said, "you know who put me in Congress? Labor."

In Craig's three terms in the U.S. House, she has earned a 100 percent voting score from the national AFL-CIO for her support

of working families issues.

### Third District:

#### Kelly Morrison wins open seat

The race for Minnesota's Third Congressional District was a race for an open seat, with incumbent DFLer Dean Phillips not running for re-election.

Former Minnesota State Senator Kelly Morrison, who resigned to run for the Third District seat, took to the stage election night to celebrate her win.

Morrison won with 58.43 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Tad Jude by 240,207–170,426.

"Every single one of us has a role in our democracy," she told the crowd. While Congress may look like a "broken institution," she said, "we cannot give up on it."

Instead, Morrison said, we need to "send people to Congress who want to make government work."

### Fifth District:

#### Ilhan Omar wins fourth term

Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar won re-election for a fourth term, earning 74.37 per cent of the vote.

"We are going back with a mandate," Omar declared from the podium at the DFL election night event.

In introducing Ilhan Omar, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said Omar was continuing his work to mobilize Fifth District voters for a high voter turn-out. **CONGRESS page 11**

## MRLF's work helps win 6 of 8 targeted races for Minnesota House seats

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — As the *Labor Review* went to press November 14, the contest for control of the Minnesota House appeared to land on a 67-67 tie. DFL and Republican leaders were beginning to talk about a power-sharing arrangement.

A hand recount in House District 54A — where AFL-CIO endorsed DFLer Brad Tabke was ahead by just 14 votes — was planned for November 21.

If the recount reverses Tabke's lead, the result would be a two-vote majority for the Republicans in the House, breaking the DFL's "trifecta" control of state government for the past two years.

The "trifecta" — DFL control of the

Governor's office, Minnesota House, and Minnesota Senate — led to the passage of historic labor-supported legislation to benefit working families.

Whether that progress would continue was what the 2024 election for Minnesota House was all about for the state's labor movement.

All or part of 41 Minnesota House districts lie within the seven-county jurisdiction of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Overall, the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate won in 36 of those 41 districts.

The MRLF targeted eight of those 41 House districts, helping to score wins for the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate in six of

the eight targeted races. Several of the races were determined by close margins.

Waging an independent campaign, the MRLF reached out to union households in the targeted districts via doorknocking, mail, and phone calls.

Here's a brief rundown of the results.

### District 32B:

#### Matt Norris wins second term

In District 32B in Blaine and Lexington, AFL-CIO and DFL-endorsed Matt Norris won re-election to a second term with 50.77 per cent of the vote, out-polling Republican opponent Alex Moe by 12,030–11,620. The margin: 410 votes.

### District 34A:

#### Brian Raines loses

In District 34A, AFL-CIO endorsed DFLer Brian Raines lost a third bid for the House seat in northwest Hennepin County. Raines is a Carpenters union member. This year's race was a rematch with one-term Republican incumbent Danny Nadeau, who led by 2,021 votes and beat Raines by 15,261–13,240.

### District 35A:

#### Zack Stephenson wins third term

The District 35A race in Anoka and Coon Rapids saw Zack Stephenson win a

third term with 51.83 per cent of the vote. Stephenson is an AFSCME member. AFL-CIO and DFL-endorsed, Stephenson led Republican Josh Jungling by 11,822–10,950, a margin of 872 votes.

### District 35B:

#### Kari Rehrauer wins first term

In District 35B in Coon Rapids and Andover, AFL-CIO and DFL-endorsed Kari Rehrauer won with 50.51 per cent of the vote. She defeated Republican Steve Pape by a vote of 11,560– 11,280, a margin of 280 votes. Rehrauer is former Education Minnesota member and current Education Minnesota staff member.

### District 45A:

#### Tracey Breazeale loses

Minnesota House District 45A encompasses communities surrounding Lake Minnetonka, where Tracey Breazeale ran with the AFL-CIO and DFL endorsements. She failed to unseat one-term Republican incumbent Andrew Meyers, who won by a vote of 15,897–12,972.

### District 48B:

#### Lucy Rehm wins second term

In a close race, AFL-CIO and DFL-endorsed Lucy Rehm won a second term in **LEGISLATURE page 11**

## Ann Johnson Stewart wins special election for MN Senate District 45, preserving DFL majority

MINNETONKA — In the only Minnesota Senate race on the ballot this year, Ann Johnson Stewart won a special election for Minnesota Senate District 45. Running with AFL-CIO and DFL endorsement, Stewart won 52.43 per-

cent of the vote in this district comprised of communities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. The tally was 29,791 votes for Stewart, 26,969 votes for Republican Kathleen Fowke. Stewart's win preserves a one-vote DFL Senate majority.

## Wins for 18 of 21 candidates endorsed by MRLF for city and county offices

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — “We had some amazing successes at the local level,” said Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, president of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, as she discussed 2024 election results during the MRLF’s November 12 delegate meeting.

The 2024 election saw the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO endorsing candidates in a total of 21 races for local municipal office or for county office. Election day brought wins for 18 of the 21 MRLF-endorsed candidates — including two races won by narrow margins of under 50 votes.

Seven of the candidates endorsed by the MRLF were union members or union staff members, with six of the seven winning their races.

### Anoka County Commissioner:

#### Gamache, Jeppson, Meisner win

Four of the seven seats on the Anoka County Board of Commissioners were on the November 5 ballot, with the MRLF endorsing candidates in all four races. Three of the MRLF-endorsed candidates won.

In the race for the open District 1 seat, former two-term state representative John Heinrich defeated MRLF-endorsed Betsy O’Berry by a vote of 13,234-10,592.

The race for District 5 was close. MRLF-endorsed incumbent Mike Gamache, the current board chair, beat challenger Randy Nelson by a vote of 12,014 to 11,966 — just 48 votes!

The District 6 incumbent, MRLF-endorsed Julie Jeppson, won re-election with just over 66 percent of the votes cast.

In District 7, MRLF-endorsed incumbent Mandy Meisner was easily re-elected and won nearly 75 percent of the votes.



Labor Review photo

Candidates for local office endorsed by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation gather September 27 for a “meet and greet” event at the MRLF offices at the United Labor Centre.

Front row, left to right: Tekoa Cochran, candidate for Osseo School Board; Kirsten Buscher, candidate for Ramsey City Council; Kim Nelson, candidate for Plymouth City Council and assistant political director for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

Back row, left to right: Peter Butler, candidate for Coon Rapids City Council and MAPE union member; Patrick Veschio, candidate for Fridley City Council and LIUNA Local 363 member; Kelsey Dawson Walton, candidate for Osseo School Board; Keith Tate, candidate for Osseo School Board; Greta Callahan, candidate for Minneapolis School Board and former president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers; Tony McGarvey, incumbent candidate for Brooklyn Park City Council and director of government affairs for Painters District Council 82.

### Hennepin County Commissioner:

#### Incumbents Lunde, Goettel,

#### Edelson, and Anderson win

The November 5 ballot included races for four of the seven seats on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

The MRLF endorsed the incumbent in each race and all four won re-election.

In District 1, Jeff Lunde won re-election with 76.69 percent of the vote.

In District 5, Debbie Goettel won re-election with 67.91 percent of the vote.

In District 6, Heather Edelson won election to a full four-year term with 67.56 percent of the vote. She first won the seat May 14, 2024 in a special election to fill a vacancy.

In District 7, Kevin Anderson won re-election with 55.31 percent of the vote.

### Brooklyn Park City Council:

#### Tony McGarvey re-elected

In Brooklyn Park, MRLF-endorsed Tony McGarvey won election for the West District City Council seat with 56.76 of the

vote. McGarvey is a 21-year member of Painters Local 386 who first won the seat in a special election in 2023.

### Columbia Heights:

#### Simula and Deneen elected

In the City of Columbia Heights, incumbent mayor Amada Márquez Simula won a third term running with the MRLF endorsement, earning 66 per cent of the votes.

In a three-way race for two positions for Columbia Heights City Council, At Large, MRLF-endorsed Laurel Deneen ran in first place and was elected.

### Columbus City Council:

#### Carpenter Rob Busch re-elected

Running with MRLF endorsement, incumbent Columbus City Council member Rob Busch won re-election for a four-year term. With two candidates to be elected to At Large seats, Busch ran first in a three-candidate race. Busch is a 19-year member of Carpenters Local 322 and a Local 322 business representative for nine years.

### Coon Rapids City Council:

#### Butler and Geisler elected

Four seats on the Coon Rapids City Council were on the November 5 ballot, with uncontested races for the At Large seat and the Ward 1 seat.

For Ward 2, MRLF-endorsed Peter Butler won the open seat with 59.26 per cent of the vote. Butler is a member of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees.

For Ward 3, MRLF endorsed Christopher Geisler won the open seat with 55.86 per cent of the vote.

### Crystal City Council:

#### Cummings elected

The November 5 ballot included races for Crystal mayor and three city council LOCAL RACES page 8

## In local school board races, wins for 13 of 16 candidates endorsed by MRLF

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Local school board candidates running with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO won key races both in Minneapolis and in suburban districts.

In the race for Minneapolis School Board District 6, MRLF-endorsed Greta Callahan — the former president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers — won decisively.

In the Osseo Area school district, two of the three candidates running with the MRLF endorsement won election.

Altogether, the MRLF endorsed 16 school board candidates running in six different school districts and 13 of the endorsed candidates won.

### Columbia Heights School Board:

#### Granlund, Pettway, Smith win

In the race for Columbia Heights School Board, the MRLF endorsed incumbent Mary Granlund, incumbent Michelle Pettway and Corenia Smith.

The race drew five candidates, with the top three to be elected. Granlund led the field with 4,964 votes, followed by Pettway with 4,825 votes, and Smith with 4,203 votes. The fourth place finisher was 153 votes behind Smith.

### Eden Prairie School Board:

#### Ward-Rannow and Bradsher win

The race for Eden Prairie School Board included six candidates, with the top three vote-getters winning election.

Two candidates ran with MRLF endorsement, Jody Ward-Rannow and Ann

Bradsher.

Ward-Rannow came in second, with 11,228 votes.

Bradsher came in third, with 10,877 votes — just 121 votes ahead of the fourth place finisher.

Incumbent Kim Ross also won election, receiving 13,288 votes, and was the top vote-getter.

The other incumbent in the race, Dennis Stubbs, ran in fifth place and was not re-elected.

### Minneapolis School Board:

#### Ellison and Callahan elected

In the race for Minneapolis School Board, At Large, incumbent Kim Ellison ran with the MRLF endorsement and won re-election with 57.73 per cent of the vote. Initially appointed to the board early in

2012 to fill a vacancy, Ellison won election to a full term later that year and now has won re-election three times.

In the Minneapolis School Board, District 6 race in southwest Minneapolis, MRLF-endorsed Greta Callahan won the open seat with 62.08 per cent of the vote. She won every single one of the 25 precincts in the district.

Callahan is a former kindergarten teacher in the district and served four years as the president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, leading the union during its 2022 strike.

MFT endorsed Callahan in the race.

She also was endorsed by the DFL Party, Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, Minnesota Attorney General Keith SCHOOL BOARD RACES page 8

# School board races: Former MFT president Greta Callahan wins Minneapolis race

continued from page 7

Ellison, State Representative Frank Hornstein and several other state representatives, plus seven Minneapolis city council members.

Just after midnight early on November 6, Callahan posted on Facebook: “This decisive victory is not just mine—it’s a testament to the collective voice of our community, educators, families, and students who are passionate about building a strong public school system that works for everyone.”

## Osseo School Board:

### Tate and Dawson Walton elected

In the race for Osseo School Board, At Large, the MRLF endorsed three candidates: Tekoa Cochran, Kelsey Dawson Walton, and Keith Tate.

The three also ran with the endorsement of Education Minnesota Osseo, which represents the district’s educators and other school staff, and which ran an active inde-

pendent expenditure campaign to support them.

The race included three other candidates who were endorsed by the conservative Minnesota Parents Alliance, making the contest the latest clash in an ongoing struggle over preserving the freedom to learn in the Osseo Area Schools (*Labor Review, October 19, 2024*).

With the top three vote-getters to be elected, Kesley Dawson Walton came in second with 29,454 votes and Keith Tate came in third with 25,693 votes, both winning election.

Tekoa Cochran ran fifth with 18,213 votes and was not elected.

## Robbinsdale School Board:

### Bassett, Evans-Becker, Hillenbrand win

Seven candidates vied for three seats on the Robbinsdale School Board, with the top three to be elected. The MRLF-endorsed candidates won all three spots: incumbent Greta Evans-Becker ran first, with 18,004 votes, incumbent Helen Bassett ran second



Labor Review photo

Greta Callahan (center) and supporters gathered for a doorknock August 18.

with 14,530 votes, and Aviva Hillenbrand ran third with 12,841 votes — just 15 votes ahead of the fourth-place candidate.

Evans-Becker is a retired Education Minnesota member and Bassett is a MAPE member.

## St. Francis School Board:

### IBEW Local 292’s Humphrey wins

The MRLF endorsed three candidates

in the race for St. Francis School Board: IBEW Local 292 member Jake Humphrey, Matt Beukema, and Kwadwo “K” Osei.

The ballot included 10 candidates, with the top four vote-getters to be elected.

Humphrey ran first with 6,928 votes and was elected.

Osei finished in eighth place and Meukema finished in tenth place.

## Local races

continued from page 7

seats but the MRLF endorsed only in the Ward 4 council race.

Running unopposed for a second term to represent Ward 4, MRLF-endorsed David Cummings won election. Cummings is a special education teacher for the Osseo Area Schools and a member of Education Minnesota Osseo.

## Fridley City Council:

### Vescio elected — by 30 votes!

In another close race, MRLF-endorsed Patrick Vescio won an open seat for Fridley City Council, At Large. Vescio received 5,355 votes compared to Peter Borman’s 5,325 votes: That’s a margin of just 30

votes. Vescio is a six-year member of LIUNA Local 363 and union steward for the past two years.

## Maple Grove City Council:

### Fall not elected

Eight candidates were on the ballot for Maple Grove City Council, At Large, with the top two to be elected. MRLF-endorsed Samba Fall finished in third place and was not elected.

## Plymouth City Council:

### Nelson wins election

Three Plymouth City Council seats were up for election, with the MRLF endorsing only in the Ward 1 race.

MRLF-endorsed Kim Nelson won the two-way Ward 1 race with 55.37 percent of the vote. Nelson had been appointed to the seat in March 2024 to fill a vacancy and

now will serve a full four-year term.

Nelson 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.

## Ramsey City Council:

### Buscher elected

MRLF-endorsed Kirsten Buscher won the race for Ramsey City Council, At Large with 54.29 percent of the vote. The incumbent was not running.

## Richfield City Council:

### Oleary re-elected

MRLF-endorsed incumbent Sean Hayford Oleary was unopposed and won

re-election to a second term for Richfield City Council, Ward 2.

## St. Francis City Council:

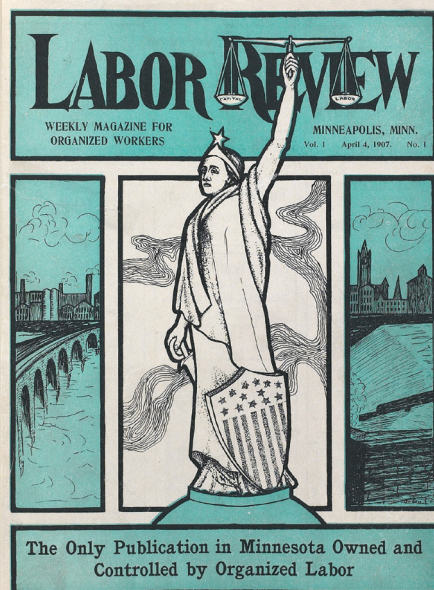
### Kreklow loses election bid

MRLF-endorsed Crystal Kreklow was in a four-candidate race for St. Francis City Council, with the top two vote-getters to be elected. Kreklow ran third and was not elected.

Kreklow had been serving in the At Large seat since 2023, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy.

Kreklow currently works as state field director for AFSCME Council 5 and has served on the Council 5 staff since 2016.

Kreklow previously worked at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and was a member of AFSCME Local 2181 and later president of AFSCME Local 1349.



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- Minnesota Nurses Association
- Power Partner MN
- Pipefitters Local 539
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 417



# Local Union News

## **AFSCME Council 5: City of Bloomington's clerical workers organize**

More than 50 clerical workers at the City of Bloomington have organized with AFSCME Council 5, the union reported October 18 in a Facebook post.

The workers organized by collecting signed union authorization cards, a process verified by the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services.

AFSCME Council 5 executive director Bart Andersen celebrated the workers for “standing together to ensure their essential contributions are recognized with fair wages, benefits, and a strong voice in the workplace.”

He added, “providing a clear path for unorganized workers to form a union in their workplace is fundamental to strengthening the labor movement and raising the standard of living for all workers.”

The City of Bloomington clerical workers will form their own local within the umbrella of AFSCME Council 5.

Andersen continued, “we will continue to have their back every step of the way! Your dedication and professionalism are the foundation of our workplaces!”

## **APWU Minneapolis Area Local: Greg Teigland named as president**

The executive board of the American Postal Workers Union Minneapolis Area Local has appointed Greg Teigland as

president.

The position became open following the September 6 retirement of Peggy Whitney. Teigland will serve out the remainder of Whitney's term, with runs through April 2025.

Teigland, Champlin, has been an APWU member since 2004 and previously served the local as a steward and SCF coordinator representing APWU members in the 553 zip code.

He began his career as a mail processing clerk at the Waite Park processing and distribution center.

Most recently, Teigland worked in Hopkins as a vehicle operations maintenance assistant.

As Teigland moves into his new role as the president of the APWU Minneapolis Area Local, he said, “we have the opportunity to get more people involved with the ‘Delivering for America’ debacle” — a 10-year strategic plan adopted by the U.S. Postal Service. The challenge, he added, is finding ways for USPS employees and other stakeholders to engage with USPS leadership.

“The amount of work our craft employees put in during the election season was just extraordinary,” Teigland commented. APWU members and other USPS employees worked to ensure timely processing and delivery of absentee ballots and campaign mail.

“The dedication of our craft employees — it's tremendous,” Teigland said. “They work their tails off. That's across the board in the Postal Service — it's not just APWU.”

## **IBEW Local 292: USPS names Richfield Post Office after Local 292 member and World War II veteran Charles Lindberg**

In an August 29 ceremony, the United States Postal Service facility at 825 West 65th Street in Richfield was renamed as the “Charles W. Lindberg Post Office.”

A Richfield resident who died in 2007, Lindberg served in the U.S. Marines during World War II and was one of the troops who raised the first flag over Iwo Jima. After the war, Lindberg worked as an electrician and was a member of IBEW Local 292 (*Labor Review*, May 26, 2005).

Fifth District U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar authored the legislation to name the Richfield Post Office in Lindberg's honor.

The “Charles W. Lindberg Post Office” in Richfield is now the second building in Minnesota to honor Lindberg's memory: Local 292 named its training center in St. Michael after Lindberg in 2007, shortly before he passed away.

A statue of Lindberg is a focal point of the Honoring All Veterans Memorial in Richfield.

A 2005 documentary about Lindberg, “The Last Flagraiser,” was produced by

WCCO television and broadcast nationally on CBS affiliates.

## **NALC Branch 9: Ballots due by November 26**

An election is underway for the leadership of Branch 9 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Ballots were mailed to members by November 1 and must be received back from members by the morning of November 26. Ballots will be counted November 26 and the results will be announced later that day.

## **OPEIU Local 12: Workers seeking fair contract picket at Wilson-McShane**

A picket sign read, “Wilson-McShane cares about unions — JUST NOT OURS.” Members of OPEIU Local 12 walked informational picket lines October 24 outside Wilson-McShane offices in Bloomington, Minnesota and Kansas City, Missouri.

The union is in contract negotiations with Wilson-McShane and the two sides will be meeting with a mediator the week of November 18.

Meanwhile, picketing is continuing weekly in Bloomington and Kansas City, Local 12 president Devin Hogan told the *Labor Review* November 12.

Wilson-McShane administers union health, welfare and pension fund for more than 100 unions.

“This company serves unions but low-  
**LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10**

# Retiree Meetings

## **Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Monthly meeting coming November 21**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be Thursday, November 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in Room 218 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis. Lunch will be provided after the meeting adjourns.

The meeting will be in-person only.

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.

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](mailto:graeme@minneapolisunions.org).

## **ATU Local 1005 Retirees: Meet first Wednesday of the month**

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

## **Carpenters Retirees:**

### **No meetings planned for November, December**

Carpenters Retirees will take a break for November and December with no meetings planned. The meetings will resume beginning in January on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 30 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.

## **IBEW Local 292 Retirees:**

### **‘Senior Sparkies’ will meet December 10**

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” —

## **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](mailto:laborreview@minneapolisunions.org) or 612-715-2667.**

will meet Tuesday, December 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 elections for Senior Sparkies officers at the December meeting.

The Retirees Christmas Party will be Wednesday, November 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

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

## **Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59: Election debrief and holiday lunch set for December 3**

The Retired Minneapolis Educators will meet in-person at the MFT office, 67- 8th Ave. NE, Tuesday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by a holiday lunch.

Our agenda for the December 3 meeting will discuss the results of the 2024 election and the impacts on public education, the labor movement, and retirees. Speakers will also talk about the final recommendation by the Legislative Task Force on Aging of a cabinet-level position to coordinate and collaborate services to assist Minnesota seniors. The interim director of the Teachers Retirement Association has also been invited to talk about the political future of public employee pension legislation in the 2025 session.

For more information, e-mail [RTC59info@gmail.com](mailto:RTC59info@gmail.com).

## **Minnesota Nurses Association Retirees: CARn will meet December 11**

The Council of Active Retired Nurses (CARn) will meet Wednesday, December 11 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. December 11 is the final meeting date for 2024.

All retired members of the Minnesota Nurses Association are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Barb Martin at [jimbarbmartin@aol.com](mailto: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’ meet December 10**

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinnars” retirees club will meet Tuesday, December 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.

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balls its own union employees,” Local 12 reported October 24 on Facebook.

“Their wages are low, their healthcare is awful,” Local 12 reported in another Facebook post.

Local 12 sent a letter to Wilson-McShane’s union customers appealing for solidarity. The letter reported that the company is offering wage increases of 1.8 percent while “Wilson-McShane’s union workforce has seen a 12 per cent pay cut relative to inflation since 2010.”

In addition, the Local 12 website reported, “the company has been engaging in divisive tactics against Local 12 members.”

OPEIU Local 12 represents about 180 members who work at four Wilson-McShane offices located in Bloomington, Kansas City, Omaha and Milwaukee. Members work in claims, pension, accounts receivable and other jobs to service union health and pension plans.

[Editor’s Note: Wilson-McShane advertises in the Labor Review.]

## Operating Engineers Local 49: Jason George resigns as business manager

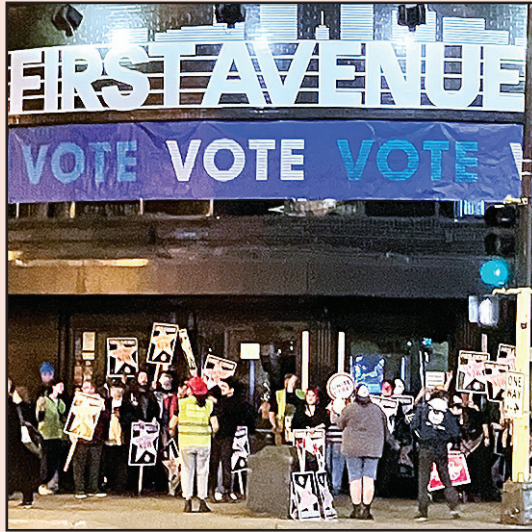
Jason George, who recently won re-election as business manager for Operating Engineers Local 49, has resigned and has accepted the position of director of labor relations for Ames Construction.

George first won election as Local 49 business manager in 2018, unseating an incumbent, and went on to win reelection in 2021 and again in August 2024.

Ryan Davies, who previously was the vice president of Local 49, was appointed November 1 by the other officers to complete George’s three-year term as business manager.

Davies is a 20-year member of Local

## One year later, First Avenue Workers who formed a union still seek agreement for first contract



MINNEAPOLIS — The October 27 line-up outside the nationally-renowned First Avenue music venue wasn’t a crowd waiting to get inside for a show... Instead, First Avenue workers who chose one year ago to unionize with UNITE HERE Local 17 were walking an informational picket line to call on their employer to settle a first contract. Workers wore costumes for the Halloween-themed action. “First Ave. is so cheap it’s scary. For the company to see everything I put in night after night, year after year, and say I’m only worth less than a dollar above minimum wage? We need them to do better, and we know they can,” said Tayah Holte, First Avenue worker.

49. He served as vice president for the past six years. Prior to that role, in 2015, he became a business agent. He grew up in Grand Rapids and reports, “my experience included working at powerhouses, paper mills and in the mines on the Iron Range.”

Davies told the *Labor Review*, “we’ve had some pretty good growth in the last six years in our local. We’re going to be adding some organizers and try to build our membership and our power.”

He expressed concern that the incoming Trump administration will pose a challenge to labor unions and labor organizing.

From 2006-2008, Jason George worked as a political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. He worked previously as an organizer for UNITE HERE Local 21 in Rochester.

Local 49 represents 15,000 members in Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

## SEIU Local 26: New contract brings wins for 1,000 MSP airport workers

After more than nine months of bargaining, nearly 1,000 MSP Airport service workers across multiple employers reached a tentative agreement October 3 with employers that protected and expanded their workplace rights.

The workers — who are members of SEIU Local 26 — voted October 11 to ratify the agreement.

The group of workers includes plane cleaners, wheelchair assistants, cart drivers and more — a majority of whom are East African immigrants.

Over the last nine months, workers held rallies, marches and even saw civil disobedience at the airport in March where 15 people were arrested at a protest.

Wudie Yismaw, a wheelchair assistant at Prospect and G2 at MSP Airport and member of the SEIU Local 26, spoke out about the steps forward and the need to keep fighting for other issues for front-line workers at MSP:

“I support this tentative agreement because it has more vacation and less expensive healthcare. But we will continue to fight for laws around higher wages and affordable healthcare at the local and national level.”

Highlights of the new contract, which runs until June 2027, included:

- A 30 percent reduction in healthcare costs to members for good, union healthcare by the end of the contract;
- Increased vacation days (seven days for senior workers) and adding Juneteenth to holiday pay;
- Four hours of minimum pay, even if workers are sent home early;
- Winter jackets provided by the employer — for the first time — for outside workers and a requirement for all vehicles to have working heat and air conditioning.

Greg Nammacher, president of SEIU Local 26, shared the ongoing issues still facing workers and the commitment to continue pushing for improvements for workers and passengers alike:

“This is an important step forward for workers, but we need to be clear: the airline

industry continues to be broken. After ratification, our fight will continue at the Metropolitan Airport Commission, along with state and national policy level, to keep working on a longer term solution like increasing minimum wages and lowering healthcare even more. The workers who make this airport win its awards deserve to have world class wages and benefits that help recognize their work and ensure passengers continue to get the best service possible.”

## UNITE HERE Local 17: Lofton Hotel workers threaten strike, win gains in new contract

Workers at the Lofton Hotel in downtown Minneapolis voted October 4 to authorize a first-ever strike — with 94 percent voting in favor. Less than one month later, workers voted unanimously to approve a new contract bringing “historic” wage gains.

The workers, who are members of UNITE HERE Local 17, waged a contract campaign that included months of delegations to management, actions at the negotiating table, picket marches outside of the hotel, flying guests and passers-by, and even noisy 7:00 a.m. “wake-up calls.”

“We were right next to the hotel doing these ‘wake-up calls’ at 7:00 a.m. for six weeks on Fridays,” reported Geof Paquette, Local 17’s internal organizing director. “We had the megaphone out, we had banging on pots and pans... it just drove the company crazy,” he said.

All that effort and solidarity paid-off.

Local 17 reported November 1 on Facebook that “Lofton workers have won a new contract that includes historic wage increases!” Workers voted October 30 to ratify the agreement, with 100 percent voting “yes.”

The previous contract expired May 1, 2024 and the new two-year agreement will run through November 2026.

The main highlight of the new agreement is a “historic wage increase,” Paquette said. “Over the term of the contract, wages are going to go up at least 13.5 per cent. Some classifications are going to go up more.”

In addition, full-time staff will receive a one-time \$500 bonus and part-time staff will receive a one-time \$250 bonus.

The Lofton Hotel is located at 601 First Ave. No., right across the street from Target Center.

The Local 17 bargaining unit at the Lofton Hotel is “wall-to-wall” and includes about 65 workers, including housekeeping, front desk, bellmen, banquet servers and restaurant staff.

Sources: *Labor Review* reporting and local unions.

To submit a story idea or news item, contact the editor at 612-379-4725 or e-mail laborreview@minneapolisunions.org. Next deadline: November 27.

## 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.

#### Annual Christmas Party planned December 7

Pipefitters Local 539’s Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 7, 2024. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

#### Initiation for new members: January 8

Initiation for new members will be January 8, 2025 at the monthly union meeting. Information will be sent out in December.

#### Condolences

Condolences to the families of Bruce Dahlen, Robert Hagen, Bradley Hemmesch, Jesse Large and James Rikkola.

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

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# Legislature

continued from page 6

the District 48B contest in Chanhassen and Chaska. She earned 50.39 per cent of the vote, leading Republican challenger Caleb Steffenhagen by a vote of 12,953–12,728, a margin of 225 votes.

## District 54A:

### Pending recount, Tabke wins third term

The contest for the House 54A seat representing the Shakopee area could hardly be closer. As the *Labor Review* went to

press, DFL incumbent Brad Tabke was ahead by just 14 votes. He was leading Republican challenger Aaron Paul by 10,973–10,959, according to updated but still unofficial results posted by the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. A hand recount by Scott County election officials was planned for November 21.

## District 55A:

### Jess Hanson wins third term

In Savage and northwest Burnsville, AFL-CIO and DFL-endorsed Jess Hanson won re-election for a third term. She earned 53.33 per cent of the vote and beat Republican Gabriela Kroetch by 12,114–10,576.

# Congress

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even though the district is a safe DFL seat. That important Get-Out-The-Vote work helps elect statewide candidates, he noted.

Indeed, the Fifth District produced more votes for the Harris-Walz ticket than any other congressional district in the state.

Omar told the crowd that her campaign deployed 50 organizers who worked in every state senate district within the Fifth District to turn-out the vote.

Omar gave a special shout-out to U.S. Senator Tina Smith, who actively campaigned on Omar's behalf during the DFL primary contest, which Omar won with 56 percent of the vote.

## Minnesota's other U.S. House races

In Minnesota races for U.S. House outside the Minneapolis area, incumbent Betty McCollum in the Fourth District was the only labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed winner. McCollum, who represents St. Paul and area suburbs, won re-election for a 13th term with 67.25 per cent of the vote.

In the Sixth District, which includes north metro suburbs and west to St. Cloud, incumbent Republican Tom Emmer won re-election to a sixth term with 62.45 per cent of the vote, defeating labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed Jeanne Hendricks.

In the First District, located in south-

east Minnesota, incumbent Republican Brad Finstad won re-election with 58.51 of the vote and defeated Rachel Bohman, the labor-endorsed and DFL-endorsed candidate.

In the Seventh District in western Minnesota, incumbent Republican Michelle Fischbach won re-election to a third term with 70.45 percent of the vote — her highest per cent of the vote in three races. She defeated A.J. (John) Peters, who ran with labor and DFL endorsement.

In northeast Minnesota's Eighth District, AFL-CIO endorsed and DFL-endorsed Jen Schultz ran in a rematch against incumbent Republican Pete Stauber. Stauber won re-election to a fourth term with 57.99 per cent of the vote, close to his winning percentage from two years ago.

From the 2024 election results, Minnesota come January again will send four Republicans and four DFLers to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Republicans maintained control of the U.S. House and again will have a narrow majority.

With Republicans also now winning control of the U.S. Senate and the White House, Democrats — and the labor movement — will be on the defensive for at least the next two years in the face of a Republican "trifecta."

While midterm elections — coming in 2026 — often bring losses for the party in power, that's by no means a sure bet.

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## IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

### Holidays

Local 292 wishes friends and family a safe and festive holiday season! The office will be closed on the following days: Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday; and Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas.

### Holiday Parties

The children's Christmas Open House will be Saturday, December 7 at the Local 292 hall (6700 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park). As a reminder, this party is for members'

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

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children and grandchildren.

The members-only party will be Friday, December 13 at the Local 292 hall.

The Retirees Christmas Party will be Wednesday, November 27 at 11 a.m. at Jax Café, 1928 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

### Condolences

Brother Thomas K. Berlin; Brother Gar F. DeZiel; Brother Eugene G. Hausladen; Brother Jerry L. Johnson; Brother Ronald E. Petrik.

## Minneapolis Labor Review

## 2024 Publication Schedule

December 14

Deadline: November 27

Holiday Issue

Discounted ad rates available

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**Thank you to everyone who knocked on doors, made phone calls, passed out flyers at work, talked with your friends and family — *and voted!***

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