

Minneapolis Labor Review

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Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Trump 2.0 launches attacks on workers, labor rights, rule of law

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Donald J. Trump launched his second go-round as President of the United States with a flurry of executive orders and actions attacking workers, limiting labor rights, and undermining the rule of law.

As this issue of the *Labor Review* went to press February 20 — one month since Trump was inaugurated as the nation's 47th President — the White House even released an image depicting Trump wearing a crown and declaring "Long Live the King."

"President Trump's attack on federal workers began on his first day in office," said Liz Shuler, president of the national AFL-CIO, condemning Trump's move to reinstate "Schedule F" and create the means to replace career civil service workers with political appointees. "He is setting the table to clear out the hundreds of thousands of hardworking Americans who make our government actually work and replace them with political loyalists who will do his bidding," Shuler said.

Also on Trump's first day in office, he issued a pardon for some 1,250 insurrectionists who were tried and convicted for

crimes they committed in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol — including individuals who were convicted of violent attacks on Capitol Police officers.

Trump supporters in the mob that he incited attacked the Capitol and injured 174 police officers — while four officers who defended the Capitol committed suicide within seven months.

Two police organizations which endorsed Trump in 2024 condemned the pardons. A statement by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) declared: "Crimes against law enforcement are not just attacks on individuals or public safety — they are attacks on society and undermine the rule of law... The IACP and FOP firmly believe that those convicted of such crimes should serve their full sentences."

"We will not forget our Constitution," Trump pledged in his inaugural address, while in the same speech he announced the creation of his so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" — spearheaded by billionaire Elon Musk — which has worked to gain access to American citizens' private data, to shut-down entire



Image source: facebook.com/WhiteHouse

This image released by the White House on Facebook February 19 mimics the look of a Time magazine cover while depicting President Trump wearing a crown and declaring "Long Live the King."

agencies created by Congress, and to fire thousands of federal employees without cause or due process.

"Firing huge numbers of federal employees won't decrease the need for government services," said Everett Kelley, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees. "It will just make those services harder or impossible to access for everyday Americans, veterans, and seniors who depend on them."

Firing key leaders of National Labor Relations Board cripples agency

Trump also took actions to cripple three agencies vital to American workers and their families; the National Labor Relations Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In the case of the NLRB, January 27 Trump directed the firing of General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo and Acting Chair and board member Gwynne Wilcox, who together in recent years supported historic pro-worker changes like banning employers' "captive audience" meetings to intimidate workers.

No president in the history of the NLRB — created in 1935 — has fired a board member of the agency, which by **CRISIS page 6**

MN reaches tentative agreement with 35,000 home care workers

SAINT PAUL — The union representing 35,000 home care workers reached a tentative agreement January 11 on a two-year contract with the State of Minnesota, after an emotional rally in the Capitol rotunda as the deadline for reaching an agreement neared and after a final marathon bargaining session.

The agreement, which must be approved by union members and state lawmakers, would take effect July 1 and cover workers who provide state-subsidized care for elderly Minnesotans and people with disabilities, allowing them to stay in their homes.

Home care workers organized their union with SEIU Healthcare

Minnesota and Iowa in 2014 and have steadily bargained for gains to "professionalize" their work. They have won wage increases, holiday pay and other benefits, which have helped address a labor shortage in the industry.

The union called the new tentative agreement an extension of that work.

Highlights include increased wage differential for workers serving clients who need 10 or more hours of care per day and new, \$1,200 stipends to help workers cover out-of-pocket health care costs. Some workers will see 40-cent hourly wage increases in addition to step increases **HOME CARE page 6**

Number of union members grew by 23,000 in Minnesota in past year

WASHINGTON — The number of union members in Minnesota grew by 23,000 people from 2023 to 2024, according to an annual report tracking union membership released January 28 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The state's rate of union membership among people employed ticked-up slightly from 13.3 percent to 14.2 percent — putting Minnesota 11th highest in the U.S.

Nationally, the reported rate

of union membership — 9.9 percent — was "little changed" from 2023, BLS reported.

BLS also noted, "the union membership rate of public-sector workers (32.3 percent) continued to be more than five times than the rate of private-sector workers (5.9 percent)."

BLS reported union workers had median weekly earnings that were 17.5 percent higher than non-union workers (\$1,337 compared to \$1,138).

Minneapolis DFL precinct caucuses set for Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS — If you live in the city of Minneapolis, the DFL Party's precinct caucuses are set for Tuesday, April 8 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This year's caucuses will elect delegates who will determine the DFL endorsements for mayor, city council, park board, and board of estimate and taxation.

DFL ward conventions to endorse for city council will take place between April 26 and May 31.

The DFL city convention, to endorse for mayor and other citywide candidates will be July 19-20.

For more information, visit minneapolisdf.org. The website includes a caucus guide explaining the process, ward convention dates, information about candidates, as well as online registration.

People are encouraged to pre-register online to save time on caucus night or if they wish to be considered as a delegate but cannot attend.

Labor Review editor Steve Share to retire, offers parting message

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

Normally, I'm the person in the back of the room scribbling notes. Or you might have seen me, camera in hand, running ahead of a march to find a perch where I could get the best shot of the action. I began editing the *Minneapolis Labor Review* with the October 2003 issue. This February 2025 issue will be my last issue as editor — the 250th *Labor Review* issue which I will have brought to press.



I caught the newspaper bug back in high school. I got involved with the student newspaper at Southwest High School in Minneapolis and served as co-editor during my 1973-1974 senior year. The summer before senior year, I took a two-week workshop for high school newspaper editors offered by the journalism department at the University of Minnesota. I learned key skills in those two weeks — reporting, headline writing, page design — which I developed further over the years while working as a community organizer, community newspaper editor, and communications director.

I also ran my own business for 10 years — Community Media Services — producing publications for local nonprofits working on affordable housing and regional development issues and also for the local food co-op community.

When I arrived at the *Labor Review* in 2003, I brought years of experience writing about the issues faced by working families — but I had a lot to learn about the labor movement.

Working with union volunteers to launch the online *Labor Review* archive in 2004 taught me a lot about the local labor movement — and about the strong support for this publication from rank and file union members as well as from labor leadership.

In 2007, for the 100th anniversary of the *Labor Review*, I produced a 10-issue series of stories highlighting each 10-year stretch of the publication's history. The series included a narrative history, a timeline of brief news items, as well as reprints of se-

lected stories, photos and cartoons. You can find the *Labor Review* 100th anniversary series online at minneapolisunions.org. Just look for the March 2007 through December 2007 issues.

Now, 21 years and five months later since beginning this job, I'm very conscious that "journalism is the first rough draft of history," as the saying goes. I've been mindful during these years that the stories I've reported in the *Labor Review* will be part of the first draft of the history of the local, state, and national labor movement.

I've tried to present a full picture of the local labor movement and its members — covering contract campaigns, strikes, and labor's endorsed candidates for public office — but also writing stories about union members who volunteered for a community service project, or who organized a farmer's market in their neighborhood, or who have shared their stories about hunting and fishing in these pages.

I've also tried to put workers' voices first in telling all these stories.

At this moment, as Trump 2.0 launches attacks on workers, workers' rights, and the rule of law, I hope the *Labor Review* will continue to play an important role to inform union members about the issues we face — and to inspire action and solidarity.

Since long before my tenure, the *Labor Review* masthead on page 2 has declared, "The rights labor has won, labor must fight to protect" — a quote from Floyd B. Olson, the state's Farmer-Labor Party governor from 1930-1936.

That slogan fits the times today.

For the past 21 years, I've had the privilege to help in telling the workers' side of the story in the pages of the *Labor Review*.

Thank you to everyone who took my calls, answered questions on a picket line, posed for a photo.

Thank you to the MRLF, affiliates and advertisers for supporting this publication.

And thank you, *Labor Review* readers!

You'll see me again at a march, at a rally, or on the picket line...



Stacie Balkaran will take over as editor of Minneapolis Labor Review in March

MINNEAPOLIS — In late March 2025, Stacie Balkaran (they/them) will join the staff of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO as the new communications director and editor of the *Minneapolis Labor Review*. Balkaran brings a strong background in political communication, organizing, education and graphic design to the team.

Balkaran earned an undergraduate degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida and Master of Public Health from Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon.

They have been a freelance illustrator and designer for the last several years, previously having worked with the ACLU. Balkaran moved to Minnesota from Washington, D.C. when their spouse accepted a role with the Hennepin County Public Defender's office.

For the 2024 election cycle, Balkaran worked with the SEIU Minnesota State Council's voter outreach phonebank.

"Already, Minnesota has been a lovely place to call home," Balkaran said. "I am

excited to commit my skills to strengthening and supporting the union worker community here. When workers come together and when their voices are heard, we have a chance at the rights and freedoms we deserve. It is an immense privilege to have the responsibility of offering workers and unions a place to be heard and seen. I look forward to finding new ways of getting workers to the table together. If you see me at a union event, come say hi!"

In their spare time, Stacie enjoys kayaking, hiking, cooking, birdwatching and making art. They live in Minneapolis with their husband and 11-year-old Chihuahua mix named Potato Chip.

Contact Stacie Balkaran beginning March 17 at 612-379-4725 or e-mail laborreview@minneapolisunions.org.



Stacie Balkaran

'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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AFL-CIO

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

Events

March 4: Event-goers will vote for winners of annual Women Building Success photo contest

SAINT PAUL — The winners of this year's Women Building Success photo contest will be voted on and announced at a reception Tuesday, March 4 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at Insulators Local 34, 95 Empire Drive in St. Paul.

The reception is open to all.

Food will be provided.

The photo contest, now in its eighth year, is one of the popular programs offered by Minnesota-based Women Building Success, which works to support women who work in union construction trades.

The photo contest deadline passed

February 21; All union tradeswomen were eligible to submit photos.

Winners will be chosen in three categories:

- Me at Work;
- Job Sites;
- Tools/Craftsmanship.

Three finalists in each category will be selected before the March 4 event.

People attending the event will vote to choose the winners.

More than \$1,500 in prizes will be awarded.

Visit womenbuildingsuccess.org for more information.

March 19, 20, 25, 27 and April 1: Laborers union will host career fairs across Minnesota

LINO LAKES — The Laborers union will host five one-day career fairs across Minnesota between March 19 and April 1.

The career fairs will provide information about the Laborers trade and apprenticeship programs and will include a chance to meet with area contractors in all markets: commercial, energy, heavy highway, healthcare, site work, utilities and more.

The career fairs include:

■ **Lino Lakes Career Fair**, Wednesday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Laborers Training Center, 2350 Main St, Lino Lakes.

■ **High School Lino Lakes Career Fair**, Wednesday, March 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Laborers Training Center, 2350 Main St, Lino Lakes. This event will highlight the opportunity for graduating high school students to “earn while

you learn” and go straight into an apprenticeship and begin a paying career without taking on debt for college or tech school. Pre-registration requested. Contact Gary Larsen at glarsen@lctcmn.org or Dallas Nustvold at dnustvold@lctcmn.org. Phone: 651-653-6710. Buses and groups are welcome, in addition to individuals and classes.

■ **Mankato Career Fair**, Tuesday, March 25, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut Street, Mankato.

■ **Rochester Career Fair**, Thursday, March 27, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Rochester Eagles Club, 917 15th Ave. SE, Rochester.

■ **Duluth Career Fair**, Tuesday, April 1, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Radisson Hotel Duluth-Harborview, 505 W Superior St., Duluth.

Visit liunaminnesota.org for more information.

March 28: Third annual conservation dinner will benefit Union Sportsmen's Alliance

BROOKLYN PARK — IBEW Local 292 will host the “3rd Annual Minnesota State Conservation Dinner” Friday, March 28 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Local 292's union hall, 6700 W. Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park.

The event will benefit conservation programs organized nationwide by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance.

Individual tickets cost \$100, which includes dinner, a gift, and a one-year membership in Union Sportsmen's Alliance.

RSVP by March 21 to John Kriposos, 612-617-2444, or jk@ibew292.org.

Table sponsorships and other underwriting opportunities also are available.

For more information about sponsorships, contact Eric Bakken at Union Sportsmen's Alliance by March 7 at 509-731-5200 or ericb@unionsportsmen.org.

For more event information, visit unionsportsmen.org.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance aims “to unite the union community through conservation to preserve North America's outdoor heritage... Our community will volunteer time and unique trade skills to expand and improve public access to the outdoors, conserve and maintain critical wildlife habitats, restore our nation's parks and provide mentoring programs that introduce youth to the outdoors.”



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April 3: Annual Nellie Stone Johnson dinner raises funds for college scholarships

BLOOMINGTON — The 38th Annual Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Fundraising Dinner will be Thursday, April 3 at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd. in Bloomington.

A reception and silent auction begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The scholarship program honors the legacy of Nellie Stone Johnson (1905-2002), a pioneering Black trade unionist and political activist who went on to serve as a board member for what is now the Minnesota State college and university system.

The scholarships awarded in Nellie Stone Johnson's honor are available to students of color who will be enrolled in a degree program in the Minnesota State system and who are a union member or the child, grandchild or spouse of a union member.

To purchase tickets for the fundraising dinner, to make a financial donation, or to donate an item for a silent auction, visit nelliestone.org.

Single tickets are \$115 while a table for eight is available for \$870.

For more information about the scholarship program, visit nelliestone.org.

April 12: Explore Minnesota labor history at Mill City Museum with an indoor tour

MINNEAPOLIS — Join a Mill City Museum tour guide Saturday, April 12 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 or-

ganized 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 mnhs.org/events/3106 for more information or to register for the tour.

Save 40 percent on groceries at 'Fare For All' 'pop-up' grocery sales, open to everyone

Special \$35 'Brunch Box' offered at April sales

MINNEAPOLIS — Offering savings for everyone, Fare For All offers "pop-up" grocery sales at community sites across the region.

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.

Special \$35 'Brunch Box' in April

In April, Fare for All will offer a special "Brunch Box" for \$35.

The "Brunch Box" will include:

- Bacon, 12-oz. (two per box);
- Local turkey breakfast sausages, 1-lb.
- Flat iron steaks, 5-oz. (two per box)
- Sliced country ham, 2-lbs.
- Tri-color peppers, 14-oz.
- Hashbrowns, 32-oz.
- Cinnamon rolls, 36.5-oz.

■ Colby Jack shredded cheese, 16-oz.

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!

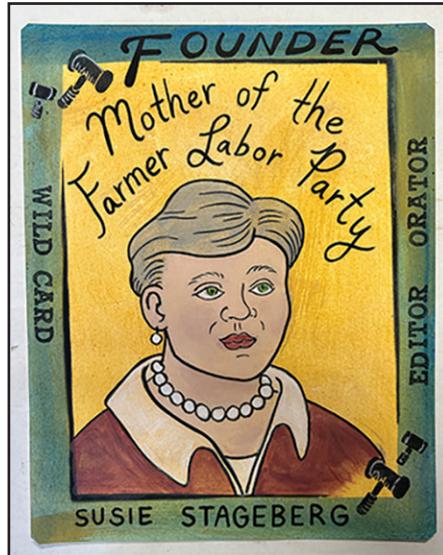
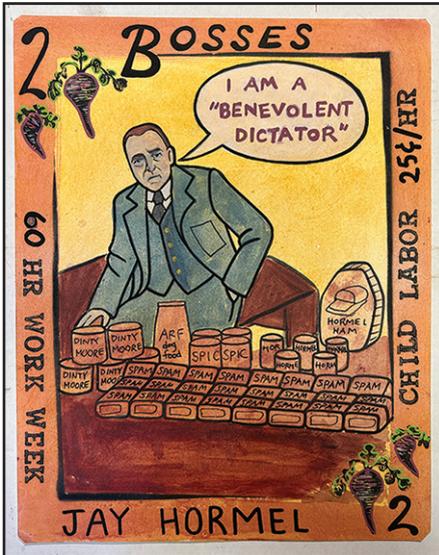
March and April dates and sites

Since the *Labor Review* does not publish in March, here is the coming schedule for March and April for Fare For All's sites in the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's seven-county region, listed alphabetically by city:

■ **Anoka, Thursdays, March 27 and April 24, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursdays, March 20 and April 17, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

FARE FOR ALL page 11



The "You Betcha" exhibit includes art designed for a deck of 52 playing cards which were created to help tell the story of Minnesota's Farmer-Labor movement.

Through May 4: Art exhibit highlights solidarity between Minnesota workers and farmers

SAINT PAUL — Running through May 4, the East Side Freedom Library will host an art exhibit, "You Betcha," which highlights the solidarity forged between Minnesota workers and farmers during the heyday of the state's Farmer-Labor movement in the 1920s and 1930s — and prompts discussion of how to rediscover common ground between rural and urban areas and interests today.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1105 Greenbrier St in St. Paul. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for more information.

By Peter Rachleff

From its founding in the 1920s through its political dominance in the 1930s and its merger with the Democratic Party in 1944, the Farmer-Labor movement united Minnesota workers, farmers and the unemployed, building solidarity across regional, political and racial or ethnic divides. Combining electoral politics, year-round organizing and political education toward a vision of a "cooperative commonwealth," this movement created a model for progressive change still relevant today.

Lost to history by political repression and the Cold War ideology of the 1950s, the Farmer-Labor tradition was rediscovered by a group of labor activists and educators in the 1970s. They formed the Farmer-Labor Education Committee (FLEC), a non-profit organization with a mission to educate members of the public about the history and continued relevance of the progressive Farmer-Labor tradition. Like the movement they study, FLEC's members are diverse and multi-generational, with rural and urban roots.

In 2022, FLEC produced "The Farmer-Labor Movement: A Minnesota Story," a documentary about the history of the movement that has screened widely and prompted passionate conversations. (*Labor Review*, October 22, 2022). There has been particular interest in the film's contention that the Farmer Labor Party is best understood as part of a broader social movement that included co-opera-

tives, educational institutions, newspapers and libraries, and cultural groups.

Now, FLEC has launched a new project, centered on art and artists. FLEC's activists write: "Today, as much as ever, our desire to rekindle the solidarity of the Farmer-Labor movement is profound. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Farmer-Labor Party and the remarkable movement of solidarity that supported it, FLEC, with financial support from Monument Lab's Re-Generation initiative, commissioned public artist and teacher Gita Ghei to create a permanent traveling art exhibit commemorating the movement. FLEC and her team of artists have been working on the concept over much of last year and participating in a community engagement process that connects with the history and with Minnesotans throughout the state."

Their work has been informed by their participation in community discussions following screenings of "The Farmer-Labor Movement." Their goal is to promote further conversations not only between rural and urban residents, and members of different generations, but also between the past and present.

FLEC envisions the new exhibit, "You Betcha," as a project of hope in challenging times. "Over the past decade, we have witnessed the resurgence of fascism and ultra-conservative organizing extending across the state," they write. "At the same time, a divisive and reductive characterization of state politics

EXHIBIT page 11

Walz pitches \$887 million infrastructure jobs bill at Mankato dam

MANKATO — Governor Tim Walz last month proposed investing \$887 million in jobs-creating infrastructure projects across the state.

The Minnesota governor made his pitch in Mankato January 23, joined by union tradespeople and local officials, at the site of the Rapidan Dam, which partially collapsed due to flooding last spring. His proposal includes \$10 million to support recovery efforts at the dam.

Walz said his infrastructure plan, also known as a bonding bill, would “protect our drinking water, improve public infrastructure and enhance public safety.”

“Investing in the basics ensures that our communities have the infrastructure they need to thrive,” Walz said. “With this plan, we’re delivering on the nuts and bolts of what government should provide, making life safer and easier for all Minnesotans.”

In the past, state lawmakers prioritized infrastructure spending in even-numbered years, after setting their biennial budget in the odd years.

Recent legislative sessions have broken with tradition. Lawmakers passed no bonding bill in 2024, and despite making a historic, \$2.6 billion investment in projects statewide two years ago, requests for aid from agencies and local

governments are piling up — as high as \$5 billion, according to the League of Minnesota Cities.

Walz said his package of investments would prioritize four areas of need:

- \$395 million toward preserving state infrastructure, including \$206 million for state colleges and universities to repair and renovate buildings. Additional investments include \$40 million for local government projects, \$3 million for the Duluth Hangar in support of the 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, and nearly \$3 million in grants to construct and renovate early childhood facilities.

- \$239 million for public safety, including expansion of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension’s facilities and a new Minnesota State Patrol headquarters.

- \$144 million for water and transportation infrastructure. This includes \$107 million in grants and low-interest loans to keep Minnesota’s water clean, \$5 million for flood mitigation, and support for the Rapidan Dam.

- \$44 million for investments in housing and the environment. Walz would direct \$7 million to rehabilitate public housing and \$17 million to improve facilities at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

Passing an infrastructure jobs bill is a



Photo: Office of Governor Tim Walz

Flanked by union tradespeople, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz announced his administration’s \$887 million infrastructure proposal at the Rapidan Dam site in Mankato January 23.

top priority for Minnesota’s Building Trades unions. Tradespeople who joined Walz in Mankato said the governor’s proposal would keep projects in the pipeline that keep union members working.

That’s not just good for union members and their families, Laborers Local 563 member Stacey Karels told Walz, that’s good for Minnesota’s economy, too.

“This plan represents more than just bricks, mortar and asphalt,” said Karels, who serves as president of the Mankato Building and Construction Trades Council.

“It’s about creating family-supporting jobs that provide not just a paycheck, but stability, dignity and a future.”

Karels continued: “Let’s get this bonding bill passed this session and not kick the can down the road and cost Minnesotans more money by delaying these projects that will help greater Minnesota thrive.”

The Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council plans a “Rally for Jobs” Wednesday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. at the Minnesota State Capitol.

—Saint Paul Union Advocate

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SEIU rejoins national AFL-CIO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Bringing an end to a nearly 20-year split, the Service Employees International Union has rejoined the national AFL-CIO. A joint statement released January 8 by SEIU and the AFL-CIO said the move would bring SEIU's two million union members together with the nearly 13 million union members already part of the AFL-CIO.

"Workers know it's better in a union, and together we are stronger in our organizing and bargaining fights because there is power in unity," said AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler. "CEOs and billionaires want nothing more than to see workers divided, but we're standing here today with greater solidarity than ever to reach the 60 million Americans who say they'd join a union tomorrow if the laws allowed and to un-rig our labor laws to guarantee every worker in America the basic right to organize on the job."

"SEIU members are ready to unleash a new era of worker power, as millions of service and care workers unite with workers at the AFL-CIO to build our

unions in every industry and every ZIP code," said SEIU international president April Verrett. "Working people have been organizing our workplaces and communities to build a stronger economy and democracy. We are ready to stand up to union-busters at corporations and in government and rewrite the outdated, sexist, racist labor laws that hold us all back. We're so proud to join together as nearly 15 million members to redouble our commitment to building a thriving, healthy future for working people."

SEIU, joined by the Teamsters and UFCW, left the national AFL-CIO in July 2005 to form the Change to Win federation, citing differences in strategy (*Labor Review*, August 18, 2005). A few other unions followed but in the years since then most rejoined the AFL-CIO.

Meanwhile, at the local and state level, many of SEIU's local unions — including in Minnesota — remained active in the AFL-CIO's local central labor bodies and state federations through a program of "Solidarity Charters."

Home care

continued from page 1

es won in previous negotiations.

The agreement also takes "initial steps toward creation of a defined-contribution retirement program," the union said. Retirement security was among home care workers' top demands heading into bargaining.

The union and representatives of Governor Tim Walz's administration reached the agreement after a 19-hour bargaining session took them right up to the January 10 deadline.

Jeremy Heyer, a home care client from Rochester who served on the SEIU bargaining team, said he felt confident the Walz administration "hears and acknowledges" workers who provide an essential service — and save the state money by keeping people out of long-

term care facilities.

"It was powerful to know we were fighting to improve the lives of thousands of Minnesotans," Heyer said of participating in the contract talks. "I appreciate the passion that care workers show for me, and I wanted to support them as they support me."

SEIU also acknowledged that the state faces new constraints in setting its two-year budget this session. A projected \$1.7 billion surplus shrunk to \$616 million in the latest forecast, and the state is projected to see a \$5.1 billion deficit in the following budget cycle.

"Progress is never as fast as we want it to be, and this year in particular the state budget situation means we can't make as much progress as we'd like to," Heyer said. "But with this new agreement we are making a more positive future for workers and clients across the state."

—Saint Paul Union Advocate

Crisis

continued from page 1

law is an independent agency.

Firing Wilcox means the NLRB is down to just two members and no longer has a quorum to conduct its business.

President Trump has in effect shut down the NLRB, which is the federal agency that certifies union elections and hears a wide variety of labor disputes. This move, explained Paul Slattery of Teamsters Local 120, is an attack on the rights of all workers.

"If the Teamsters or other unions bring forward any charges, we can't get a decision. Workers can take all the heroic steps to organize, but without the NLRB the union cannot become their certified representative. We cannot file charges to challenge unfair labor practices," Slattery said. "But we will continue to organize. We will demand recognition directly from employers. We will look to the history of our movement, to how organizing was done before the Wagner Act created the NLRB in 1935.

What's happening is bad. It's unprecedented. But it won't stop us from organizing and representing workers."

This uncertainty is impacting many other industries, including construction. According to Dan McConnell, president of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, "any time there is this amount of uncertainty in the system, it causes people to pull back on investment. That hurts our members who work in construction. We heard there may be a 90 day freeze on Department of Transportation-funded projects. That would be a massive setback. We have a short construction season here in Minnesota. A 90-day pause could end up pushing projects back a year. Then we have a year of people doing nothing, not enough work to go around, and then a year of people being overworked to get back on track. Workers need consistency — and so far this President is giving us the opposite."

This story includes reporting by Jillian Clearman, formerly of the Workers Confluence Fund of Minnesota.



Saint Paul Union Advocate photo

During a contract rally in the Capitol, SEIU member Tee Johnson (left), a home care worker from Plymouth, shared her mother's story of working in the profession for 30-plus years — and recently giving up on plans to retire because she couldn't make ends meet. "She's made extreme sacrifices for the most vulnerable — and for the state," Johnson said. Retirement benefits were a top priority for home care workers during this round of contract negotiations. Also pictured: Jeremy Heyer (right), SEIU home care contract team member.

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2025 Political Calendar

<p>April 8 Minneapolis DFL Precinct Caucuses</p> <p>April 26-May 31 Minneapolis DFL Ward Conventions (April 26, May 3, 4, 10, 11, 31)</p> <p>May 19 Minnesota legislature adjourns</p> <p>June 27 Early voting begins for Primary Election</p>	<p>July 19-20 Minneapolis DFL Convention</p> <p>August 12 Primary Election</p> <p>September 19 Early voting begins for General Election</p> <p>November 4 General Election</p>
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For voting information, visit the MN Secretary of State's office: mnvotes.org

2024 union lobby days

Wednesday, March 26
SEIU Minnesota State Council
seiumn.org

Tuesday, April 1
AFSCME Council 5
afscmemn.org

Thursday, April 3
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
northcountrycarpenter.org

Wednesday, April 30
Rally for Jobs
Minnesota Building Trades
mntrades.org

Fund Our Future Rally

Unions, community allies rally to urge taxing the rich, funding needed services

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

SAINT PAUL — Labor union members and community allies rallied inside the Minnesota State Capitol rotunda February 18 to call for raising taxes on the rich and for funding the services Minnesotans need. “The Fund our Future” rally was organized by the We Make Minnesota coalition, which includes AFSCME, Education Minnesota, LIUNA, the Minnesota Nurses Association, SEIU and other unions plus nonprofits Faith in Minnesota and Move Minnesota.

“We are Minnesotans across race and class... We stand together. We make sure we take care of each other,” said JaNaé Bates, minister and rally emcee.

“We are in a crisis. None of us is exempt. Not a single one of us,” declared speaker Deb Howse, member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, and a home care worker for 30 years. “We the people have got to stop the billionaires from destroying our democracy.”

Among the crowd packing the rotunda was Claudia Hochstein, a member of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees who works for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “It was important to come here today because I am so angry about unelected billionaires who are trying to villainize public workers,” Hochstein said. “The people who work for the State of Minnesota, we care so much... We do important work.”



Many signs at the rally in the State Capitol rotunda called out billionaire Elon Musk for his attacks on federal workers and public services through President Trump’s so-called Department of Government Efficiency. Unions have gone to court challenging DOGE’s work as an illegal over-reach of executive power.



Members of AFSCME Council 5 took part in the rally after a day spent at the Capitol meeting with legislators and testifying at committee hearings.

Labor Review photos



Minnesota Department of Transportation workers from AFSCME Local 221 attended the rally including Chad Curtis, North St., Paul (right). Curtis said MNDOT is short 100 snow-plow drivers. “We have the trucks,” he said. “We don’t have the bodies to fill them” — because potential applicants can earn more in the private sector, he said.



Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison cited legal action by his office and other states’ attorneys general to block Trump’s agenda but also said, “this fight will not be won in a courtroom... It’s got to be the people... We need you to raise your voices!”



“We have a responsibility to protect all children of all backgrounds,” said Keneth Garnier, member of AFSCME Local 34 at Hennepin County social services. “Every day front-line workers like us see the reality of what the economy is.”



Education Minnesota member Sarah Lancaster, first grade teacher at the Onamia Public Schools and Minnesota 2022 Teacher of the Year: “What kind of investment are we making into education? My students need all the resources they can get.”



Deb Howse, member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa, and a home care worker for 30 years: “I love caring for people and I know our work is very important... We are in a crisis. None of us is exempt, not a single one of us.”

Ron Cohen, former Labor Review editor, MN AFL-CIO communications director, dies at 91

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — The life of longtime labor communicator Ron Cohen will be celebrated Wednesday, March 19 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota AFL-CIO, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul. Cohen died September 28, 2024 at the age of 91.

Cohen was a former communications director for the Minnesota AFL-CIO, former editor of the *Minneapolis Labor Review*, and former American Postal Workers Union member and editor of the Minneapolis local's newsletter.

The first issue of the *Labor Review* listing Cohen as editor was published May 2, 1968. Cohen had been a Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council delegate for two years, representing Local 125 of the postal workers, and had been editor of his local's newsletter, *The Northern Light*.

Cohen took over as *Labor Review* editor right in between the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

Cohen served as *Labor Review* editor through the January 1, 1975 issue, when he left to join the staff of the Minnesota AFL-CIO at the invitation of then-president Dave Roe. Cohen first served as director of research, then as communications director. Cohen retired from the Minnesota AFL-CIO in 1993.

In 2007, Cohen contributed a story for the *Labor Review* 100th anniversary history series, "McCarthy's campaign in



Ron Cohen, 2018

1968: new DFL activists battled labor," recounting local political struggles between young supporters of anti-Vietnam war presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy and supporters of Hubert Humphrey.

Friends remembered Cohen for his intellect, wide ranging-interests, and for being something of a curmudgeon on the exterior— but with a loving heart inside.

"He had a mind like a trap for information and history... always with a sense of humor," recalled Bill Moore, who succeeded Cohen as communications director at the Minnesota AFL-CIO. "I would always call him up if I needed advice. He was a good source of counsel."

"He had a keen sense of politics and he stayed up-to-date," recalled John See, who first met Cohen in 1986 when See joined the staff of the U of M's Labor Education Service. See worked closely with

Cohen to produce "Minnesota at Work," a weekly cable television program reporting on the state's labor movement.

Pat Guernsey, longtime president of AFSCME Local 552, was a young teen when his mother dated Cohen. He recalled visiting Cohen's Chicago Ave. apartment. "There were bookshelves everywhere. He had thousands of books."

Ronald Greengard Cohen spent his early years in northern Minnesota. Next door neighbors in Hibbing: the Zimmerman family. Cohen knew the younger Bobby Zimmerman, who went on to fame as Bob Dylan.

After graduating from Washburn High in Minneapolis in 1952, Cohen served in the U.S. army during the Korean war, stationed in Europe, and attended the University of Minnesota on the G.I. Bill. Cohen's remains will be interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

CWA's Dick Johnson, past president of Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council, dies at 89

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Richard O. "Dick" Johnson, who served two terms as president of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council from 1996 to 2001, died June 20, 2024. He was 89 years old.

Family members and union colleagues celebrated Johnson's life at a memorial service July 1, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis.

Johnson grew up in south Minneapolis and graduated from Central High School in 1953. In 1955, he went to work for Northwestern Bell telephone company and joined Communications Workers of America Local 7250. His first job at Northwestern Bell: emptying coins from pay phones. He went on to work in cable splicing, line crew, and residential repair.

Johnson won appointment as CWA

Local 7250's chief steward in 1968, then won election as treasurer and next as first vice president. Elected Local 7250 president, he served 16 years — longer than any previous president.

"Dick and I met when I was 17 years old and came to work at the phone company," recalled Dawn Schnickels-Johnson, who went on to become treasurer of CWA Local 7200. She spoke of Johnson as "my friend, my mentor" and "one of the kindest men I ever met."

"He treated his job in the union... with dignity and he treated our members



Dick Johnson

with dignity and respect," she said.

"Growing up, he would tell us stories about his time with the labor union and how he would help people," grandchild Taylor recalled.

Sharon Sayles Belton served as Minneapolis mayor during Johnson's time as CLUC president and remembered Johnson as "a tough negotiator." She added, "at the end of the day, he cared about the city and so did I... At the end of the day, he always cared deeply about the men and women who were the workers of the city."

"The workers of the labor movement loved him," commented former Minnesota AFL-CIO president Bill McCarthy, who succeeded Johnson as CLUC president. "He was respected by the workers, by other labor leaders and by the politicians... He was able to get a lot of things done."

When Johnson announced his decision to retire, he told the *Minneapolis Tribune*: "I had certain things I wanted to accomplish and I have done that." He cited growing the CLUC from 45,000 members to 60,000 members during his time as president and seeing local unions become more involved in city and state politics. "We have become more influential in the political process," he said.

Prior to winning election as CLUC president in 1996, Johnson previously served for nine years as secretary-treasurer of the central labor body (now the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation).

Johnson also served as president of the CWA Minnesota State Council.

In addition, Johnson helped create and co-chaired the Twin Cities Area Labor Management Committee.

LABOR REVIEW
WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR ORGANIZED WORKERS
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
Vol. 1, April 4, 1967, No. 1

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Local Union News

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Union mourns death of longtime officer Tommy Bellfield

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 are mourning the death of Tommy Bellfield, the local's longtime financial secretary-treasurer.

Bellfield became ill late last year and died January 29 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. He was 56 years old.

Bellfield first won election as ATU Local 1005's financial secretary-treasurer in 2008, defeating the incumbent. He later ran for re-election for additional terms without opposition.

Bellfield joined Metro Transit as a bus operator in 1991 and later worked as a light rail dispatcher.

He won election to the executive board of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation in 2015, serving as sergeant-at-arms through 2024.

Bellfield also was active in Local 1005's Black Caucus and in the MRLF's People of Color Union Members caucus.

"Tommy was a remarkable soul who had a way of making everyone he met feel uplifted," said David Stiggers, Local 1005 president. "His infectious smile, unmistakable laugh, and boundless heart made him truly unforgettable."

"You knew that smile was there to light up the day," said MRLF president Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, who took of-

fice the same year that Bellfield joined the MRLF executive board. "He was the presence you need to know everything will be okay."

Bellfield resigned his Local 1005 position a few weeks before his death.

In announcing the news, the Local 1005 officers said in a statement: "Tommy has been more than a leader — he has been a steadfast advocate, a mentor, and a friend to so many of us. His commitment to representing our members and upholding the values of our union has left an indelible mark on this local."

A celebration of the life of Tommy Bellfield is planned for Saturday, March 15, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m., at the GrandStay Hotel and Conference, 7083 153rd St. W., Apple Valley.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Rochester ZIPS drivers authorize strike

Drivers in the Rochester area who work for the Zumbro Independent Passenger Service (ZIPS) have voted to authorize a strike.

The bargaining unit of 20 drivers have been members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 since organizing March 1, 2024.

ZIPS offers door-to-door service for riders who, due to a disability, are unable to use the fixed bus routes operated by Rochester Public Transit.

ATU Local 1005 also represents about 100 other workers at Rochester Public Transit, including drivers, utility workers, clerks, and dispatchers.

At ZIPS, "the [driver's] wages are just enough to make ends meet for a single person, not a family," said David Stiggers, ATU Local 1005 president. He added that the health insurance offered to the ZIPS drivers is "absolutely unaffordable."

AFSCME Local 2822: Hennepin County clerical workers ratify three-year contract

Hennepin County's clerical workers reached a tentative agreement December 17 for a new three-year contract. The AFSCME Local 2822 members, voting in-person and online in January 10-16, ratified the proposed agreement.

The Local 2822 contract settlement covers about 1,200 workers and came after five other Hennepin County locals reached a separate settlement on their contracts November 21, 2024 (*Labor Review, December 14, 2024*).

The Local 2822 bargaining team had recommended ratification of the December 17 settlement.

Like the terms reached by the other locals, the Local 2822 contract includes a four percent general salary adjustment for each year of the contract.

The agreement included retroactive

pay increases going back to December 29, 2024.

In summarizing the terms, the Local 2822 website reported: "This tentative agreement is similar to the contract recently ratified by the other AFSCME locals in Hennepin County, but also includes substantial increases to the wage scales for the majority of 2822's job classes."

The Local 2822 website reported other gains from the contract, including increases to shift differentials for evenings and weekends, increases to retention pay, and an increase in the County's contribution to the workers' Healthcare Savings Plan.

The union also reported beating back two "poison pill" proposals by the County which would have weakened grievance procedures.

"We have withstood many attacks this past year, most recently the attempted firing of our president, and we didn't back down," the Local 2822 bargaining committee reported. "The county's union busting tactics throughout bargaining showed that they had every intention of using this contract cycle to try to break our union. They failed. And we are coming out the other end, with gains for our members to boot."

LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10

Retiree Meetings

Carpenters Retirees:

Next meetings March 27, April 24

Carpenters Retirees will meet Thursday, March 27 and Thursday, April 24 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. Meetings will continue monthly through October on the last Thursday of each month.

IBEW Local 292 Retirees:

'Senior Sparkies' will meet March 11, April 8

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — "Senior Sparkies" — will meet Tuesday, March 11 and Tuesday, April 8 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. For more information, contact the IBEW Local 292 office at 612-379-1292.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Next meeting will be March 25 via Zoom

The Retired Minneapolis Educators will meet via Zoom in March and in-person in April and May.

The Zoom meeting will be Tuesday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will review state and federal legislation.

The in-person meetings will be Tuesday, April 22 and Tuesday, May 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. at the MFT office, 67- 8th Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

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

Minnesota Nurses Association Retirees:

CARn will meet March 12, April 9

The Council of Active Retired Nurses (CARn) will meet Wednesday, March 12 and Wednesday, April 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Minnesota Nurses Association, 345 Randolph Ave., St. Paul. CARn normally meets the second Wednesday of the month. All retired members of the Minnesota Nurses Association are welcome to attend. For more infor-

mation, 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 March 11

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 "Rusty Tinnars" retirees club will resume meeting after a winter break for January and February. The next two meetings will be Tuesday, March 11 and Tuesday, April 8 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.

U of M Facilities Management and Maintenance Retirees:

Meet last Tuesday of month

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

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 612-379-4725.

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council:

Monthly meetings coming March 20, April 17

The next regular monthly meetings of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be Thursday, March 20 and Thursday, April 17 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 meetings 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.

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.

continued from page 9

IBEW Local 292: Local plans March 6 'Safety Extravaganza'

Part trade show and part fun, IBEW Local 292 plans a "Safety Extravaganza" for members Thursday, March 6 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the union hall at 6700 W. Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park.

The event includes a chance to connect with industry safety experts, see the latest safety tools and equipment, participate in hands-on demonstrations of the newest safety gear.

The event also will include food, prize drawings, and give-aways of event tickets.

Ironworkers Local 512: Former business manager Charlie Witt dies at 76

Charlie Witt, a former business manager of Ironworkers Local 512, died December 24, 2024 after two bouts with cancer.

Witt retired as Local 512 business manager in 2011, after serving nine years in that role (*Labor Review*, September 11, 2011).

Witt grew up in Winthrop, Minnesota and came to St. Paul on a football scholarship at Hamlin University.

He worked as a member of the Laborers union from 1969-78 and helped build the Prairie Island nuclear power plant.

"I knew a lot of Ironworkers," he told the *Labor Review* in 2011, and so he joined Ironworkers Local 512 in 1978.

Much of Witt's work as an Ironworker involved a sub-specialty, erecting television transmission towers. "People who build them are a small fraternity," he said. That work took him across the world, going to Venezuela and three times to Iceland.

Witt was elected Local 512's recording secretary, serving 1984-2002.

In 1995, he went to work full-time for Local 512 as an organizer and director of market recovery before winning election as business manager in 2002.

Witt spent 34 years as an active mem-



Nursing home workers strike, win contract gains

NEW HOPE —SEIU Healthcare nursing home workers at Woodlake at New Hope won contract gains after a five-day Unfair Labor Practice strike December 13-17. The victory marked the end of a long campaign which included a surprise ownership change from St. Therese, the former employer, to Woodlake, the new employer. Despite bitter cold and a biting wind December 17, the *Labor Review* found a lively picket line and high spirits (*photo above*). "Everybody is feeling fine because we are fighting for our rights," said Musu Kiazolu, nursing assistant who has worked about three years at the facility, which changed ownership in August. "This is what we need to do," Kiazolu said. "We are here fighting for our residents." Over 14 bargaining sessions up to that point, the new owners had not budged on issues like respecting seniority in the payscale and providing a uniform allowance. "It's a lot on the table and they are not responding," said Yankuba Fadera, lead negotiator and organizer for SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa. Members and the bargaining team remained resilient and determined, however, and the first week of January members voted to accept a tentative agreement. The union reported that the new agreement achieved wage increases in year two, a wage opener in year three (during which no-strike language will be waived) more holidays, and aligning with Minnesota Nursing Home Workforce Standards for required holidays, among other wins. The 185 workers at Woodlake include nursing assistants, housekeepers, nutritional/kitchen workers, home health aides, maintenance staff, health unit coordinators, and receptionists.

ber of Local 512.

Laborers District Council: Lino Lakes Training Center hosts LIUNA Family Benefits Day April 26

Participants in the Minnesota Laborers Health and Welfare Fund are invited to the Minnesota Laborers Family Benefits day Saturday, April 26. The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Laborers Training Center, 2350 Main St., Lino Lakes.

The event will offer fun activities for the whole family plus free health screenings, food and refreshments.

For more information about the Family Benefits Day, LIUNA members can visit liunaminnesota.org/member.

Minnesota Nurses Association: Nurses at Maple Grove Medical Center vote to join MNA

By an overwhelming margin, registered nurses at Maple Grove Medical Center voted January 23 to join the Minnesota Nurses Association.

Nearly 89 percent of 576 eligible voters cast a ballot, according results reported by the National Labor Relations Board, with 57 percent voting in favor of joining MNA.

Maple Grove Medical Center is part of North Memorial Health, which also operates a MNA-organized hospital in Robbinsdale.

"This is a monumental moment for all of us," said Emily Campbell, an RN at

the Maple Grove hospital. "By joining MNA, we've shown our commitment to standing together for the betterment of our workplace and the patients we serve. This decision is about having a seat at the table to make our voices heard and ensure our concerns are addressed."

"Our patients deserve the best care we can provide, and being part of a union empowers us to secure the tools and resources we need to deliver that care," said LeAnn Adrian, another RN at Maple Grove. "This isn't just about us as nurses—it's about improving care for the entire community."

OPEIU Local 12: Workers at HealthPartners authorize strike

Voting the first week of February, 98 percent of OPEIU Local 12 members at HealthPartners voted to authorize a three-day strike, the union reported February 9.

The 1,000 Local 12 members at HealthPartners work the front desks and check-ins at around 30 clinics in the Twin Cities metro, along with back-office support positions such as scheduling, claims and accounting.

HealthPartners is proposing to drastically increase healthcare costs for Local 12 members, interfere with seniority rights, and remove provisions of the contract that have been in place for generations.

Local 12 and HealthPartners returned

to bargaining February 10-11.

The union reported February 11, "HealthPartners management decided to insult our members today by coming into the room at noon and say no to every proposal and not even offer a counter."

Additional bargaining continued but, as the *Labor Review* went to press, Local 12 gave the required 10-day notice February 19 for a strike set for March 3-5.

UNITE HERE Local 17: First Avenue workers reach agreement on first contract

Workers across all seven Twin Cities venues operated by First Avenue voted unanimously the second weekend in February to approve a groundbreaking first union contract, UNITE HERE Local 17 reported.

The contract brings big raises, longevity pay, improved scheduling, training and safety policies, protections for LGBT+ workers and more.

The workers went public with their organizing effort November 3, 2023 and won voluntary recognition from the employer a few days later (*Labor Review*, November 18, 2023).

"I'm overwhelmed and very grateful we have our contract," said Heidi Thompson, who has worked at First Avenue for 25 years. "The changes to scheduling — having it come out more than a few days in advance — mean I'll have an easier time making plans with my family and friends. This will make such a difference for me and all the staff that come after."

"I've watched a lot of my best friends leave the club because the job wasn't sustainable or they didn't feel respected, but this contract makes a lot of steps to change that. I've been pinching money at the end of the month for as long as I can remember, and the raises will make things significantly easier for me," said Kyle Tappe, event staff at First Avenue for three years. "I am thankful that First Avenue was willing to work with us to make the clubs better, and I'm hopeful that our efforts here can continue to spread outwards. I'm so proud of the incredibly tough and powerful organizing my co-workers and I have all done together."

In addition to the iconic First Avenue nightclub in downtown Minneapolis, other venues included in the contract include 7th Street Entry, Depot Tavern, and Fine Line Music Cafe in Minneapolis and, in St. Paul, Fitzgerald Theatre, Palace Theatre, and Turf Club. The agreement covers about 230 workers.

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: April 2.

Pipefitters Local 539

PIPERS

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your January-June 2025 Dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

Contract Vote and Election Dates

Watch for upcoming mailings detailing the contract vote and election dates.

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Bruce Johnson and Paul Bouley.

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

April 28: Workers Memorial Day ceremony will honor fallen workers, urge job safety

SAINT PAUL— To mark the anniversary of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, passed in 1970, each year AFL-CIO unions nationwide observe Workers Memorial Day and renew calls for job safety measures.

This year, the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council and the St. Paul Building and Construction Trades Council will observe Workers Memorial Day Monday, April 28 with a ceremony at the Workers Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Minnesota

State Capitol (located near the intersection of Cedar St. and 12th St.)

The event will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Local building trades members who died in the past year from workplace injuries or work-related illnesses will be remembered at the event.

Locals should submit names to ygranger@mntrades.org by April 15.

Each day, 344 U.S. workers die from hazardous working conditions, according to the most recent AFL-CIO “Death on the Job” report, citing 2022 data,

Exhibit

continued from page 4

cal divisions has emerged, framing the Twin Cities as a progressive haven pitted against a white, conservative, and ‘backwards’ rural monolith. ‘You Betcha’ uses

history as a way to trouble those narratives and engage ... in dialogue that might both build and unearth solidarity across differences.”

The exhibit will be on display at East Side Freedom Library until May 4.

All are welcome to join in this conversation between past and present.

Fare for All

continued from page 4

■ **Bloomington, Fridays, March 21 and April 18, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesdays, March 11 and April 8, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ **Chaska, Thursdays, March 27 and April 24, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ **Fridley, Fridays, March 28 and April 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ **Golden Valley, Fridays, March 28 and April 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ **Hutchinson, Thursdays, March**

13 and April 10, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ **New Hope, Wednesdays, March 19 and April 16, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Thursdays (new day), March 6 and April 3, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St. (no December date at this location).

■ **Richfield, Tuesdays, March 25 and April 22, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesdays, March 19 and April 16, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

Note: Fare For All no longer will be available in northeast Minneapolis at Mill City Church. 685 13th Ave. NE.

See www.fareforall.org for more information and dates for all 32 locations.

IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Brotherhood

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

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

Our Future

Journeyman, it is our responsibility and duty to train our

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

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

Condolences

Brother Duane E. Gaulke; Brother William J. Hansen; Brother Houng Ngo; Brother James O’Keefe, Jr.; Brother Alvin D. Olsen; Brother Keith P. Perlich; Brother Robert V. Ruter; Brother Arthur A. Stabner; Brother Tim G. Terhaar; Brother Dean Westveer; Brother Donald W. Wiese; Brother Adolf Zistl.

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Minneapolis Labor Review

2025 Publication Schedule

The Labor Review will publish nine issues in 2025. Note: NO issue published in January, March and June. The publication date normally will be the last Saturday or second to last Saturday of each month.

January

No issue published

May 31

Deadline: May 14
118th Anniversary Issue

September 20

Deadline: September 3

February 28

Deadline: February 12

June

No issue published

October 18

Deadline: October 1
General Election Issue

March

No issue published

July 26

Deadline: July 9
Primary Election Issue

November 15

Deadline: October 29
Holiday Shopping Guide

April 19

Deadline: April 2

August 23

Deadline: August 6
Labor Day Issue

December 20

Deadline: December 3
Holiday Issue

Next Special Issue:

May 31, 2025 — 118th Anniversary Issue!
Discounted ad rates available

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

Celebrating the career of Steve Share, Minneapolis Labor Review editor

October 2003–February 2025

During Steve Share's 21-plus years as editor — 250 issues! — the Labor Review has won 60 awards from the International Labor Communications Association for writing, photography, and design, including first place for general excellence. Congratulations from the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO!

2003

- **General Excellence, Third Place**
- **Best Editorial or Column, Honorable Mention**, "Let's celebrate our 100th year — all year — by organizing for power," by CLUC president Bill McCarthy, November 19, 2003

2004

- **Best Website, General Excellence, Second Place**
- **Best Website Content, Second Place**
- **Best Website Design, Honorable Mention**

2005

- **General Excellence, Second Place**

2006

- **General Excellence, Third Place**

2007

- **General Excellence, Second Place**
- **Best Labor History Story, First Place**, for Steve Share's March 22, 2007 story about the newspaper's first ten years, "Labor Review launched in 1907 with grand designs..."
- **Best Series, First Place** for a 10-part series published in 2007 chronicling each decade of the newspaper's 100 years. Steve Share edited the series and wrote the continuing narrative exploring Labor Review history. Other writers contributing stories to the Labor Review centennial series included Kelly Ahern, Ronald G. Cohen, Elizabeth Fave, Barb Kucera, Karl Meller, William Millikan, Iric Nathanson, and Dave Riehle.

2008

- **General Excellence, Second Place**
- **Best Editorial or Column, Third Place**, for MRLF president Bill McCarthy's June 17, 2008 column, "The Big Lie: Right Wing Groups Gear Up to Smear Unions, EFCA."

2009

- **General Excellence, Second Place**

2011

- **Best News Story, Third Place**, for editor Steve Share's August 2011 story, "Sugar lock-out includes distribution facility in Chaska, frustrated workers."

2012

- **General Excellence, First Place**
- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, First Place**, for a photo album posted on the MRLF Facebook page, "Locked out sugar workers' caravan reaches Moorhead."

2013

- **General Excellence, Second Place**
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, First Place**, for Steve Share's story, "SEIU Local 26 janitors, security officers vote to authorize strike."
- **Best Photograph, First Place**, for Steve Share's photo accompanying the above story.
- **Best Front Page/Cover, Second Place**
- **Best Editorial or Column, Second Place**, for MRLF president Bill McCarthy's column, "Overdue raise in state's minimum wage would benefit all workers."
- **Best Photo Essay or Gallery, First Place**, for Steve Share's photos of the October 5, 2013 "March for Dignity and Justice."

2014

- **Best Photo Essay or Gallery, Third Place**, for a two-page photo spread

in the January 24, 2014 issue, "Minnesota Orchestra Lock-Out." The photos by Labor Review editor Steve Share covered the course of the 15-1/2 month lock-out;

- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Political Action, Third Place**, for Steve Share's story, "MRLF celebrates work of Labor 2014 field staff and volunteers," which appeared in the December 19, 2014 issue. The story highlighted the MRLF's Labor 2014 effort and profiled several campaign workers.

2015

- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, Third Place**, for Steve Share's photos in "Vikings Stadium Safety Walk," published June 17, 2015.

2016

- **General Excellence, Honorable Mention**
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, Second Place**, for Steve Share's July 29, 2016 story, "Day four of strike: Nurses highlighted violence they suffer on job."
- **Best Design, Honorable Mention**

2017

- **General Excellence, Third Place**
- **Best Profile, First Place**, for Steve Share's story, "David Roe, giant of Minnesota labor, dies at 92," with contributions from Michael Moore and Barb Kucera, published February 24, 2017.
- **Best Photo Essay or Gallery, First Place**, for "A March on the Boss: Seward Co-op workers, backed by supporters, demand union," by Steve Share, June 23, 2017.
- **Best Editorial or Column, First Place**, for "Let's come together, resist efforts to divide us along racial lines," by Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, MRLF president, August 25, 2017.

- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, Second Place**, for "Minneapolis teachers' contract campaign: 'bargaining for the common good,'" by Steve Share, December 22, 2017.

- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Organizing, Third Place**, for "A March on the Boss: Seward Co-op workers, backed by supporters, demand union," by Steve Share, June 23, 2017.

- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Political Action, Third Place**, for "Londel French: Longtime union member," by Steve Share, August 25, 2017.

- **Best Feature Story, Third Place**, for "One year later, Teamsters members still not paid for wage theft," by Steve Share, December 22, 2017.

- **Best Front Page or Cover, Third Place**, for the November 17, 2017 issue.
- **Best News Story, Honorable Mention**, for "Workers expose extent of wage theft across job sectors," by Steve Share, May 26, 2017.

- **Best Photo Essay or Gallery, Honorable Mention**, for "AFSCME members protest Hennepin County Medical Center layoffs," by Steve Share, March 24, 2017.

2018

- **General Excellence, Honorable Mention**
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, Second Place**, for "Hundreds protest at Minneapolis school board; MFT Local 59 teachers call for 'the schools our students deserve,'" by Steve Share, February 23, 2018.
- **Saul Miller Award for a Best Story about Political Action, Honorable Mention**, for "MRLF celebrates work of Labor 2018 field staff," written by Steve Share and published in the December 21, 2018 issue. The story featured profiles of seven MRLF field staff and their reflections on the 2018 campaign.

2019

- **Best News Story, Second Place**, for "Amazon workers strike in Shakopee," by Steve Share, July 26, 2019.
- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, Honorable Mention**, for "Workers Memorial Day, 4/29/2019," a photo album featuring photos by Steve

Share published on the MRLF Facebook page.

- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, Honorable Mention**, for "Cement Masons apprentices create 'Concrete Christmas,' learning and using skills," published December 20, 2019. The photo essay featured photos by Steve Share and one photo courtesy of Plasterers Local 265.

2020

- **General Excellence, Honorable Mention**
- **Best Analysis, Second Place**, for Steve Share's story, "New postmaster general moves to slow US Mail delivery," August 21, 2020.
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, Third Place**, for "MFT Education Support Professionals: 'One job should be enough,'" by Steve Share, March 27, 2020.
- **Best Photograph, Third Place**, for a photo by Brad Sigal, capturing a candle-light vigil at the "Say Their Names" cemetery, published June 26, 2020.
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Organizing, Honorable Mention**, for "UNITE HERE Local 17: Tattersall Distillery staff organize, prepare for union election," by Steve Share, July 24, 2020.
- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, Honorable Mention**, for "#UnionsForAll Rally Against Corporate Greed," featuring photos by Steve Share, published February 14, 2020.

2021

- **Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery, Second Place**, for a photo spread from the May 29, 2021 issue featuring the annual Workers Memorial Day event organized by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Building and Construction Trades Councils (photos and layout by Steve Share).
- **Best Photo, Second Place**, for a Page 1 photo by Brad Sigal from the September 25, 2021 issue depicting a march by striking SEIU Local 26 window cleaners.
- **Best News Story, Honorable Mention**, for "SEIU Healthcare members press Allina hospitals for fair contract," by Steve Share, April 25, 2021.

2022

- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Collective Bargaining, Second Place**, for "After negotiating 19 months, Augsburg Staff Union wins first contract," by Steve Share, November 19, 2022.
- **Saul Miller Award for Best Story about Organizing, Second Place**, for "Voting 'yes' for union, workers at local Starbucks join nationwide movement," by Steve Share, May 21, 2022.
- **Best Labor History Story, Third Place**, for "Nellie Stone Johnson Statue Unveiling: Program honors legacy of Black labor activist Nellie Stone Johnson, now celebrated by a statue placed at the Minnesota state capital," by Steve Share, December 17, 2022.

2023

- **Best Labor History Story, First Place**, for "New musical tells story of Foshay Tower builder Wilbur Foshay and his support for union labor," by Steve Share, July 26, 2023 (published online only).
- **Best Op-Ed, Editorial or Column, First Place**, for "Take action to help pass legislation for paid family and medical leave," by MRLF president Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, March 25, 2023.
- **Best Photo Essay or Gallery, Honorable Mention**, for five photos by Steve Share which accompanied a story he wrote, "CTUL campaigns for protections for non-union construction workers," September 23, 2023.

In the ILCA awards competition, the Labor Review in recent years competes in a group which includes publications produced by local, regional and state labor organizations.

ILCA awards for work produced in 2024 will be announced late in 2025.