

Minneapolis Labor Review

116th Year No. 4 September 23, 2023 www.minneapolisunions.org Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

CTUL march calls on developers to sign on to package of construction worker safeguards

MINNEAPOLIS — About 300 strong, members and supporters of worker center CTUL marched down Central Ave. September 12, part of a week of action calling on three developers — Solhem Companies, Yellow Tree, and United Properties — to sign on to a package of policies to curb widespread abuses of workers in the non-union sector of the local construction industry. CTUL’s proposed “Building Dignity & Respect Program” is supported by Minnesota’s building trades unions as an innovative way to protect vulnerable workers and halt a “race to the bottom” that undercuts responsible contractors. *See story, page 6.*



Labor Review photo

Photo above: CTUL’s “Building Dignity & Respect” campaign staged a march down Central Ave. September 12, calling on developers to stop abuses of non-union construction workers. Story and photos, page 6.

Gallup Poll shows high support for unions

WASHINGTON — In an annual poll released in advance of Labor Day weekend, the Gallup organization reported that 67 percent of Americans approve of labor unions.

The figure is down slightly from last year, but the poll reflects a continuing level of record-high public support for unions.

The Gallup news website

also reported, “U.S. adults are more likely now than at any time in the past quarter century to believe labor unions will become stronger.”

Conducted August 1-23, the poll also asked about current labor disputes in the news.

“By 72 percent to 19 percent, Americans sympathize more with the television and film writers than with the television and

film production studios,” the Gallup news website reported.

Support for striking television and film actors was nearly as high, at 67 percent.

And, concerning a looming strike by the United Auto Workers, “three in four Americans also side with the United Auto Workers in their negotiations with U.S. auto companies.”

Learn more at news.gallup.com.

Early voting begins September 22 for November 7 elections

MINNEAPOLIS — The November 7 general election in 2023 will see contests for local city councils, mayors, and school boards plus important school funding questions in several school districts.

But you don’t need to wait until November 7 to vote.

This year, early voting runs September 22 through November 6 for the November 7 general election. That means voters can request an absentee ballot to

vote early by mail, or go to their local city hall or other designated voting center to cast their vote early in-person.

According to state law, any registered voter may vote early for any reason.

In Minneapolis, early voting will be available at Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services, 980 Hennepin Ave. E., beginning September 22. The hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., through Octo-

ber 20 (closed October 9). Hours will be extended beginning October 23 and will include weekends. For more information, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov.

To learn about early voting options in other communities, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org.

Visit minneapolisunions.org for the most up-to-date list of local candidates endorsed by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

MN Health Department offers free COVID test kits

SAINT PAUL — With an uptick in reported cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations, the Minnesota Department of Health has resumed offering free home COVID test kits. Each household may request eight rapid at-home tests, once a month, while supplies last.

Visit sayyeshometest.org to order the free COVID test kits. The rapid tests provide a result in 15 minutes.

The Health Department advises, “to stop the spread of COVID-19, many of us need to get tested regularly — even if we don’t have symptoms. Along with vaccination, wearing a mask, hand-washing and physical distancing, frequent at-home testing protects families and friends...”

If you need help ordering, call the MDH COVID-19 public hotline at 1-833-431-2053.

Local school board races will be a contest for the freedom to learn

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

This fall, a fight for the soul of education is quietly brewing in school board races all across the state. Instead of focusing on the education staffing crises in our schools and the critical mental health and socio-economic needs of our students, some groups are waging a war on students and educators.



A well-funded cluster of national groups have landed in Minnesota to whitewash our racial history and agitate the community against our LGBTQ+ students. They are showing up at school board meetings with damaging and hurtful messages about books, bathrooms and teachers using racist and homophobic rhetoric. They attack public educators and the unions that represent them. These types of dialogues directly hurt individuals and drive us backwards in the important work we are doing to address racial and economic justice in our communities.

Instead of focusing on the education staffing crises in our schools, some groups are waging a war on students and educators

And now, these astroturf groups have begun to endorse candidates, train them how to run and are funding their campaigns. They are active all over the state, but they are particularly focused in battleground state legislative districts. What we are seeing this fall is a precursor to what we will see next year when the Minnesota House will be on the ballot.

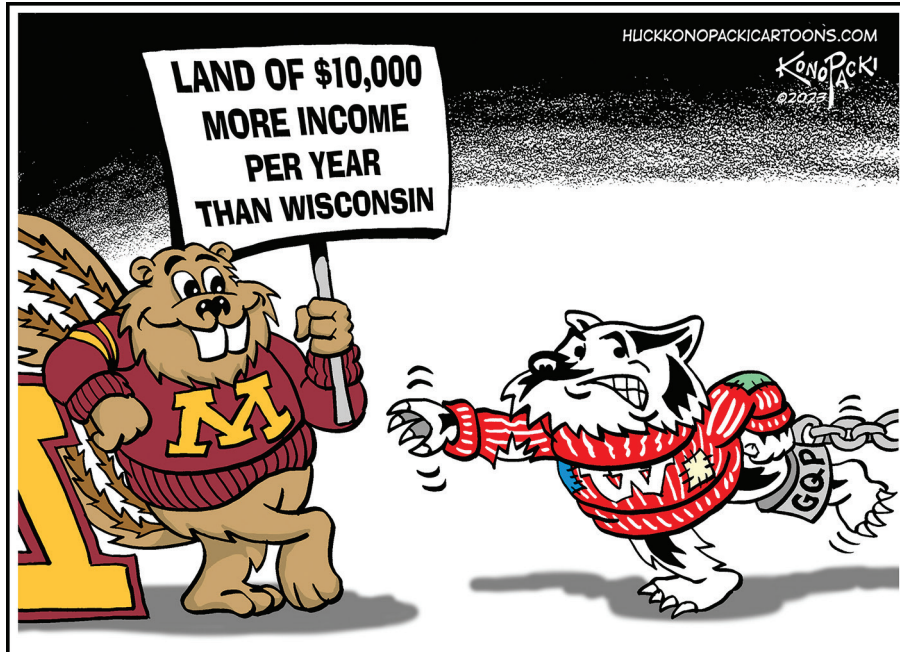
But fortunately, in Minnesota, we have all of us. Our labor movement is steeped in a long history of endorsing candidates, training them how to run and

providing volunteers to fuel their campaigns. And we've done just that this year. In the coming weeks, you will be seeing endorsements in these critical school board races for candidates who support a safe and welcoming school and community environment. All students deserve the freedom to learn and all educators deserve the freedom to provide their critical services and talents in the classroom.

We are endorsing candidates who will address the severe staffing crisis of teachers and other caring adults in our schools. Our endorsed candidates will prioritize students' needs in the classroom and in their whole lives so students can learn the skills to pursue their dreams. Curriculum and classroom content should be age-appropriate, and we trust our great educators to define what is appropriate. We are endorsing candidates who are going to roll up their sleeves and get to work in big ways during this critical moment in time.

But these great MRLF-endorsed candidates cannot do it on their own. We all need to stand shoulder to shoulder and get the message out about the freedom to learn all across our communities. Don't be afraid to have this conversation with your neighbors and co-workers.

A special thank you to Chris Williams at Education Minnesota for providing the research content that made this column possible.



MRLF approves 11 more local endorsements New school board endorsements voted for Anoka-Hennepin, Bloomington, Fridley, and St. Louis Park school districts

MINNEAPOLIS — Voting September 13, delegates to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO approved local endorsements for school board races in four school districts and also for city council races in Golden Valley and Minnetonka.

For all these races, the general election will be Tuesday, November 7 and no primary election will be conducted.

Early voting begins September 22. For all local elections in the MRLF's seven-county jurisdiction, the MRLF endorsement is the AFL-CIO endorsement.

Anoka-Hennepin school board:
Susan Witt endorsed for District 2
Susan Witt won the MRLF endorsement for the District 2 seat for Anoka-Hennepin school board.

The incumbent is not running. Witt is a retired public school teacher — with 37 years of teaching experience — who continues to be active in Education Minnesota.

The MRLF previously endorsed Erin Heers-McArdle for the Anoka-Hennepin District 1 seat and Michelle Langenfeld for the District 5 seat.

(See page 7 for profiles of MRLF's Anoka-Hennepin school board candidates).

Bloomington school board:
Incumbents Nelly Korman, Mia Olson, Heather Starks endorsed

The MRLF endorsed three incumbents for Bloomington school board: Nelly Korman, Mia Olson, and Heather Starks. All are running At Large in a field of six candidates, with the top three to be elected.

Korman is seeking a fourth term. She is a teacher in the St. Louis Park school district and an Education Minnesota union member.

Olson and Starks are seeking a second term.

Olson's experience includes almost 30 years as a substitute teacher in the Bloomington schools.

Starks is a former teacher, past president of the Minnesota PTA, and former president of the Bloomington PTSA.

Fridley school board:
Incumbents Jake Karnopp and Sara Jones endorsed, plus Erik Keeler

The MRLF endorsed two incumbents for Fridley school board, Jake Karnopp and Sara Jones, plus Erik Keeler.

Seeking a second term, Karnopp is a 23-year member of Branch 9 of the Na-

ENDORSED page 11

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.

Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

Next issue: **AFL-CIO**

October 21, 2023

General Election Issue

Deadline:

October 4, 2023

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

September 26: Hands-on event will explore climate and labor impacts of fashion industry

MINNEAPOLIS — “Deconstructing Our Clothes: Climate and Human Rights Impacts in the Fashion Industry” will be a two-part event Tuesday, September 26 at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

The day will examine climate impacts of the fashion industry as well as the industry’s exploitation of its labor force.

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., “How We Sew” in the Carlson Atrium will involve participants in examining the origins of clothing, deconstructing garments, next sorting by country of origin, then sewing together “country chains.” Visuals and infographics projected on a

screen will provide context. The experience will feature Minnesota artist Rachel Breen, whose work includes several projects exploring and exposing worker abuses in the garment industry. No registration required, drop-in anytime.

From 4:00-5:00 p.m., “What We Reap” in the 3M Auditorium will feature a panel debrief and discussion to highlight the fashion industry’s climate and human rights impacts and proposed regulatory legislation. Reception follows.

For questions, e-mail Olivia Schares at oschares@umn.edu.

For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

September 27: MN State Retiree Council plans conference with eye to Labor 2024 campaign

MAPLEWOOD — The Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO’s second Biennial Conference will be Wednesday, September 27 at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 union hall, 1681 Cope Ave. in Maplewood.

Conference registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with opening remarks at 10:00 a.m. and an expected adjournment time of 2:00 p.m., followed immediately by the Retiree Council officer elections.

The majority of the day will be spent learning about improvements achieved for seniors in the 2023 legislative session via speakers and discussion.

A committee also will report on plans for the Retiree Council’s Labor 2024 effort.

The registration fee for the conference is \$35.00 per person, which includes morning refreshments and lunch.

For more information, see the convention call at mnretired.org.

September 28: Author will discuss new book celebrating Humphrey’s civil rights legacy

MINNEAPOLIS — This year marks the 75th anniversary of a landmark speech calling for civil rights at the 1948 Democratic National Convention by the mayor of Minneapolis, a young Hubert H. Humphrey.

The speech led to national stature for Humphrey, who went on to serve as U.S. Senator and U.S. Vice President.

A new book now examines Humphrey’s early civil rights leadership, “Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights,” by Colum-

bia University professor Samuel Freedman.

Freedman will discuss the book at a program Thursday, September 28, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 301 S. 19th Ave. in Minneapolis.

The free event will be offered in-person and virtually, but registration will be required. For more information, or to register, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

Freedman also will speak at an event October 28 at the Minnesota History Center. See page 4.

October 5: East Side Freedom Library hosts ‘Beyond Banned Books: Rising Against Fascism’

SAINT PAUL — The East Side Freedom Library will host a panel discussion, “Beyond Banned Books: Rising Against Fascism,” Thursday, October 5, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Featured speakers will examine attacks on libraries, educators and others by advocacy groups attempting to censor content that doesn’t fit their

political, moral, or religious agenda.

The free event will take place online via Zoom or in-person at the East Side Freedom Library, located at 1105 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events for more information or to register and get the Zoom link.

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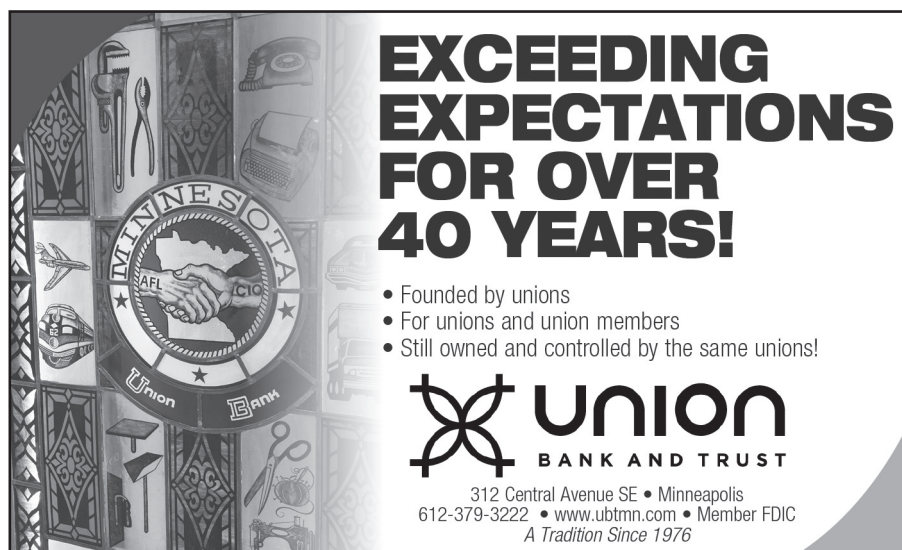
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More Events

October 26: New documentary film presents Mayor Hubert Humphrey's civil rights legacy

MINNEAPOLIS — In June 1945, 34-year-old Hubert Humphrey won election as mayor of Minneapolis. Three years later, his electrifying speech calling for civil rights at the Democratic National Convention made him a national figure and he won election to the U.S. Senate.

A new film by Mick Caouette, "Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis," looks at Humphrey's three years as the city's mayor, when he pushed through the nation's first fair employment practices law, addressed crime and corruption, and attacked racism and anti-Semitism.

(Caouette previously produced a docu-

mentary focused on Humphrey's time on the national stage).

"Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis" will be screened Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 301 S. 19th Ave. in Minneapolis.

The event is free and seating is limited with advance registration required.

For more information, or to register, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

The film also will be shown at an event October 28 at the Minnesota History Center. See below.

October 28: Minnesota History Center offers program, 'Mayor Humphrey: 75 Years Later'

SAINT PAUL — The Minnesota History Center will present "Mayor Humphrey: 75 Years Later," featuring a talk by the author of a new book about Hubert Humphrey's years as Minneapolis mayor plus a screening of a new documentary film covering also exploring Humphrey's transformative time as Minneapolis mayor.

The program will be Saturday, October 28 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul.

Admission is \$16, with a 20 percent discount for Minnesota Historical Society members.

Award-winning author Samuel Freedman and acclaimed filmmaker Mick Caouette will present a program about

Hubert Humphrey's formative years as Minneapolis mayor, a tenure which culminated with his landmark speech on civil rights at the 1948 Democratic National Convention. 75 years later, Caouette and Freedman offer new insights on the critical role Humphrey — and his years as mayor — played in the fight for civil rights.

The program includes a screening of Caouette's new film, "Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis: 1945-48," and a talk by Freedman about his new book, "Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights."

For more information or to purchase a ticket, visit www.mnhs.org/events/881.

Or, call 651-259-3000.

'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 October for

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

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

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

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

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


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

FARE FOR ALL page 11



SAG-AFTRA Twin Cities plans solidarity rally September 30

SAINT PAUL — To show support for their national unions' ongoing strikes, the SAG-AFTRA Twin Cities local, together with the local Writers Guild of America, plan a solidarity rally Saturday, September 30 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Rice Park, 109 W. 4th St. in downtown Saint Paul. This outdoor rally will be a celebration of working class solidarity through speeches and song, and is open to all. Be sure to wear your union gear! If you have questions concerning this event, e-mail twincities@sagaftra.org. Photo above: August 21 solidarity event in Minneapolis.



ERIN Heers-McArdle

Anoka-Hennepin School Board


District 1 includes Anoka and parts of Ramsey, Andover, and Coon Rapids

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November 7



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Union Sportsmen break records and clays at annual 'Get Youth Outdoors Day'

CLEAR LAKE—A record-setting crowd of young outdoor enthusiasts attended the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) 11th Annual Twin Cities Get Youth Outdoors Day at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays in Clear Lake, Minnesota Sunday, September 10. Nearly 100 youths from around Minnesota lined up to learn about conservation, the union trades, firearm safety — and of course, to bust some clays.

"The energy was very high. It was great to see the excitement," said T.J. Delaney, a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 and volunteer team leader for the event.

Two dozen volunteers from the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers; Roofers Local 96; International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers; Iron Workers Local 512 and Cigna helped to make sure that the event was safe and fun for all kids aged 9-17.

They volunteered at every station, ranging from .22 rifles to archery to building and painting birdhouses. In addition, union members volunteered alongside shooting coaches from the community and local high schools to help the rookies and the veteran shooters.

"I didn't realize how much of an ef-



Union Sportsmen's Alliance photo

Union Roofers and Iron Workers as well as local shooting coaches and high school teams provided youth with hands-on instruction in riflery and sporting clays.

fect the youth event had on these kids until I brought my grandson last year," said Roofers Local 96 business manager Mark Conroy. "The first thing he did when he got home was hang up the target from the .22 rifle in his room. This year my granddaughter also participated. The

smiles and excitement were a testament to the event's impact, especially when the kids were asked if they broke any clays. And they did!"

Get Youth Outdoors Day is part of a series of free, community-based youth outreach events organized under Work

Boots on the Ground—the USA's flagship conservation program—and supported by national partners. All supplies, including eye and hearing protection, firearms, ammunition and lunch were provided free of charge.

Minnesota native and USA events coordinator Eric Bakken helped to make sure this year's event was one to remember. "I take a lot of pride in events in my home state, so I figured if I was leading this one, I was going to do it big," he said. Big indeed. Not only did the event achieve a new attendance record, but every participating kid went home with a raffle prize.

"We had the biggest turnout ever for this year's Get Youth Outdoors Day event," said Walt Ingram, USA CEO and executive director. "That alone is a testament to the devotion that our union volunteers and staff have to make this event fun and safe. Investing in the next generation of hunters and anglers is the best way to ensure that our wildlife resource will be there for many generations to come."

Union Sportsmen's Alliance is a union-dedicated, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose members hunt, fish, shoot and volunteer their skills for conservation. For more information, visit www.unionsportsmen.org.

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Building Dignity & Respect Program

CTUL campaigns for protections for non-union construction workers

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twin Cities has “two realities” for construction workers. In the unionized sector, workers are paid well, receive benefits, and enjoy the protections of a union contract. But in the non-union construction sector — which is largely comprised of immigrant workers — workers encounter a range of abuses, from misclassification as independent contractors, to wage theft, to unsafe working conditions, to sexual harassment, and, in extreme cases, labor trafficking.

“We are demanding dignity and respect for workers,” said Douglas Guerra, construction worker and member of worker center CTUL, speaking at a September 12 rally.

Toward that goal, CTUL has adapted international models to create its “Building Dignity & Respect Program.”

The “BDR” program aims to enlist developers to sign-on to a list of employment standards to which they will hold their contractors and sub-contractors accountable.

CTUL has shared research reporting that “at least one in four construction workers in Minnesota experience payroll fraud.”

“We can change the rules of the economy to make sure it’s an economy where everybody prospers,” said Veronica Mendez-Moore, CTUL co-director.

For two years, CTUL has waged a campaign asking three developers who are active in the Twin Cities to sign-on to the BDR Program — Solhem Companies, Yellow Tree, and United Properties — whose projects are rife with worker abuse by contractors.

CTUL ratcheted the campaign up a few notches with a week of action culminating in a news conference at Minneapolis city hall September 11 and a mile-long march the following day.

At the news conference, CTUL announced that 30 state and local elected officials had signed on to an open letter urging support for the BDR program.

CTUL’s news conference and march included representatives of Minnesota’s building trades unions.

“General contractors have the ability to control and change the culture on their construction sites,” said Kim Nelson, assistant political director of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

“There’s no reason why the developers should not sign-on to the program,” said Carlos Garcia, CTUL’s lead organizer for the construction campaign. “There’s enough money for the developers to make their profit... Without these workers’ hands, none of these things get built...”

Join in support of CTUL at the organization’s Annual Anniversary Gala October 26. Visit ctul.net for more information.



Photo above: At a news conference September 11 at Minneapolis city hall, CTUL announced that 30 local and state elected officials had signed on to an open letter urging contractors to support the Building Dignity & Respect Program. Speakers included Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, and others.



Photo above: “We are tired of having our wages stolen through our sweat and tears,” said Douglas Guerra, construction worker and CTUL member.



Photo above: 300 strong, the September 12 march proceeded for one mile down Central Ave., bookended by speakers in front of projects proposed or built by Solhem, one of the targeted developers.



Photos, left and right: “Nothing gets built without our hands,” is one of the themes of the CTUL campaign. Workers created plaster casts of their hands, which they placed outside HenCen, a Solhem project at 455 Central Ave.



Labor Review photos

Erin Heers-McArdle: 'We need to be loud about successes, honest about shortfalls'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

ANOKA — "It makes me sad how pockets of people in our community don't believe in public schools anymore," says Erin Heers-McArdle. Sometimes, she notes, those voices are very loud. "We need to be loud about our successes and be honest about our shortfalls and have a plan in place to make it better."

Heers-McArdle is running for re-election to represent District 1 on the Anoka-Hennepin school board. Four years ago, she defeated the 20-year incumbent to win her first term on the board.

District 1 includes Anoka and parts of Ramsey, Andover and Coon Rapids.

As in her first campaign, Heers-McArdle is running with endorsements

from the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and also from Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and SEIU. Her website declares: "I'm proud to be pro-union, pro-worker, and pro-teacher!"

Running four years ago, she told the *Labor Review*: "There's a way to work with people and be respectful... One of my biggest things is giving parents and families and teachers a voice."

"I'm all about building relationships... really getting to know teachers, principals, staff," she says as she runs for re-election.

Heers-McArdle says one of her



Erin Heers-McArdle

District 1

proudest accomplishments from her first term on the board was working to see Regional High School move into the Sandburg building and, next year, to see the Bridges and Pathways programs move from rented locations into the district's former Franklin elementary school. All three programs had been in rented spaces not designed for students. "We're giving them a better

place," she says. For Heers-McArdle, a priority is "making sure our students' needs are met no matter where they start..."

For the next four years, getting all

students to meet the third-grade reading levels will be a priority for the board, she says, because attaining those skills impacts future achievement. "That will continue to be one of the biggest things we aim for."

A continuing challenge: "Everybody across the country has a shortage of teachers and staff at every level."

"Anoka-Hennepin has a history of fiscally conservative practices that have worked really well for us," Heers-McArdle says. When the COVID pandemic hit, other districts that were less fiscally-stable really suffered, she notes. "We have a fund balance that really holds up... We need to keep it that way."

Website: erinforschoolboard.com

Susan Witt: 'Every decision should have the students at the center'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

BLAINE — "Being a teacher, one of my first concerns is always for the students, the kids," says Susan Witt. "Every decision should have them at the center."

Witt, who is a retired teacher, is running for the open District 2 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin school board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. She also has been endorsed by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and SEIU.

District 2 includes several precincts in Blaine and one precinct in Coon Rapids.

Over the years, "I've doorknocked a lot of this area for other candidates,"

Witt says — and one year for her own race. In 2016, Witt ran for the Minnesota House seat representing part of the area but came up just 168 votes short of winning. Several precincts where she ran before now overlap with the District 2 school board race.

Witt has lived 11 years in Anoka-Hennepin District 2, moving from neighboring Spring Lake Park after she retired from a 30-year career as a teacher including 27 years teaching in the Spring Lake Park Public Schools. She primarily taught third grade.

Witt was active in her union, winning election as vice president of Spring Lake

Park Teachers United.

She also served as PTA president for Spring Lake Park's Park Terrace elementary school.

"I've been immersed in public schools my whole life," Witt says.

"I really wanted to be a teacher for as long as I could remember — it started in 4th grade," she says.

Witt's husband is a retired chemistry teacher and, she adds, "all my brothers and sisters are teachers and their spouses are teachers."

In running for school board, "I bring a wealth of background," Witt says. "I know what goes into a school day." With her experience, she says, she will "be able to ask the right questions."

"Everybody's concerned about the academic progress of kids," Witt agrees, but she also emphasizes that "we need to make sure schools are a welcoming place where kids feel they are welcome and safe."

"To me, the job of a school board member is to listen and make good decisions for kids," Witt says.

Unfortunately, she observes, her opponent is "talking more about the needs of the parents."

As a union member since 1987, "I really feel strongly how unions are extremely important to our economy and the welfare of all," Witt says.

Website: susanwittforschoolboard.com



Susan Witt

District 2

Michelle Langenfeld: 'Come together around what kids need most'

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

COON RAPIDS — "My overarching goal is how do we as a community come together around what kids need most," says Michelle Langenfeld. "We really need to all come together."

Langenfeld is running for the open District 5 seat on the Anoka-Hennepin school board with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

She also has been endorsed by Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota.

District 5 extends along both sides of the Mississippi River, including parts of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Coon Rapids and Fridley.

"I have a deep and strong tie to the community," says Langenfeld.

A former classroom teacher, Langenfeld worked 15 years in the Anoka-Hennepin district in positions including associate superintendent, school principal, assistant principal and dean.

She currently has two grandchildren who attend the Anoka-Hennepin schools.

Langenfeld served the Green Bay, Wisconsin school district as superintendent from 2011-2020, where she led a staff of 3,500 employees at 42 schools with 21,000 students (the Anoka-Hennepin district includes about 38,000 students).

During Lanegenfeld's tenure in Green Bay, she reports, graduation rates rose for all student populations and she worked to strengthen programs that led students to careers in the building trades, in partnership with local trades unions.

Langenfeld took charge in Green Bay at the same time that Governor Scott Walker and the Republican-controlled legislature passed the very controversial Act 10, which severely weakened collective bargaining rights for teachers and other public employees. Langenfeld says she worked hard to make all the teachers and staff "feel valued and respected."

"It's very important to recognize that I am a relationship-builder in addition to my years as an educator," she says.

For Langenfeld, working in education was a second career after earning a degree in criminal justice. When her kids were in school, "I was volunteering in the schools," she says. She realized, "this is where it matters."

As a school board member, Langenfeld pledges to "bring people to the table to listen and to engage in what matters most to us... Together, we can come to the best solutions for our kids."

Website: michellelangenfeld.com



Michelle Langenfeld

District 5

Richfield and St. Francis public schools seek voter support

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor
MINNEAPOLIS — Voters in school districts across the state will be asked November 7 whether or not to approve tax levies or bond referenda to support their local schools.

Two of the districts on opposite sides of the metro area seeking voter support are the Richfield Public Schools (ISD #280) and the St. Francis Area Schools (ISD #15).

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO supports the Richfield and St. Francis ballot questions and urges a “yes” vote, along with the two districts’ teachers unions.

Richfield Public Schools:

Two ballot questions

Voters in the Richfield school district will be asked to consider two ballot questions.

Question 1 renews an existing technology levy for a third time and will not bring a new tax impact.

Question 2 will revoke and replace an existing operating referendum, leading to an additional \$16 per month for a home valued at \$300,000.

“The technology tools and software we’ve got available from [the current technology levy] is phenomenal,” commented Dave Clark, a 10th grade Richfield biology teacher who has worked 20 years in the district and is treasurer of the district’s teachers union, Education Richfield.

“It really allows us to personalize instruction through our online learning system,” he said.

And, he added, “every student has a Chromebook to use” because of the funds from technology levy.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, he noted, those Chromebooks already in-hand allowed student learning to continue — while other districts scrambled to provide similar technology for distance learning.

“To us, to continue to maintain the technology infrastructure we’ve built is critical going forward,” Clark said. “I don’t want to think of a world where this doesn’t pass and pick up the pieces.”

Question 2 will double the support which the district receives from the current operating levy, Clark said, but he’s quick to point out that the increase will simply bring Richfield’s operating levy in line with neighboring school districts.

“Over time, state funding is not keeping up with inflation,” he said. “In today’s dollars, our funding is actually less than it was 20 or 25 years ago.”

Clark said Question 2 will allow the district to hire additional support staff, retain teachers and stabilize future funding through a mechanism to adjust the levy to keep up with inflation.

Referring to the \$16 per month tax impact for the average home in the district, Clark said, “in looking at the impact it can provide, we hope the voters feel it is nominal.”

Clark said a community group, “Vote Yes for Richfield Kids,” will be working to educate voters and urge support for the two ballot questions.

Visit richfieldschools.org for more information.

St. Francis Area Schools:

Two ballot questions

Voters in the St. Francis Area school district also will be asked whether to support two ballot questions.

Question 1 is a 10-year operating levy to provide \$325 per student for a total \$1.5 million per year.

Question 2 is a 10-year annual capital projects levy which will provide \$880,000 annually.

Question 2 cannot pass unless voters also approve Question 1.

According to the school district’s website, “if voters approve the referendum, a home valued at \$375,000 would see a monthly tax increase of \$9 for Question 1 and \$5 for Question 2, for a total of \$14 per month starting in 2024.”

The local school board decided only in August to go forward with the two questions but “they voted 7-0 — that was a big deal,” said Ryan Fiereck, president of Education Minnesota St. Francis.

Fiereck is a business education teacher with 18 years in the district.

He said passing both questions is essential. “We’re struggling here... We’ve done more with less for a long time.” Indeed, the district has made \$10 million in cuts in the past 10 years.

“We can’t retain staff,” he reported, which also means that “kids have fewer program options.”

In addition, “our class sizes continue to grow,” he said, which results in student behavior concerns.

Passing the two questions also will help the district grow popular new course offerings in career and tech ed, he said, and allow the district to offer something unique versus other districts to help maintain student counts.

Visit sfStrongFuture.org for more information.

Bloomington City Council

Chao Moua: ‘We have a shared future’

BLOOMINGTON — “We all come from different places. The one thing we have in common is we have a shared future,” says Chao Moua.

Moua was appointed to an At Large seat on the Bloomington city council in January 2023 to fill a vacancy. He’s now running for that seat in a special election set for November 7 with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In serving on the council this year, Moua says, “it’s the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my life.”

He sees his role on the council as not just addressing issues like affordable housing and transportation, but also helping people “grow their ideas” in Bloomington, whether that’s starting a business or a nonprofit.

Moua grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin—LaCrosse with a degree in biology, and later earned an MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

Chou’s parents were Hmong refu-

gees from Laos, who came to the U.S. with nothing. But, Chou said, “when my dad started working at Nestle and joined the union, it created stability in our life.”

His father was a member of UFCW Local 1473 and worked at the Nestle plant in Eau Claire. From his father, he learned “how important it is to have good management who support the workers.”

From his mother, who opened a Hmong grocery store and deli, he gained the viewpoint of a small business owner.

For Chao, honoring his immigrant heritage and the challenges his family and other immigrant families have faced is important — and offers lessons for the country and the city of Bloomington — so we can build on “the hard work of those who came before.”

“It’s important for us to provide opportunities for the workers who are the backbone of our community,” Chao says.

Website:

mouaforbloomington.com



Chao Moua

At Large

Isaak Rooble: ‘Continue the work we’ve done’

BLOOMINGTON — “I’m a community activist most of the time. I try to address equity issues across the spectrum,” says small business owner Isaak Rooble.

Rooble is running for the District IV seat on the Bloomington city council with the endorsement of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Incumbent Pat Martin is not seeking re-election and encouraged Rooble to run “to make sure we continue the work we’ve done over the years,” Rooble says.

District IV is in the northeast corner of the city.

In talking with district voters, Rooble says, their chief issues are public safety, housing, and economic development — and a concern that resources are not going to the city’s east side. And he says, members of the BI-POC community feel left out.

Rooble moved to Bloomington eight years ago. As a Somali-American, “I have been a refugee and immigrant advocate for over 15 years,” he

relates.

Working as a translator at Hennepin County Medical Center, he was a union member of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild.

He also has worked as a translator for SEIU Healthcare and for the DFL Party.

“I believe workers should have the right to speak up when people violate labor and employment rights,” he says.

In running for city council, “engaging the labor community was really important,” Rooble says. “We want to be part of the labor family.”

“Pay attention during this election cycle,” Rooble urges. “Our values are on the line. We’re up against people who are calling unions outsiders” and who want “to push back progress.”

“I’m someone who can move an issue from where it is to a better future,” Rooble says. “If people come out and vote, they elect the right candidates.”

Website:

isaakrooble.com



Isaak Rooble

District IV

Local Union News

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005: Members vote to authorize strike at Metro Transit, with 94 percent yes vote

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 voted overwhelmingly September 10-11 to authorize a strike at Metro Transit. The vote was 94 percent in favor of authorizing a strike

Local 1005's members include bus operators and mechanics, light rail operators and mechanics, and other staff.

Their contract expired August 1.

The strike authorization vote sends a strong message to Metro Transit as negotiations continue.

"We haven't reached impasse yet," Local 1005 president Ryan Timlin reported September 13. He said additional negotiations were scheduled for September 22 and October 5.

"We don't have a final offer to bring to the members," Timlin said. "We have agreement on some minor issues."

Wages are the top issue not yet resolved, Timlin said, and the union continues to seek to restore a Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) to the contract, seeking COLA plus one percent.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation has approved strike sanction.

AFSCME Council 5:

Julie Bleyhl retires, Bart Andersen named interim executive director

Julie Bleyhl, executive director of AFSCME Council 5, has retired.

Council 5 announced the appointment of Bart Andersen as interim executive director August 22.

Andersen has a long history with AFSCME, joining the union in 1996 as a bridge maintenance worker for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He became a union leader and president of AFSCME Local 2792, next helping merge Locals 1011 and 2792 into what is now AFSCME Local 221 (Metro MnDOT).

In addition to serving as a local union steward and president, Andersen's experience includes serving as Council 5 executive board member and State Employee Policy Committee president representing all AFSCME Council 5 state employees.

Andersen joined AFSCME Council 5's staff as field representative negotiating contracts in state and local government, and the private/non-profit sector and later became field services director.

Andersen commented, "as interim executive director, my goal is to ensure our members and staff are empowered to continue our critical work of representing our 43,000 members and by extension our loved ones and neighbors, as we set the standard for other employers across our state."

Julie Bleyhl had served as Council 5's executive director since 2019. She had previously served as Council 5's legislative director since 1994.

City Employees Local 363: Union files for mediation with City of Minneapolis

With a current contract due to expire at the end of this year, City Employees Local 363 September 7 filed for mediation with the City of Minneapolis.

Local 363 formally notified the city of intent to negotiate August 3, but the city so far has refused to provide any dates for negotiations meetings, A.J. Lange, Local 363 business manager, reported September 13.

"I've had multiple communications over e-mail and the phone with their labor relations director, trying to set up a date to present our proposal and set up dates to meet," Lange said. "They won't set up a date."

"The first meeting is a formality... you present your proposal and answer questions," Lange noted. "I find it hard to believe they simply don't have an hour."

"They're not setting a good tone," he added.

Local 363's City of Minneapolis bargaining unit includes more than 450 public works workers who repair the streets, plow snow in the winter, maintain the sewers and keep the water system functioning.

Lange said issues are similar to issues in recent negotiations with the Minneapolis Park Board and City of St. Paul, including seeking significant wage increases

to make up for inflation and also significant improvements in safety measures to protect workers who increasingly face safety concerns just doing their job.

IBEW Local 160: Union completes move to new office in Plymouth

IBEW Local 160 has completed its move to a new office and union hall in Plymouth and opened for business at that location August 14.

The remodeled building offers two floors, with offices on the second floor and the union hall on the first floor, and a total of 22,000 square feet.

The new address is 13220 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55441 (near the intersection of Interstate 494 and County Road 6 and near the Plymouth water tower).

Local 160's phone number remains 612-781-3126.

Office hours are weekdays 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

IBEW Local 160: Inaugural 'Pig Out' offers food trucks at new union hall September 28

With IBEW Local 160's move from St. Anthony to a new union hall in Plymouth, the local's annual fall celebration for members also has an update.

IBEW Local 160's inaugural "Pig Out" for members will be Thursday, September 28. **LOCAL UNION NEWS page 10**

Retiree Meetings

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your union retiree group is meeting in-person or online, and you want to share that information, or if you have other important announcements, contact the editor at laborreview@minneapolisunions.org or 612-715-2667.

Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council:

Next meeting October 19

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, October 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for people at the in-person meeting after the meeting adjourns. The in-person meeting will be in Room 218 at the United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

Parking will be reimbursed if you park in 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. Just park and when you come to the meeting we will give you a parking voucher.

To request the Zoom link for the October 19 meeting, or for more information about the Council, contact Graeme Allen, community and political organizer for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, at 612-481-2144 or e-mail graeme@minneapolisunions.org.

ATU Local 1005 Retirees:

Meet first Wednesday of the month

The Southside Retirees of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 are now meeting for breakfast the first Wednesday of the

month at 8:00 a.m. at the Richfield VFW, 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield.

Carpenters Retirees:

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 October 10

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — "Senior Sparkies" — will meet Tuesday, October 10 at IBEW Local 292's union hall, 6700 West Broadway Ave. in Brooklyn Park. A buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We will be having a guest speaker from the JATC as well as a speaker from the union office.

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

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

Next meeting September 26

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will meet in-person Tuesday, September 26 at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers office, 67 – 8th Ave. NE. The guest speaker will be Adam Janiak, Education Minnesota negotiations specialist, presenting "Everything you wanted to know about your pension but were afraid to ask." New Social Security benefits also will be discussed. Program followed by lunch.

Upcoming meeting dates for 2023-2024 include: 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.

Pipefitters Local 539 Retirees:

'Fazed Out Fitters' meet third Wednesday

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

Plumbers Local 15 Retirees:

Meet the third Tuesday of each month

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

Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 Retirees:

'Rusty Tinnars' meet October 10

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 "Rusty Tinnars" retirees club will meet Tuesday, October 10 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. A potluck lunch will begin at 12 noon. The meeting will follow lunch at 1:00 p.m. If available, one of our business agents and/or someone from our benefits office will share updates and answer questions. All retired Sheet Metal workers and spouses are welcome to our monthly meetings. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, September through December and March through May. For more information, contact Frank Costa at 651-484-1363.

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!

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tember 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the new union hall at 13220 Co. Rd. 6 in Plymouth.

The event will feature food trucks offering barbecue, tacos, burgers, ice cream and donuts.

Local 160 member Dan Ellis submitted the winning entry for renaming the local's annual "Pig Roast" to "Pig Out."

North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters:

Council seeks members to become mental health safety champions

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters is seeking members to step forward as mental health safety champions for an initiative to reduce the stigma around mental health in the construction industry.

Mental health safety champions will play a vital role in empowering members to share their stories and help create a workplace culture that better supports mental wellness for all.

For more information or to express interest in participating, e-mail Kaile Poling at kpoling@ncsrcc.org.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa: Allina Health workers ratify contract

A SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa bargaining unit comprised of more than 4,000 Allina Health workers voted with an overwhelming majority last month to ratify their 2024-27 union contract. The unit includes service and maintenance members, LPNs and techs at Phillips Eye Institute, Unity Hospital and Owatonna Hospital.

Highlights of the contract include:

- 13.5 percent wage increases over three years;
- 6.5 percent increase January 1,

2024 (two months early);

- 15 percent pension increases — the largest-ever increase in the employer contribution.

- A zero co-pay maintained for generic prescriptions;

- No concessions made to existing benefits and other protections, including PTO.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa: Abbott techs ratify contract

Radiology techs and sonographers at Allina's Abbott Northwestern Hospital voted last month with an overwhelming majority to ratify their 2023-26 union contract. The unit includes more than 100 workers who are members of SEIU



With 94 percent voting 'yes,' ATU Local 1005 members authorize strike at Metro Transit

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 voted overwhelmingly September 10-11 at the United Labor Centre to authorize a strike at Metro Transit. The vote was 94 percent in favor of authorizing a strike. See story page 9. Photo above: ATU Local 1005 executive board members who helped to conduct the strike authorization vote included (left to right) Mark Anthony Dawkins, bus operator and 23-year Local 1005 member; Jason Endreson, bus mechanic and 19-year Local 1005 member; Lisa Callahan, light rail operator and 25-year Local 1005 member.

Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- Wage increases totaling 13 percent over the three years with retroactive pay;

- Call pay increase;

- Added safety language;

- Radiologic technologists red-circled at a higher pay scale;

- Weekend scheduling program with incentive;

- Advanced certifications requirement made dormant.

The agreement also included no concessions made to PTO; PTO and health insurance were secured for three more years.

The agreement also made no concessions to job posting language (the employer had proposed an out-of-seniority order in awarding open positions).

UFCW Local 663:

After strike threat, Kowalski's grocery workers ratify new contract

Following a pattern set earlier this year by workers first at Cub Foods, and then Lunds & Byerlys, grocery workers at Kowalski's Markets won a new, improved contract — after first showing a willingness to strike.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 represents 600 workers at six Kowalski's locations in the west metro area. A strike set for August 4 was averted two days earlier when workers ratified a new two-year agreement that provides raises and pay equity.

"I'm so happy that my co-workers and I are getting the raises we fought for. I am inspired to be a part of strengthening our union one contract at a time," said Kim Cizl, union bargaining committee member

from the Hennepin Kowalski's deli.

"I'm excited we secured pay equity for all union employees, because it allows the work environment to feel more fair and just, and that's important to me," said Aidan Lindon, deli specialist at Eden Prairie Kowalski's.

The ratified contract expands 401(k) access to all union members at Kowalski's and secures increased contributions. Union members also were able to secure their union health care and will not be required to pay contributions for two years.

UFCW Local 663:

Workers organize at all Minnesota Vertical Endeavors climbing gyms

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 announced August 25 that Vertical Endeavors workers had signed and submitted cards to the National Labor Relations Board to unionize. They are hoping to secure livable wages, better working conditions and want a seat at the table to be able to turn these ideas into reality.

Vertical Endeavors operates five indoor climbing gyms in Minnesota and a production facility which manufactures climbing holds and other products for the indoor climbing industry. The proposed bargaining unit will include 90 workers among the six locations.

"Unionizing was important for me to better support my coworkers and myself, hold our company accountable for actions, and just making sure that we can ensure safety for us and our customers," said Esthi Erickson, shift manager and team coach at Vertical Endeavors' Minneapolis location.

In June, workers from REI in Maple Grove won their union election, marking an energized Minnesota labor movement in the outdoor industry.

UFCW Local 663:

One year after winning union, Peace Coffee workers approve first contract

Workers at Minneapolis-based Peace Coffee voted September 6 to ratify their first contract as members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663.

The three-year agreement will provide a \$1.00 per hour wage increase this September, a \$0.75 per hour wage increase in September 2024, and another \$0.75 per hour wage increase in September 2025.

The contract also mandates clear job descriptions, establishes discipline procedures and protections, increases bereavement leave from three days to five days, and provides for severance pay for employees with two-plus years at Peace Coffee.

The contract covers 19 workers.

Peace Coffee workers voted June 2, 2002 to join UFCW Local 663 in a National Labor Relations Board election.

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

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.

Annual Retiree Luncheon: October 10

The Pipefitters Annual Retiree Luncheon will be held on October 10, 2023. Information and sign-up sheets were sent out to all the retiree members.

Christmas Party: December 2

The Pipefitters Annual Christmas party will be on December 2, 2023. Information will be sent out in November.

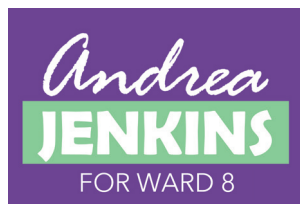
Condolences

Condolences to the families of Michael Finney and Eugene Harter.

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

Re-elect AFL-CIO Endorsed Andrea Jenkins for Ward 8



www.Andrea-Jenkins.com

Paid for by Andrea Jenkins for Ward 8
P.O. Box 8078, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Endorsed: New endorsements include several union members running for local offices

continued from page 2

tional Association of Letter Carriers.

Jones was appointed to the board in June 2023 to fill a vacancy and now is running for election for a full term.

Keeler is a member of Plumbers Local 15 — he's a first year apprentice — and is a graduate of Fridley High School.

Jones, Karnopp and Keeler are running in a field of five candidates, with the top three to be elected.

St. Louis Park school board: Incumbent Virginia Mancini endorsed

The MRLF voted to endorse Virginia Mancini for re-election to the St. Louis Park school board.

Mancini is a member of Education Minnesota and works as an English teacher at Mahtomedi Middle School.

She was appointed to the St. Louis Park school board to fill a vacancy in March 2022 and then won a special election for the seat in November 2022.

She is running in a field of five candidates, with the top four to be elected.

Golden Valley city council: Incumbents Sophia Ginis and Maurice Harris endorsed

The MRLF voted to endorse incumbents Sophia Ginis and Maurice Harris for re-election to the Golden Valley city council.

Harris first won election in 2019, running with MRLF endorsement.

Ginis was appointed to the city council in June 2023 to fill a vacancy and now is seeking election for a full term.

Ginis and Harris are running in a field of three candidates, with the top two to be elected.

Minnetonka city council: Incumbent Kissy Coakley endorsed

The MRLF endorsed Kissy Coakley for re-election to represent Ward 4 on the Minnetonka city council.

She is running in a field of three candidates, with the top vote-getter to be elected.

See page 12 for the full list of 2023 endorsements by the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Fare For All: Grocery savings of 40 percent

continued from page 4

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

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

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

■ **Minneapolis, Friday, October 13, 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, October 18, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ **Norwood Young America, Thursday, October 5 AND Tuesday, October 31, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

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

■ **St. Louis Park, Wednesday, October 18, 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 for more information and dates for all 30-plus locations.

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612-379-8130

www.workingpartnerships.org



IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

Continuing Education

The Minneapolis Electrical JATC's Continuing Education registration is now open. Visit their website at www.mplsjatc.org. Click on the "Continuing Ed" registration link and log in to your account. You also can register in-person at the JATC in St. Michael during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. More classes will be added throughout the year. Check the website and class list frequently for additional classes and changes to classes.

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

Paid for by IBEW Local 292 • www.ibew292.org

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.

Condolences

Brother Terry Engman; Brother Allen D. Tollakson; Brother Louis G. Hokanson; Brother Russell J. Whittaker; Brother Ronald E. Johnson.

Minneapolis Labor Review 2023 Publication Schedule

October 21

Deadline: October 4
General Election Issue

November 18

Deadline: November 1
Holiday Shopping Guide

December 16

Deadline: November 29
Holiday Issue

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

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education: 2023 Endorsements

General Election: Tuesday, November 7

Anoka-Hennepin School Board

Erin Heers-McArdle, District 1
Susan Witt, District 2
Michelle Langenfeld, District 5

Bloomington Mayor

Tim Busse

Bloomington City Council

Jenna Carter, At Large
Chao Moua, At Large (Special Election)
Dwayne Lowman, District I
Shawn Nelson, District II
Lona Dallessandro, District III
Isaak Rooble, District IV

Bloomington School Board

Nelly Korman, At Large
Mia Olson, At Large
Heather Starks, At Large



Early Voting Begins September 22

For voting information, visit mnvotes.org

Find out your district or ward, learn your polling place,
view a list of candidates, and view a sample ballot

Fridley School Board

Sara Jones, At Large
Jake Karnopp, At Large
Erik Keeler, At Large

Golden Valley City Council

Sophia Ginis, At Large
Maurice Harris, At Large

Minneapolis City Council

Elliot Payne, Ward 1
Robin Wonsley, Ward 2
Michael Rainville, Ward 3
LaTrisha Vetaw, Ward 4
Jeremiah Ellison, Ward 5
Jamal Osman, Ward 6
Andrea Jenkins, Ward 8
Jason Chavez, Ward 9
Aisha Chughtai, Ward 10
Emily Koski, Ward 11
Aurin Chowdhury, Ward 12
Linea Palmisano, Ward 13

Minnetonka City Council

Kissy Coakley, Ward 4

St. Louis Park School Board

Virginia Mancini, At Large

This list of candidates current as of September 13, 2023. For updates: www.minneapolisunions.org

Labor 2023 Schedule of Events

Please consider volunteering
for part of a day to join a
doorknock or phonebank to
help elect our 2023 AFL-CIO
endorsed candidates!

Additional volunteer
opportunities will be added.
For updates to this schedule,
visit minneapolisunions.org
For more information, e-mail
graeme@minneapolisunions.org

Saturday, September 23

10:00 a.m.

Minneapolis Doorknock
(Choose your ward ahead of time with MRLF staff)
Location:
United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave., Suite 542,
Minneapolis

Friday, September 29

8:00 a.m.

Annual Local Candidate Meet & Greet
Location:
United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave., Suite 542,
Minneapolis

Monday, October 2

4:00 p.m.

Blaine Labor BBQ Event
Join union families in the Blaine area to network and help build power in
this critical area
Special Guest: Representative Matt Norris
Location:
Teamsters Local 120, 9422 Ulysses St. NE, Blaine

Saturday, October 14

10:00 a.m.

Bloomington Day of Action
Location:
2909 West 97th Street, Bloomington