



The St. Paul Union Advocate

130th Year, No. 2, Issue 5499.

For union homes in Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Chisago counties

August 2026

Labor 2026

Vote in the Aug. 11 primary

Early voting has begun in Minnesota's Aug. 11 primary election, and the state AFL-CIO has issued labor endorsements in several races that will determine which candidates gain their party's nomination in the critical 2026 midterms.

Find a list of endorsements in Ramsey, Dakota, Washington and Chisago counties on Page 11 and at stpaulunions.org. For endorsements in other parts of Minnesota, go to mnafcio.org.

Learn how to vote early by mail or in person, or find your Aug. 11 polling location, at mnvotes.org.

Remember, there is no deadline to register to vote or to update your registration – in Minnesota. You can do it online or at your polling place with proof of residence.



www.stpaulunions.org
Connecting union members in Ramsey, Washington, Dakota and Chisago counties.



Minnesotans who joined the solidarity efforts during Operation Metro Surge take the stage on Day 1 of the convention. AFL-CIO photo

National AFL-CIO convention salutes Minnesota movement's strength, solidarity

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Union leaders and activists from across the U.S. gathered in the Twin Cities June 7-10 for the 30th AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention, the American labor movement's biggest event.

The nation's largest labor feder-

ation picked Minneapolis as the site well before a violent surge of federal agents in Minnesota drew worldwide outrage over the winter. But among the convention's first orders of business was a recognition of local unions' role in organizing resistance to the occupation.

On Day 1 of the event, AFL-

CIO President Liz Shuler, later reelected to a five-year term by delegates, turned the Convention Center stage over to three local leaders: Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham, St. Paul Regional Labor Federation President Kera Peterson and Minneapolis RLF President

Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou.

The presidents offered visiting delegates an overview of unions' response to Operation Metro Surge – and the work that prepared Minnesota's labor movement to meet the moment with solidarity and strength.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Healthcare Consolidation

Workers lead push for community guarantees before potential Allina, North Memorial sales

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Unionized healthcare workers are leading a campaign to secure binding commitments from two large, out-of-state health care systems looking to expand their reach in Minnesota, seeking guarantees around patient access, workplace standards, use of artificial intelligence and other issues.

A coalition of labor, faith-based and community organizations want so-called

"community benefits agreements," or CBAs, in place before two proposed acquisitions that, if approved by the state, would reshape the local healthcare sector: Sutter Health's takeover of Allina and Sanford's acquisition of North Memorial.

Advocates made the case for CBAs at public hearings last month held by Attorney General Keith Ellison, after their efforts to engage directly with executives at

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



Sutter Health worker Sarah Pineda talks to Allina union members before a public hearing on the proposed sale. Union Advocate photo

Go Figure

6.1% Cost-of-living increase in 2025 for the typical Minnesota family

25.7% Rise in Minnesotans' healthcare costs last year

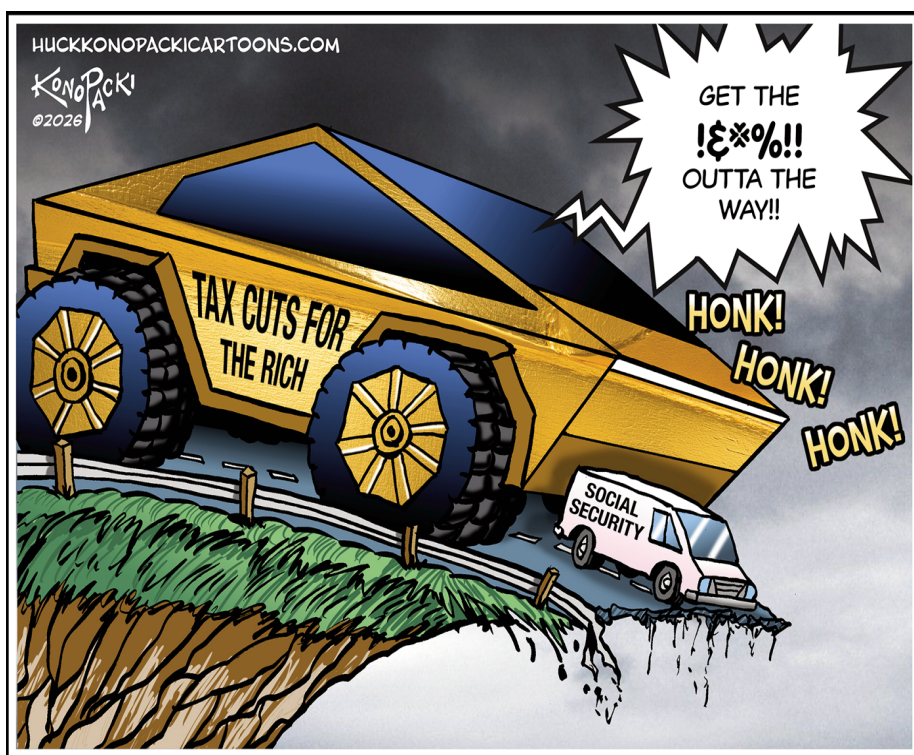
\$4.6 billion

How much more Minnesotans spent on basic needs than they would have if the cost of living had followed its 10-year trend in 2025

\$1,410

Purchasing power lost by the median family last year, as costs outpaced wage growth

Source: Minnesota Affordability Tracker



Labor Voices: Liz Shuler

One year since passing, Trump's 'Big Ugly Bill' is proving disastrous for working people

It's been one year since President Trump signed the worst job-killing bill in American history. It was made possible by every senator and representative who voted to sell out working people and pick their pockets to hand another payday to corporations and billionaires.

Since the passing of the Big Ugly Bill, the U.S. economy has had one of the worst years of job growth in decades. Black workers have been hit the hardest, with an unemployment rate now more than double the rate for White workers. Millions of Americans have lost their healthcare and access to the food programs they rely on, all while dealing with higher costs on everything from gas and groceries to electricity. With even bigger cuts going into effect after the midterm elections, states' budgets are getting blown up and local lawmakers are planning devastating cuts to even more essential programs to cover their residents' SNAP and Medicaid costs.

Meanwhile, the people at the top are doing better than ever. This bill handed billionaires, one trillionaire and the country's wealthiest corporations massive tax giveaways paid for by the social programs working families depend on to survive.

Here's a look at what the "Big Ugly Bill" has accomplished in just one year:

- It contributed to one of the worst years for the job market in decades, with the U.S. economy experiencing almost zero job growth in 2025, and the gap between Black and White unemployment doubling.
- It stripped food assistance from more than 4 million Americans through SNAP cuts, with participation dropping in every state – and the steepest losses in Arizona, Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma.
- It forced about 3 million people off their health insurance and drove up costs for people who get their coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Premiums have risen by 58%, and deductibles reached a record high of nearly \$3,800 a year.
- It cut state Medicaid budgets by nearly \$679 billion,

"This bill handed billionaires massive tax giveaways, paid for by the programs working families depend on to survive."

– Liz Shuler



with new bureaucratic red tape projected to strip coverage from up to 10 million more people by 2028 and put hundreds of hospitals at risk of closing.

- Electricity bills, on average, have risen by more than \$110 a year, the result of repealing clean energy investment incentives that created good, union jobs in the energy sector, all while Americans get slammed by inflation at a three-year high.
- It gifted \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the top 1% and raised taxes on Americans earning under \$15,000 a year, while adding \$3.4 trillion to the deficit.
- Projections show the "Big Ugly Bill" is on track to put 600,000 health care workers out of a job, and it threatens 1.75 million construction jobs and 840,000 energy jobs in the years to come.

In 1776, Americans stood up against a powerful king who thought he could steal from us, trample on our rights and get away with it. We refused to be silenced. Two hundred and fifty years later, that same spirit is alive in American workers who organize their jobsites, fight for policies that actually help workers and show up at the ballot box to hold their elected representatives accountable.

Today and every day, America's unions continue to fight the damage this bill has caused and build an economy that actually works for working people.

– Liz Shuler is president of the AFL-CIO. Learn more about the nation's largest labor federation and its work online at aflcio.org.

Letters

- Send letters to: 353 W. 7th St., Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55102.
- Email them to: mmoore@stpaulunions.org

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March in the State Fair parade on Labor Day

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation will march in the Minnesota State Fair's daily parade Sept. 7, spreading solidarity at the great Minnesota get together on Labor Day.

Registration is open to members of affiliated unions, retirees and their family members.

Parade participants will receive a free ticket to the fair, but space is limited. To RSVP, call SPRLF President Kera Peterson at 651-222-3787, extension 1118, or send an email to kpeterson@stpaulunions.org.

The marching unit will gather at 1 p.m. in the parking lot south of the fairgrounds, off Como Avenue. The parade is 14-blocks long.

Paid labor fellowships at New Brookwood

The St. Paul-based New Brookwood Labor College is looking to recruit approximately 6 people for yearlong paid fellowships beginning in late September.

The "labor fellows" will work in-person at locations outside the Twin Cities, learning about the labor movement on the ground, training to organize in the service sector and assisting with active union-organizing campaigns.

Fellows will receive a sign-on bonus at hiring and a monthly stipend thereafter.

To apply, complete the form at tinyurl.com/NBfellow26.

New Brookwood seeks to address economic, social and racial injustice by educating workers and providing opportunities to gain practical organizing experiences. Learn more online at newbrookwood.org.

LES to host Q&A about Leadership Program

The University of Minnesota's Labor Education Service (LES) is accepting applications for the 2026-27 Minnesota Union Leadership Program (MULP), an innovative educational series designed to address the most critical issues facing working people in the state.

LES will host an hourlong "virtual Q&A" about the MULP beginning at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Educators and past participants in the program will be available to answer questions about the application process, the course of study and more.

Join the information session at z.umn.edu/MULPInfoSession.

Designed for members of unions and worker centers, the MULP includes six sessions scheduled over eight months.

Learn more about MULP and apply at z.umn.edu/MULPApplication.



Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation nurses held informational picketing June 2 in Center City, warning management at the renowned rehab facility of a potential strike that, eventually, began six weeks later. Union Advocate photo

Nurses strike for first contract at Hazelden Betty Ford

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Nurses bargaining a first union contract with the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation launched an open-ended strike July 15 at the renowned addiction-treatment facility in Center City.

Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association voted to authorize a strike 17 months into negotiations. Nurses have filed multiple unfair-labor-practice complaints during that time, accusing Hazelden of making unilateral changes to working conditions without bargaining and attempting to prevent workers from protected union activity.

But nurses also say that, at the bargaining table, Hazelden has refused to address the issues behind their vote to unionize in January 2025, including workplace safety, competitive wages and benefits, and improved working conditions that they need to care for patients with increasingly complex needs.

"A lot of things that we propose, they'll propose back that they don't need it to be written out," Cara Bergner, a registered nurse in Hazelden's detox unit, said during informational picketing June 2. "They just want it up to management's discretion, which kind of defeats the whole purpose of the contract."

"I think their hopes are that if they put it off, we'll get tired and give up. But I don't see that being the case."

Anne Coleman, another registered nurse in the detox unit, said nurses are fighting to make their jobs more sus-

tainable – and they're doing it because they believe in the Hazelden Betty Ford mission.

"We take people in a crisis situation who, a lot of the time, come in very broken, and I just love to see them get their lives back, to get the confidence and light back in their eyes," Coleman said. "I love to see them heal."

"We wouldn't be here if we didn't love the mission, the patients and the many things that Hazelden has done for the community and nationwide. But the healthcare system itself is broken, and, unfortunately, it's trickled down to Hazelden."

The rate of violence against healthcare workers is on the rise nationwide, and Hazelden nurses are increasingly treating patients under the influence of highly potent drugs like fentanyl. Union members say de-escalation tactics that they are trained to use when a patient becomes violent are insufficient alone.

"We're bringing in higher-acuity, more severe cases of people who have mental-health issues and severe addictions," Bergner said. "We don't have any other safeguards (besides de-escalation) and any true, straightforward protocols for staff members' safety."

In bargaining, nurses have floated proposals like round-the-clock security, panic buttons and minimum staffing levels to protect patients, caregivers and visitors. Hazelden has responded that a greater security presence is incompatible with its care environment, Coleman

said.

But on Day 1 of the strike, nurses were quick to notice that Hazelden brought in security personnel to accompany its replacement nurses – "the same security protections nurses have been bargaining for over the past year but still have not received," Coleman said.

Perhaps predictably, an increasing number of Hazelden nurses are leaving the bedside. Turnover has affected about a third of MNA's 60-person bargaining unit of registered and licensed practical nurses, according to the union.

Coleman said factors behind the attrition include stagnant wages over the last two years, recent benefit cuts and management's unwillingness to agree to measures that would make nurses feel safer and more supported on the job.

Newly hired nurses are leaving too.

"They come here," Bergner said, "and before they really get a love for the job, they're like, 'This space is crazy.'"

For nurses who remain, the turnover creates more short staffing and extends their shifts. Coleman said she has worked as many as 16 hours straight.

"I'm happy to do it because I want my patients to have the support they need and the safety," she said. "However, it's not sustainable."

"We've got so many experienced nurses who really, truly care for our patients that we've lost. All that we're asking is for Hazelden to work with us."

MNA and Hazelden were scheduled to resume bargaining July 21.

Allina Hospice nurses strike: 'We are done being taken for granted'

Hospice nurses at Allina Health, members of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, staged a one-day strike July 6, picketing with labor and community supporters outside the provider's corporate headquarters in Minneapolis.

The newly organized bargaining unit brings together 65 nurses who provide end-of-life care to patients and support for their families.

The unit began bargaining a first contract with Allina over a year ago, but progress slowed dramatically over the winter, when the sides began exchanging economic proposals, members of the union's bargaining team said.

"For months, we've asked Allina to bargain a contract that supports work-life balance, respects our profession and gives us the time and resources to provide the exceptional end-of-life care our patients deserve," hospice nurse Susie Smerz said. "Instead, leadership has repeatedly refused to make even modest compromises."

"We're striking because our patients deserve nurses who are supported – not stretched beyond our limits. We're done being taken for granted."

Bosses rankled members of the bargaining unit by denying them regular wage increases extended to other Allina Hospice staff last spring. A strike-authorization vote passed with support from over 96% of participants.

In addition to pay increases, hospice nurses are demanding contract language that ensures fair case-loads, holiday pay and access to protected leaves – issues critical to their work-life balance, bargaining team member Abby MacDonald said.

"We are losing staff, which leaves patients without the level of kind and compassionate care they deserve," MacDonald added. "We are ... treated as if we are disposable by Allina executives who could never do the work we do each day."

– Union Advocate staff

Doctors at Mercy and Unity authorize strike two years into bargaining first contract

More than 130 unionized doctors at Allina Health's Mercy and Unity hospitals are threatening to strike after negotiations over the past two years failed to produce an agreement with the health system on wages, benefits and working conditions.

"I hope this wakes up Allina," said Dr. Saul Singh during a virtual news conference last month. "We need to see change."

The doctors voted by a 90% margin to authorize a strike but have not yet determined when or for how long. They would need to provide the health system with 10 days' notice before walking off the job at the hospitals located in Coon Rapids and Fridley.

The strike vote sends a clear warning to Allina Health, one of the state's largest health systems with \$6 billion in revenue in 2025, that doctors are willing to disrupt operations at two of its largest hospitals in order to secure a first labor contract.

Allina Health said in a statement it was disappointed the union chose to "engage in this tactic."

"We have negotiated in good faith with the union to reach a first contract and have engaged a federal mediator. The physician union continues to seek unsustainable economic demands as well as an inefficient manual process to measure worked time," the Allina statement said.

– Max Nesterak, Minnesota Reformer



Striking hospitality workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 17, picket outside Gate 34 at Target Field before the Twins' game against the defending World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers. Union Advocate photos

Target Field hospitality workers hold one-day strike, urge Twins to 'step up'

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

Striking workers picketed outside Target Field's main gate before the Minnesota Twins' home game June 22 against the Los Angeles Dodgers, as members of UNITE HERE Local 17 staged a one-day strike.

Local 17 represents about 500 hospitality workers at the ballpark – in the concession stands and in the stadium's premium restaurants – who work for the Twins' concessionaire, Delaware North Company.

Union members voted to authorize a strike in May with 81% support, citing frustration with Delaware North's refusal to take their demands seriously in contract negotiations that began last April.

Local 17 entered talks seeking a \$20 minimum wage, job protections and a pathway to healthcare benefits for workers at Target Field and other local stadiums.

"They've had our proposals for months," Local 17 Secretary-Treasurer Sheigh Freeberg said during a June 11 press conference outside the stadium to announce the strike date. "We only just got their economic proposal."

That offer would hold hourly wages flat for some workers and raise others' by 60 cents. Many Target Field concessions workers earn minimum wage, which is just over \$16 per hour in Minneapolis.

Sixty cents won't pay the rent, Local 17 member Nariel Green said, adding that Delaware North's refusal to discuss other issues – like faulty equipment, unequal treatment and an increasing reliance on non-profit volunteers to do union members' work – shows a lack of respect for the workers who help create a positive gameday experience for fans.

"They expect us to show up with a positive attitude when we are treated like second-class citizens," Green said. "All they have done (in bargaining) is waste our time repeatedly."



Target Field workers say Delaware North has refused to take their demands seriously in contract talks covering about 500 workers.

Local 17 has had "minimal" engagement with the Twins about the slow pace of contract negotiations, Freeberg said, but he called on the club to "step up" and "tell Delaware North to come to a fair agreement."

Local 17 has represented workers in Target Field concession stands since the ballpark opened in 2010. Last fall, about 200 workers in the facility's premium restaurants won their campaign to join the union too, nearly doubling the size of the bargaining unit – and increasing its leverage at the bargaining table.

Local 17's previous contract expired in January but remains in effect as negotiations continue.

The June 22 strike was the first of its kind at any Twin Cities sports stadium, according to the union.

Labor Q&A: Roxy Hoda

*'We love the Twins. We love the fans.
But that love is not going to pay our bills.'*

For as long as the Twins have been playing baseball at Target Field, Roxy Hoda has been hosting fans in the luxury suites. The 37-year-old from St. Paul went to work at the ballpark in 2010, and she now serves on the bargaining team for her union, UNITE HERE Local 17, in contract negotiations with the team's concessionaire, Delaware North.

Union members made history June 22, staging the first ever strike at a Twin Cities sports stadium, and Hoda was among those walking the picket line before the Twins and Dodgers took the field. In this interview, which has been edited for length, she talked about the decision to strike, why workers are pushing so hard for their demands and what hospitality workers want Twins fans to know.

UA: Did Delaware North make any effort to avoid this strike after you announced the date almost two weeks ago?

RH: We've met several times since then, and the only improvement that they made was saying that they would give our non-tipped employees and minimum-wage employees an extra 10 cents an hour, so a 60-cent raise over the life of the contract.

UA: That doesn't sound like much movement.

RH: No, and they're very careful with their language. They'll say things like, 'We only have so much allocated money. We only have so much in the pot.' They want it to come across that they can't afford it, but we know that's not true. Otherwise, they would show their economic data to our union. They just don't want to eat into their profit margins at all, not even for their own employees.

UA: You're supposed to take their word for it.

RH: It's tricky because we know our local management is just responding to corporate directions.

UA: Did management reach out today before the strike began, or have the Twins stepped in at all?

RH: My understanding is that everything has come to a halt. Delaware North has requested a mediator for our negotiations, which we as a union will not do (because) we know that will silence our voices. They want to sit in a separate room, so they don't have to operate so carefully with their words and don't have to listen to our employee impact statements. That's unacceptable to us. We deserve to be in that room, especially since there has been little to no movement on many of our very reasonable requests.

As far as the Twins are concerned, they have not reached out to us as employees. I'm not sure about the union. I feel they are just trying to stay out of it. But I really hope that they see what we're doing here today. We love the Twins organization. We love our guests. We love the fans. But that love is not going to pay our bills. It's not going to get us healthcare. And we deserve, as hospitality professionals, to be treated that way.

UA: What are the big issues for you, personally?

RH: No. 1 is healthcare. My partner and I have two kids. Both of us are hospitality professionals, and we've had to rely on marketplace insurance for a long time. About three years ago we were paying \$800 per month, not including deductibles. That was a lot, but it was doable. That amount has almost tripled. It is almost as much as our mortgage.

Delaware North has this opportunity to join the UNITE HERE Health Fund, which nationwide has over 200,000 union workers in it. Because of that, insurance companies are able to offer steep discounts. All we're asking Delaware North to do is join that trust, but they're not interested.

UA: With all the money made off of these sta-

diums, it doesn't seem like too much to ask that employers pitch in toward healthcare.

RH: There are other stadiums (in the Twin Cities) with contracts that are coming open with other hospitality companies. A lot of my co-workers work at multiple stadiums, and that makes up a full-time job for them. We're the first ones that are kind of setting the tone, and we want to make sure that we're holding firm. We deserve healthcare.

UA: What do you like about working in the Target Field suites?

RH: It's like my second family. I feel like I grew up here. A lot of us have been to each other's baby showers, and I've had the same clients for a lot of the time too. I work with a lot of big companies throughout Minnesota, and I love them to death. Overall, I think it's just such a joy.

Working here is important, too. I think the pandemic really showed us, when you take the fun out of life, what that looks like. That's what we do. We want people to come to the game, have a good time, forget the worries going on in their lives, and make memories with their friends, family and loved ones.

UA: Have you ever been on strike before?

RH: No.

UA: What do you want people coming to the game - and all Twins fans - to know about this?

RH: We are hospitality professionals, and this is a real career. A lot of us have degrees in other fields. We do this job because we're good at it, and it really does make a difference in people's lives. I think people just don't realize that because we're always smiling, but it



Target Field suites worker Roxy Hoda, a resident of St. Paul, is on her union's bargaining team in talks with Delaware North. Union Advocate photo

is socially taxing. Still, it is a passion of ours.

UA: You and many others are not going in to work today, but what do you expect will happen with those who do?

RH: We have seen some scabs coming in today. However, I'm giving them some grace because I know that this is scary, and a lot of people are very worried about their jobs. I understand that there is a hard decision to make here.

But even though not every issue on the table affects me personally, I know it affects a lot of other people at the stadium. To me, I think it's more important to stand up for everyone and to be unified.

- Michael Moore, UA editor



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Organizing Report

MORE BOOKSELLERS UNIONIZE

The Twin Cities area has its fifth union bookstore, after workers at the Half Price Books in Apple Valley voted last month to organize with United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 663.

Workers at the company's stores in St. Louis Park, Coon Rapids, St. Paul and Roseville organized in 2021, won their union elections in 2022, and ratified their first contract in 2024. UFCW Local 1189 represents workers at the St. Paul and Roseville stores.

The new, 15-person bargaining unit in Apple Valley will look to build on gains made by union members at the other locations, bookseller Drew Schmidt said. That includes guardrails for the employer's use of artificial intelligence in the workplace.

"Half Price Books is attempting to iron out the individuality that shapes our community by standardizing our roles and incorporating AI in our workplace," Schmidt said. "Unionizing is our way of encouraging Half Price Books to correct its course."

Apple Valley workers also hope to bargain for higher wages and better staffing in their store, which sees steady foot traffic despite being the smallest Half Price Books outlet in the area, bookseller Katelyn Anderson said.

"We're fairly busy and have much more limited space," she said. "I feel like sometimes we don't have enough people to cover how busy our store is."

Meanwhile, workers' wages aren't keeping up with the rising cost of living, and Anderson said the pay does not reflect the level of expertise she and her co-workers must maintain. Unlike most other retail jobs, Half Price Books workers make cash offers to people looking to sell their books, albums or other materials.

"It's really hard to kind of feel comfortable in this job with how much work we're asked to do for the



Workers at the Half Price Books in Apple Valley celebrate their successful union election. submitted photo

wages that we get," Anderson said.

"I love this job. It's cool to see the stuff that comes in and be able to help people find materials that they're excited and passionate about. It's amazing, but it does kind of feel defeating because they're just not really livable wages anymore."

Apple Valley workers voted 10-5 in favor of unionizing. The National Labor Relations Board certified the election results July 8.

— Michael Moore, UA editor

BOULDERING PROJECT WORKERS FILE FOR UNION ELECTION

Workers at Bouldering Project's climbing gyms in Minneapolis and St. Paul went public with their organizing drive last month.

The campaign would bring together a bargaining

unit of about 130 workers, whose daily tasks include welcoming new customers, running youth programs and meet-ups, maintaining their facilities and supervising climbers.

"Building community with my coworkers has always been the best part of this job," Arrow Shipp, an operations specialist at the St. Paul gym, said. "I want to build a better Bouldering Project."

A delegation of Bouldering Project workers delivered a letter to management July 9 showing majority support for their union and requesting voluntary recognition, so that contract negotiations could begin.

The employer denied that request, and workers, with support from the Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United, have since filed for an election with the NLRB.

In a press release, Workers United, an affiliate of the Service Employees (SEIU) union, said an overwhelming majority of the potential bargaining unit signed onto the letter, which explained what Bouldering Project workers hope to gain through collective bargaining.

"We spend time here on our days off, we adore the work we do, and our coworkers have become like family," the letter said. "We believe that to maintain the exceptional culture that is core to both (Minneapolis and St. Paul Bouldering Project locations), we need an equal voice at the table."

Workers said they hoped to bargain for better wages and benefits that reflect the climbing industry's rapidly increasing profits.

Workers United represents staff at over 30 climbing gyms across the U.S.

In Minnesota, about 100 workers at four Vertical Endeavors climbing gyms voted to join the United Food and Commercial Workers in 2023 and ratified their first contract last year.

— Union Advocate staff





Building Trades Credit Union 250

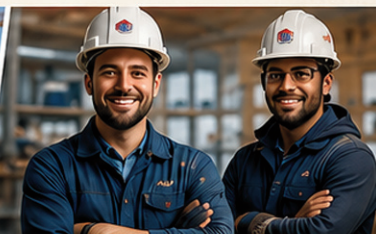


As we celebrate America's 250th, we're proud to stand with the men and women of the Building Trades. Thank you for building our communities, our economy, and a stronger future for generations to come.

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Members of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild rally before bargaining at the Pioneer Press offices in St. Paul. Union Advocate photo

Guild rallies as Pioneer Press talks begin

Union members at the Pioneer Press opened negotiations with the newspaper's hedge-fund ownership June 9 intent on bargaining a contract that respects their work, protects their safety and delivers wage and benefit gains.

After a brief rally outside the newspaper's offices on Water Street, about two dozen members of the Minnesota Newspaper and Communications Guild walked into bargaining together, hoping to show Alden Global Capital the faces behind the numbers on its balance sheets.

The Guild represents over 50 newsroom and advertising employees at the Pioneer Press, and they have given over 600 years of combined service to the company. That's worth fighting for, unit vice chair Jared Kaufman said.

"This contract negotiation, this thing we do every three years or so - this is our one chance to fight for the really big stuff," he said. "That's why this matters. The gates are open for us all to make the changes we want to see."

In bargaining, the Guild will look to hold the line against potential use of generative artificial intelligence in place of union members' work.

Members also want the employer to invest in the Pioneer Press - in workers' wages and benefits, but also in their physical safety, whether it's protections against repetitive motion injuries for workers at video editing terminals or

personal protective equipment for journalists covering civil unrest.

"We deserve a company that gives us the support and resources we need to do our jobs," reporter Imani Cruzen said during the rally. "I hope in bargaining we can ask, what does Alden bring to the table for us?"

But since it acquired the Pioneer Press as part of a larger deal that took MediaNews Group out of bankruptcy in 2010, Alden has slashed jobs both locally and in newsrooms across the country. At the time of the sale, the St. Paul paper employed over 100 journalists.

A recent Guild survey suggests the cuts have come at a cost to workplace morale. But Kaufman, a food and features reporter, said the bargaining team is energized to fight for a contract that reflects Guild members' value to both the company and the community.

"Look around," he told members gathered in a circle at the rally. "We're a catch. They should be fighting to keep us, not squeezing us until we can't handle it anymore."

Cruzen has seen what can happen when there's no organized effort to fight for local media. Staffing in the newsroom where she worked before joining the Pioneer Press is down to just one reporter, who works remotely.

"I don't want that future for us."

- Michael Moore, UA editor

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UBTMN.COM

Report: Healthcare costs are eroding Minnesotans' wage gains, and consolidation, hospital price hikes are key reasons why

By Michael Moore
Union Advocate editor

An independent report issued last month by North Star Policy Action digs into the factors behind Minnesotans' rapidly rising healthcare costs, warning that proposed health system acquisitions could make things worse.

The report comes as two Minnesota-based health systems, North Memorial and Allina, are in the process of being sold to South Dakota-based Sanford and California-based Sutter, respectively.

Aaron Rosenthal, research director at the progressive research institute, said those transactions warrant public scrutiny, as they would further a trend of consolidation in the state's healthcare industry. Twenty years ago, he said, two-thirds of Minnesota providers were independent; today two-thirds are part of a larger system.

Consolidation, he added, "decreases competition and leads to bigger players, who use their increased power to charge patients more."

The report, "Rising Health Care Spending in Minnesota," found that specialists in health systems charge 16-20% higher prices for services than independent practices.

Another key finding in the report: healthcare spending in Minnesota increased by 15% between 2019-2023, despite Minnesotans utilizing healthcare services at a lower rate, 3.5% less. Over the same period, hospitals' operating costs increased by 87%, while their charges for services increased by 116%.

When hospitals charge more for services, of course, insurance companies pass along those higher costs to their customers.

"Most people are quick to blame health insurance companies for their high premiums," report co-author Jen Schultz, an economics professor at the University of Minnesota, said. "But folks only need to look at their bill or (explanation of benefits) to see another reason: high hospital prices."

The report found that employee contributions toward health insurance premiums in the state grew 67% over the last 11 years, far outpacing the state's 42% wage growth.

That means the cost of keeping health insurance has "essentially eroded workers' wages," Schultz said.

Minnesotans who purchase their own health insurance are facing even steeper price increases – as much as

54% this year – as federal subsidies that helped reign in marketplace premiums expire.

Data released by the state's health exchange, MNsure, a week after North Star Policy released its report showed more than 17,000 fewer people purchased insurance coverage this year, a decrease of 12% from 2025.

That won't help contain prices, according to Rosenthal.

"Keeping Minnesotans insured is itself a cost-control strategy," he said. "Every person who loses coverage ... drives up hospitals' uncompensated care costs."

The report includes policy recommendations that, the authors argued, could help contain Minnesota's healthcare spending.

Not surprisingly, hospitals are the target of most proposals. In addition to keeping people insured and addressing the rate of consolidation in the industry, state lawmakers could take aim at hospital prices more directly, authors said.

Indiana recently passed a law capping what its five largest hospital systems can charge patients covered by employer-sponsored insurance plans for certain procedures. If the providers

"Most people are quick to blame health insurance companies for their high premiums. But folks only need to look at their bill or EOB to see another reason: high hospital prices."

– Jen Schultz, U of M professor

fail to meet the new caps by 2029, they risk losing their tax-exempt status.

Other states have looked to leverage their public employees' health plans to drive down hospital prices, tying reimbursement rates to those paid by Medicare. Costs for privately insured patients are roughly three times higher than Medicare rates, Rosenthal said.

"The worst thing we could do is treat rising healthcare spending as inevitable," Rosenthal said. "Federal policy has put Minnesota in a tough spot to be sure. Even so, we have the power to make healthcare more affordable for working families in this state, and we should use it."

Read the full report on North Star Policy's website: northstarpolicy.org.

IBEW 110

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As Ellison weighs impact of healthcare sales, unions push community benefit agreements

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Sutter and Sanford stalled.

Wanda Malden, a member of the faith group ISAIAH, said executives at California-based Sutter Health appeared not to take workers and patients' request for a CBA seriously.

"We sent them a letter last week, and just this weekend they wrote back a letter that said, basically, that we should trust them," Malden said outside Ellison's July 13 hearing into the Sutter-Allina deal in St. Paul.

But several current Sutter workers, who traveled from northern California to Minnesota for the hearing, warned union and community members here to be cautious with their trust.

Sarah Pineda, a surgery scheduler and member of the Service Employees (SEIU-UHW), said her union sees "daily violations" of their contract at Sutter's eight unionized facilities.

"This is a giant that you are going to be battling," Pineda told Minnesota workers. "It is very important that you guys get that community benefits agreement because you are going to need it."

Legislation passed in 2023 gives the Attorney General's Office authority to block large sales or mergers of healthcare systems if it determines the transaction is "contrary to the public interest."

The easiest way Sutter and Sanford can allay doubts that their expansion plans are in the public interest, union members said, is by signing onto CBAs.

"Union workers know that words don't mean anything until they are written down and agreed upon by both sides, which is all we are asking for," SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa member Kia Pulle said.

Advocates said CBAs are rare in the healthcare sector but have been used in publicly funded developments like stadiums. With mergers and consolidation on the rise in the industry - and with data suggesting the result is often higher costs, lower quality of care and reductions in service - CBAs offer a voice in the process to those too often left out.

Dr. Matt Hoffman, a member of Doctors Council SEIU who practices at Allina's clinic in Vadnais Heights, called



Healthcare workers line the entrance to a public hearing in St. Paul, hosted by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, on the proposed acquisition of Allina Health by California-based Sutter Health.

Union Advocate photo

"Union workers know that words don't mean anything until they are written down and agreed upon by both sides, which is all we are asking for."

- Kia Pulle, SEIU member

on Sutter to negotiate a CBA that guarantees it won't "jack up prices." He said it should also protect quality patient care, safeguard union rights and benefits, and deliver meaningful investment in the community - instead of closing more birthing centers, clinics and hospi-

tal wards in the Allina system.

"If a California company is coming to our town to run our healthcare, at the very least we need a signed, guaranteed community benefits agreement that will make sure every Minnesotan has access to excellent, affordable healthcare," Hoffman added.

South Dakota-based Sanford Health, meanwhile, has made some commitments in advance of its proposed acquisition of North Memorial, which employs over 6,500 people at two hospitals and several clinics in the Minneapolis suburbs.

Sanford signed a letter of understanding with the Minnesota Nurses Association

covering members at North Memorial's long-unionized Robbinsdale hospital to protect their contract and pension benefits. Sanford also agreed to honor a contract at the Maple Grove hospital, where nearly 600 nurses voted to unionize last year and are still bargaining a first contract.

Allina nurse Karen Norman urged Sutter to reach a similar deal with MNA and other unions - but also to work toward a CBA that protects all workers and patients.

"Minnesotans deserve health systems that realize serving patients and communities is more important than serving corporate bottom lines and bloated bonuses," Norman said.

St. Croix Valley retirees plan annual picnic Aug. 10

The St. Croix Valley Retirees Club will hold its annual picnic Aug. 10 at Lakeside Park in Bayport. Retired union members in Washington County are welcome to attend.

The picnic will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., following a brief business meeting at 11 a.m.

Organizers will provide chicken as a main dish. Guests are asked to bring potluck sides or desserts.

RSVP is requested to Judie Atkins at 651-430-1112 by Aug. 6.



Let's get together, union members!

The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation's local labor assemblies bring working people and retirees together to exchange ideas and take action on issues that matter most in their communities. Assembly meetings are open to all union members who live or work in our four-county area.

Chisago County Assembly

August 25th, 6 p.m.

To register for the Zoom meeting, email cnocerini@stpaulunions.org

Dakota County Assembly

August 13th, 7 p.m.

Dakota County United Educators, 6950 West 146th St., Apple Valley

Ramsey County Assembly

August 25th, 6 p.m.

Saint Paul Labor Center, 353 7th Street West

Washington County Assembly

August 26th, 6 p.m.

Washington County Gov't Center, Stillwater



www.stpaulunions.org

Volunteers welcome America's labor movement to Minnesota

Local union volunteers welcomed the nation's labor movement to Minneapolis in June, helping the AFL-CIO ensure a smooth 30th Constitutional Convention.

About 40 retired and active union members answered the call for volunteers June 7-10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. They were stationed throughout a bustling exhibition space, located just off the meeting floor. The space featured vendor booths, informational displays, interactive training spaces, a live stage and more.

Barbara Andrew, a member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, traveled from Rochester to volunteer with her SEIU sister Leslie Kaup of Albert Lea. As delegates entered the convention space, Andrew and Kaup encouraged them to write their personal definitions of "solidarity" on a poster-filled wall.

For Andrew, talking solidarity with strangers was a welcome opportunity. She works in food service for a Mayo Clinic contractor, where workers organized a union nine years ago – after Mayo outsourced their department.

"I fell in love with unions," she said. "I've seen how it helped me and my fellow co-workers."

It's a feeling Mary Sansom, a retired member of Machinists (IAM) Local 1833, has known for five decades.

Greeting delegates and answering questions at the welcome booth, Sansom said it was exciting to see the faces that make up the labor movement – from IAM's elected leaders to members of the AFL-CIO's 64 other affiliated unions – as they entered the convention space.

"I'm a 53-year union member, and this is our legacy coming in," she said. "I'm feeling really proud right now."

Some local volunteers made new connections at the convention.

A United Steelworkers delegate asked Miriam Wynn, financial secretary of Minnesota-based Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1005, to record a message of support for workers in Mississippi who were poised to vote in a union election.

"Just to know that they are organizing in Mississippi while our union is organizing here in



Minnesota volunteers on Day 1 of the AFL-CIO Convention include (L to R) Leslie Kaup, Barbara Andrew, Megan Lockhart (Painters Local 61), Mary Sansom, Hana Yoshida (SEIU Healthcare) and Miriam Wynn. Union Advocate photos

[Minnesota], it was actually encouraging for me, and hopefully I was encouraging them," Wynn said. "Labor everywhere, we need to come together, and that's what's happening here."

For other union members, volunteering at the convention was an opportunity to put Minnesota's best foot forward after Operation Metro Surge.

Posted at the entrance to the convention floor, Southdale Hospital nurse Rachel Andersen, a member of the Minnesota Nurses Association, said the convention buzzed with much-needed "good energy."

"It fills my cup, after everything Minnesota's been through, to see that we still care about each other,"



Andersen said. "We've been saying 'solidarity' for years, but this winter really put the rubber to the road, and it was there when we needed it."

Some delegates were eager to recognize the resilience Minnesota showed over the winter, retired Minneapolis educator Sara Miele said. And Miele, who lives downtown, said she was eager in turn to show them everything else that her city and state have to offer.

"I'm so excited about making sure people have a wonderful experience here – and come back and back and back," she laughed.

– Michael Moore, UA editor

Convention sets ambitious agenda to build worker power

Delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention in Minnesota voted unanimously to pass 20 resolutions that, together, set an ambitious agenda for the nation's union movement over the next five years.

Highlights include:

- A commitment to organize at least 2 million new union members in the next five years. At its last convention in 2022, the federation set out to organize 1 million members in 10 years – a goal its affiliated unions surpassed in just three.

- Redoubling support for legislation, including the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, to reform the nation's broken labor laws. More broadly,

the federation pledged to stand up to billionaires and tech CEOs and fight for an economy that centers workers and unions, from health and safety to fair wages and use of artificial intelligence.

- Plans to mobilize 16 million union voters and train 50,000 election-protection volunteers to defend working people's rights at the ballot box this year.

- Encouraging affiliate unions to seek opportunities to align their bargaining demands and contract-expiration dates, which could compound the power of solidarity and, potentially, strikes.

Find all 20 resolutions passed at the convention at aflcio.org/2026-resolutions.

Minnesota labor movement honored with human rights award at AFL-CIO convention

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The federal occupation saw local unions raise funds for mutual aid and legal defense of detained members. Unions tapped into community solidarity networks, hosting training sessions for constitutional observers and preparing members to respond if ICE showed up on their worksite.

And union members not only showed up in the streets as observers and demonstrators, but dozens of activists trained to become "union peacekeepers," who kept marches – like the historic "Day of Truth and Freedom" in downtown Minneapolis Jan. 23 – safe and orderly.

"They thought Minnesota nice meant we would stand by quietly while federal agents disappeared our friends, neighbors and co-workers," Burnham told delegates. "But they mistook kindness for weakness. They invaded a winter people in winter, and our solidarity froze them in their tracks."

Conventiongoers rose for a standing ovation as Burnham welcomed dozens of Minnesota delegates, alternates and volunteers – anyone who joined the solidarity efforts in Minnesota – onto the stage.

"Now they know Americans are not afraid," Burnham said. "They know if they send ICE into any of



MN AFL-CIO President Bernie Burnham (L) accepts the Meany-Kirkland Award from Liz Shuler on behalf of Minnesota's labor movement. AFL-CIO photo

your communities, you will fight just as hard."

Shuler thanked Minnesotans for their "sacrifice and resilience" before returning to the business of the convention – committee reports, elections, resolutions and a roll call of affiliated unions, which included the 2-million-member Service Employees (SEIU) for the first time in 21 years.

The AFL-CIO also recognized seven new affiliates representing professional athletes,

including WNBA players, who this year won historic gains in a new union contract, and Major League Baseball players, who are in a bitter round of negotiations with owners intent on suppressing their pay with a salary cap.

The theme for the 2026 convention was "With You, It's Better in a Union."

Later, the AFL-CIO again recognized Minnesota's labor movement as one of two recipients of the 2025 Meany-Kirkland Human Rights Award, presented each year to the most powerful examples of solidarity in action from across the world.

Minnesota shared the award, presented during a dinner reception June 7, with the Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions (BKDP).

The federation's executive board announced winners of the award in March. Its announcement cited Minnesota union activists' "courage and commitment to fighting for democratic rights" during the federal occupation last winter.

Peterson, president of the St. Paul RLF, said the convention was an "exciting opportunity for our nation's union movement to find inspiration and advance the coalition work that will meet the challenges ahead for working people across the country."

"The world watched as Minnesotans joined together last winter to protect our neighbors and defend our democracy, and local unions and federated labor bodies, through their organizing work, helped build power and solidarity to meet that moment," she added.

It's Better in a Union."

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"The world watched as Minnesotans joined together last winter to protect our neighbors and defend our democracy, and local unions and federated labor bodies, through their organizing work, helped build power and solidarity to meet that moment," she added.



Minutes of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation

MAY 13, 2026

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation met in regular session on the above date and was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Peterson at 6 p.m. Board members in attendance were Beedle, Butts, Edwards, Engeldorf, Gibbons, Guertin, Hunt, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, Mullin, Peterson, Sansom, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Strom, Tastad-Damer, Leah VanDassor and Varco. Excused were Beissel, Cook, Gale, Hoerth, Michelson, Roth, Ryan, and Vanderport. Absent: Hill, Lohmann, Luneburg and Mayer.

President Peterson read the Code of Conduct. The RLF will go over the Code of Conduct at the beginning of each meeting. The Code states: The AFL-CIO is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and equality and conduct themselves in this meeting consistent with those values. The RLF meetings that are held the Second Wednesday of the month will have a designee as the first point of contact for anyone who thinks they have experienced discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior. President Peterson has assigned two designees as points of contact that will be announced at the start of each meeting. We urge you to contact him/her if you have any concerns. The designees are Bernadine Engeldorf, Secretary-Treasurer and Perry Schmidt, Vice President.

MINUTES

M/S/C TO APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2026, AS PUBLISHED IN THE UNION ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER AFTER THE ACTING SECRETARY-TREASURER NOTES THERE ARE NO ADDITIONS OR CHANGES CALLED FOR.

COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE) MINUTES MAY 13, 2026

COPE met in regular session on the above date and was called to order by President Peterson at 5 p.m. Board members in attendance were Beedle, Butts, Edwards, Engeldorf, Gibbons,

Guertin, Hunt, Madden, Markham-Kocurek, Mullin, Peterson, Sansom, Schmidt, Seath, Slattery, Strom, Tastad-Damer, Leah VanDassor and Varco. Excused were Beissel, Cook, Gale, Hoerth, Michelson, Roth, Ryan, and Vanderport. Absent: Hill, Lohmann, Luneburg and Mayer.

Items to come before this committee included:

- The Ramsey County Labor Assembly requests a recommendation to grant labor endorsement to Stephanie Anderson, Omar Syed and Uriah Ward for Saint Paul School Board.

M/S/C TO RECOMMEND THE DELEGATE BODY SUPPORT GRANTING LABOR ENDORSEMENT TO STEPHANIE ANDERSON, OMAR SYED AND URIAH WARD FOR SAINT PAUL SCHOOL BOARD.

- President Peterson shared with the committee that the Ramsey County Labor Assembly will screen legislative candidates on the fourth Tuesday.

There being no further business to come before this board the meeting is adjourned.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES MAY 13, 2026

The Executive Board met with those same members present who are duly elected to this board.

Items to come before this board included:

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Peterson updated the delegate body that the SPRLF will be sending out a request letter to affiliated unions asking them to update their delegates and/or alternates. Peterson thanked all who participated in LSRC's Fifteenth Annual Labor Bowl. She updated everyone on the Minnesota AFL-CIO's MTM work, the Seven Days in June and the Week of Action. Bricklayers Local 1 requested the RLF remove Jeremy Olson as an RLF delegate and board member. The Minnesota AFL-CIO may be changing its board structure, which could affect the RLF's geographical representative seats.

• M/S/C TO APPOINT DEAN GALE AND SCOTT SEATH AS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS.

- The following resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REI WORKERS AND THE MAY 15TH NATIONAL BOYCOTT

WHEREAS, workers at REI locations nationwide organized to secure a voice on the job and entered negotiations in July 2024 with a mutual commitment to reach a contract within six months; and

WHEREAS, despite workers coming within inches of a fair deal, REI management deliberately sabotaged progress by refusing to provide unionized workers with the same wages offered to non-union staff – a move designed to punish union members and demoralize those seeking a collective voice; and

WHEREAS, REI has bypassed the legal collective bargaining process by falsely declaring a bargaining impasse to walk away from the table, subsequently imposing unilateral and illegal cuts to starting wages, retirement, sick pay, and vacation time; and

WHEREAS, while claiming financial hardship as a pretext for gutting worker benefits, REI has spent millions on the notorious “union-busting” law firm Morgan Lewis, paying them to delay negotiations and shield the company from accountability for its labor practices; and

WHEREAS, this anti-worker shift coincides with a decline in Co-op democracy, including the silencing of member votes and a failure to address documented racial discrimination and supply chain labor violations – including debt bondage and forced labor in international factories; and

WHEREAS, REI's 2026 priorities have shifted toward “accelerating AI” and raising healthcare eligibility thresholds to 23 hours per week, effectively stripping thousands of part-time employees of their medical coverage; and

WHEREAS, the workers of REI, through boycottrei.com, have called for a national boycott of REI's sale from May 15, 2026, to May 25, 2026, to demand that REI stop its illegal tactics and return to the bargaining table in good faith; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation stand in solidarity with REI workers and officially endorses the national boycott beginning May 15, 2026, and ending May 25, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Federation calls upon all its affiliated members to cease all patronage of REI – including retail stores and online sales – until management signs a fair contract that reflects the Co-op's stated values; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this Federation will mobilize its members to join REI workers beginning on May 15th to demonstrate that an injury to one REI worker is an injury to the entire labor movement.

M/S/C TO RECOMMEND SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REI WORKERS AND THE MAY 15TH NATIONAL BOYCOTT

- **ORGANIZING:** UPDATES/CAMPAIGNS: Amalgamated Transit Union, MN Nurses Association, the Letter Carriers (NALC), SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa, and UFCW shared updates on their organizing activities.

- **THANK YOU NOTES:** Received from St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center for the RLF's \$950 contribution to the Fifteenth Annual Labor Bowl.

• M/S/C FOR THE RLF TO MAKE A \$600 CONTRIBUTION TO THE JEAN JONES SCHOOL SUPPLY INITIATIVE.

There being nothing further busi-

ness to come before this board, the meeting adjourned.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Secretary-Treasurer Engeldorf reported on the financial status of the Federation as of April 2026. The report was accepted as read.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Peterson thanked everyone who participated in the St. Paul Labor Studies and Resource Center's Fifteenth Annual Labor Bowl. Peterson reported that the Minnesota AFL-CIO Convention will be coming up where the RLF's Geographical Representatives will be elected. Two Trustees will also be elected. Unions will receive notice. The AFL-CIO “Better In a Union Toolkit” will be in the upcoming Union Advocate Newspaper and online trainings via zoom related to “It's Better in a Union.”

STAFF REPORTS

Colleen Nocerini shared that we will continue to do candidate screenings.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Michael Madden reported on behalf of the Chisago County Labor Assembly. There are three County Commissioners seats open, and we will be screening. We are still in need of school supplies. Next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month via zoom at 6 p.m.

- Brian Beedle reported on behalf of the Washington County Labor Assembly. He shared that they will be having upcoming candidate screenings, and that they participated in LSRC's annual Labor Bowl. Next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

- Martin Hoerth reported on behalf of the Ramsey County Labor Assembly. We have one candidate to screen. Next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

- The Dakota County Labor Assembly will be screening three candidates tomorrow. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Peterson called for a floor vote on the COPE Committee's endorsement recommendation.

M/S/C TO GRANT LABOR ENDORSEMENT TO STEPHANIE ANDERSON, OMAR SYED, AND URIAH WARD FOR ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

- President Peterson called for a floor vote on the resolution advanced by the Executive Board.

M/S/C TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REI WORKERS AND THE MAY 15TH NATIONAL BOYCOTT.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- The annual AFL-CIO Retiree Fundraiser is being held on May 16, 2026.

• MOTION/SECOND TO FLY THE OLD STATE OF MINNESOTA FLAG AT THE LABOR CENTER ALONG WITH THE NEW STATE OF MINNESOTA FLAG. MOTION FAILED TO PASS THE BODY.

There being no further business to come before this delegation, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
BERNADINE ENGELDOFF
Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR ENDORSED

PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 11, 2026

STATE OFFICERS

Governor: Amy Klobuchar
Lt. Governor: Ben Schierer
Attorney General: Keith Ellison
Secretary of State: Steve Simon
Auditor: Zack Filipovich

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 4: Betty McCollum
District 5: Ilhan Omar

MINNESOTA SENATE

District 20: Jason Lohmann
District 28: Maxwell Glenna
District 33: Nat Smith
District 36: Heather Gustafson
District 39: Mary Kunesch
District 40: John Marty
District 44: Sam Rosemark
District 52: Liz Reyer
District 53: Paul Cumings
District 55: Lindsey Port
District 56: Erin Maye Quade
District 57: Steven Schroer
District 58: Mark Legvold
District 64: Erin Murphy
District 65: Robyn Gulley
District 66: Clare Oumou Verbeten
District 67: Fong Hawj

MINNESOTA HOUSE

District 28A: Tim Dummer
District 28B: Dan Schmidt
District 33A: Angela Thompson
District 33B: Josiah Hill
District 36A: Jim DeMay
District 36B: Brion Curran
District 40A: Aisha Elmquist
District 40B: David Gottfried
District 41A: Cole Birkeland
District 41B: Jen Fox
District 44A: Peter Fischer
District 52A: Christos Jensen
District 52B: Bianca Virnig
District 53A: Mary Frances Clardy
District 53B: Rick Hansen
District 55A: Jess Hanson
District 55B: Hunter Cantrell
District 56A: Robert Bierman
District 56B: John Huot
District 57A: Jenaro “JD” Delgado
District 57B: Brian Cohn
District 58A: Kristi Pursell
District 58B: Ed Fellows
District 64A: Meg Luger Nikolai
District 64B: Dave Pinto
District 65B: Sebastian Ellefson
District 66A: Leigh Finke
District 66B: Athena Hollins

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL BOARD (ISD 625)

Stephanie Anderson • Omar Syed
Uriah Ward



stpaulunions.org/endorsements

Retirees to meet Aug. 19

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation Retirees will meet Aug. 19 at noon at the Saint Paul Labor Center, 353 West 7th St.

Meetings are open to retired members of unions affiliated with the SPRLF.

Notice of endorsements, nominations

The Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation may consider recommendations for granting labor endorsement in congressional, state legislative and local races at its delegates' meeting Aug. 12.

The SPRLF also will hold nominations Aug. 12 and elections Sept. 9, during scheduled delegates' meet-

Retirees interested in learning more about the group are always welcome to attend.

For more information about Retirees meetings, call or text Jeanne Surdo, president, at 651-283-8896.

ings, for two trustees and for the SPRLF's contingent of geographical representatives to the Minnesota AFL-CIO Executive Board.

The nominating process and timing of potential elections will be specified at stpaulunions.org.

For more information, call 651-222-3787.

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*4.99% Bonus Dividends will be paid on balances up to \$20,000 if cycle requirements are met.
See website for full details.

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