

# Minneapolis Labor Review

116th Year

No. 8

February 17, 2024

www.minneapolisunions.org

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

## SEIU Local 26 janitors and security officers authorize strike

### Union sets March 2 deadline to resolve contract issues or 8,000 workers could strike



Labor Review photo

SEIU Local 26 members marched through the downtown Minneapolis skyways December 7 as part of their contract mobilization campaign. Images like this one could become a familiar sight in the weeks ahead.

MINNEAPOLIS — Meeting at Edison High School February 3, members of SEIU Local 26 who work as commercial janitors, retail janitors and security officers voted unanimously to authorize their bargaining committees to call an Unfair Labor Practice strike if fair contracts with employers can't be reached. The union set a March 2 deadline to reach contract settlements. A strike could put as many as 8,000 essential workers on picket lines in downtown Minneapolis, downtown St. Paul and other metro locations.

Kadra Ali, a janitor and an elected member of the SEIU Local 26 executive board, spoke about why she voted "yes" to authorize a strike: "Too many of us don't make enough money to take care of our families. Since our last contract, everything has gone up: the price of gas, the price of groceries, the price of rent. But our employers won't agree to fair wage increases to keep up with inflation. We worked during the pandemic, and we helped SEIU LOCAL 26 page 6

## Governor Walz outlines \$1 billion infrastructure plan

SAINT PAUL — Calling for another round of needed investments in state infrastructure, Governor Tim Walz released a nearly \$1 billion capital investment proposal January 16 for the 2024 session of the Minnesota legislature.

The legislative session began February 12.

Governor Walz's \$982 million plan identified projects across the state. The plan included more than \$215 million for water and transportation infra-

structure, more than \$142 million for public safety projects, more than \$97 million for housing and the environment, and more than \$440 million to "maintain and renew" state facilities including the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State campuses. The plan also included more than \$85 million for other infrastructure needs across the state, including local government projects.

"The investments in our 2024 Infrastructure Plan are invest-

ments in the wellbeing and future of Minnesota," Governor Walz said. "We have an obligation to ensure every Minnesotan has access to clean water, well-maintained infrastructure, safe communities, and state buildings that are safe and accessible. These projects will support local governments in their work to improve our infrastructure and create good-paying jobs in every corner of the state."

In a statement, LIUNA Min-

nesota & North Dakota — the Laborers union — said, "these critical investments will put thousands of workers, including LIUNA members, to work in good-paying construction jobs rebuilding our state's assets."

LIUNA noted that this year's proposal follows the largest construction jobs bill in state history last year, adding, "we are encouraged to see Governor Walz's proposal building on momentum from last year's historic investments..."

## Sponsors introduce Labor Standards Board at Minneapolis City Council

MINNEAPOLIS — Worker advocates welcomed the introduction of a proposed Labor Standards Board for consideration by the Minneapolis City Council last month.

Authors of the ordinance include: Aisha Chughtai, Ward 10 council member and council vice president; plus two newly-elected members of the city council, Ward 12's Aurin Chowdhury and Ward 7's Katie Cashman.

Introduced January 25, the proposed Labor Standards Board grew out of extensive work to lay groundwork for the plan, including rallies, lobby days, the presentation of petitions, and more.

Worker advocates' push for a Labor Standards Board began in 2022 to help address the economic, racial and wealth disparities in the city of Minneapolis, especially in response to the ongoing and changing needs of the city's work-

force since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

"We all know that it is the workers of Minneapolis — across jobs, race, gender, and zip code — who make our city run," author Chughtai commented, "By allowing for the creation of sector-specific Labor Standards Boards, we will have a way to bring frontline, directly-impacted worker voices to the table, alongside representatives from busi-

ness and community stakeholders, to work to find ways forward that will make our city stronger."

"As workers, we want a say in our working conditions and the decisions that impact us," said Estela Tirado, who works in downtown Minneapolis in the restaurant industry and is a member of the worker center CTUL. "I support this law for sectoral tables so that our voice is present."



# Our workers movement marches into 2024 with growing momentum

By Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024 — destined to be a year of worker growth and worker power.

Here at the MRLF we are renewing our commitment to our strategic initiatives for the year:

- growing our strength;
- building solidarity;
- telling our story;
- preparing for the future.

As 2024 unfolds, we are building on the strong momentum of impactful labor activity fueled by workers demanding what they deserve. Last year gave us both the “Hot Labor Summer” and yet another “Strike-tober.”

We are seeing innovative, exciting worker organizing across industries, helping to spread the popular support for unions and unionization.

There is a sense of JOY in coming together as the working class that is inspiring our 2024 strategies. As the national AFL-CIO’s new slogan declares, “It’s better in a union.”

Locally, we are *growing our strength* with the record-setting expansion of union workers in critical industries. Hospitality workers, brewers and event workers are organizing into new unions in some of our most beloved venues. Care-giving workers are establishing new labor standards boards to uplift their industries and raise standards for the people in their care. Historic federal and state investments in our infrastructure needs are growing and diversifying our critical road, bridge, and water infrastructure workforce systems.



**We are seeing innovative, exciting worker organizing across industries**

Together, with our unions, we are *building solidarity* and securing better contracts.

This March, the streets of Minneapolis are going to be streaming with striking workers, rallies and worker actions in coordination with each other. Janitors, teachers, bus drivers, snowplow drivers, security guards, baristas and nursing home workers — just to name a few — will be standing together in solidarity.

We are re-imagining what any one of our unions could win alone as we show a united front together.

All of this activity is catching the eye of the media and thought leaders throughout our communities. We are finally getting the opportunity to tell the story of workers loud and proud.

And, here at the MRLF, we are reimagining how we are *telling our story* with the relaunch and redesign of our website: minneapolisunions.org.

And, of course, we are *preparing for the future* by exploring new areas of our local economy, from AI advancements to workforce development in the green jobs ecosystem.

This year will be a big election year, too, with the presidential race and contests for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House and Minnesota House. As we head into that work, the priorities outlined above will drive our conversations with both candidates and voters.

I hope you take the opportunity to engage in all the excitement coming up in 2024 and join us in the work ahead.

# ORGANIZE MORE IN 2024



## Check out the new look for minneapolisunions.org

MINNEAPOLIS — Check out the new look for minneapolisunions.org!

First launched in 2003, the website for the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO now has been totally redesigned and relaunched.

The new MRLF website was created using UnionHall, a website-building tool provided by the national AFL-CIO for use by the AFL-CIO’s state labor federations and local labor federations.

The new website is designed to be more friendly to mobile devices.

Another change: the MRLF’s new website now features a news feed from the national AFL-CIO.

The website also allows you to sign-up to receive e-mail updates from the MRLF and AFL-CIO.

Previous features remain, including the ability to view the *Minneapolis Labor Review* in pdf form and to access the Labor Review archive of all back issues.

Mohamed Mohamed of BSMG Digital worked with the MRLF to launch the new site.

## Labor Review amends 2024 publication schedule

MINNEAPOLIS — The 2024 publication schedule for the *Minneapolis Labor Review* which was published in the December 2023 issue has been amended.

The only change is the elimination of the March 2024 issue.

The *Labor Review* now will publish a total of nine issues in 2024 — publishing monthly except for January, March and June.

The publication date normally will be the last Saturday of the month or the second to last Saturday of the month.

The 2024 publication dates will be: February 17 (January 31 deadline); April 20 (April 3 deadline); May 25 (May 8 deadline); July 27 (July 10 deadline); Au-

gust 24 (August 7 deadline); September 21 (September 4 deadline); October 19 (October 2 deadline); November 16 (October 30 deadline); December 14 (November 27 deadline).

See also page 11 for the 2024 schedule.

Discounted ad rates will be available for the May issue (*Labor Review* 117th anniversary issue), August issue (Labor Day issue) and December issue (holiday issue).

For more information, to suggest a story idea, or to advertise, contact editor Steve Share at 612-715-2667 or e-mail laborreview@minneapolisunions.org.

## ‘Welcome’ to new Minneapolis Labor Review readers

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

## Minneapolis Labor Review

Since 1907

Steve Share, Editor

Next issue: **AFL-CIO**  
April 20, 2024

Deadline:  
April 3, 2024

See page 11 for complete 2024 schedule

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

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# Events

## February 18, March 30, April 21: Mill City Museum offers workers' history tours

MINNEAPOLIS — Mill City Museum will offer three coming dates for a "Workers' History Tour." The tour dates include: Sunday, February 18; Saturday, March 30; and Sunday, April 21.

The 90-minute tours will run from 10:00-11:30 a.m. inside the Mill City Museum, which is located in the historic Washburn A Mill at 704 South 2nd St. in Minneapolis.

The tours will explore the story of work and labor in Minneapolis from the 19th

century to the present. A Mill City Museum guide will tell of the actions taken by workers and activists to improve the lives of working people. Stories highlighted will include the 1903 and 1917 flour milling strike, the Teamsters strikes of 1934, the anti-union Citizens Alliance, and the career of Black union activist Nellie Stone Johnson.

The tour cost is \$16 for all ages.

For more information, or to reserve tickets, visit [mnhs.org/events/1379](http://mnhs.org/events/1379).

## February 19: CTUL hosts kick-off meeting for 'Solidarity Spring' and March week of action

MINNEAPOLIS — Several unions and community partners will be joining forces for a week of action March 2-9, as part of the joint campaign, "What Could We Win Together in 2024?"

Worker center CTUL will host a "Solidarity Spring" kick-off meeting Monday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the CTUL of-

ice at 3715 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

Shared issues for the campaign include higher wages, affordable housing, stable schools and a livable planet.

Attend the February 19 meeting to learn more about what's planned and how to plug-in and join.

## February 22: Program explores legacy of Roy Wilkins, MN journalist, civil rights leader

SAINT PAUL — Raised in St. Paul, Roy Wilkins (1901-1981) was a Black Minnesota journalist who went on to become a major figure in the civil rights movement, leading the NAACP.

The Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild's Human Rights Committee will host an online program exploring Roy Wilkins' legacy Thursday,

February 22 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

University of St. Thomas professor Yohuru Williams will be the presenter, interviewed by Guild members Fred Mello of the *Pioneer Press* and Cierra Brown of TakeAction Minnesota.

The event is free and open to the public. Register at [tinyurl.com/hrcroy](http://tinyurl.com/hrcroy).

## '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!

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

■ **Anoka, Thursday, April 25, 4:00–6:00 p.m.**, Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 S. 4th Ave.

■ **Blaine, Thursdays, March 21 and April 18, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, Christ Lutheran Church, 641 89th Ave. NE.

■ **Bloomington, Fridays, March 22 and April 19, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. So.

■ **Buffalo, Tuesdays, March 12 and FARE FOR ALL page 8**

# February 27, 2024

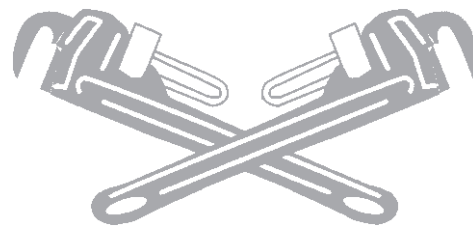
## Attend Your Precinct Caucus

# March 5, 2024

## Vote in the Presidential Primary

...And remember Minnesota law now provides "no excuses" absentee voting. You can vote before election day either in-person at local election offices or by mail by absentee ballot.

For information: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)



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## Events

### February 24: Documentary film about 2022 Minneapolis educators strike gets screening

MINNEAPOLIS — With educators in Minneapolis and across the region stepping up campaigns for fair contracts, a recent documentary about the 2022 Minneapolis Federation of Teachers strike, “Hold the Line,” is getting another public screening.

The 70-minute film independently produced by Minneapolis educator Max Hoiland will be shown Saturday, February 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Room S-280.

For details, a film trailer, and registra-

tion, visit [inyurl.com/HoldtheLineFeb24](https://inyurl.com/HoldtheLineFeb24).

This screening is being hosted by the Political Education Committee and the Labor Branch of the Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America.

Filmmaker Max Hoiland is an Educational Support Professional at Ella Baker School. During the 2022 strike, he began taking impromptu videos interviewing co-workers and went on to produce the documentary (*Labor Review, November 18, 2023*).

### March 6: Women Building Success event to announce winners of annual photo contest

SAINT PAUL — The winners of the 2024 Women Building Success photo contest will be announced at a celebratory event planned Wednesday, March 6 from 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will take place at the Ironworkers Local 512 union hall, 851 Pierce Butler Route, in St. Paul. Food will be provided.

Event-goers will vote for the contest

winners from among three finalists in each of three photo categories: “Me at Work,” “Job Sites,” and “Tools/Craftsmanship.”

All the finalist photos will be part of a display at the State Capitol rotunda earlier that day, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Women Building Success works to promote and support women working in the Building Trades. For more information, visit [womenbuildingsuccess.org](https://womenbuildingsuccess.org).

### April 12: Union Sportsmen’s Alliance hosts 2nd Annual Minnesota Conservation Dinner

MAPLE GROVE — Plumbers Local 15 will host the “2nd Annual Minnesota State Conservation Dinner” Friday, April 12 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Local 15’s union hall, 8625 Monticello Lane North, Suite 1, in Maple Grove.

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

Individual tickets cost \$75, which includes dinner, a gift, and a one-year membership in Union Sportsmen’s Alliance. Table sponsorships also are available.

RSVP by April 1 to Scott Gale, 612-333-6601, or [scottg@plumberslocal15.com](mailto:scottg@plumberslocal15.com). For more event information, visit [unionsportsmen.org](https://unionsportsmen.org).

### Ongoing Saturdays: Mentors offer History Day help at East Side Freedom Library

SAINT PAUL — Students taking on Minnesota History Day projects can get help from mentors and access to resources each Saturday morning through April at the East Side Freedom Library.

For 10 years, ESFL has assembled a team of History Day mentors, including retired teachers, college students, and others.

The Saturday mentoring sessions will run from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street in Saint Paul.

“We are also happy to connect with students by appointments after school or at other times, and by Zoom,” said Peter Rachleff, ESFL co-founder.

This year’s History Day theme is “Turning Points in History,” a good fit for labor history projects. Rachleff notes, “we will be encouraging young scholars to grapple with key strikes, elections, and movements, especially in Minnesota but across our country if that captures their imaginations.”

ESFL’s on-site resources include books, videos, works of visual art, musical recordings and more.

ESFL also has had success connecting students with participants in historic events to arrange oral interviews.

For more information about ESFL’s mentoring sessions and resources, e-mail [peter@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](mailto:peter@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org).

## Get in on the ground floor of the 2024 election!

Attend your  
Precinct Caucus  
February 27  
7:00 pm.



Vote in the  
Presidential Primary  
March 5

Your Sisters and Brothers of AFSCME Local 34 Hennepin County Social Services and Related

## Hunt? Fish?



The July issue of the *Labor Review* will preview the annual Game Fair in Anoka County and continue our annual tradition of featuring union members discussing their love of hunting or fishing.

If you or someone you know would like to share stories and photos, please call editor Steve Share ASAP at 612-715-2667 or e-mail [laborreview@minneapolisunions.org](mailto:laborreview@minneapolisunions.org).



# MN Labor Department seeks \$2.4 million from two local subcontractors

By Michael Moore, editor,  
Saint Paul Union Advocate

SAINT PAUL — After a 15-month investigation that spanned 19 construction sites, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry announced December 19 that it will seek to recover \$1.2 million in unpaid wages and the same amount in liquidated damages from two subcontractors that allegedly schemed together to cheat 25 workers out of the pay they were owed.

The allegations include practices that Building Trades unions have long warned are too common on non-union construction sites, like paying workers off the books, failing to pay overtime and taking unauthorized deductions from workers' pay.

Local representatives of the Carpenters union, in fact, have maintained that they met with the developers behind at least one of the sites, the Wilf family's Viking Lakes apartment project in Eagan, to warn against working with the subcontractors targeted by the investigation — to no avail.

Those subcontractors, Property Maintenance and Construction Inc. (PMC) and Advantage Construction Inc., have said they will contest the agency's allegations in court.

After investigation results were made public, the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) released a statement saying that its representatives "worked closely" with the DLI and the 25 victims of the alleged wage theft scheme.

"Workers were willfully unpaid by PMC's owner and actively discouraged from reporting violations and cooperating with the DLI investigation," the NCSRCC statement said. "Now the employer is challenging DLI's findings, which will be resolved at a hearing before an administrative law judge.

"The result of this hearing will be a significant step toward protecting employees and holding contractors accountable for their business practices," the union said. "NCSRCC will continue to work with the DLI and other industry partners to find justice for workers who have fallen victim to wage theft practices, as well as partner with contractors to continue fair and lawful decision-making."

Attorneys for Advantage also responded to the complaint, saying the subcontractor "did not employ any of the parties listed on the statement of back wages."

The statement continued: "Even if



Nicole Blissenbach

**'Wage theft hurts workers and their families, and hurts responsible employers that abide by the law.'**

**— Nicole Blissenbach,  
MN Labor Commissioner**

Advantage were the employer of the individuals identified in the statement of back wages (and Advantage surely was not) the Department's findings of back wages are not supported by actual records and therefore the penalty is arbitrary and capricious."

But DLI investigators determined that PMC and Advantage were "joint employers" of the alleged victims at Viking Lakes and 18 other construction sites — including the Beyond Apartments in Woodbury, Liffey on Snelling in St. Paul, Roseville Terrace Garages and The

Winslow of West St. Paul — between March 4, 2019, and June 5, 2022.

Advantage would frequently subcontract roofing and siding work to PMC, investigators found. While Advantage may not have employed those laborers "on paper," the agency alleged in a legal notice filed in December that "in practice" Advantage trained the workers and furnished their uniforms, tools, supplies and safety equipment.

"Advantage supervised their work," the notice reads. "Some employees were **WAGE THEFT** page 8

## Unlock Your Home's Potential with a Home Equity Loan from Building Trades Credit Union!

Is your dream kitchen renovation, backyard oasis, or home office makeover on hold due to financial constraints? Let us help you unlock the full potential of your home! Contact us now to explore how a home equity loan can turn your dreams into reality.

To apply online go to [www.buildingtradesCU.com](http://www.buildingtradesCU.com) or call us at 763-315-3888

Terms and conditions apply. Subject to credit approval. Rates and loan products are subject to change without notice. Home equity loans are available on primary residences and second homes. Property insurance is required. Flood insurance may be required. Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Other restrictions may apply. BTCU NMLS#407267





# Minnesota AFL-CIO announces 2024 legislative priorities

SAINT PAUL — With the 2024 session of the Minnesota legislature set to begin in a few days, the Minnesota AFL-CIO released the labor federation's legislative agenda February 8.

Here is the full text of the Minnesota AFL-CIO's "2024 Legislative Priorities."

2023's legislative session set Minnesota on a path towards becoming the best state for working people in the nation with historic gains in labor standards and protections. Now it's time to continue building a state where every working Minnesotan, no matter what they look like, where they live, or what type of work they do, has a safe workplace, a job with family-sustaining pay and benefits, a dignified retirement, and the freedom to organize and join a union. The Minnesota AFL-CIO's 2024 Legislative Priorities are another step towards that vision.

## Protect 2023's Historic Progress

History shows that every time working people successfully join together to improve their conditions, opponents fight back with an attempt to return to the status quo. Like we've done in the past, Minnesota's labor movement will defend the historic gains we won in 2023. **We will defend new worker freedoms and protections like paid family and medical leave, expanded union rights like the ban on captive audience meetings, and more.**



## 2024 Legislature

that state and federal laws designed to protect them will apply no matter where they work. Sadly, far too many employers across industries break the rules to save money by classifying workers as independent contractors while demanding the same expectations as if they were employees. Misclassification deprives working people of all of the longstanding labor rights and protections like minimum wage, workers compensation, overtime pay, access to unemployment benefits, the right to collectively bargain, as well as the hard-fought progress we made in 2023 on new paid leave laws and laws strengthening collective bargaining rights. **It's time for Minnesota to strengthen and streamline enforcement of our worker misclassification laws to discourage this unfair and illegal practice.**

## Allow Striking Workers to Access Unemployment Insurance

Collective action — like going on strike or even threatening to go on

strike — is still the most effective way for workers to improve their pay and conditions. However, a strike is a tactic of last resort because it often means no pay for workers and families. Even though unemployment insurance payments don't come anywhere near a livable income, it would allow a worker to put food on the table and meet the bare minimum of family expenses until they return to work. Our nation's labor laws remain heavily skewed in favor of employers — who can temporarily replace workers, stall negotiations, threats, cut off healthcare. **It's time to balance the scales between workers and management by allowing working Minnesotans to access unemployment insurance while on strike.**

## Supporting our Affiliates & Community Allies

We will also support our affiliated unions and community allies in moving their legislative priorities:

- 40-hour workweek;
- ESP Bill of Rights;
- ERA;
- Healthcare worker anti-retaliation protections;
- Hospital safety and transparency;
- Infrastructure investments;
- MinnesotaCare expansion/public option;
- Limit privatization of public services;
- Pro-organizing PELRA updates;
- Railroad Workplace Safety;
- Broadband Standards.

For a pdf version, visit [mnaflcio.org/updates/2024-legislative-priorities](https://mnaflcio.org/updates/2024-legislative-priorities).

# SEIU Local 26

continued from page 1

make sure these buildings got clean and that our state was able to keep running. We gave so much to our jobs and now we are just asking for a fair deal. I'm voting YES to strike because I know that we need to show our companies that we are serious about winning fair contracts."

SEIU Local 26 members work for various subcontractors as commercial janitors, retail janitors, security officers and more throughout the Twin Cities, cleaning and protecting buildings housing some of the richest corporations in the world.

For months, bargaining has seen the majority immigrant and people-of-color membership pushing for higher wages, retirement security and more respect on the job for the workers who kept the cities safe and running during COVID.

Before the vote, SEIU Local 26 Secretary-Treasurer Brahim Kone laid out the stakes of the contract fight: "It's time that our employers show us the respect this industry deserves. It's time for them to pay a livable wage that deals with inflation. It's time for them to provide a pension benefit, so we can retire in dignity. It's time for them to provide proper training so that our members can come to work safely and return to their loved ones. It's time for them to end the unfair labor practices we are facing."

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison also spoke before the vote, offering his support to the workers:

"When you make your decision today, think of yourself and your family. Think about rent, groceries, new shoes for your kids. How you vote is your choice, but I want you to know you have my support and the community's support in your fight to win what your families deserve."

**Crack Down on Worker Misclassification**  
Working people have an expectation

## Local unions plan 2024 lobby days

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota unions will be bringing members to the State Capitol in 2024 to lobby legislators in-person and to make some noise in the Capitol's rotunda to call for action on their legislative agendas.

The calendar for union lobby days or for a "day on the hill" includes:

**Tuesday, March 5**  
Minnesota Nurses Association  
[mnnurses.org](https://mnnurses.org)

**Thursday, March 7**  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
[northcountrycarpenter.org](https://northcountrycarpenter.org)

**Wednesday, March 13**  
SEIU Minnesota State Council  
[seiumn.org](https://seiumn.org)

**Tuesday, March 26**  
IBEW Local 292  
Call 612-379-1292 to register  
[ibew292.org](https://ibew292.org)

**Tuesday, April 2**  
AFSCME Council 5  
[afscmemn.org](https://afscmemn.org)

Union members should check their union websites or Facebook pages for additional information about plans for the day, including how to register in advance.

## If You Value Your Union Job

- Go to your Precinct Caucus
- Pick a Labor Supporting Candidate
- Then Get Out and Vote

**EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**

**From the Union that Delivers for You.**  
Minneapolis Branch 9 NALC  
(National Association of Letter Carriers)



# Precinct Caucuses: February 27

## Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses promote YOUR grassroots participation in the political process

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses are coming Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

The caucuses serve as the starting point for the candidate endorsement process for the state's major political parties

The DFL Party and the Republican Party each will conduct separate caucuses in precincts across the state.

By setting aside the evening to participate in the precinct caucuses of the party of your choice, you can play a role in deciding which candidates win party endorsement and which issues the party will support in its state platform.

To participate in a precinct caucus, you must be eligible to vote in the 2024

election and live in the precinct.

To find your caucus location, visit the "Caucus Finder" on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website:

[caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us)

State law provides the right to take time off from work to be at a precinct caucus, if you give your employer written notice 10 days in advance.

### Several ways to make an impact

At your precinct caucus, you can make an impact by participating in several ways:

- You can volunteer to serve in a local party office or join a local party committee;
- You can run to become a delegate

to your legislative district convention and/or congressional district convention;

■ You can introduce a resolution, which, if passed, will go on to the district convention and perhaps from there to the state convention.

### Becoming a delegate

In some precincts, depending on the level of participation, anybody who offers to become a delegate to the legislative district convention or congressional district convention may be elected.

In other precincts, if there's competition for delegate slots, you may need to declare which candidates you intend to support for Minnesota House, U.S. House, or U.S. Senate — and state your case to win election as a delegate.

### Passing resolutions

Discussing and debating resolutions at your precinct caucus with your neighbors can be one of the highlights of caucus night.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO and many unions will be making sample resolutions available.

For example, LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota will be urging caucus attendees to introduce and support resolutions in support of labor standards on housing and broadband infrastructure, and in support of 100 percent removal of lead water pipes. Sample resolutions will be posted at [LIUNAMinnesota.org/vote](http://LIUNAMinnesota.org/vote).

For sample resolutions from the Minnesota AFL-CIO, visit [mnaflcio.org](http://mnaflcio.org).

# Presidential Primary: March 5

## State's Presidential Primary to feature multiple candidates on both DFL and Republican ballots

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — While early primary states got their moment in the limelight, Minnesota voters will get their chance to weigh-in on the presidential race on "Super Tuesday" — Tuesday, March 5 — when Minnesota and 15 other states hold their presidential primaries.

If you can't wait until March 5, early voting in Minnesota began January 19 and continues through March 4.

Any eligible voter can vote early by requesting an absentee ballot in the mail or by voting at an early voting center.

Voting March 5 will take place at your regular polling place where you vote for the general election in November.

For voting information, including

where to vote and how to vote early, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

The website also enables you to view a sample ballot.

In voting, you will need to decide one party's primary in which you want to vote.

In Minnesota, unlike some other states, both the DFL ballot and the Republican ballot will include not just the front-runners but other candidates as well.

Presidential primaries returned to Minnesota beginning with the 2020 election.

While the state still conducts precinct caucuses, which will impact the endorsement process for other offices, it's the results of the presidential primary which will be binding on the state's presidential nomi-

nating delegates.

The race for U.S. President is shaping up to be a rematch between Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump.

Biden won the AFL-CIO endorsement in June 2023 — the earliest endorsement for president ever voted by the AFL-CIO.

"There's absolutely no question that Joe Biden is the most pro-union president in our lifetimes," AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler said at the time. "We've never seen a president more forcefully advocate for workers' fundamental right to join a union."

Biden also has a growing list of other union endorsements, including Actors Equity, AFGE, AFSCME, American Federation of Teachers, Bricklayers, CWA, IATSE, IBEW, Operating Engineers, Iron

Workers, LIUNA, National Nurses United, SEIU, UNITE HERE, and most recently, the United Auto Workers.

In announcing the Biden endorsement January 24, UAW president Shawn Fain said: "This November, we can stand up and elect someone who wants to stand with us and support our cause. Or we can elect someone who will divide us and fight us every step of the way... That's what this choice is about. The question is, who do we want in that office to give us the best shot of winning? Of organizing. Of negotiating strong contracts. Of uniting the working class and winning our fair share once again... We need to know who's going to sit in the most powerful seat in the world and help us win as a united working class."



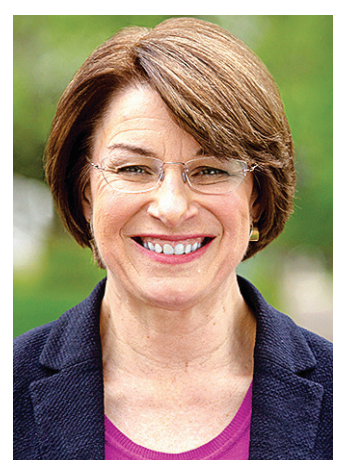
**Precinct Caucuses: February 27 Presidential Primary: March 5**

**Let's elect labor-endorsed candidates who support investing in our transportation infrastructure**

**From the Members of Local 1005**

**United States Senator  
Amy Klobuchar**

*Thank you  
for your support  
on caucus night!*



Paid for and authorized by Klobuchar for Minnesota  
• [www.amyklobuchar.com](http://www.amyklobuchar.com) • P.O. Box 4146 • St. Paul, MN 55104



# Members, attend your Precinct Caucus!

Tuesday, February 27  
7:00 p.m.

To learn caucus locations:  
[caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us)



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

continued from page 3

April 9 4:00–6:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Highway 25 South.

■ Chaska, Thursdays, April 25, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St.

■ Fridley, Fridays, March 29 and April 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE.

■ Golden Valley, Fridays, March 29 and April 26, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane N.

■ Hutchinson, Thursdays, March 14 and April 11, 3:30–5:30 p.m., Oak Heights Church, 1398 South Grade Road SW.

■ Minneapolis, Tuesdays, March 5 and April 2, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., note new location: Mill City Church, 685 13th Ave. NE. For many years, the Laborers Local 563 union hall served as Fare for All's northeast Minneapolis location but, due to Local 563's coming move, the last Fare for All pick-up there was February 9.

■ New Hope, Wednesdays, March 20 and April 17, 3:00–5:00 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 8701 36th Ave. N.

■ Norwood Young America, Tuesdays, March 7 and April 4, 3:00–5:00 p.m., All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St..

■ Richfield, Tuesdays, March 26 and April 23, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. So.

■ St. Louis Park, Wednesdays, March 20 and April 17, 4:00–6:00 p.m., Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. So.

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

## Fare For All's Meat and Produce Packs

Fare For All offers fresh fruits and vegetables and quality frozen meats:

■ **Mega Meat Pack, \$25** — includes 6-8 frozen meat items (chicken, turkey, pork, beef, or fish);

■ **Mini Meat Pack, \$11** — includes 3-5 frozen meat items (no pork);

■ **Produce Pack, \$10** — includes 2-3 fresh fruits and 3-4 fresh veggies;

■ **Specialty Pack, \$35**, available for seasonal holidays — typically includes protein, veggie sides, and dessert.

# Wage theft: Labor commissioner says agency will pursue wage theft and other labor abuses

continued from page 5

also told, and reasonably understood, that they worked for ... Advantage."

The notice outlines several forms of wage theft that PMC and Advantage workers allegedly faced on the job:

■ Overtime pay was not consistent, despite workdays that typically stretched 10 hours, sometimes longer, over the course of a six-day workweek.

■ Workers sometimes received a "daily rate" instead of hourly wages, which is illegal, but sometimes workers were further shorted for days worked during the pay period.

■ Payments in cash, off the books. PMC sometimes deducted 7 percent from an employee's cash payment. "Employees were told the deductions were for taxes," the notice says. "The deduction was sometimes noted on a post-it note in the envelope containing their wages."

DLI also maintains that the violations were willful, tacking on a \$25,000 civil penalty to the fines.

The agency alleges that PMC's owner displayed knowledge of overtime laws while flouting them. Additionally, the owner discouraged workers from report-

ing violations, participating in DLI's investigation or even speaking with representatives of the Carpenters' union.

"After participating in the Department's investigation ... some affected employees feared for their safety," according to the DLI notice.

In October 2022, the state Attorney General's office sued PMC and its owner for allegedly hindering and delaying DLI's investigation, for failing to make, keep and preserve records, and for refusing to make records available to the agency.

The parties settled that lawsuit in September 2023, clearing the way for DLI's investigation to conclude.

Labor Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach said the investigation shows her agency will be relentless in pursuing wage theft and other labor abuses, no matter how long it takes.

"Wage theft hurts workers and their families, and hurts responsible employers that abide by the law," she said. "It is unacceptable for employers to cheat employees out of the full wages they work so hard to earn. Likewise, it is unfair for contractors to have an edge when bidding against law-abiding companies by stealing wages from workers."

2024 is an election year for state and national races including President of the United States; Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses are **February 27** and the Presidential Primary will be **March 5**.

IBEW Day on the Hill will be **March 26**. Contact the office now to RSVP.

We want to encourage all IBEW 292 members to get involved to let our collective Labor voices be heard.

You can find more about these important upcoming political events including important information about VOTING and endorsements on our IBEW 292 Political Page at: [ibew292.org/political](http://ibew292.org/political)



# Plumbers Local 15 encourages everyone to participate in your Precinct Caucuses, and get out to vote in the Presidential Primary!

**Precinct Caucuses: February 27**  
**Presidential Primary: March 5**

**Your lunch box is connected to the ballot box!**



# Local Union News

## ATU Local 1005:

### Members to vote February 18 on Metro Transit contract offer

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 will vote February 18 on a contract offer from Metro Transit:

The Local 1005 executive board is recommending approval, reported David Stiggers, Local 1005 president.

Members of Local 1005 voted in September 2023 to authorize a strike, with 94 percent voting in favor (*Labor Review*, September 23, 2023).

Difficult negotiations continued and a mediator became involved. Interviewed February 2, Stiggers said, “there hasn’t been much movement.” But then the Local 1005 Facebook page reported February 7 that the union received a contract offer late in the day February 6.

“Management did make some considerable moves... to try to stop the flow of operators and mechanics that they’re losing,” Stiggers told the *Labor Review* February 8.

Metro Transit has had difficulty in hiring new mechanics, as reported previously, and Stiggers added that he’s hopeful that the new contract “will be very much more competitive” for mechanics wages in particular.

Interviewed February 8, Stiggers said members would get a copy of the proposed contract later that day or by the following

day “so they can make an informed vote on February 18.”

The February 18 contract meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Delta Hotel, 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE in Minneapolis. After a brief presentation and time for questions, voting will begin and continue until 4:00 p.m.

### Staff at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid organize, voting in NLRB election

About 110 staff members at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid will vote by mail in a National Labor Relations Board election this month to determine whether to unionize as part of AFSCME Council 5.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid is the state’s largest nonprofit law firm, providing free legal services to people with low incomes.

The union reported that “an overwhelming majority” of the workers had signed a petition in support of unionizing. Management, however, declined to offer voluntary recognition after workers filed the petition with the NLRB.

Since then, management challenged the union effort to establish a “wall-to-wall” bargaining unit including all of the organization’s offices and job categories.

The NLRB will issue a ruling on who is eligible for the bargaining unit, if necessary, after counting votes in the mail-in ballot February 21.

### Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota: Tentative agreement reached, goes to members for a vote

At the conclusion of an 18-hour mediation session running to 3:00 a.m. January 20, negotiations between Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota and the school district produced a tentative agreement.

The two-year agreement will include 5 percent across-the-board wage increases in the first year and 3 percent in the second year — an increase from the district’s initial offer of 1 percent and 1 percent.

With step and lane increases, the union reported, “many educators will see a 12-17 percent increase over the 2-year contract.”

The agreement came after the union staged a series of weekly mass walk-outs at the end of the school day and also organized several large rallies prior to Anoka Hennepin school board meetings.

“I’m convinced it was because of our actions that we got what we got,” said Val Holthus, AHEM president. She said the district saw that AHEM members were mobilized and ready to strike.

As the *Labor Review* went to press, AHEM members were scheduled to vote on the tentative agreement February 14-15.

Other highlights of the agreement:

■ The agreement moves Early Childhood Family Education teachers to the K-12 salary schedule — “a big thing we’ve

been working for for years,” Holthus said. “We were able to do that, which was huge.”

■ The district’s contribution for health insurance will increase 5 percent in the first year, with another 5 percent increase for singles and 10 percent for families in the second year.

■ New hires will be able to immediately begin contributing to the district’s 403(b) retirement plan, with a district match, instead of first needing to satisfy a waiting period.

### Bakers Local 22: Website re-launched

Bakers Local 22 announced a re-launch of the union’s website December 7. “All current Local 22 contracts are available online now along with other important information,” the union reported via Facebook. Custom pages for each shop also will be created, Local 22 said. Check-out the new website at <https://bctgmlocal22.org>.

### CWA Local 7250:

#### Union blitzes all of AT&T’s non-union retail stores in Minnesota

Workers at all 40-plus non-union AT&T “authorized retailers” across Minnesota got a visit in early November by activists from Communications Workers of America Local 7250.

For years, Local 7250 has protested AT&T’s moves to close company-owned, **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](mailto:laborreview@minneapolisunions.org) or 612-715-2667.

### Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council: Next meetings March 21, April 18

The next regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council, AFL-CIO will be a hybrid meeting — in person and by Zoom — Thursday, March 21 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.

The April meeting will be Thursday, April 18 at the same time and location.

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 March 21 and April 18 meetings, 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](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:

#### Next meetings February 29, March 28

Carpenters Retirees will meet Thursday, February 29 and Thursday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters union hall, 710 Olive Street, St. Paul. Lunch follows the meeting. The meetings will continue through October on the last Thursday of each month.

### IBEW Local 292 Retirees:

#### ‘Senior Sparkies’ will meet March 12, April 9

The IBEW Local 292 Retirees — “Senior Sparkies” — will meet Tuesday, March 12 and Tuesday, April 9 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.

Save the date for special 2024 events: Spring casino trip, April 30; Boat trip, June 19; Retirees summer picnic, August 8.

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

### Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59:

#### Next meetings March 26, April 23

The Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Chapter 59 will meet Tuesday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The March meeting topic will be school district leadership changes. Guests will be Val Holthus, president of Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, and Dr. Lisa Sayles-Adams, new Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent (invited).

The April meeting will be Tuesday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. and will be a hybrid, either in-person or via Zoom. The topic will be the 2024 legislative session.

The April, May and June meetings will be hybrid: via Zoom or in-person at the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers office, 67 – 8th Ave. NE. Lunch will follow at 12:00 noon.

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 Tinnars’ meet March 12, April 9

The Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 “Rusty Tinnars” retirees club will meet Tuesday, March 12 and Tuesday, April 9 at the Maplewood union hall, 1681 E. Cope Ave. Lunch begins at 12 noon followed by the meeting at 1:00 p.m. If available, one our business agents and/or someone from the benefits office will share updates and answer questions. Pizza will be provided March 12.

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!



continued from page 9

union-represented retail stores and replace them with so-called “authorized retailers” with outsourced ownership — and no union — while maintaining AT&T branding.

Local 7250 reported of the November store visits: “Across the ‘blitz’ we found appalling conditions in these non-union stores: workers making only \$12/hour; frequently getting their commission reduced or rescinded for not hitting sales goals; often unsafely working by themselves; lack of basic training and support.”

“CWA 7250 will continue to push back at AT&T’s attacks on retail workers — and fight to expand the union to these non-union stores,” the union said.

### IATSE Local 13:

#### Workers at Children’s Theater win voluntary union recognition

A group of 29 workers at Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis have won voluntary union recognition from management.

The workers include front of house, ticketing staff and other public-facing workers and will become members of Local 13 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Local 13 already represents the stagehands at Children’s Theatre and other local performance venues.

IATSE’s website reported, however, that “this marks the first time the local will extend its representation to front of house and public-facing workers.”

“I think because of this big win, other front of house and public-facing workers will feel a little more confident in organizing their workplaces,” Kellie Larson, organizing committee member said.

“This organizing campaign would not have gone as smoothly if it was not for the



NALC photo

## Letter Carriers rally calls attention to assaults

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers rallied January 7 outside the downtown Minneapolis post office, calling attention to an increase in assaults on letter carriers nationwide, including in the Twin Cities. Speakers included NALC president Brian Renfroe (right). See story, this page.

complete solidarity of this unit,” said IATSE representative Amanda Sager. “They were on top of everything from the start.”

### LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota: Family Health & Benefit Fair coming April 20

The Minnesota Laborers Family Health & Benefit Fair will be Saturday, April 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Laborers Training Center, 2350 Main Street in Lino Lakes. The event is open to all eligible Minnesota Laborers Health and Welfare Fund participants and family members. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The event will feature free health screenings, personalized advice from health and wellness specialists, prizes, kids games,

and live music.

In addition, information sessions will highlight the health and wellness benefits available to Laborers and their eligible dependents.

Attendees also can tour the Minnesota Laborers Training Center and learn more about the skills training provided there.

### NALC Branch 9:

#### Rally urges action to stop assaults on letter carriers

Rallying January 7 outside the downtown Minneapolis post office, members of Branch 9 of the National Association of Letter Carriers called attention to recent assaults on letter carriers and urged action to combat the problem.

The nationwide issue — more than 2,000 assaults on letter carriers since 2020 — drew increased public attention locally in November, when two members of Branch 9 out delivering on their routes were robbed at gunpoint on consecutive days, first in Edina and then in Brooklyn Center. Neither one was physically harmed, but the experiences leave mental and emotional scars, union leaders said.

NALC’s national president, Brian Renfroe, spoke at the Minneapolis rally — one of several organized across the country — and called on the U.S. Postal Service to better protect its workers. He urged prosecutors to prosecute the crimes to the full extent of the law. Renfroe said just 14 percent of attacks against letter carriers since 2020 have been prosecuted.

“It’s unacceptable, it’s appalling and it’s out of control,” he said.

Fortunately, a suspect in the two local assaults was arrested. “They got the guy and he’s in custody,” reported Branch 9

president Scott Bultena. “It’s good to know that guy is off the streets,” he said. “Hopefully, they prosecute him and put him away for a while so it sends the message that you can’t do these things.” Bultena added, “it should be a federal offense.”

The January 7 rally drew about 100 supporters and media coverage from the *Star Tribune*, Minnesota Public Radio, KSTP, Fox, MinnPost, and other news outlets.

“Our mission was to raise awareness,” said Joe Tiemann, Branch 9 executive vice president. “The public got to hear our position... It was a success. We got our message out and hopefully the people in charge of prosecuting these people will protect us while we’re out doing our jobs,” Tiemann said.

### OPEIU Local 12:

#### Nonprofit workers win voluntary union recognition

Sometimes non-profit organizations go to great lengths to oppose efforts by their employees to unionize.

But, at Minneapolis-based The Advocates for Human Rights, management quickly agreed to voluntary union recognition after receiving a worker petition.

OPEIU Local 12 announced via Facebook February 2, “organizers at AHR United brought management a petition signed by 84 percent of all employees and had management’s voluntary recognition confirmed within 24 hours of going public. AHR management did what few others often do — swiftly and openly recognized that rank and file workers are an organization’s greatest asset.”

The new bargaining unit will include about two dozen workers and Local 12 reported 20 percent already are involved in the Contract Action Team.

### SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa: Planned Parenthood workers ratify first union contract

Planned Parenthood North Central States workers in Minnesota and four other states voted to ratify their first union contract in a vote concluding January 17. The new contract covers about 430 members of PPNCSS United, which is affiliated with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa.

The workers first voted to unionize in July 2022 but faced a management which retaliated against bargaining committee members with firings and “final written notices.”

Nothing came easily at the bargaining table and unfair labor practices filed with the National Labor Relations Board are still awaiting decisions.

The contract will provide raises of 11.75 percent over three years and health insurance will become more affordable, especially for workers with children.

Sources: *Labor Review* reporting, *St. Paul Union Advocate* reporting, local unions. Next deadline: April 3.

## Pipefitters Local 539

**PIPERS**

**Dues Reminder**  
Please remember to pay your January-June 2024 dues. You are able to pay online for your dues on the Pipefitters website. You do not need to log in to do so.

**Condolences**  
Condolences to the families of Eldon Swenson and Dale Dickhausen.

*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

**TUESDAY, FEB. 27:  
ATTEND YOUR  
PRECINCT CAUCUS!**

**CEMENT MASONS,  
PLASTERERS &  
SHOPHANDS  
LOCAL 633  
OF MINNESOTA, NORTH  
DAKOTA, & NW WISCONSIN**

**612-379-1558  
WWW.LOCAL633.ORG**

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Labor Federation...**  
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# Members, we urge you to participate in Precinct Caucuses!

Tuesday, February 27  
7:00 p.m.

For caucus locations:  
[caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us)



**LiUNA!**  
Feel the Power

Construction & General Laborers' Union  
Local 563

[www.local563.org](http://www.local563.org)

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612-379-8130

[www.workingpartnerships.org](http://www.workingpartnerships.org)



# Minneapolis Labor Review Amended 2024 Publication Schedule

The Labor Review will publish 9 issues in 2024. Note: NO issue published in January, March or June. The publication date normally will be the last Saturday or second to last Saturday of each month.

### January

No issue published

### May 25

Deadline: May 8  
117th Anniversary Issue

### September 21

Deadline: September 4

### February 17

Deadline: January 31  
Precinct Caucus Issue

### June

No issue published

### October 19

Deadline: October 2  
General Election Issue

### March

No issue published

### July 27

Deadline: July 10  
Primary Election Issue

### November 16

Deadline: October 30  
Holiday Shopping Guide

### April 20

Deadline: April 3

### August 24

Deadline: August 7  
Labor Day Issue

### December 14

Deadline: November 27  
Holiday Issue

### Next Special Issue:

May 25, 2024 — 117th Anniversary Issue!  
Discounted ad rates available

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

# IBEW Local Union 292 Minneapolis Electrical Workers

### Brotherhood Committee

The Local 292 Brotherhood Committee assists members in need or distress, with either gift cards from our Local 292 food shelf or teams of Brothers or Sisters to help 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).

### Our Future

Journeyman, it is our responsibility and duty to train

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

See you at the General Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m. on the Second Tuesday  
Paid for by IBEW Local 292 • [www.ibew292.org](http://www.ibew292.org)

### Condolences

Brother Floyd E. Lindahl; Brother Bernard J. Graham;  
Brother Jeff S. Cisewski; Brother Joseph M. Scholl;  
Brother Ronald T. Nesser; Brother Richard L. Engstrom;  
Brother Daniel N. Frazier; Brother Larry E. Reece;  
Brother Robert P. Hackenmueller.



# #WalkoutWednesday

## Minneapolis Federation of Teachers escalates contract campaign

MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis educators showed their solidarity two years ago in going on strike for three weeks. This year, they're mobilizing again to win a fair contract. And, in an escalation of the campaign, they've begun walking out of their school buildings together each Wednesday at the end of the school day... tagging photos on social media as "#WalkoutWednesday."

Beginning January 31, the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Facebook page began sharing photos of teachers from schools across the city ready to walk out together or posing for a group shot outside their buildings as part of each week's "#WalkoutWednesday."

"We need to have wages that are going to attract and retain experienced educators," said Caroline Hooper, a social studies teacher at Southwest High. She said the district has lost 20 percent of licensed staff in the past two years. "We're losing people because we're not paying people."

Hooper said colleagues who have moved to positions in other districts are earning a lot more. Even with 26 years of dedicated service working for the Minneapolis schools, Hooper said, "believe me, I've thought about it, too."

MFT president Greta Callahan said the Wednesday walkouts would continue "for the foreseeable future."



MFT members at Harrison Education Center in north Minneapolis participated in "#WalkoutWednesday."



MFT members at Seward Montessori School in southeast Minneapolis participated in "#WalkoutWednesday."



MFT members at Franklin STEAM Magnet Middle School in north Minneapolis participated in "#WalkoutWednesday."

## Report commissioned by Minneapolis educators challenges district's spending priorities

MINNEAPOLIS — Supported by the findings of a new report examining the finances of the Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers president Greta Callahan urged, "it's time to start investing in our kids."

The report documents what the union says are inaccurate MPS budget forecasts and misplaced spending priorities.

The report, commissioned by the union, said the district since 2018 forecasted annual deficits in the district's general fund when instead the general fund grew by \$81 million between 2018 and 2023.

According to a summary of the report, "MPS leaders are projecting fiscal insolvency for the district by

2026, suggesting that cuts to classroom educators or even school closures will be needed to keep the district solvent. However, a closer examination of the district's finances reveals that there is still room for investment in students and educators, and that the district's spending patterns are out of step with those of surrounding districts, and out of sync with MPS' stated values."

Other findings from the report summary:

- Spending on instruction has decreased by 5 percent since 2018, while spending on district support and administration have gone up by 19 percent each.

- Purchased services make up 16 percent of the overall MPS budget—much higher than the average

11 percent that peer districts spend. Over five years, MPS spending on purchased services has gone up by 50 percent, while spending on staff salaries and benefits went down by 1 percent.

- MPS added 82 more administrator positions in 2023, costing at least \$7.4 million in additional salaries.

- The average teacher salary in MPS is 6 percent lower than the average pay of teachers in peer districts, who make \$11,000 more than MPS teachers.

- One-third of MPS teachers have five or fewer years of experience. One in five licensed staff in MPS are new to the profession, which is three times the average of peer districts.

- More than half of MPS Educational Support Professionals have been working in their position for less than five years and more than a quarter of MPS ESPs have worked in their positions for less than one year.

"We need to focus on improving the district, not the managed decline of the district," said Callahan, speaking at a media availability January 31.

"It's a manufactured crisis and it's time to turn the ship around," Callahan said.

With a new superintendent for the Minneapolis Public Schools, Callahan expressed hope in working for change. "We need our families to join us."

For a copy of the full report, visit [mft59.org](http://mft59.org).