

# Minneapolis Labor Review

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*Vanessa Kaiser, Laborers Local 563 member*  
**Union members share hunting, fishing lives**  
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## Minneapolis Teamsters walk 'practice' picket line at local UPS hub

— See story, page 6

As the *Labor Review* went to press July 20, the Teamsters union was preparing for a possible nationwide strike at UPS with “practice” picketing including July 8 in Minneapolis (photo above).

## National AFL-CIO endorses Joe Biden for re-election as President

WASHINGTON — The General Board of the AFL-CIO—representing 60 unions and more than 12.5 million workers—voted June 16 to endorse President Joe Biden for re-election in 2024.

Seventeen months out, the endorsement was the earliest the AFL-CIO has ever voted to en-

dorse in a presidential election.

But AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler says without question that Biden is “the most pro-union president in our lifetimes.”

“We’ve never seen a president more forcefully advocate for workers’ fundamental right to join a union,” Shuler said.

Twelve affiliated unions joined the AFL-CIO in announcing an endorsement the same day: Actors Equity, American Federation of Government Employees, AFSCME, American Federation of Teachers, Bricklayers, Communications Workers of America, IBEW, Operat-

ing Engineers, Iron Workers, IATSE, National Nurses United, and UNITE HERE.

The Laborers endorsed Biden prior to the AFL-CIO endorsement and the Plumbers followed with a Biden endorsement June 19.

**BIDEN ENDORSED page 3**

## UFCW wins Lunds & Byerlys contract after holiday strike threat



June 26: Outside the Lunds & Byerlys in northeast Minneapolis, UFCW Local 663 members prepared to speak at a news conference to announce a three-day Unfair Labor Practice strike. The two sides reached a tentative agreement later that night, averting a strike.

By Steve Share,  
Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — In the days leading to the July 4 holiday, union members at Lunds & Byerlys threatened a three-day Unfair Labor Practice Strike for June 29, June 30 and July 1.

That pressure helped move the employer to reach a tentative agreement on a contract with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, which represents 2,500 workers at 22 metro area Lunds & Byerlys stores on the west side of the Mississippi River.

Workers voted July 1 to ratify

the tentative agreement.

The new two-year agreement will provide historic wage increases for both full-time and part-time workers, maintain the workers’ current union-directed health plan with no increased costs to workers, and establish two different joint labor-management committees to address wage equity issues and worker safety concerns.

“This contract is truly historic. In the 35 years I’ve been in the retail grocery industry, I’ve never seen such a rich contract,” said Rosemary Luoma, Local **UFCW LOCAL 663 page 4**

# Summer is here but 2023's local elections are around the corner

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

It's the middle of summer and everyone is hopefully enjoying some quality fun with their families and in their communities. I'm sure the last thing on many people's minds are the 2023 elections.

But, this November, dozens of cities and school boards across the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's seven-county jurisdiction will be conducting their local elections. From cities like Circle Pines (where the mayor's office and three council seats are on the ballot) and St. Anthony to school districts like Anoka-Hennepin and Westonka, 2023 is an election year.

Now is the perfect time to start charting our course to fill the seats of our city councils and school boards with pro-worker champions.

These "off-year" local elections do not get nearly the attention of "even-year" elections that feature statewide and national candidates at the top of the ticket. However, despite the relatively small number of vote totals, the local races on the ballot in years like 2023 can have just as big, if not bigger, impacts on working families' lives.

These local elected officials set critical policies that shape the health and well-being of our local communities and local economies. They are seen as civic leaders and help inform their communities of critical issues that working families are facing. Plus, oftentimes, it is lo-

cal candidates who eventually run for higher office.

Recently, local school board members have been particularly critical in shaping the debate around truth in education. Our champions have defended our educators and our families against falsehoods and divisive rhetoric about our shared history as a country.

What better way to ensure we have great worker-friendly champions in these positions than to have our own union members run for office! If you are reading this column and you ever have been interested in getting more involved in your community, now is the time to consider running for local office. Or, do you have a co-worker who you think would be a great candidate for local elected office? Encourage them to run!

To see what's on the ballot in your local area for 2023 visit, [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot).

Candidate filings are open from August 1-15.

Reach out to [graeme@minneapolis-unions.org](mailto:graeme@minneapolis-unions.org) to answer any questions you might have about running for office.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO also offers a Union Member Candidate Program for union members who are running for public office. The program offers training, support, and a chance to network with other union members running for office.

Visit [mnaflcio.org/runforoffice](http://mnaflcio.org/runforoffice) for more information.



**Local races on the ballot in years like 2023 can have a big impact on working families' lives**

## Welcome, new Minneapolis Labor Review readers!

As a member of a union affiliated with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, you now are receiving a subscription to the monthly *Minneapolis Labor Review*. Several affiliates recently have updated their mailing lists. For subscriber service, see page 11.

# Special Elections August 8

## Annandale school district seeks voter support

ANNANDALE — The Annandale school district seeks voter support for a bond referendum in a special election coming Tuesday, August 8.

The bond request would raise \$98.7 million, the school district says, "to build a new high school for grades 9-12, renovate the existing high school and convert it to a middle school for grades 5-8, and re-purpose the site of the existing middle school for potential sale or development."

Accord to the school district, the tax impact would be \$45 per month for a residential home valued at \$300,000.

Education Minnesota supports the bond referendum.

The Annandale Public Schools, ISD

#875, enrolls more than 2,000 students and currently has one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school.

The physical condition of the current middle school building is dire. The roof leaks. Ceilings have collapsed. The boiler is ancient. Heat failed in the sixth-grade wing. Repairs to the 70-year old building are expensive and are not cost-effective.

"The middle school is an absolutely terrible investment" when considering repairs to the current building, said Josh Dickinson, a special ed and tech ed teacher at the high school who has worked nine years for the district. He said investing more money in the aging ANNANDALE SCHOOLS page 11

## Union member Tony McGarvey is running for Brooklyn Park city council, endorsed by MRLF

BROOKLYN PARK — In a special election coming Tuesday, August 8, union member Tony McGarvey is running for one of the two seats for the Brooklyn Park City Council's West District.

McGarvey is running with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. He also has been endorsed by Operating Engineers Local 49, Painters District Council 82, Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 and the DFL Party.



Tony McGarvey

McGarvey came in first in the May 9 primary election, winning nearly 70 percent of the vote with two other candidates on the ballot. He faces one opponent for the August 8 election.

McGarvey is a 17-year resident of Brooklyn Park and lives in the Lakeland Park neighborhood. "We live in the house my wife [Sue Ann Detterman] grew up in," he notes.

A 21-year member of Minneapolis Painters and Tapers Local 386, McGar-

vey worked 13 years in the field before becoming a union organizer.

Since 2017, McGarvey has worked as director of government affairs for International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82.

McGarvey, 55, was born in Monticello and graduated from Osseo Senior High. The son of a pastor, "we lived all over the country," he says, but "Minnesota was always home."

After high school, McGarvey was working in a "survivor" job when he enlisted in the U.S. Army in the middle of the Gulf war. He served three years stationed in Germany.

In running for City Council, McGarvey says, "I see the opportunity to make a stand for working people." He wants to see Brooklyn Park "use tools available to municipal leaders to implement worker protections."

Early voting for the special election runs July 21 through August 7. In-per-BROOKLYN PARK page 11

## Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

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See page 11 for complete 2023 schedule

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

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# Events

## July 27: East Side Freedom Library hosts Labor Solidarity Picnic with speakers, food, music

SAINT PAUL — As part of a 10th anniversary celebration, the East Side Freedom Library will host a “Labor Solidarity Picnic” Thursday, July 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the library’s lawn.

The free event will feature speakers from local unions, worker centers and union organizing drives, all updating their work, along with food and music.

The event also will include games and activities for the kids.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1105 Greenbrier Street in Saint Paul.

Visit [eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/solidarity-suppers](http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/solidarity-suppers) for more information. Or, call 651-207-4926 or e-mail [info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](mailto:info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org).

## July 29: Mill City Museum offers ‘Women’s Work,’ a new labor history walking tour

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

The museum’s next “Women’s Work” labor history walking tour will be Saturday, July 29 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Additional tours, all from 10:00-11:30 a.m. include: Sunday, August 13; Saturday, September 2; Sunday, September 24

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

Be inspired by the stories of activists

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

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

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

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

To learn more, or to register for one of the tours, visit [www.mnhs.org/events/573](http://www.mnhs.org/events/573).

## September 6: Minneapolis Building Trades’ DADs Day golf event benefits diabetes research

HAM LAKE — The annual Dollars Against Diabetes — “DADs Day” — golf event hosted by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council will be Wednesday, September 6.

The event raises funds to support diabetes research.

The venue will be Majestic Oaks Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE in Ham Lake.

The cost is \$200 per golfer, or \$800 per foursome, and includes: continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf with cart,

award banquet, steak dinner, and two drinks from the beverage cart or bar. The fee is \$100 per dinner and drinks only,

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

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

## September 7: Sporting clays shoot will benefit fund to aid injured building trades apprentices

CLEAR LAKE — The 2023 ACAM Injured Apprentice Sporting Clays Shoot will be Thursday, September 7 at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays, 13481 Co. Rd. 3 in Clear Lake, Minnesota. This Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of Minnesota event raises funds for building trades apprentices who become injured and miss at least 30 days of work.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a safety briefing at 9:30 a.m. The shoot

begins at 10:00. a.m. Safety glasses and hearing protection will be required.

Participants are asked to bring 125 shells 12/20 gauge, #7.5 or 8 shot.

Lunch will be served after the shoot.

To register, mail \$150 per person checks payable to ACAM to Minnesota Limited Energy JATC, 452 Northco Dr., Suite 140, Fridley, MN 55432. For more information, contact Dave Dressler at 763-571-5922 or [ddressler@statewidelea.org](mailto:ddressler@statewidelea.org).



The day following the AFL-CIO endorsement, Biden spoke at a “Labor Unity” rally in Philadelphia. For a link to view the video, visit [minneapolisunions.org](http://minneapolisunions.org).


## Biden endorsed

*continued from page 1*

Biden talks up unions far more frequently than other presidents and pushed to give union workers a leg up in securing federally-funded infrastructure work.


He’s also put energetically pro-union appointees in charge of the National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor, and he signed into law a bill that rescued failing union pensions, restoring retirement security for about a million union members and their spouses.

—Northwest Labor Press



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663 member from the St. Louis Park Lunds & Byerlys location and a member of the bargaining committee. “Lunds & Byerlys has now set the new standard for the grocery industry.”

Lunds & Byerlys workers had been working under an expired contract since March 7.

April 11, UFCW Local 663 members ratified a new contract with Cub Foods — winning a tentative agreement after threatening a strike during the Easter holiday weekend. “Cub paved the way for us,” Luoma said.

As Lunds & Byerlys negotiations continued, union members staged a series of in-store group walk-throughs and informational pickets at Lunds & Byerlys locations in Eagan, Golden Valley, Eden Prairie, Maple Grove and Bloomington.

Local 663 also filed Unfair Labor Practice charges, alleging among other violations that Lunds & Byerlys management had engaged in worker surveillance and coercion along with refusing to bargain in good faith.

June 23 members voted to authorize an Unfair Labor Practice strike, which the bargaining committee announced June 26 would be set for June 29, June

30 and July 1 — a busy shopping time leading into the July 4 holiday week.

“We have members who are 30-40 year industry veterans who have not seen this behavior from the company,” said Rena Wong, Local 663 president, speaking at the June 26 news conference announcing the strike.

At a meeting that day following the strike announcement, other unions pledged support for Local 663 members if a strike came.

“I’m glad the direction our union is going in,” said Tim Hesteness, a 37-year Local 663 member and meat manager at the Hwy. 7 Lunds & Byerlys, as the strike support meeting concluded. “I can’t believe what’s going on — we’re going to take charge and we’re going to do it... I’ve never seen anything like this but I’m glad to be part of it.”

That evening, however, the bargaining committee — which included 20 Lunds & Byerlys workers from 15 stores — reached a tentative agreement with the company, averting the strike.

UFCW Local 663 continues to work towards a fair contract with the Kowalski’s grocery chain. As the *Labor Review* went to press, Local 663’s Kowalski’s bargaining committee had set July 24 for an Unfair Labor Practice strike authorization vote.

# More Events

## September 16: MN Building Trades’ inaugural Yellow Ribbon Ribfest to raise funds to benefit service members, veterans, and their families

ARDEN HILLS — The Minnesota Building Trades’ inaugural “Yellow Ribbon Ribfest” promises families “an afternoon of BBQ, music and patriotic fun.”

The event will be Saturday, September 16 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Headquarters, 4800 Hamline Ave. North in Arden Hills.

Tickets will be available via pre-sale or on the day of the event.

Proceeds will benefit programs to support military service members, veterans, and military families.

New or experienced cooking teams are invited to join the rib-smoking contest.

Plans for the day include an Army National Guard and labor career fair, a military ceremony and flyover, a beer and refreshment tent, ribs, music and more.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/mnbuildingtradesribfest](http://www.facebook.com/mnbuildingtradesribfest).

## September 21: Working Partnerships golf event will benefit union members in need

COON RAPIDS — Save the date: Thursday, September 21 is set for the Working Partnerships Golf Tournament.

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

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

The Working Partnerships Golf Tour-

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

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

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

# Classes

## Minnesota Union Leadership Program offers six-session training series beginning this fall

MINNEAPOLIS — Applications are now being accepted for the 2023-2024 Minnesota Union Leadership Program.

The program aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to address the challenges facing working people and their unions.

Presented by the University of Minnesota’s Labor Education Service, the program includes six in-depth sessions scheduled over eight months.

Session 1, “Worker Culture and Power,” and Session 2, “Workers and Social Movements,” will take place October 25-27 at Ruttger’s Bay Resort near Brainerd, Minnesota.

All of the other sessions will take place at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, located at the U of M’s West Bank campus in Minneapolis:

■ Session 3, “Labor as a Social Movement,” December 7.

■ Session 4, “Workers in Media,” January 25.

■ Session 5, “Building Worker Power,” March 21.

■ Session 6, “Creating the Labor Movement We Want,” May 23.

LES says historically and structurally excluded people — including all people of color, women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, disabled people, and people under age 35 — are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by September 1.

Tuition is \$2,500 and includes two nights and meals for the sessions at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Resort as well as parking, light breakfast, and snacks for the sessions at the U of M.

Applicants typically are sponsored by their union or organization. A limited number of scholarships are available to support applicants who do not have union sponsorship.

Application materials and additional information are available at the LES website at <https://bit.ly/3PNjcis>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ Anoka, Thursday, August 24 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ Blaine, Thursday, August 17, 3:00–5:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ Bloomington, Friday, August 18, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ Buffalo, Tuesday, August 8, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ Chaska, Thursday, August 24, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ Fridley, Friday, August 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ Golden Valley, Friday, August 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ Hutchinson, Thursday, August 10, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ Minneapolis, Friday, August 11, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Laborers Local 563 union hall, 901 14th Ave. NE. (one-half block west of Central Ave. on 14th Ave. NE).

■ New Hope, Wednesday, August 16, 3:00–5:00 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ Norwood Young America, Thursday, August 3, 3:00–5:00 p.m., All FARE FOR ALL page 10

# Women Building Success presents annual awards to women in the trades

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Celebrating women who work in the building trades, Women Building Success presented its annual awards June 1 for Apprentice of the Year, Journey Worker of the Year and Women's Advocate of the Year.

The event took place at Kellerman Event Center in White Bear Lake with about 250 people attending.

Women Building Success received a total of 40 nominations for this year's awards.

## Apprentice of the Year:

### Johanna Heath, Ironworkers

Johanna Heath, member of Ironworkers Local 512, was named Apprentice of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to: Nicole Belden, Operating Engineers Local 49; Julia Kunze, Plumbers Local 34; and Kateri Lemke, Sheet Metal Workers Local 10.

## Journey Worker of the Year:

### Sarah Arkeh, Bricklayers

Sarah Arkeh, member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, was named Journey Worker of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to Cat Lenander, IBEW Local 110, and Melissa Vandal, Operating Engineers Local 49.

## Women's Advocate of the Year:

### Angela Sheehan, Insulators

Angela Sheehan, member of Heat and



Jonathan Young photo

The 2023 Women Building Success award-winners. Back row, left to right, winning Honorable Mention: Rebecca Nohava (Bricklayers Local 1), Julia Kunze (Plumbers Local 34), Kateri Lemke (Sheet Metal Workers Local 10), Melissa Vandal (IUOE Local 49), Cat Lenander (IBEW Local 110), Nicole Belden (IUOE Local 49) and Mandy Reese (Carpenters Local 1382). Front row, left to right, are first-place winners: Johanna Heath (Ironworkers Local 512), Angela Sheehan (Heat & Frost Insulators Local 34), Sarah Arkeh (Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1).

Frost Insulators Local 34, was named Women's Advocate of the Year. Honorable Mentions were presented to Rebecca Nohava, member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, and Mandy

Reese, member of Carpenters Local 1382.

For next year, Women Building Success plans to add another award category — Women in Leadership, to recognize the increasing number of women in lead-

ership roles in their unions.

## 'Looking for something better'

A few weeks after this year's Women Building Success awards ceremony, the *Labor Review* interviewed two of this year's award-winners, Johanna Heath and Angela Sheehan. They shared more about their careers and how their lives initially led them into the building trades.

Johanna Heath, Apprentice of the Year winner, is a third-year apprentice with Ironworkers Local 512.

Heath, Hastings, currently works for E & J Erectors. "I mainly work in re-bar but the avenue I'd like to pursue even more is called post-tension," she related, which involves using cables instead of re-bar to strengthen buildings.

"I like the physical aspect of it, seeing a structure grow," Heath said. She also enjoys solving unexpected challenges: "Sometimes something breaks and you need to figure out how to fix it."

Heath, now 38, said "I got in late" to a career in the building trades.

"I'm a single mom and I have two kids," she said. "I was working two to four jobs at a time trying to support them" before becoming an Ironworkers apprentice. "I met some Ironworkers through one of those jobs, bartending," she related. "I applied. I did not get in the first time," but, after gain-

**TRADESWOMEN page 10**

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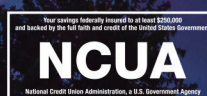
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\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield



# Teamsters set July 31 deadline for UPS strike

MINNEAPOLIS — With the nationwide Teamsters contract with UPS due to expire July 31, the union has spent weeks mobilizing members and staging “practice” picket lines across the country.

As this issue of the *Labor Review* went to press, the Teamsters announced July 19: “UPS bowed today to the overwhelming show of Teamster unity and reached out to the union to resume negotiations.”

The union said new negotiations would be scheduled for the week of July 24.

UPS previously had walked away from negotiations July 5.

Earlier in the month, Teamsters general president Sean O’Brien declared, “we will not be working beyond the expiration date without the contract our members have demanded, and more importantly without the contract our members deserve.”

June 16, the Teamsters announced that a strike authorization vote by members who work at UPS passed with 97 percent support.

The contract covers more than 340,000 workers who perform a key role in the U.S. economy to ship and deliver goods nationwide.

The union says UPS Teamsters “are fighting for a new five-year agreement that guarantees better pay for all workers, eliminates the two-tier wage 22.4 job classification, increases the number of full-time jobs, addresses safety and health concerns around heat illness, and provides stronger protections against managerial harassment.”

In Minnesota, UPS Teamsters work out of 25 hubs across the state, with the largest hubs located in Eagan, Maple Grove, and northeast Minneapolis.

Teamsters Local 638 represents 4,800 UPS workers across Minnesota and North Dakota.

Local 638 business agent Scott Wilkie reported that the Eagan UPS hub, where Local 638 represents the full-time workers, is one of the bigger UPS hubs in the country.

Teamsters Local 120 represents the part-time UPS workers at the Eagan hub and all UPS workers in South Dakota.

If a contract settlement is reached, Wilkie said, a letter announcing the settlement and a contract vote will need to be sent via U.S. Mail to all 340,000 UPS Teamsters. Members will view the contract online, however, and will vote on the contract by using their phone to call the number provided, log in, and vote yes or no.

Wilkie noted that 60 percent of UPS Teamsters work part-time. “We need to have good language for part-timers or the contract won’t get voted through,” he said.

# Teamsters walk ‘practice’ picket line at Minneapolis UPS hub



Photo, left: Teamsters Local 638 member Ignacio Velasco was joined by his three children on the “practice” picket line July 8 at the UPS hub in northeast Minneapolis. “I decided to bring my kids because they know why we’re doing this,” Velasco said. “The thing I can explain is we’re doing this to give people wages they can survive on. I tell them, ‘you need to speak up.’”

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of Minneapolis-area Teamsters locals walked a “practice” picket line July 8 to show their readiness to participate in a nationwide strike. The action at the UPS hub at 3312 Broadway St. NE came with July 31 looming as the expiration date for the nationwide contract between the Teamsters union and UPS.

The Teamsters announced June 16 that a strike authorization vote by members who work at UPS passed with 97 percent support.

Miles Bickford of Saint Anthony, a 12-year member of Teamsters Local 638, was one of the Minneapolis-area Teamsters walking the July 8 informational picket line at the Minneapolis UPS hub. Bickford wore his brown UPS uniform, adorned with numerous pins he received for his safe driving record. “I wanted the company to see what they’re losing,” he explained, “this is a lot of years.”

“I started here right out of high school — two days after I graduated, I was working here,” said Bickford, who now is a feeder driver driving the big semi-trailers.

“I like the consistency of it and coming to work every day and knowing I have a job to go to,” Bickford said. “It’s nice to be under a contract and know what protections and guarantees you have.”

For Bickford, the top issues in the current contract negotiations are winning cost-of-living raises and ending a two-tier wage system, where “you’ve got two people doing the same job” but earning a different rate.

Another Teamsters Local 638 member, Ignacio Velasco, was walking the picket line with his three kids ages 6, 8 and 10 in tow — all carrying picket signs.

Velasco, Coon Rapids, is going on his ninth year at UPS and works as a package car driver, making deliveries to homes.

“I decided to bring my kids because they know why we’re doing this,” Velasco said. “The thing I can explain is we’re doing this to give people wages they can survive on. I tell them, ‘you need to speak up.’”

“I’m very vocal about the union,” Velasco said. “I explain to my kids: our house, our car, their participation in sports, our giving back to the community” all result from his paycheck and Teamsters contract.

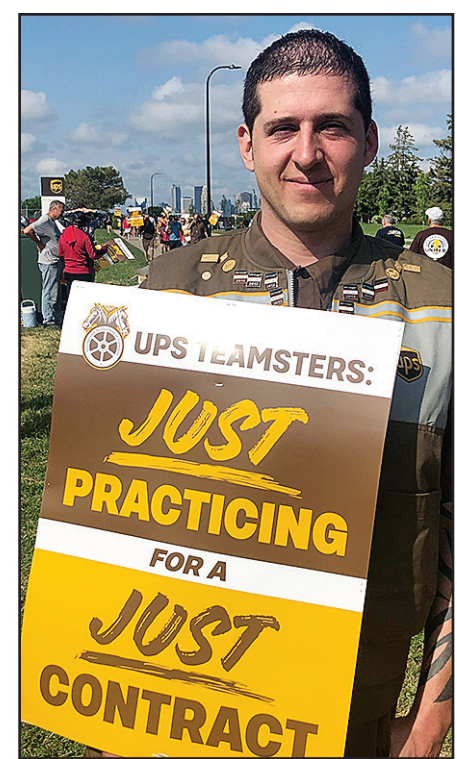
“I tell them I have two families,” Velasco said, “our immediate family and the Teamsters.”

During a break from the picketing, a few speakers addressed the crowd of several dozen Teamsters members who were joined by supporters from other unions as well as state and local elected officials.

“The 340,000 UPSers control what goes on in the US,” declared Tom Erickson, president of Teamsters Local 120 and central region vice president. “Come August 1, one way or another, we’re going to have a contract or we’re going to be out on the streets.”

“It all starts with your participation,” Teamsters Local 638 president Jonathon Kycek told the Teamsters members in the crowd. He reviewed how issues like member concerns about higher pay and forced overtime came from soliciting contract proposals from the rank and file members last fall. Those concerns went on to the Teamsters central region and then on to the UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee, which includes union representatives as well as rank and file members.

“We ended up with a 97 percent strike



Photo, above: Teamsters Local 638 member Miles Bickford said he came to the “practice” picket line in his UPS uniform, adorned with pins honoring his safe driving record, because “I wanted the company to see what they’re losing.”

authorization,” Kycek said. “Voting is the most important thing we can do to show the company we’re united.”

The strike authorization vote means that the UPS Teamsters National Negotiating Committee can call a strike at any time if an agreement with UPS is not reached by July 31.

As Teamsters Local 638 member Ignacio Velasco said he told his three kids, “the way you get corporations to listen to us is you’ve got to walk out and demonstrate... We’re putting our foot down.”

# Union members share hunting and fishing lives with friends and family

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — On the calendar, July 15 marks the mid-point of the three months of summer. Many Minnesotans and union members are spending summer weekends fishing and boating “up north” at the cabin or at lakes close to home. But, at summer’s mid-point, many of us also now have an eye turning towards the fall — and, for the hunters among us, plans for deer hunting or pheasant hunting soon will begin to take shape.

For this annual feature story, three union members shared their hunting and fishing lives and how these outdoor pursuits intersect with their work as union members: Vergel Wason, retired Carpenters union member and union leader; Vanessa Kaiser, member of Laborers Local 563; and Richard Shorter, IUE-CWA member and union staff representative.

## Vergel Wason, Carpenters retiree

Vergel Wason, retired Carpenters union member and union leader, easily talks about his long union career and his lifelong love of hunting.

Born and raised in St. Paul and now living in Forest Lake, Wason, age 85, graduat-

ed from St. Paul’s Murray High School in 1956, joined the U.S. Army, and in 1959 joined Carpenters Local 87.

“I get my 65-year pin next year,” Wason says proudly, adding that his family now includes of four generations of union carpenters — his dad Ray Nelson, stepson Mike Busch, and grandson Robert Busch.

During Wason’s years in the field, he worked for the region’s biggest contractors — McGough, Mortenson, Ryan — at job-sites including bridges, oil refineries and the IDS tower.

He became a business agent for Carpenters Local 87 and rose in elected union leadership to serve as executive secretary of the Minnesota Statewide District Council of Carpenters. After 16 years serving in union leadership, he retired in 1998.

“I’ve done a lot of fishing over the years, but I enjoy hunting the best,” Wason says. “I’ve been going hunting in Canada for probably 65 years.”

Over the past 20 years, he says, those Canadian trips took him to Saskatchewan to hunt ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes — but primarily snow geese.

“The snow geese are ruining the tun-



Laborers Local 563 member Vanessa Kaiser with two largemouth bass at Lake Waconia May 13, 2023 — the first day of the 2023 fishing opener. “This is what I tournament fish for,” she says. She reported on Instagram: “the wind and getting poured on didn’t stop us from a great day on the water. Caught over 20 bass.” Follow her on Instagram at Vanessa\_Fishing.

dra,” he reports. “They kind of exploded... They’re moving across the tundra, eating all the vegetation so nothing comes back... They’re trying to thin them out.”

“I’ve had a flock of 5,000 circling overhead,” he relates. He and his hunting partners will put out 400 decoys to attract the snow geese. But, he adds, “they don’t decoy like they used to... When you start shooting, you’re educating that whole flock... They have wised-up.”

“It’s kind of a goofy game,” he says. “They’re frustrating but also a lot of fun.”

Above all, Wason enjoys being outdoors and “the chase.” Explaining building trades members’ connection to hunting, he says simply, “building trades people are outdoors people.” And, he jokes, “stupid enough to lay in the mud.”

## Vanessa Kaiser, Laborers Local 563

“Fishing and hunting is a way for us blue collar folks to have peace,” says Vanessa Kaiser, who is three years into a career with Laborers Local 563. “With our

types of jobs, the hard work we do, waking up early in the morning, it’s pretty much go, go, go.” Fishing and hunting, she says, “gives us something to look forward to come the weekend.”

“My whole family fishes. They hunt. It’s just something I grew up on,” Kaiser says. “It helps me take my stress away from work and the kids and household chores.”

Kaiser shares the story of her path to a career in the building trades, telling a story both unique and familiar. “I’m a single mom of two kids,” Kaiser says. “I was going through a divorce.” She was working in health care but not earning enough. “I wanted a good-paying job that had benefits and a pension.”

“I made a post on Facebook and asked if any of my friends knew how I could join construction,” Kaiser recounts. She applied to Michels and was hired. She now works for the City of Minneapolis driving trucks.

Because Kaiser initially entered the trade



Three generations of Carpenters union members hunting snow geese in Saskatchewan: Vergel Wason (second from left), with stepson Mike Busch (left), and grandson Robert Busch (third from left), plus a friend (right).

## Game Fair runs August 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

### Outdoor hunting and fishing expo offers hands-on activities

ANOKA — The 42nd annual Game Fair will run Friday to Sunday, August 11-13 and Friday to Sunday, August 18-20, open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

This annual outdoor event for hunting and fishing enthusiasts is set amidst the rolling hills, woods and water of Armstrong Ranch in Anoka.

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

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

and hunting dog competitions. Vendors sell outdoor gear while conservation organizations offer information booths.

Game Fair’s “Family Days” will be Friday, August 11 and Friday, August 18 — offering free admission for kids with a paid adult admission.

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

For more information about Game Fair, visit [www.gamefair.com](http://www.gamefair.com).

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42nd Annual

# GAME FAIR

Bring your dog leashed

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For complete details & seminar schedules visit our website at:

[www.gamefair.com](http://www.gamefair.com)

(763) 427-0944

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ing experience working in a steel mill, “I did get in the second time.”

Even as the number of women in the trades grows, Heath said, she usually finds herself the only woman on a jobsite.

But for Heath, “working with the guys created a real bond and created a sort of family, which is really unique.”

To a young woman considering a career in the building trades, Heath offered: “It’s going to be hard. It’s not going to be easy but it’s definitely going to be worth it... The rewards, the benefits, the pension and the skills you learn and the brotherhood far out-weigh any bad day.”

Those now-retired Ironworkers she met while bartending who encouraged her to join? “They knew I was hard-working and I like a challenge and I can give and take sarcasm and comments without getting upset.”

Angela Sheehan, Women’s Advocate of the Year winner, is a 10-year member of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 34. In January of this year, she was elected as a Local 34 business agent and also serves as corresponding and recording secretary.

Sheehan, who lives in Harris, said the other women in the local “look up to me and call me... I’m kind of their go-to, especially the younger apprentices coming in.”

“I tried a lot of different things in my life; I didn’t start in the trade until I was 36,” Sheehan, now 46, reported.

“I had an aunt [Lisa Schmidt] who was in the trade. She suggested it and I loved it,” Sheehan said. “I got in and I found out this was what I wanted.”

Before joining the trade, Sheehan said she did “a little bit of everything,” including retail, waitressing, working as an aide in a nursing home. “I originally went to school to be a nurse but decided that’s not what I wanted to do.”

“I had babies so I didn’t work for a while,” Sheehan said. Her kids are now 20 and 26 and she has two grandchildren.

At Local 34, Sheehan said, what she likes most is “the camaraderie and the family they’ve built here. Everybody looks out for each other.”

In addition to her aunt, Sheehan has other family members who work in union trades — her sister Tamar Williams is a member of Elevator Constructors Local 9 while her brother-in-law Ben Sheehan is a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10.

She encourages women to consider a union building trades career. “I run into a lot of ladies who are looking for something better,” she said, while acknowledging “it’s hard to recruit.” “I tell them what a good opportunity it is. We’re always fighting for a better wage... We’re always advocating for each other and our rights and making sure we have a good work environment... That’s the bonus of being in a union.”



Photo, above: Richard Shorter, IUE-CWA staff representative, catches a northern pike on Beaver Lake on St. Paul’s east side. Fishing has become a new passion for him.

## Hunting and fishing: Union folks get outdoors

continued from page 7

through working on pipelines, she says, she hasn’t gone through a traditional apprenticeship — but she has made a point to go to the Laborers training center and get all the training an apprentice would get, “so I would look valuable to employers in the field.”

That desire to learn new skills extends to Kaiser’s fishing: “I do tournament bass fishing,” she says. “I like the skills you learn... Every time you’re on the water you learn something new.”

Kaiser also serves as a youth coordinator for Future Anglers of Minnesota, a program which mentors youth and teaches fishing skills and life skills. “Seeing the kids fish — that’s our future,” Kaiser says.

### Richard Shorter, IUE-CWA

“When the pandemic started, things were kind of weird. I was looking for any reason to get outside,” recalls Richard Shorter, St. Paul, who is a staff representative for IUE-CWA and is responsible for 20-plus contracts in Minnesota, Wisconsin

and Illinois.

Shorter’s friend Eric Salminen, who works for SEIU Healthcare, invited him to go ice-fishing with another friend on Peltier Lake in Centerville. But Shorter, a native of Virginia who moved to Minnesota in 2014, says “as a southern boy, I was scared to death.” He gave it a try, however. “We sat there and ice-fished. I had no idea what I was doing.”

Just being outside, hanging out with friends, and awaiting a bite — it took. He hadn’t fished since age 13, Shorter reports. But now, “I literally — no pun intended — got hooked.”

Come spring, Salminen told him, “we have to go kayak fishing.” So they did. “I caught my first big bass,” Shorter says.

Soon Shorter was buying his own kayak and all his own fishing gear. “I’m all in,” he says. “Prior to fishing, it was paintball,” he says, and he even played pro paintball for two decades.

Now, Shorter is part of a “fishing circle” with Salminen, Minnesota AFL-CIO staffer

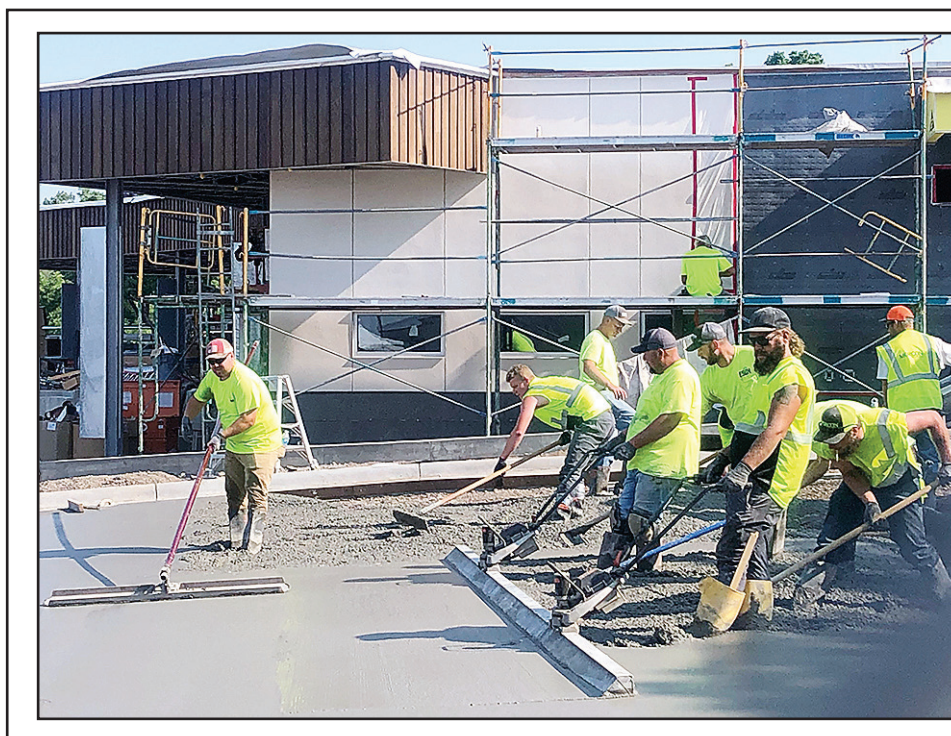


Richard Shorter’s three-year old son, Dresden, caught his first fish — a bluegill — on Beaver Lake earlier this summer.

Todd Dahlstrom, and another fishing friend. “It’s been a very cool way to develop friendships and get away from the crazy, stressful work we do,” Shorter says.

Plus, “I have a three-year-old son now and he said he wanted to go fishing,” Shorter says. They rode their bikes to Beaver Lake, one block from their St. Paul home. “He caught his first fish at the beginning of the summer. It was a great experience!”

For an expanded version of this story, visit [minneapolisunions.org](http://minneapolisunions.org).



## Crews ready to finish work on new pavilion at Bde Maka Ska

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board says the rebuild for the pavilion at Bde Maka Ska (formerly known as Lake Calhoun) could be complete by September. The old pavilion was destroyed in a 2019 fire. The \$8 million rebuild includes two new buildings, restaurant space, outdoor public seating, a performance space, and rest-rooms. Photo, left: Members of Cement Masons Local 633 and Laborers Local 563 use a bull float for a June 22 concrete pour for the new boat ramp.



# Local Union News

## **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Rally planned July 24 in Minneapolis at Met Council's transit budget meeting**

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 continues to press for a fair contract from Metro Transit for bus operators, light rail operators, mechanics and other members. With the 2023 legislative session, millions of additional dollars will be dedicated to public transit and ATU wants to see Metro Transit's frontline workers get a share of that funding for cost-of-living raises in the next contract.

The Metropolitan Council's Transit Budget Meeting will be coming Monday, July 24 to Metro Transit's Heywood Office Building, 560 Sixth Ave. No. in Minneapolis.

ATU Local 1005 is calling for members and supporters to rally outside the meeting, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

"They will not create the safe and reliable transit system that workers and riders deserve unless ATU 1005 members demand it," a flier promoting the rally declared.

### **AFSCME Council 5:**

#### **State employees win historic gains in tentative agreement**

AFSCME Council 5 announced a tentative agreement June 23 with the State of Minnesota for a two-year contract covering 18,000 Minnesota state executive branch workers.

In a statement, the union said the agreement brings "the highest wage increase we have seen in more than 30 years."

Members will vote on the tentative agreement during the week of August 7.

In a change from the past, once

AFSCME members approve the contract, it will go into effect without a vote by the state legislature.

AFSCME helped to pass that reform in the 2023 legislative session, ending the chance for an unfriendly legislative body to hold the union contract hostage to exact other political measures.

Highlights of the new agreement include: double-digit wage increases over the two years of the contract; a new \$20 per hour minimum wage; holding health insurance premium increases to only \$1 per month for individuals, \$7 per month per families; increasing the shift differential pay from 65 cents per hour to \$2.25 per hour for hours worked from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The agreement also "approves nearly 50 wage inequities proposals that our union submitted that will increase the wages of dozens of job classifications," AFSCME reported.

With these investments in state employees and other contract gains, the AFSCME Council 5 statement said, "our state can better recruit and retain workers who are integral to the functioning of our excellent state services that all Minnesotans need and deserve."

### **Gas Workers Local 340:**

#### **Scholarship deadline is August 2**

Gas Workers Local 340 scholarship application forms are now available. Six \$1,500.00 scholarships will be awarded.

To be eligible, applicants must be a son, daughter, or legal dependent of an active, working Local 340 member in good standing.

Applicants must have obtained a "C" (or better) average in their last school

year and must attend an accredited technical college, junior college, university or college as a full time student.

Visit [gasworkerslocal340.com](http://gasworkerslocal340.com) to download the application form.

The application form is due by August 2. The winners will be drawn at the August 16 general membership meeting.

### **IATSE Local 13:**

#### **Stagehands union calls out MN Twins for using non-union labor for summer concert series at Target Field**

The union that represents Twin Cities stagehands called out the Minnesota Twins organization, which, along with 555 Event Productions, planned to use non-union labor for the production work at Target Field for a July 14-15 concert series.

The workers were to be paid as independent contractors —receiving 1099s —and would not be covered by workers compensation insurance, would receive no benefits and would not be paid at the same level as union wages, reported Wendell Bell, business agent for International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 13.

But, Bell announced July 14, "through action taken by IATSE Local 13 and its representatives, we were able to bring our concerns to the attention of the Minnesota Twins organization..."

"IATSE Local 13 has come to an understanding with the Minnesota Twins organization to use union labor — i.e., Local 13 union workers will be working at the ballpark this Saturday, July 15, for the second day of the 2023 TC Summer Fest music series at Target Field," Bell said.

"Going forward," Bell continued, "we

hope future talks between IATSE Local 13 and the Minnesota Twins organization can come to a continuing agreement on labor used at the Target Field ballpark for all events."

"IATSE Local 13 has worked at the Minnesota Twins' Target Field for years, doing concerts, and production work for events at the stadium," Bell noted.

### **IBEW Local 160:**

#### **Kurt Zimmerman wins election to full term as business manager**

In mail-in election results announced June 16, Kurt Zimmerman won a contested election for a full three-year term as business manager/financial secretary of IBEW Local 160.

Zimmerman, Sauk Rapids, has been a member of Local 160 since 1988 and was appointed to the position of business manager by Local 160's executive board in 2021 following the retirement of Robert Boogren.

In another contested Local 160 race, incumbent president Kevin Kaeter won re-election.

The three-candidate race for the open vice president's position initially gave no candidate more than 50 percent of the vote. Wade Crittenden won the run-off election.

Two incumbent officers ran unopposed and will serve another term: Jeff Polson, recording secretary, and Travis Sullivan, treasurer.

The race for executive board seats drew nine candidates, with the top five vote-getters elected. Incumbents who won re-election included Kenneth R.

**LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10**

# Retiree Meetings

## **Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next regular meeting in September**

The Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO plans no regular membership meetings for July and August, but committees will be meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be in September.

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:**

#### **Meet last Thursday of each month**

Carpenters Retirees meet the last Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul. Lunch follows the meeting.

### **IBEW Local 292 Retirees:**

#### **'Senior Sparkies' will meet August 8**

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — "Senior Sparkies" — will meet Tuesday, August 8 at IBEW Local 292's union hall,

### **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.**

6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker.

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., we will be having a two-hour summer boat ride on the St. Croix River. Additional information was mailed.

Thursday, August 10, the Local 292 Retirees summer picnic will take place at Local 292's union hall. Social Hour starts at 11:00 a.m.

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

### **Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59: Meetings resume in the fall**

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will be taking a summer break. Future meeting dates for 2023-2024 include: September 26, October 24, November 28 (tentative), January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 28 or 29.

The January through March meetings will be via Zoom.

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

### **Pipefitters Local 539 Retirees:**

#### **'Fazed Out Fitters' meet third Wednesday**

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

### **Plumbers Local 15 Retirees:**

#### **Meet the third Tuesday of each month**

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

### **Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:**

#### **'Rusty Tanners' take summer break**

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 "Rusty Tanners" retirees club will be taking a summer break. Meetings will resume in September. For more information, contact Frank Costa at 651-484-1363.

### **U of M Facilities Management and Maintenance Retirees: Meet last Tuesday of month**

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

continued from page 9

Conrad, Clayton E. Kaeter, Scott E. Knight, and Randall L. Nass. Tom S. Carlson was newly-elected as an executive board member.

## IBEW Local 292:

### Jeff Heimerl wins re-election as business manager

In mail-in balloting which concluded June 12, Jeff Heimerl defeated a challenger to win re-election as business manager of IBEW Local 292.

John Kripotos won election as Local 292 president, defeating incumbent Dan Ferguson.

This will be a second full three-year term as business manager for Heimerl, 48, who will mark 26 years as a Local 292 member this September. He first was appointed business manager in 2019 to fill a vacancy and then ran unopposed for a full three-year term in 2020.

“Hopefully, the consistency of our leadership and developing long-term plans is going to be beneficial to our local,” Heimerl said.

Moving forward, Heimerl said his main priorities will be organizing the industry, continuing to foster relationships with existing employers, and putting as many IBEW Local 292 members as possible to work.

“A lot of the infrastructure projects that are going to be paid for by the bonding bill are definitely going to mean hours for us,” he added.

Members voted in three new members for Local 292’s executive board: Mike Subject, Kurt Tulp, and John Winkels (although, Heimerl noted, Subject and Tulp previously served on the e-board).

“All of our other e-board positions ran unopposed,” Heimerl reported.

Bill Krause won election as the local’s new vice president.

Returning officers include: Todd Huttner, recording secretary; Jennifer Mudge, financial secretary and assistant



## Union members march in Juneteenth parade

MINNEAPOLIS — Juneteenth festivities in Minneapolis included a parade down Fremont Ave. from the Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters to Bethune Park, where an afternoon festival followed. The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation’s People of Color Union Members (POCUM) caucus helped to organize the parade and union members also volunteered as parade marshals. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, marking the day in 1865 when Union troops entered Galveston, Texas and brought news of President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth became a federal holiday two years ago. *Photo above: Marchers carried the banner for Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005’s Black Caucus.*

business manager; Dave Frary, treasurer.

## IBEW Local 292:

### Family picnic coming August 12

IBEW Local 292’s annual family picnic is coming Sunday, August 12.

The fun will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. outside the IBEW Local 292 union hall, 6700 West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park.

No pre-registration is required.

Overflow parking will be available nearby at the Park and Ride lot at 7000 63rd Ave. N. A shuttle will be available from the lot to and from the hall.

For more information, contact the IBEW Local 292 office at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org

## MN Newspaper Guild:

### Summer picnic set for August 6

The Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild invites members, family members and significant others to a summer picnic Sunday, August 6.

The picnic will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wabun Picnic Area Shelter B at 4655 46th Ave. So. in Minneapolis (enter from Godfrey Parkway just south of the Ford Bridge near Minnehaha Falls).

Come for a potluck, raffle, swag, kids’ games and more.

The Guild will provide drinks and food for a BBQ while attendees are asked to bring a side or dish to share.

For more details, or to RSVP, visit [tinyurl.com/njay88wd](http://tinyurl.com/njay88wd)

## Sheet Metal Workers Local 10:

### Annual Booya planned September 9

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10’s annual picnic and Booya will be back with food and drink, kids activities and more, Saturday, September 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Highland Picnic Pavilion, 1200 Montreal Ave. in Saint Paul.

For more information, contact 651-770-2388 or office@smw10.org.

## UFCW Local 663:

### Retail workers at REI store in Maple Grove vote to unionize

Retail workers at the REI store in Maple Grove voted 22-4 in a National Labor Relations Board election June 9 to join United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663, becoming the seventh REI location across the country to unionize.

REI, a consumer co-op, sells outdoor gear and has 165 retail stores in 39 states.

“My coworkers and I have done this because we all deserve a voice, to be listened to and respected,” said Madisen Drinen, shipper and receiving specialist and member of the REI Maple Grove Organizing Committee. “We need a living wage, one that increases with inflation.”

“We need change, and I believe collectively is the way to do it. Together, we can get corporate to listen!” said Blake Buzzo, bike and ski mechanic and organizing committee member.

“I am excited to have a say in policy that affects my work,” Buzzo said. “I want to improve work-life balance and get more than nine days notice on schedules so I have more flexibility to plan time with friends and family. I also want to see guaranteed hours for part-time staff.”

“Retail workers are worthy of living wages and need accountability and clear communication from our leaders,” said Manny Yang, customer service sales lead and organizing committee member. “As employees, we are skilled educators of the outdoors who are adapting everyday for business objectives; We are asking REI to do the same. Be a model to society and realize we are an asset to the company.”

“We welcome workers at REI in Maple Grove to the UFCW Local 663 union family,” said Local 663 president Rena Wong. “Now more than ever, it is important to join together in the workplace and form a union to protect, defend and build upon our rights in the workplace.”

Sources: Labor Review reporting and local unions. Next deadline: August 2.

## Pipefitters Local 539

### PIPERS

#### Dues Reminder

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

#### Congratulations, Apprentices!

Congratulations to Hunter Rosnow. He won the UA 4th District Apprentices Contest in the Pipefitter Category.

Congratulations to Tucker Skogstad for competing

Paid for by Pipefitters Local 539 • [www.pipefitters539.com](http://www.pipefitters539.com)

in the UA 4th District Apprentices Contest. Tucker competed in the Service Category.

#### Golf Tournament Coming September 10

The 29th Annual Local 539 Golf Tournament will be September 10. Information will be up online in August. Sign-up sheets will be available in August on the Pipefitter website or down at the hall.

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

## Minneapolis Labor Review

**Labor Day Issue:  
August 19**

**Ad Deadline: August 2**  
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FFI or to advertise: 612-715-2667 or [laborreview@minneapolisunions.org](mailto:laborreview@minneapolisunions.org)

## Fare for All

continued from page 4

Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

■ **Richfield, Tuesday, August 22, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**, Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, August 16, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

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

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

# Annandale schools: More classroom space needed

continued from page 2

middle school building is “fundamentally not responsible.”

“The facility we have is not an optimal learning space,” added middle school band teacher Karinda Duffy, who has worked 10 years in the district and who serves with Dickinson as co-president of the Annandale Education Association, the local teachers union.

At the middle school, she said, “a lot of our program and curriculum is currently limited by lack of space” and “a big part of the middle school is not air conditioned.”

At the elementary school — which currently runs through grade five — mechanical rooms and storage closets are being used for student learning. If the bond referendum passes, grade five would move to the relocated middle school, easing space pressure in the elementary school.

At the high school, where tech ed class-

es have been reintroduced, Dickinson said there simply isn’t the space to accommodate growing student interest in classes like woodshop and welding. “You can’t add a teacher if you don’t have a space to teach.”

District enrollment has grown by 20 percent in the past ten years, the district reports, but classroom space has not grown. Classrooms were designed for 25-26 desks, Dickinson noted, but “now you’re squishing 31 desks in there.”

Election day voting will be available Tuesday, August 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Annandale City Hall, 30 Cedar Street East.

In-person early voting is underway through Monday, August 7 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the school district office, 125 Cherry Ave. N.

Voters may also vote by absentee ballot through August 7.

**For more information:**  
[cardinalbond.com](http://cardinalbond.com)

# Brooklyn Park: McGarvey labor-endorsed for council

continued from page 2

son early voting will take place Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Park City Hall, 5200 85th Ave. N. Early voting also will be available Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Voters may request a mail-in ballot. Tuesday, August 8 election day voting will be at regular West District polling places.

**Contact:**  
[mcgarveyforbp.org](http://mcgarveyforbp.org)  
**For voting information:**  
[brooklynpark.org/elections](http://brooklynpark.org/elections)

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## 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](mailto:brotherhood@ibew292.org).

### Summer Picnic: August 12

Local 292’s annual summer picnic will be Saturday, August 12 at the new hall, 6700 W. Broadway Ave., Brooklyn Park. This family event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plan to attend for great fun and plenty of awesome food!

### Condolences

Sister Cindy Bjere; Brother Glenn S. Gavic; Brother Jedd JoHannes; Brother Anthony R. Luebke; Brother Vincent J. Ratka; Brother Daniel G. Thibadeau

See you at the General Membership Meeting, 5:00 p.m. on the Second Tuesday

Paid for by IBEW Local 292 • [www.ibew292.org](http://www.ibew292.org)

## Minneapolis Labor Review

### 2023 Publication Schedule

The Labor Review will publish 10 issues in 2023. Note: NO issue published in January and NO issue published in June. The publication date normally will be the last Saturday or second to last Saturday of each month.

#### August 19

Deadline: August 2  
Labor Day Issue

#### October 21

Deadline: October 4  
General Election Issue

#### September 23

Deadline: September 6

#### November 18

Deadline: November 1  
Holiday Shopping Guide

#### December 16

Deadline: November 29  
Holiday Issue

### Next Special Issue:

August 19, 2023 — Labor Day 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](mailto:laborreview@minneapolisunions.org)

# Red Sox slam Twins 10-4 for annual 'Trade Night at Target Field'

## Dave Schutta, retiring Cement Masons Local 633 business manager, throws out 'first pitch'

MINNEAPOLIS — The final ticket count reported 1,206 Building Trades union members, friends and family members turning out June 20 for the annual "Trade Night at Target Field," sponsored by the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council.

The hometown Minnesota Twins were kept scoreless through seven innings by the Boston Red Sox, who led 8-0 at the bottom of the seventh inning and went on to win 10-4.

Still, the night offered beautiful weather for an outdoor ballgame and for the Minneapolis Building Trades' pre-game picnic at the Minneapolis Farmers Market.

After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, "Trade Night at Target Field" was back on for a second year in a row.

The event brings one of the largest groups of the year to Target Field for a

Twins game, the Twins reported.

Each year for "Trade Night," a Building Trades member gets the honor of throwing out a ceremonial "first pitch" for the ballgame.

This year's honoree was Cement Masons Local 633's Dave Schutta, who will be retiring July 31 after 30 years in the trade.

Local 633's business manager since 2017, Schutta previously served the union as president, as recording secretary, and as a long-time executive board member.

Schutta also worked at the Cement Masons Training Center as a full-time instructor for about seven years before becoming business manager.

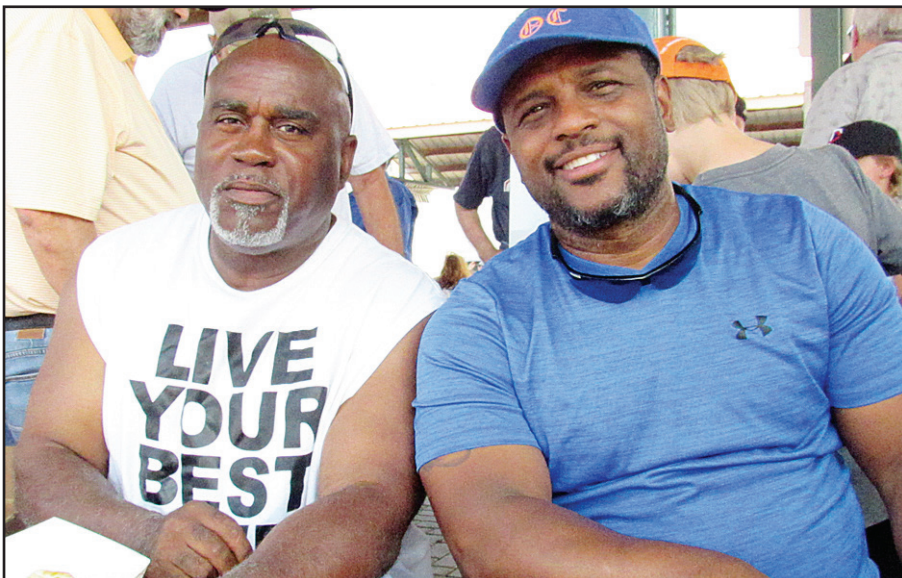
Like "first pitch" honorees before him, Schutta said he spent some time practicing for the big moment!

Labor Review photos except as noted



Wayne Kryduba photo

A giant video screen showed Dave Schutta, who is retiring as business manager of Cement Masons Local 633, as he prepared to throw out a ceremonial first pitch.



Laborers Local 563's Henry Jacox, Minneapolis, 44-year member, now retired (left), and Steve Johnson, Minneapolis, 25-year member and Local 563 organizer (right).



Dan Bremseth, Litchfield, 9-year member of IBEW Local 292 and daughter Willow. Willow: "Sometimes they hit a goal!" Dad: "She plays hockey."



IBEW Local 292's Don Metso, Carver, 18-year member (left), and Tim Falk, Cannon Falls, 31-year member (right), with Metso's daughter Victoria and son Bode.



Laborers Local 563's Dalton Huston-Bursaw, Stacy, 3-year member (left), Nicolas Kost, Stacy, 5-year member (center), and friend Kelly Whitehead (right).



Laborers Local 563's Curtis Scarver, Fridley, 10-year member (left), and Hank Foster, Sauk Rapids, 44-year member (right). Scarver said hopefully, "everytime I come to one of these outings, the Twins win!"